SWP builds protests, takes discussion to working class

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Socialist Workers Party members and supporters have been joining marches against racism in cities across the country and discussing with workers and youth at these actions and taking the discussion more broadly to the working class, going door to door in neighborhoods across the country.

They also discussed President Donald Trump’s announcement Aug. 21 that Washington will send thousands more young soldiers to continue the U.S. rulers’ 16-year-long war in Afghanistan — the longest in U.S. history.

In Berkeley, California, SWP member Joel Britton set up a display of party literature near where a few thousand anti-racist protesters were rallying.

“I showed people Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, the Militant and other party literature near where a few thousand anti-racist protesters were rallying,” Britton said.

SWP: ‘Join debate on how to fight effectively’

BY DEBORAH LIATOS

OAKLAND, Calif. — Seventy-five people attended a public meeting here Aug. 26 sponsored by the Socialist Workers Party, many of whom had joined in anti-racist protests in San Francisco a few hours earlier.

White House sends more soldiers for US rulers’ war in Afghanistan

BY JIM BRADLEY

Washington’s military intervention in Afghanistan — a 16-year-long war already the longest in U.S. history — will continue indefinitely under President Donald Trump’s “new strategy,” which includes sending several thousand additional troops. He announced this Aug. 21 in a nationally televised speech before troops assembled at Fort Myer, Virginia.

The decision flows from the effort of the U.S. propertied rulers to defend their political and economic interests in the Middle East and South Asia as the post-World War II imperialist order continues to fray.

Socialist Workers Party: ‘Protest racist attacks!’

BY NORTON SANDLER

BERKELEY, Calif. — A crowd of 4,000 gathered in Berkeley’s Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park Aug. 27, the culmination of a weekend of protests against racism in the San Francisco Bay Area. The previous day, 6,000 marched through the streets of San Francisco, gathering at three separate locations.

Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party joined in both actions, asking workers to join with them in speaking out against racist attacks and discussing and debating how to build this fight among working people.

Social crisis in Texas is product of capitalism

BY SETH GALINSKY

The social catastrophe for working people and farmers unfolding in Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey is first and foremost the consequence of capitalism and its insatiable drive for profits at all costs.

Despite knowing for at least two days that a major storm packing torrential rains would hit land Aug. 25 in the Houston area, local, state and federal government officials did next to nothing to either organize a disciplined evacuation or get food and other necessities to people if told to “shelter in place.” Millions were left to fend for themselves.

Government officials gave conflicting “advice” to residents of Houston, the fourth-largest city in the country, with some 2.3 million residents, or others in the region. Evacuate. Don’t evacuate. Call 911, don’t call — unless you’re in “immediate danger.”

With lines overtaxed, thousands of people couldn’t get through. This refusal of officials to plan or take responsibility for a serious response and the ruling class’s disdain for working people were captured in the photo of senior citizens at the La Vita Bella assisted living home in Dickinson, with water up to their waists, waiting for help.

Officials told the home’s owner the night before not to evacuate, WTVR reported.

Bosss seek to boost profits with robots, slash size of working class

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

The business press and liberal dailies have been featuring articles arguing that robots are increasing replacing workers in the U.S. They hope that this will be a way to squeeze out more profits. And a sizable section of the capitalists’ machinery of rule — the meritocratic middle-class layers that staff the rulers’ nonprofits, nongovernment organizations, college faculties, and government regulatory agencies — fervently hope robots will entirely eliminate the working class, who they consider reactionary, backward beings responsible for the election of Donald Trump to the presidency.

Disaster shows need for workers power

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Insider

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Culture, freedom of art and the world capitalist crisis

October ‘Che’ Brigade less than 4 weeks away!

Afghan refugees protest deportations in Sweden

— On the picket line, p. 5—

Toronto airport strikers vote down second contract

Chicago auto mechanics strike dealerships for higher pay
Cultural, freedom of art and the world capitalist crisis

BY DAVE PRINCE

The brutal realities of the world capitalist crisis are affecting artists—poets, writers, painters, sculptors and musicians, in a world where the dictatorship of capital threatens all culture and the future of humanity—by reproductions and attacks on artists for artistic creation that is against the interests of working people.

