

Struggle □ La Lucha PDF - June 12, 2023

written by Struggle - La Lucha
June 12, 2023
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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.

ILL photo: Melinda Ruffalo

LGBTQ+ delegation meets with Federation of Cuban Women

ILWU to celebrate Juneteenth with a shutdown

By Lallan Schoenheit

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

Juneteenth

EMANCIPATION DAY

QUEST SPEAKERS & MUSIC ON THE WATERFRONT
COME JOIN THE WEST COAST STOP-WORK ACTION TO COMMEMORATE JUNETEENTH

MARCH & RALLY

MONDAY JUNE 19 2023

ILWU LOCAL 10 HALL @ 10 AM TO TERMINAL 40 MAIN TRUCK
ENTRANCE (ALASKAN HWY S. & ATLANTIC ST) 11AM-1PM

for more information go to: APRISSEATTLE.ORG [C4NEWS.ORG](https://www.c4news.org)

celebrate Juneteenth with a shutdown to show the PMA that they are a strong and angry workforce."

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 \$510 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."

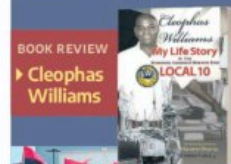
"ILWU workers risked and lost their lives during the pandemic to ensure grocery store shelves were stocked, PPE was made available, essential medical supplies were reaching our hospitals." Record volumes of goods were moved, enabling the shipping industries' astronomical revenues. "Despite this fact, 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'



In honor of Malcolm X

Reparations must be paid!

Nakba protest at 'Israel parade'

War criminal Kissinger

South Korean prisoners of conscience

Ukraine dam weaponized

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MARCH ON FLORIDA Resist the ban on trans lives!

AS PRIDE MONTH begins, last year's anti-trans panic has grown into a full-blown campaign for trans extermination. We call on the whole movement for social and economic justice, against war and racism, for civil rights and immigrants' rights, to join the mobilization for a National March to Protect Trans Youth and Trans Lives in Orlando, Florida, on Oct. 7, 2023.

By Struggle-La Lucha

Queer people are under attack in the U.S. like never before, with Pride festivities curtailed and even canceled in Florida and other states at the instigation of bigots like Republican Governor Ron DeSantis, a candidate for the presidency in 2024, running on a platform of hate.

Among a raft of hate legislation DeSantis signed into law on May 17 – the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia –

is one that supports kidnapping trans children across state lines to forcibly detransition them.

Fear is widespread among trans people and the broad LGBTQ2S community across the U.S., especially in those states that have enacted laws cutting off lifesaving gender-affirming health care, revoking trans people's civil rights and the very ability

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Cuba's queer rights revolution



A PRIDE MONTH WEBINAR

Page 4

Media slanders Jordan Neely & raises millions for his killer

By Stephen Millies

Richard "Watergate" Nixon declared, "I am not a crook." Subway vigilante Daniel Penny – who choked to death Black homeless man Jordan Neely – says, "I am not a white supremacist."

Penny made that statement to the New York Post which, like Fox News, is owned by Rupert Murdoch's me-

dia empire. The racist rag put Penny's picture on its Sunday, May 21, front cover with the headline "Nothing about race."

It was all about race when Daniel Penny strangled Jordan Neely for 15 minutes in a New York City subway car. That doesn't stop the capitalist media and politicians from defaming the dead victim and trying to make his killer a hero.

As Malcolm X pointed out, the media "...have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent." We have to use the power of the people to turn that around.

Over \$2.6 million has been raised for the vigilante on the GiveSendGo site, which describes itself as "the #1 Christian fundraising site."

GiveSendGo collected dough for the

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CUBA

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► A drag show in Havana

► U.S. LGBTQ+ learn about Cuban Families Code

► National Assembly of People's Power

► Socialism advances biotechnology

► Amazon Labor Union: End U.S. Blockade of Cuba!

► Health care in East LA and South Central

Solidarity fuels Writers Guild strike

By Scott Scheffer

May 25 – The Writers Guild of America (WGA) strike is in its 24th day, holding strong and gaining support from other unionized workers and allies, not only in the entertainment industry but even among others who have much in common with their members.

The billionaires that own the studios and streaming companies haven't budged in negotiations, but the strike is energetic and determined. The picket lines are dense and loud and film locations are dropping like flies because of the strikers' guerrilla-style tactics. Shows are getting canceled one after another.

The growth of streaming has had a huge impact on writers' compensation and is one of the most important issues for strikers. Netflix, Apple, Amazon Prime, Hulu, Max and other big entertainment companies have shifted the way that entertainment

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Writers Guild "Trans Takeover" picket of Netflix in Los Angeles, May 18.

• Justice for Andres Guardado!

