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Workers at Target attacked by far-right The anti-LGBTQ+ bigots are anti-worker

NEWSFLASH

By Gregory E. Williams

The far right's agitation around corporate brands is not limited to boycotts and outlandish social media posts. They are harassing and threatening retail workers in person. When Target pulled back Pride merchandise in response to the far right's bullying tactics – likely emboldening these neo-fascists – it was in the aftermath of real disturbances that occurred in stores.

The Washington Post describes multiple incidents at one Target location in South Florida, where workers have been confronted by bigots calling them "groomers." At this same location, a manager wearing a safety vest over a Pride shirt was told by a customer, "Oh, is that so I could shoot you easier?"

Part of a broad trend

Retail workers are no strangers to customer attacks, which rose during the COVID-19 pandemic. UNI Global Union, an international service workers' union federation, released a 2022 report with data from 20 countries

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Solidarity and defiance at Trans Pride March. See page 3.

SL photo: Melinda Blaustein

LGBTQ+ delegation meets with Federation of Cuban Women

ILWU to celebrate Juneteenth with a shutdown

By Lillian Schoenstein

Seattle port bosses fired the International Longshore and Warehouse union (ILWU) Local 52 workers on the June 2 night shift and again on the morning shift, says Gabriel Prawl, a longshore worker and a leading member of the Million Worker March Movement as well as the president of the Seattle A. Philip Randolph Institute.

The firings are the latest outrage taken by West Coast port terminal operators against over 22,000 longshore workers at 29 ports fighting to get a decent union contract. Prawl says, "It's time for the rank and file to speak up and make their voices heard."

In San Francisco, militant ILWU Local 10 rank and filers voluntarily stopped picking up jobs during dispatch on June 2, 3, and 4. CNBC reported that port shutdowns were expected to spread up and down the West Coast as workers protest over negotiations in contract talks with port management.

ILWU members have been working without a contract for a year. The Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) represents over 70 multinational ocean carriers and maritime companies with whom the ILWU negotiates a contract.

Many ILWU locals are following the call by Locals 10 and 52 to shut down all West Coast ports on June 19 – Juneteenth, the day in 1865 when news about the emancipation from slavery finally reached the last workers in Texas. Prawl added, "It is a day for workers to protest conditions rising out of slavery that are currently getting worse – homelessness, child labor, hunger. ... The ILWU needs to



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Port bosses made historic profits

There is plenty to be angry about. According to a June 2 ILWU press release, "PMA member carriers and terminal operators made historic profits of \$50 billion during the pandemic. In some cases, profits jumped nearly 1000%. Even as shipping volumes return to normal in 2023, PMA members have continued to post revenues that far exceed pre-pandemic times by billions of dollars.

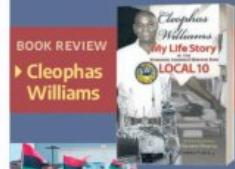
"ILWU workers risked and lost their lives during the pandemic to ensure grocery store shelves were stocked, PPE was made available, essential medical supplies were reaching our hospitals." Record volumes of goods were moved, enabling the shipping industries' astronomical revenues. "Despite this fact, from pre-pandemic levels through 2022, the percentage of ILWU wages and benefits continued to drop compared to PMA rising revenues."

According to ILWU International President Willie Adams, "West Coast

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'Pride on the picket line'



BOOK REVIEW Cleophas Williams



In honor of Malcolm X

Photo: Labor Against Racism and T

Reparations must be paid!

Nakba protest at 'Israel parade'

War criminal Kissinger

South Korean prisoners of conscience

Ukraine dam weaponized

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