Restrictions and conditions on artistic creation, closing down exhibitions and attacks on artists for so-called "cultural appropriation" have nothing to do with the fight against exploitation and oppression, in fact they institutionalize the fight.

The cancellation of the exhibition, widely reported in the Twin Cities area and nationally, was announced after a closed meeting of representatives of the art center, Dakota Sioux Elders, and the artist, who gave the rights to his sculpture to the Elders. The sculpture, created by Durant in 2012, had been exhibited internationally, including in The Hague, Netherlands; Edinburgh, Scotland; and Kansas City.

The action of the Art Center and Dakota Elders shut down a voice and demanded an apology from the center, Germany. The decision was a destructive one, including asking for, and getting, the agreement of the artist not to take down the exhibit, but to never recreate it anywhere.

The Dakota Elders had the sculpture dismantled and destroyed. They argued that since the artist is not a Native American he could not understand the traumatic impact on Dakotas of a representation of the gallows used by the U.S. government to execute 38 Dakota men in Mankato, Minnesota, in 1862—the largest government execution in U.S. history.

The Mankato gallows was one of seven that comprised the "Scaffold" sculpture by Durant, including ones that represent the gallows used for the execution of abolitionist John Brown in 1859, of the four working-class martyrs framed up for the 1886 bombing in Chicago’s Haymarket Square and others.

The realities of that carnage is at heart a cultural one, not economic. What is at stake in ending it is the future of humanity. The liberals and petty bourgeois radicals who championed the decision to destroy the "Scaffold" cannot not understand that the salvation of a culture that can become international and human lies in the hands of a mass working-class vanguard. They will open the door to advancing human culture in practice through the tools conquering state power.

The Socialist Workers Party stands for freedom for art as an integral part of this fight.

COMMENTARY

It is a development welcomed by the Socialist Workers Party.

The decision taken in May by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis to cancel the exhibition of "Scaffold," a sculpture by Sam Durant, is one of the recent examples of restrictions on artistic creation that are against the interests of working people.

The sculpture, created by Durant in 2012, had been exhibited internationally, including in The Hague, Netherlands; Edinburgh, Scotland; and Kansas City.

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The action of the Art Center and Dakota Elders shut down a voice and closed off what should have been a welcome discussion and debate sparked by the sculpture. The justification for destroying the sculpture discounts the moral standing the struggles of Native Americans have won in the eyes of the working class, as a living reminder of the consequences of 400 years of U.S. expansion and genocide against the Native American peoples. Their justification separates this history of struggle and abysmal conditions into which Native Americans have been driven, from the brutal realities of the capitalist crisis faced by tens of millions of working people every day.

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For further reading . . .

"Truly intellectual creation is incompatible with lies, hypocrisy and the spirit of conformity. Art can become a strong ally of revolution only if it keeps faith with itself."—Leon Trotsky, 1938

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"Scaffold" sculpture by Sam Durant, during exhibition in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2014. The artwork portrays seven gallows used by the U.S. government for the execution of 38 Dakota men in Mankato, Minnesota, in 1862; abolitionist John Brown in 1859; the four working-class martyrs framed up for the 1886 bombing in Chicago's Haymarket Square; and others.

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Continued from front page

appointed thugs. 

disciplined union defense squads, 

tion, accompanied by organized and 

organizing battles in Minnesota in the 

centrally involved in Teamsters union 

revolutionaries today,” Richter said. He de-

minated how the SWP, which was 

described as the antifas.

day before and said he supported the 

al Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 

helped force them to back off.

berkeley where the rally took place.

said SWP member Dennis Richter, 

ecology flags attached to the top —

supporters and others they deemed 

group attacked conservatives, Trump 

working class,” said Britton. This 

At the SWP table, he had a discus-

tracted to the Socialist Workers Party 

members there and their literature.

who was part of a table in the Martin 

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He said that “a lot more people are 

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Mary Martin told the 

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who was denied medical 

Washington state recently went 

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SWP builds anti-racist protests, deepens discussion with workers

Workers Power 

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$7 each book and the one by 
Waters, SWP members and supporters are also introducing working to 
Are They Rich Because They’re Smart? and The 
Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record, both by 
Barnes.