• San Diego: Malcolm X Day

• 'Work' for yacht owners?

• Reaction in Montana

• Judiciary bias vs. workers

• U.S. drops 'One China,' policy, uses Philippines for war drive

• Biden attacks migrants

NAKBA = CRIME

• TSQ: Palestine will win!

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- Cuban socialism advances biotechnology
- In Cuba, National Assembly of People's Power truly represents the people
- U.S. judicial system's bias against workers
- Nakba was a crime! Palestine will win!
- U.S. drops 'One China' policy, uses Philippines for war drive over Taiwan
- Biden attacks migrants, sends troops to border
- En Cuba, la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular representa verdaderamente al pueblo



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Marching with Cuba's Cenesex on a historic **MAY DAY**

By Melinda Butterfield

Havana — May Day in Cuba. Nothing quite like it — even if it takes place a little later than expected.

Havana is renowned for its huge, colorful, and powerful marches every May 1, International Workers' Day. This year was already planned to be different. Because of severe fuel shortages caused by the U.S. blockade, it was decided to focus on local marches in Cuba's provinces and the various municipalities that make up Havana.

Then severe weather struck. Havana's May 1 celebrations had to be postponed. Instead, it was "the First on the Fifth" — the great workers' action was held on Friday, May 5, the 205th birthday of Karl Marx, the founder of scientific socialism.

Another difference: in an additional move to conserve fuel for urgent people's needs, the usual march through the Plaza of the Revolution was changed to a mass rally along the Malecón, Havana's famous sea wall.

I arrived in Cuba from New York City on May 3 to attend the VII International Colloquium on Trans Identities, Gender, and Culture, hosted by the National Center for Sex Education (Cenesex), together with Serena Sojic-Borne, a comrade from the New Orleans chapter of Freedom Road Socialist Organization.

Comrade Mariela Castro Espín, director of Cenesex, invited the international delegates from Mexico, Italy, the United States, and other countries to join the center's delegation in the May Day action, a proposal we gladly accepted.

Queer youth for socialism

In the U.S., it's impossible to imagine a city full of workers rising well before dawn to defend the system they live under. U.S. workers are exploited by their bosses, lied to by politicians, overworked and underpaid, without universal health care or the right to housing.

How different is Cuba! In Havana, workers from every sector, along with students and other organized groups, began gathering by 4 a.m. As the international delegates walked by the University of Havana, contingents of young people were already starting to arrive, chanting, singing, and drumming.

Across the wide boulevard, workers representing Radio Rebelde (founded by Che Guevara) and other media outlets were gathering around their banners.



As we reached the intersection where Cenesex was gathering, outside a movie theater, comrade Mariela Castro was among the first to arrive — greeting people, keeping the group motivated and excited. Organizers from TransCuba Nacional, the national network of trans women, distributed trans flags to the many young queer people as they arrived and kept folks from wandering too far afield.

At the intersection where we gathered, we witnessed young people organized by the Committees in Defense of the Revolution (CDRs) blocking streets and directing traffic away from the marchers. A CDR leader took time to snap some group photos of our contingent for Mariela.

'Love is the law'

The dozens of queer youth who gathered with Cenesex, a majority of them Black Cubans, carried an enormous rainbow flag and a lead banner that read, "Por todas las familias, el amor es ley" — "For all Cuban families, love is the law."

This refers to the revolutionary new Families Code approved last year, which expands the rights of all families, including LGBTQ+ families and chosen families. May is also the International Month Against Homophobia and Transphobia and is celebrated in Cuba much like Pride Month is in the U.S.

For Cenesex and the networks of trans, gay, lesbian, and bisexual people, this is a key time to educate the queer community and the broader Cuban public about the provisions of the new code.

- U.S. LGBTQ+ delegation travels to Cuba to learn about new Families Code
- Queer Liberation Party for Cuba trip
- Montana Rep. Zoey Zephyr

SAN DIEGO MAY DAY

- Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!
- Free Leonard Peltier!
- Free Them ALL!

► Biden sends troops to border

As we marched down the wide, dark street toward the Malecón, more people streamed into the contingent at each intersection. We took our place among the tens of thousands already gathered beside the sea, while revolutionary songs played over gigantic speakers that reached everyone in the rally.

Dozens of hands of all colors and gender expressions took hold of the massive Pride flag and shook it in time to beat. Beside the Cenesex group were health care workers' unions, unions of the economic ministry, parents holding small children on their shoulders, and portraits of Martí, Fidel, and Che, all awaiting the inspiring words of Ulises Guillarte, general secretary of the Cuban Workers Federation (CTC).

The beautiful sunrise over the sea slowly spread across the massive demonstration — a beautiful symbolic moment.