Farmworkers in Wash-

ington state recently went 

on strike following the 

death of a farmworker 

who was denied medical 

by the bosses, 

Mary Martin told the 

Militant. “Members of the 

SWP went to support them and told them about 

the silver miners’ strike 

against Hecla Mining 

bosses in Idaho, where the 

main issue is union con-

trol and working 

conditions,” she said.

“The farmworkers made a solidari-

y video in Spanish. They sent it to the 

‘mineros’ and the Idaho miners posted 

it on their website,” she said. “One vet-

eran miner posted a response, saying, 

‘I don’t speak Spanish but I under-

stood every word. Good luck to you 

brothers in your struggle.’”

“Want to see what you’re saying”

In Colorado, SWP members have been discussing these questions go-

ing door to door in working-class 

neighborhoods in Denver, Aurora and 

Pueblo. “I want to see what you are 

saying about the world instead of the 

talking heads on TV,” Chris Kettle, 

who recently got a Militant subscrip-

tion, told SWP member Diana New-

berry after she knocked on his door. 

He said that “a lot more people are 

saying about socialism because of 

Bernie Sanders.”

“Bernie Sanders believes that the 

system can be reformed,” Newberry 

said. “We believe that it is the capital-

ist system that is the problem and the 

working class needs to take political 

power so we can build a society based 

on human solidarity, not dog-eat-dog 
capitalist exploitation for private prof-

it.”

In Pueblo, a truck driver told SWP 

member Alyson Kennedy that he voted 

for President Trump because “he 

says what he thinks and may be able to 
do something about these problems.”

“Working people are fed up with the 

Democratic and Republican parties 
because they do nothing for us,” said 

Kennedy. “The SWP is totally dif-

cent. We are a working-class party that has a revolutionary perspective of 

building a workers movement that can 
take political power.”

“That will never happen,” the truck 
driver said, “because we are being re-

placed by robots.”

“Yes, the bosses try to use technol-

ogy to squeeze more production out of 

us. But they haven’t and can’t replace 

the working class,” Kennedy said.

The meritocratic workers who honey-

comb the government and associated 
nongovernment organizations and 

colleges wish we could be replaced, be-

cause they increasingly fear the deep-

ening class struggle they see coming 
down the pike. And it is coming. The 

working class will have its day.”

Leaders of the Socialist Workers 

Party, along with the Militant, are put-
	ting together proposals for a full cam-

paign to step up party campaigning 
in the working class and increase the 
circulation of the paper and the set of 
campaign books. Stay tuned.
Judge Navarro made every effort to hamstring the defense in the recent trial. She barred defense attorneys “from referencing constitutional rights to freely assemble and to bear arms” and “from mentioning alleged misconduct or excessive force by law enforcement” during the Bundy ranch protest in 2014. In addition, the judge denied the defense the right to present five witnesses they called to testify on their behalf. In protest of the rigged proceedings, defense attorneys waved closing arguments.

The day after the verdicts, Acting District Attorney Steven Myure announced that he will prosecute Drexler and Parker for yet a third time on the charges the jury didn’t reach a verdict on. “There is no justice system here, it’s all a railroad job,” said Cox. Drexler and Parker were released from jail by Navarro, where — like the Bundys, Lovelien, Stewart and the other defendants — they have been held for over 18 months. But Las Vegas TV station KSNV said the two “will be monitored by a federal officer” and “aren’t allowed to be around any firearms or other dangerous weapons, and they aren’t allowed to have contact with any of the case’s named victims or witnesses, just to name a few.”

BOSSES SEEK TO BOOST PROFITS WITH ROBOTS, SLASH WORKERS

As capitalist production, trade and employment have been falling for years during today’s ongoing capitalist crisis, the boss class is stepping up attempts to stanch their crisis through deepening attacks on wages and social benefits won by working people. Part of this has been increased use of robots.

But profit rates continue to decline, as they’ve been doing for decades. And the ruling capitalist families have held back from investing in new factories and capacity-expanding equipment to increase employment. Instead, they’ve turned their profit-seeking investments into speculation on stocks, bonds, derivatives and a massive array of other forms of commercial paper in search of higher returns.

At the same time the capitalists are driving hard against those employed in industry. Manufacturing employment has declined by 5 million since 2000 — 30 percent of the workforce — while the capitalists have accomplished a doubling of output per worker through speedup and disregard for safe. Real wages for production workers haven’t risen in over 40 years.

Still, productive stagnation has meant millions of workers have dropped out of the labor market. The active working class has shrunk.

The working class faces a disaster from the bosses’ crisis and resulting attacks. Life expectancy is down, marriages and birth rates are down, and opioid and drug overdose deaths are spiraling up.

The large meritocratic liberal layer in bourgeois society despises the working class. To them robotization along with accompanying social ills rooted in the crisis of capitalism that shrinks the numbers of workers is progress. They dream of a day when all transportation is driverless, factories and restaurants robotized. But for these layers, it’s taking too long. They fear the workers responding to the deepening crisis with deepening class struggle, posing a deadly danger for the ruling class and its educated elite.

But this pipedream of eliminating the working class through robots is also a reactionary fantasy. There is widespread discussion among working people about the causes of the capitalist crisis and the indifference of Democrats and Republicans alike to the carnage it wreaks. And the Socialist Workers Party is getting the best response on workers’ doorsteps in decades.

NEW INTERNATIONAL

“Of all capitalism’s evils, the most fundamental one is how that system of exploitation reproduces its social relations as a condition of producing its profits. How its workings, its blind methods of functioning, keep grinding down the human spirit.” — Jack Barnes

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Chicago auto mechanics strike
dealerships for higher pay

CHICAGO — “The car dealers want more dealerships for higher pay,” said 21-year-old Giovanni Fernandez on the strike picket line outside Cadillac of Naperville. “We want four years,” said Fernandez, to keep the eight-year apprenticeship, “The eight-year apprenticeship keeps us stuck at lower pay,” said Fernandez, noting that journeyman mechanics are hired, but are only paid minimum wage for certifications that they need to get.

October ‘Che’ Cuba brigade less than 4 weeks away!

BY ALYSON KENNEDY

In less than four weeks, workers and youth from around the world will arrive in Cuba for the 50th anniversary of the “Footsteps of Che” International Brigade. “As of today, we have 74 participants from the U.S.,” Bob Guild, vice president of Militant, said. “A few of our members remain traveling for the brigade, told the Militant.

“I believe the U.S. contingent will be the largest on the brigade and this is very exciting because the U.S. has had almost no one on previous ‘In the Footsteps of Che’ brigades,” Guild said. In the past Washington imposed restrictions making it difficult for U.S. residents to travel to Cuba to see the revolution firsthand. Some obstacles to travel have been lessened in the last couple of years.

“The in the “Footsteps of Che” brigade will commemorate the 50th anniversary of Ernesto Che Guevara’s death in combat. Argentine-born Guevara, a central leader of the Cuban Revolution, had gone to Bolivia in 1966, where he led revolutionaries from Cuba, Bolivia and Peru who fought to overthrow the U.S.-backed military dictatorship there. He was killed in October 1967 by the CIA and officers of the Bolivian military regime.

“The crisis throughout our own country has tremendously increased the interest in socialism especially among younger people,” Guild said. Even though the space for U.S. participation is filled, “it is still possible to sign up and at least get on a waiting list.”

Members of the U.S. delegation will be coming from across the country, from New York to California. They will meet and discuss with workers, farmers and students in Cuba as well as veteran revolutionaries who fought side by side with Che Guevara during the struggle in Cuba and on international missions in Africa and Latin America.

“Last year I took a class on the Cuban Revolution and became a supporter of the revolution,” Ash Ebere, 20, a political science student at the University of Minnesota, told the Militant by phone Aug. 29. “I am going on the brigade to see for myself and to learn about Che’s legacy.”

“There are four people going from Minneapolis and when we get back we’ll be explaining what we learned,” Ebere said. “One of my professors asked me to make a presentation about the brigade in his class on Latin America. Cuba shows a revolution is possible. It is a living example. They have a sharing ethic in their hurricane disaster relief, which is important with what is going on in Houston. Cuban workers are traveling over there to help their homes to people. No one is left to fend for themselves and they organize a quick rebuilding process. New Orleans still hasn’t recovered.”