Together we sang, chanted, and celebrated the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, the achievements of socialism despite the punishing and illegal U.S. blockade, and the continuing struggles of the world's workers and oppressed.

Viva Cuba! El amor es ley! 🇨🇺

HARRY BELAFONTE: Problems faced by people of color 'are as dire & entrenched as half a century ago'

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- Repression in Puerto Rico ► NNOC brigadistas detained and harassed ► Remember Khader Adnan ► Gaza

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MAY DAY 2023

Prepare for a long, hot summer of struggle

By Melinda Butterfield

It's May Day – International Workers' Day – and the United States is a tinderbox of combustible material waiting for a spark. Poor and working people who gather in cities and towns across the country on May 1 should prepare for a long, hot summer of struggle against the capitalist regime.

In a single day, April 17, grand juries in Ohio and Virginia let off killer cops who murdered Black men: Jayland Walker and Timothy McCree Johnson.

In 2022, U.S. police killed at least 1,176 people – nearly 100 per month – the largest number ever recorded. But 2023 is on track to bust that gruesome record. The rate of fatal police shootings of Black people far outstrips any other group.

Just days before, on April 14, a 16-year-old Black honor student, Ralph Yarl, was shot by a white racist in Kansas City, Missouri, for the "crime" of ringing his doorbell. Yarl had mistaken the bigot's street address for the location where he was supposed to pick up his younger siblings.

The critically wounded youth ran to neighboring houses seeking help – only to be ignored. Then, finally, a neighborhood resident saw Yarl lying in a pool of blood in a driveway and got help. Fortunately, he survived.

On April 13, in Brooklyn, New York's Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood, police shot and killed an elderly Black man after they broke into his building and pounded on doors "searching for a robbery suspect." The NYPD claims the man was holding a pistol. He didn't fire at the cops, but Caesar Robinson "was shot numerous times" before he died.

The outrages don't stop there. On April 19, the DeKalb County Medical Examiner released its official autopsy report on Atlanta, Georgia, for-est defender Manuel "Tortuguita" Terán, who was shot and killed by Georgia State Troopers during a brutal raid on "Cop City" protesters in January.



BRING MUMIA HOME NOW

- San Diego: **MOBILIZE!**
- Philly: **SHUT IT DOWN!**
- White supremacy and Tenn. expulsion
- **#LetHerSpeak:**
Rep. Zooey Zephyr
- Fred Goldstein
- Alton Maddox

The cops claimed Tortuguita shot first. The Medical Examiner's report confirmed what everyone knew – the cops lied. There was no gunpowder residue on the hands of the Latinx-

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Grand juries issue more licenses to kill Black people: Justice for Jayland Walker & Timothy McCree Johnson!

By Stephen Millies

Two more atrocities prove that police in the United States almost never face any consequences for killing Black people. On April 17, grand juries refused to indict police for the deaths of Jayland Walker in Ohio and Timothy McCree Johnson in Virginia.

Twenty-five-year-old Jayland Walker was a DoorDash driver who the Akron, Ohio, cops chased shortly after midnight on June 27, 2022, for an alleged traffic violation. Walker's real crime was Driving While Black.

After Walker got out of his car and ran, eight police officers fired 94 times at him. Forty-six of the bullets struck the Black man.

Jayland Walker's "body was riddled from his face down to his knees," said the Rev. Roderick Pounds, pastor at Akron's Second Baptist Church, who saw a video of the shooting. After butchering Walker, the cops still proceeded to handcuff him.

Timothy McCree Johnson was executed in Fairfax County, Virginia – outside Washington, D.C.



Akron, Ohio, April 17.

— on Feb. 22. The unarmed Black man got the death penalty for allegedly shoplifting a pair of sunglasses from the Nordstrom department store in a Tyson Corners shopping mall.

Even the police admit that Johnson was fatally shot after he had stopped running. He was complying with the police order to "get on

the ground" when he was killed.

People in Akron took to the streets on April 17 to protest the whitewash of Jayland Walker's killing. Cars converged on the site where Walker was shot so many times.

"I just stood there, thinking, 'Really? Out of 46 shots, it's OK?'"

Toni Weems told the Akron Beacon-Journal. "It doesn't make sense. How can an officer shoot somebody when they're just running away?"

Raina Lasley thought the grand jury let the officers get away with murder. "Now everybody is going to be afraid for their lives," said Lasley. "We can't just let this go or it's going to keep happening."

No justice, no peace!

More protests in Akron followed on April 19. People marched and blocked intersections demanding justice. Cars formed a convoy.

Police viciously used pepper spray and so-called chemical irritants against demonstrators. That's gas warfare against Black people.