Fundraising is being organized in many cities to make it possible for brigadistas to go to Cuba in October. At their second fundraising event, the Chicago Cuba Coalition showed the documentary “Cuba, An African Odyssey.” The film describes internationalist missions in which hundreds of thousands of Cuban volunteers gave decisive aid to anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles in Africa.

The film also shows Che Guevara during a 1964-65 three-month tour of Africa. He met with anti-colonial fighters and laid the groundwork for Cuba’s internationalist missions in the Congo, Congo-Brazzaville, Guinea-Bissau, and Angola. Twenty-two people attended the film showing at the Workers Unity Hall, giving donations that pushed the travel fund over $1,500.

To get involved in building the brigade, contact the Chicago Cuba Coalition at (312) 952-2612 or IanGoToCuba@gmail.com.
Continued from front page

Richter pointed to the 40,000 people who turned out to march against racism in Boston a week earlier, responding to the events in Charlottesville. This was a serious protest, he said, describing how it was in continuity with the mid-1970s battles that took place in Boston to de-segregate the city’s schools. Richter explained that he joined marches in Boston during that struggle and the SWP was part of its leadership.

Racism has declined sharply

The working-class mobilizations led by African-Americans that overthrow Jim Crow segregation changed things forever in U.S. politics, Richter said. Racism has declined sharply and workers have found it much easier to work and fight together.

Richter called attention to the attractive seven-panel display at the side of the room. The displays had first been used to help amplify political points in talks by Barnes at Socialist Workers Party’s Active Workers Conference in June. They detail how the working class bears the brunt of the consequences of the world capitalist crisis, said Richter.

“Donald Trump called it carnage and he’s right on that,” he said. “But the ruling, the meritocracy and broad layers of professionals are doing quite well. That is not the case for tens of millions of working people.”

The fraction meeting of Walmart workers discussed how workers there need a union to lead the fight against how the bosses are foisting the crisis of their capitalist system on workers’ backs. Mary Martin explained how their meeting was recessed so they could join in the anti-racist protests in San Francisco.

“We’ll do the same thing tomorrow,” she said, “so we can be at the Berkeley protest.”

More U.S. troops to Afghanistan

A few days before the public meeting President Trump told the nation the government is increasing troop levels.

Liberals, antifa combine to deal blows to political rights

Continued from front page

Richter described a small portion of those who assembled in Berkeley, some 200 self-proclaimed “anti-fascist” thugs dressed in black and wearing bandanas over their faces broke out of the crowd and carried out assaults on several of three dozen supporters of President Trump and others who had come to the park to debate with the protesters. Cops mobilized in the hundreds by “progressive” Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin retreated and did nothing to stop the attacks, only intervening after some individuals had been beaten.

More reading …

“Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade-union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party.” — Farred Dobbs

“Unionism and politics cannot be separated. Power generated at the trade-union level can be shattered by government blows. Workers must enter the political arena as an independent class force, with their own party.” — Farred Dobbs

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The Militant September 11, 2017
Social catastrophe in Texas

Continued from front page

news reported, because the area had not flooded. In the past, Warren had never been in a hurricane. In fact, he said, the government had nothing to do with it.”

Christina Tucker, 30, a Rockport waitress, went to a school that had been converted into a shelter Aug. 25. As the storm battered the town. But nobody was in charge. Tucker organized with others to create a sign-in sheet, assign cots and prepare meals. It wasn’t until the next day, with 129 people checked in, that government medical workers and other officials showed up.

Working people left on their own

Working people from Houston and around the region and others took into their own hands organizing to rescue people using whatever they had at hand — water skis, kayaks, canoes and motor boats — in the face of government inaction.

In Port Arthur, “more than 100 local guys got in their boats and motor trucks and went out looking for people to help,” Sabine Volunteer Command Manager Brian Warren told the Texas Tribune. “We can’t take care of them.”

“Of my wife’s relatives spent 12 hours floating on an air mattress waiting for help,” Randy Warren, 66, a Houston retail worker, told the Militant by phone. After weathering the first part of the storm, Warren had to abandon his house because county officials were getting ready to release water from the overfilled Addicks Reservoir. “It could be weeks before we can come back,” he said.

Flooding was no surprise

This is Houston’s third so-called 500-year flood in three years. But the way the “experts” define flooding has little to do with how frequently a flood can be expected to hit or how bad.