One onlooker, William Dancy, held his fist up. "This is to let them know that we're ready for change, we're not going to allow this to keep going on," he said.

People are demanding justice for Timothy Johnson in Fairfax County, Virginia, as well. During the 83-year existence of the Fair-

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SUP: HANDS OFF UHURU, STOP FBI ATTACKS

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- Al-Quds: Capital of Palestine!
- Haitian leader Ben Dupuy

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► Cómo el gobierno cubano y su pueblo colaboraron en el Código de Familia 8

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Fascists threaten, Biden concedes: Organize & fight for trans rights!

By Melinda Butterfield

The Trans Day of Vengeance was a long-planned protest in Washington, D.C., scheduled for April 1. People were coming to D.C. from across the country to participate. It was called in response to the growing legal and extralegal violence against the transgender community, egged on by far-right politicians and corporate media.

In the words of event initiator Tsukuru Fors, as reported by Struggle-La Lucha: "Vengeance means fighting back with vehemence. It is our battle cry to declare to the world that we the transgender/non-binary communities will neither be silenced nor eradicated. And we are calling to our allies, members of other marginalized communities to make themselves known and to fight with us."

On March 30, organizers were forced to cancel two days before the event because of "a credible threat to life and safety." The reason: fascist mouthpieces like Tucker Carlson and other social-media bottom feeders whipped up a hate campaign targeting the event, falsely claiming it had caused a mass shooting at a Christian school in Nashville, Tennessee, on March 27, where three students and three staff members were killed.

The alleged shooter was Aiden Hale, a former student of the school who happened to be a trans man. Hale was shot dead by police. He was consistently misgendered and deadnamed for the first 24-48 hours after the tragedy, and some right-wing social media used this to claim that Hale was a trans woman.

According to the Gun Violence Archive, by the end of March 2023 – that is, in just three months – there have been at least 130 mass shootings in the United States this year. The Nashville shooting is the only one reported to have been carried out by a trans person.

And yet, according to the right-wing, from Fox News and the New York Post to internet-famous white supremacists, Hale's acts represented the "dangerous" nature of the whole trans community, and particularly the planned April 1 civil rights protest.

At least two specific threats to the Trans Day of Vengeance march took the form of mass shootings. According to independent anti-fascist researchers working with the John Brown Gun Club DMV, a Minnesota-based white supremacist named Adam Murray made credible threats to the event. After this was reported to the FBI, Murray was briefly detained in Baltimore and then released.

Another white supremacist said to be one Benjamin Ryder of Pennsylvania, was detained by police when he pulled out a gun outside the Supreme Court on April 1, where the Trans Day of Vengeance march had been scheduled to gather.

The right-wing tried to turn the Nashville tragedy into a Reichstag fire moment to frame up the entire trans community and justify the acts of violence it encouraged from stooges like Murray and Ryder – who much more fit the profile of the typical U.S. mass shooter.

Christynne Lilly Wood: 'Trans women are a threat to no one'

Help send a LGBTQ+ delegation to CUBA

► Trans protest shuts down Hollywood traffic

► Trans youth & families flood Washington D.C. streets

► New Orleans high school students walk out

► Biden's concession fuels attacks

On March 25, a member of the "White Lives Matter" neo-Nazi group attempted to firebomb the Community Church of Chesterland, Ohio, for hosting a drag story hour. Just a week before, the Nazis staged an anti-trans, anti-drag demonstration in the Ohio town of Wadsworth, chanting, "There will be blood."

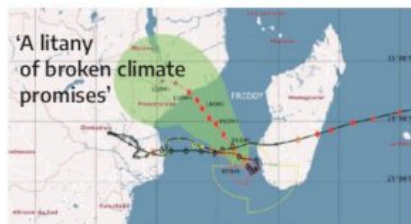
So far this year, 450 anti-trans bills have been introduced in state legislatures across the U.S. Some 14 states have banned life-saving gender-affirming care for trans youth, with more expected to join them. In addition, bans on trans youth participation in school sports and use of school restrooms have been enacted.

On April 5, Kansas passed a law explicitly aimed at trans girls and young women that could require genital inspections for participation in sports programs. Florida

and other states are expected to follow suit. Tennessee, where the March 27 shooting took place, is one of the worst offenders, even enacting a so-called "drag ban" that places the public existence of trans people in jeopardy.

On March 31, International Trans Day of Visibility, President Joe Biden repeated his occasional claim to support "love, dignity and respect" for trans people. Yet less than a week later, the Washington

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- The capitalist crisis is just beginning
- Los Angeles: Labor's sleeping giant
- Angel Reese and racism in sports
- Lock Trump up!