In reality the designation is used to avoid stricter building regulations that lower profits for capitalist developers. It also lowers insurance liability for areas outside “high-risk” flood zones. Buildings there must be constructed 12 inches above 100-year flood levels. That rule doesn’t apply in the less restrictive zones.

By claiming that the larger storms are unusual or once in a lifetime, government officials can wash their hands of responsibility for not taking stronger measures. Those measures are no mystery.

Houston’s drainage systems were built 50 years ago and only meant to withstand a “10-year” flood. City officials are now working to widen the channels — a little — to handle a “25-year” flood. For the capitalists, further lowering the risk to lives of city residents would not be “cost effective.”

The ruling capitalist families weigh the profits of development against the odds — and costs — of catastrophe, and choose what eats into their profits least.

A construction boom over the last two decades has wiped out 38,000 acres of wetlands that act like sponges for excess water. The only reason to not develop and maintain wetlands is profits for capitalist developers.

No wonder that Business Insider headlined an article, “Houston Was a Tango Time-Bomb for a Devastating Hurricane like Harvey.”

As of Aug. 28 nearly 300,000 people were still without electricity. The Houston convention center is overfull with people who lost their housing, and city officials are working to open new locations.

As of Aug. 31, government officials say at least 38 are dead. But many homes and vehicles are still under water and many people are missing. Rockport officials say that 30 to 40 of those who called at the peak of the flooding were not located. City officials were unable to account for the 1,500 people who had registered for assistance.

As of Aug. 29, more than 10,000 people had taken refuge at the George R. Brown Convention Center, double its capacity.

Many arrived there to find no cots available to sleep on. “Houston wasn’t prepared. The government wasn’t prepared. The mayor wasn’t prepared,” Michelle Lavan told CBS News from inside the center Aug. 29. “What did she and her family sleep on?”

“Deflated air mattresses. Cardboard boxes,” she said.

The Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur was set as the city’s emergency shelter. Virtually every single one of the 20,000 homes in the city is flooded. The city itself flooded Aug. 29, leaving refugees huddled in the bleachers.

And many people are still trapped in their homes, unable to make it out. “I spoke to Maria, a friend of mine who lives on the southwest side of Houston,” Amanda Ulman told the Militant Aug. 29. “There is a shelter just a couple of blocks away, but they can’t get there because the water is too high. They’re hoping the water doesn’t rise any more.”

Example of revolutionary Cuba

The disorganization, lack of planning and elevating of profits above human life by U.S. officials and that government stands in stark contrast to the way the workers and farmers government of Cuba faces hurricanes.

Every year mass organizations in revolutionary Cuba practice what to do in the face of major storms. Last year as soon as it was known that Hurricane Matthew was heading toward the island, Cuban President Raúl Castro toured Guantánamo province. He participated in a meeting of the Provincial Civil Defense Council, which oversees disaster preparedness. Castro and the council set up a camp nearby to lead the effort to protect the population and minimize economic losses.

Brigades of electrical workers and soldiers headed to the region before the hurricane hit so they could begin repairs as soon as the storm was over. Medicine and food was sent to shelters before the storm landed. More than 1 million residents were evacuated.

This was possible in 2016, were immediately rejected. The Swedish Migration Agency has decided to assume that those without documents who say they’re under 18 are lying and have started to conduct physical tests to attempt to determine their age. Those ruled to be adults will be deported.

One protester, who did not wish to give his name, told the Militant that when his cousin was deported, he was dropped off in Kabul by Swedish cops. He had never been in Kabul in his life and knew no one.

— LARS ERLANDSSON

Afghan refugees protest deportations in Sweden

STOCKHOLM — Hundreds of young Afghan asylum-seekers and their supporters have held daily sit-ins at Medborgarplatsen Square here demanding, “Stop the deportations to Afghanistan.” Above, Aug. 9 action. Organized by Ung i Sverige (Young in Sweden), the protest began Aug. 6 to oppose the Swedish government’s stance that it is now safe to deport refugees to large parts of Afghanistan. Some 1,000 people rallied Aug. 9. A handful of protesters held a counterprotest, chanting “No Afghans on our streets” and “Out with their scourge.”

The Afghan youth sent an open letter to Swedish Migration Agency Director General Mikael Ribbensköld saying, “Is Sweden really a moral country when you tell Swedes not to travel to Afghanistan because it’s dangerous, but you think it’s safe for us young people to live there? It’s not human.”

Many of the refugees are unaccompanied minors, who are protected from deportation by a United Nations convention. More than 23,000 minors arrived in 2015 alone, fleeing the devastation of the 16-year-long war. Some come directly from Afghanistan. Most are sent to Sweden by their families who first fled to Iran or Pakistan. One participant told the Militant that in Iran they often face the choice of deportation or joining the Iranian military.

A crowd of the 12,667 Afghans’ requests for asylum is possible in 2016. Sweden’s government officials can wash their hands of the “experts” define flooding has little to do with how frequently a flood can be expected to hit or how bad.

In reality the designation is used to avoid stricter building regulations that lower profits for capitalist developers. It also lowers insurance liability for areas outside “high-risk” flood zones. Buildings there must be constructed 12 inches above 100-year flood levels. That rule doesn’t apply in the less restrictive zones.

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‘Workers must fight as a class to defend their interests’

Below is an excerpt from Teamster Power by Farrell Dobbs. The Spanish-language edition is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for September. It tells the story of how the men and women of Minneapolis Teamsters Local 574 and their class-struggle leadership used their power after winning three strikes in 1934 to make Minneapolis a union town and launch an 11-state campaign that organized tens of thousands of over-the-road drivers into the union. They helped organize the unemployed, forged a fighting alliance with Minneapolis socialists, and engaged in winning-class political action. This is the second of a four-volume series on these battles written by Dobbs, who was a central leader of the union, organizer of the four-year road campaign, and later served as national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party from 1953 to 1972. Copyright © 1973 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

By Farrell Dobbs

Workers who have no radical background enter the trade unions steeped in misconceptions and prejudices that the capitalists have inculcated into them since childhood. This was wholly true of Local 574 members. They began to learn class lessons only in the course of struggle against the employers.

Their strike experiences had taught them a good deal. Nurses were shown that by standing together they shared anything in common with bosses were undermined by harsh reality. Illusions about the police being “protectors of the people” began to be dispelled. Eyes were opened to the role of the capitalist government, as revealed in its methods of rule through deception and brutality. At the same time the workers were gaining confidence in their class power, having emerged victorious from their organized confrontation with the employers.

To intensify the learning process already so well started, the union leadership initiated an educational program. Study courses open to all members were organized. The curriculum included economics, labor history and politics, public speaking, strike strategy and union structure and tactics. Wherever practical, officials’ reports at membership meetings were given with a view toward making them instructive as well as factually informative. Articles of economic and political interest appeared in the union paper. The themes varied from analysis of local problems to coverage of events and discussion of issues in the national and international labor movement. These endeavors stood in marked contrast to the policies of bureaucratic union officials. Bureaucrats don’t look beyond the labor movement as a fighting instrument dedicated solely to the workers’ interests; they tend rather to view trade unions as a base upon which to build personal careers as “labor statesmen.”

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Thousands attended 1939 Labor Day rally organized by “Minnesota Central Labor Union. “Through their strike experiences,” Farrell Dobbs wrote, “eyes were opened to the role of the capitalist government, as revealed in its methods of rule through deception and brutality.”

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William Solidarity

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AUSTRALIA

Sydney: Suite 22, 10 Bridge Street. Zip 2000. Tel: 02 9212-5782. Email: swpSydneyC@verizon.net

CANADA

QUEBEC: Montreal: 7107 St. Denis #202 H2W 2S5. Tel: (514) 272-2540. Email: cllQuebec@fastmail.fm

BRISSColumbia: Vancouver: Email: cllVancouver@fastmail.fm

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**SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY STATEMENT**

Disaster shows need for workers power

The following statement was issued Aug. 31, by Cynthia Jaquith, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Miami.

The catastrophic social disaster unfolding in Hous-

This is a long-term campaign,” an uniden-

We went to talk to workers at their homes in a

Mary Martin detailed her experience covering the

Mary Martin said, “We have people of many races in our group, including African-

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