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- Los Angeles-area strikes show: Labor's sleeping giant is awakening
- Los Angeles students support school workers' strike, oppose armed police
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France burns as millions protest to defend pensions

By Gary Wilson

March 23 was a national day of action, a general strike, organized by the labor unions in France.

According to union estimates, around 3.5 million people hit the streets in more than 250 locations across France that day, Peoples Dispatch reports.

Workers have continued work stoppages in critical areas, including energy, transportation, railways, seaports, airports, industries, schools, colleges and universities, municipal services including waste management, and tightened blockades of major roads, bridges, and roundabouts in major cities.

The day before, on March 22, President Emmanuel Macron went on national TV to reiterate his decision to force pension cuts through the National Assembly without a vote, using Article 49.3, a part of the French constitution that enables the government to pass a law without a vote by parliament.

Macron defied the opposition of nearly 80% of the population, who all opposed the pension cuts.

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Workers across France continue militant protests against attacks on pensions.



WALL STREET:
Work till you drop

Activist interviewed
on California snowstorm

San Diego March for Black Womxn



ILLUSTRATION: SHARON BLACK

March 18 protest in Washington, D.C.

NO U.S. WAR ON RUSSIA & CHINA

- Protesters in D.C. denounce NATO
- Los Angeles protests U.S. proxy war media censorship

Lab leak lie dies –
U.S. ramps up attack on China

**TRANS PEOPLE
WON'T BE ERASED**

**BIGOTS SAY GET BACK
WE SAY FIGHT BACK!**

**Women in Struggle /
Mujeres en Lucha**



Proposal to the movement from Women in Struggle / Mujeres en Lucha:

**National March to Protect Trans Youth
FLORIDA ► AUTUMN 2023**

& Speakout for Trans Rights

Build a People's Tribunal to put anti-trans bigots on trial

Transgender, nonbinary, gender-nonconforming, and intersex people are under siege. So far this year, more than 400 anti-trans bills have been introduced at the state and national levels. Fourteen states have banned or severely restricted life-saving gender-affirming care for trans youth. Attacks, both legislative and violent, are growing by the day, while national elected officials who claim to support the LGBTQ+ community remain silent and do nothing.

We can't wait for the next election in hopes that things might improve. Measures are being enacted NOW that will do irreparable harm to trans youth and all trans people. The thousands of youth around the country walking out of schools and rallying at state capitols have shown us the way. Now we need to take the movement national.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who wants to be president, is one of the most vicious abusers of trans youth and the rights of all people. Behind politicians like DeSantis are rich bosses who profit from divide-and-rule tactics.

Join us to build a broad national coalition in partnership with organizations and communities on the ground in Florida and with allies in the Black Lives and immigrant rights struggles, the women's movement, educators, labor, the unemployed, and antiwar movements.

GET READY for the first planning meeting on Zoom in April.

SPREAD THE WORD.

Think about what you can do!

ADD YOUR NAME & ORGANIZATION to the list of initiators and endorsers.

REACH OUT to info@womeninstruggle.org for updates and to get involved.

Bigots say get back – we say fight back!

WomenInStruggle.org

Facebook.com/womenmujeresinstruggle

- France burns as millions protest to defend pensions
- National March to Protect Trans Youth
- Activist speaks on worst California snowstorm in four decades
- Int'l Transport Workers Union calls for Mumia's release
- Mobilizing to free Mumia Abu-Jamal
- Court denies Mumia a fair trial: The fight for his freedom continues
- Wall Street wants to steal your retirement
- March for Black Womxn 2023 was live!
- D19: LIBRE salutes Honduran President Xiomara Castro
- People say NO to war with Russia and China
- Los Angeles protests U.S. proxy war, media censorship
- Bipartisan slander of China: Lab leak theory dead, U.S. war drive alive and well
- ¡No al Foro de Madrid en Lima!
- No to the Madrid Forum in Lima!



Struggle □ La Lucha PDF - March 20, 2023

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June 12, 2023
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THE BANK PANIC OF 2023

If he can bail out banks, Biden can roll back prices

By Gary Wilson

The Bank Panic of 2023 isn't over. The collapse of the Silicon Valley Bank, the second largest bank failure in U.S. history, was followed by a landslide of banking crises.

Credit Suisse, the second largest Swiss bank after UBS, faces possible failure. With the shares of Credit Suisse falling 30% on March 15, the Swiss central bank provided a \$54-billion rescue lifeline.

Credit Suisse barely survived the 2007-08 financial crisis. European bank stocks crashed 15% in the week following SVB's failure.

On March 13, the credit rating agency Moody's downgraded the entire U.S. banking system outlook to negative from stable. Again, that's the whole banking system, not just one or two banks.

The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank could be the start of "a slow-rolling crisis" in the financial system with "more seizures and shutdowns coming," the chief executive of BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, said.

According to the Guardian, "The high-profile economist Nouriel Roubini told Bloomberg News that if Credit Suisse were to collapse it could result in a 'Lehman moment' — a reference to the collapse of the U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers in August 2007 at the start of the global financial crisis."

Immediately after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, the Biden administration announced a complete bailout of all wealthy uninsured depositors.

In the New York Times, Paul Krugman wrote: "Yes, it was a bailout. The fact that the funds will come from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation rather than directly from the Treasury doesn't change the reality that the government came in to rescue depositors."

"The Federal Reserve announced an emergency lending facility on March 12 to shore up the U.S. banking system," the Financial Times reported. "The Fed said it would make additional funding available to eligible depository institutions to 'help assure banks have the ability to meet the needs of all their depositors.' It added that it is

Continued on page 10

Bank collapses – bailout begins

U.S. wars made Wall Street

Biden's \$1 trillion military budget



Roll Back Prices campaign

Shoppers outraged at inflation in food, utility costs

By John Parker

On March 4, shoppers at an Albertsons grocery store in Los Angeles were greeted with flyers calling for an end to war and inflation in a campaign by the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice to "Roll Back Prices."

Physics tells us that every action gets a reaction. The \$100-billion worth of firepower going to escalate war with Russia and the countless money spent on provoking war with China is returning that energy to us here in the U.S. as a force of inflationary destruction, obliterating our already deteriorating standard of living.

Shoppers here are seeing it not only at the cash register but in their utility bills — big time.

The utility SoCalGas recently announced drastic rate hikes and is already trying to get those hikes extended through 2027 in hearings on March 6 and March 15. Most people, however, find it odd that SoCal's parent company Sempra Energy is making record profits and just rewarded top executives with huge payouts.

The Los Angeles Times reported that Sempra's executive compensation numbers for 2021 include \$25 million for Chief Executive Jeffrey Martin. Two other execs made \$8 million and \$7 million. Grocery chain Kroger's 2022 profits also broke records — so much so that the company is planning on buying this store and every other Albertsons.

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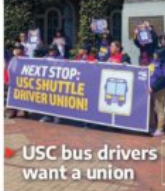


TRANS DAY OF VENGEANCE

Int'l Women's Day lessons on fascism

► KINGSTON, N.Y.: 'roll back the rent!'

► No execution for \$\$\$\$\$+ Murdaugh



USC bus drivers want a union

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- Kingston, New York, says 'roll back the rent!'
- USC bus drivers want a union
- TRANS DAY OF VENGEANCE: Fight back against far-right attacks!
- Behind California's extreme weather emergency
- Wars made Wall Street the world's financial center
- Silicon Valley Bank collapses, the bailout has begun
- Protests against Georgia 'foreign agent' law reek of imperialist influence
- War buildup: Biden's \$1 trillion military budget
- International Women's Day founder Clara Zetkin on fascism, a lesson for today
- Ukraine war a triple-plundering of people of the U.S.
- Why wasn't Alex Murdaugh given the death penalty?
- China breakthrough: Mediates deal to restore Iran-Saudia Arabia ties
- Reclamos feministas boricuas
- Gobierno de PR, lacayo sumiso del Neoliberalismo



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► Airbnb desplaza Boricuas

► La dirigente cubana Mariela Castro Espín habla de la 'conquista progresiva de nuevos derechos' 8

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The East Palestine, Ohio, train wreck

Capitalist greed fuels toxic nightmare

By Stephen Millies

The profits-first safety-last Norfolk Southern railway has turned East Palestine, Ohio, into a burn pit. Like the dumps operated by the U.S. military in formerly occupied Afghanistan and still occupied Iraq, the Feb. 3 train wreck poisoned a wide area.

The deliberate ignition of five tank cars on Feb. 6 released a mushroom cloud of toxins. A temporary evacuation didn't help much. Residents are reporting health problems, including bronchitis and skin rashes, while thousands of fish have died.

"The whole sky was black," was how Darlington, Pennsylvania, resident Amanda Kemmer described conditions after the cars were blown up. Darlington is just nine miles from East Palestine.

"And then you get this chemical smell in the house," the mother of four children said. "Everyone had a headache and didn't feel well and was sick to their stomach."

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine called this disaster a "controlled release" and said he approved of it. A hole was punched into each of the tank cars so that the vinyl chloride inside could pour into a pit and be set on fire.

Used to make PVC pipe, packaging and coatings, vinyl chloride is dangerous, according to the National Cancer Institute. Exposure to it increases the risk of liver, brain and lung cancers as well as lymphoma and leukemia.

That's a reason why vinyl chloride is being phased out around the world. Germany banned dumping it in landfills in 2005. Truckloads of the burned residue are now being shipped to Indiana, Michigan and Texas.

The excuse given by both the rail-



Food stamp benefits are being reduced across the board starting March 1, with 42 million seeing cuts. Congress and President Biden cut food stamps even as food price inflation is spreading, with no sign of letup. Above, a protest in Baltimore. See page 3

SE PHOTO SHARON BLACK

road and Gov. DeWine for the deliberate burning of this poison was to prevent the tank cars from exploding. Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro thinks the real reason was more about clearing the tracks quicker.

"Amtrak Joe" in the White House knows about burn pits. President Biden blames them for killing his 49-year-old son Joseph "Beau" Biden III, who died from brain cancer.

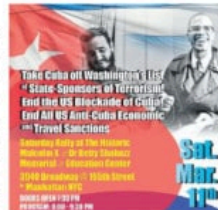
So why doesn't Biden sanction Norfolk Southern CEO Alan Shaw like he does Cuba, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen and Zimbabwe? While Shaw raked in \$4.5 million last year, the U.S. government is trying to economically strangle these countries.

Saving money, wasting lives

Eighteen years ago a Norfolk Southern train hauling chlorine and other chemicals derailed in Graniteville, South Carolina, on Jan. 6, 2005. Poisonous chlorine gas was released, killing 10 people.

The train was operating in what railroaders call "dark territory"—a track without wayside signals. Only a small switch target warned engineer Christopher Seeling too late that the track was misaligned for a

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Condemn Biden - not Cuba 7

PEACE IN UKRAINE

SAY NO TO ENDLESS U.S. WARS

FUND PEOPLE'S NEEDS, NOT THE WAR MACHINE

SATURDAY, MARCH 18 AT THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY MARCH 18-19

PROTEST ON THE 20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. INVASION OF IRAQ

AMERICAN COALITION GOVERNMENT THE PEOPLE'S FORUM



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- COP CITY: Racist police terror continues in Atlanta
- Stop food stamp cuts!
- How Black workers made the United States rich
- 'Azov' fascist units in Ukrainian National Guard and Army are being expanded
- Anniversary of Russian Special Military Operation: A victory for Russia will be a victory for the international working class!
- Condemn Biden's report, false designation of Cuba as 'state sponsor of terrorism'
- Airbnb desplaza Boricuas
- La dirigente cubana Mariela Castro Espín habla de la 'conquista progresiva de nuevos derechos'



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Labor seizes the time to **FREE MUMIA**

By Lallan Schoenstein

As leaders in the vanguard of social activism in the labor movement, Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) locals in San Francisco and Oakland, California, shut down their ports on Feb. 16 to demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Their actions initiated a campaign of solidarity for Mumia that spans the globe.

Most notably:

- South Africa's National Union of Metalworkers (NUMSA) demonstrated at the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria and the U.S. Consulate in Durban. See page 4.
- In Tokyo, Japanese railroad workers, members of the Doro-Chiba labor union, held a protest for Mumia in front of the U.S. Embassy.
- In Berlin, the IG Metall (Metal Workers Industrial Union) Working Group on Internationalism (Arbeitskreis Internationalismus) sent a message of solidarity with the ILWU port shutdown: "Mumia Abu-Jamal is an innocent man, falsely put into jail since 1982 for a crime he did not commit. Like Leonard Peltier, who is imprisoned for 46 years, he is a victim of a system of racism and exploitation. Mumia Abu-Jamal and Leonard Peltier should be free! We send you our warmest greetings and wish you success with your port shutdown solidarity action."

Judge to rule on Mumia's case

Currently, Mumia Abu-Jamal's defense lawyers are reviewing evidence that had been hidden in the District Attorney's closet for 36 years, evidence that attorneys say shows that the police and prosecution intentionally manufactured Mumia's guilt and suppressed the truth of his innocence.

His lawyers expect to find further evidence that police coerced and bribed witnesses and that extreme racism and judicial bias have permeated all the proceedings against Mumia. The discovery of this new undisclosed evidence provides the basis for a retrial.

Judge Lucretia Clemons has ordered the Philadelphia District Attorney to turn over additional files — up to 200 boxes — to Mumia's defense team. At this time, actions are planned to support Mumia, ensure that the evidence is heard, and win Mumia Abu-Jamal's freedom. Judge Clemons is expected to issue her ruling on Mumia's case sometime between Feb. 16 and March 16.

At home and across the country, the ILWU action is building a growing movement for Mumia's freedom.

- Keith Brown, president of the Oakland Education Association, wrote on behalf of the teachers' union:

"The teachers of Oakland have a long history of support for Mumia Abu-Jamal. Now is the time to bring Mumia home. On behalf of the 3,000 educators of the Oakland Education Association, I urge the immediate release of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

"It is our collective responsibility to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline and end the mass incarceration of Black Americans. Mumia's case exemplifies the worst of mass incarceration in the United States.

"This moment calls for the display of healing



the wrongs of discrimination, racial bias, and unfairness. Justice and 'doing the right thing' means granting Mumia Abu-Jamal the opportunity to have a fair hearing. This includes work that we, as the Oakland Education Association, have been doing to create a culture of inclusion and anti-racist practices with our educators."

- In Portland, Oregon, Local 28 of IATSE, the theater, TV, and movie workers union, passed a resolution for Mumia's freedom. The wording of Local 28's resolution is the same as one passed by the Portland painters union in October.

It demands immediate freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal and calls for a policy of working-class struggle through agitation, publicity, protest, and continued coordinated workers' action on a national and international scale to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, and calls on workers of all countries to use their power to free Mumia Abu-Jamal.

- On Feb. 13, radio stations WBAI in New York and WPEW in Washington, D.C., aired a teach-in: "Mumia's Freedom is Labor's Cause."

The teach-in featured labor leaders:

Brenda Stokely, fm. pres. AFSCME DC 1707, Local 205, Co-convenor of the Million Worker March; Jack Heyman, retired exec. brd. ILWU Local 10; David Newton, Local 10 ILWU and nephew of Huey Newton, founder Black Panther Party; Chris Silvera, Sec.-treas., Teamsters Local 808; Charles Jenkins, TWU Local 100, Pres. NY Chapter Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

- On Feb. 18 in Boston, a Free Mumia rally was planned.

- Compelling support was voiced by Angela Davis in a letter to Irvin Jim, General Secretary of NUMSA, South Africa:

"As I write you today on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal, I remember the powerful letter you wrote in 2016 to Governor Wolf of Pennsylvania, when you emphasized similarities between the South African apartheid government's treatment of its political prisoners and the conditions of prisoners in Pennsylvania.

"Today, we need to take advantage of the fact that we have the best chance in a very long time to actually achieve his (Mumia's) freedom."

Pam Africa speaking in Philadelphia in December

State of Biden: "I am a capitalist"

Marshall 'Eddie' Conway, ipresente!

Train wrecks, earthquakes & profits

Inflation, layoffs & trillion\$ war budget

Tyre Nichols: No matter color of the lash, the whip of racism remains intact

Trans genocide: time to fight back!



NOLA v. anti-LGBTQ+ bigot Landry

90 years since Hitler took power

Far right trap for anti-war movement

Sam Marcy

Earthquake: Drop U.S. sanctions

The 'spy balloon' incident?

U.S. troops out of the Philippines!

Nord Stream pipeline

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- How the U.S. Navy blew up the Nord Stream pipeline
- Gobierno de PR defiende intereses privados a costa del interés público



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Tanks, jets and missiles to Ukraine U.S.-NATO threaten to unleash new world war

By Gary Wilson

Immediately after the United States and Germany announced that they were sending Abrams and Leopard battle tanks to Ukraine, Politico reported that the Pentagon is preparing to send F-16 fighter jets. "The campaign inside the Defense Department for fighter jets is gaining momentum," the report says.

"Ukraine has identified a list of up to 50 pilots who are ready now to start training on the F-16," says a Pentagon official. "Many of them have already trained with the U.S. military in major exercises before the invasion," starting in 2014, Politico reports.

'That's called World War III'

Almost a year ago, in March 2022, President Joe Biden said, "The idea that we're going to send in offensive equipment and have planes and tanks and trains going in with American pilots and American crews — just understand, don't kid yourself, no matter what y'all say, that's called World War III."

Since that statement, the U.S. and NATO have steadily expanded operations in Ukraine, from anti-tank javelins and portable air-defense systems such as Stingers, to HIMARS rocket launchers and, more recently, surface-to-air Patriot missiles, tanks, and armored vehicles.

On Jan. 24, the New York Times headlined the super-expansion of artillery production. "The Pentagon is racing to boost its production of artillery shells by 500% within two years, pushing conventional ammunition production to levels not seen since the Korean War ... The effort, which will involve expanding factories and bringing in new producers, is part of 'the most aggressive modernization effort in nearly 40 years' for the U.S. defense industrial base, according to an Army report."

The Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles the Pentagon is sending can be equipped with depleted uranium ammunition. Depleted uranium is a byproduct of manufacturing nuclear weapons. The shells can punch through the thick armor of a tank and ignite everything inside.

When asked if the Bradleys the U.S. is sending to Ukraine will be equipped with depleted uranium, a senior Biden administration official was slippery: "I'm not going to get into the technical specifics." The official also declined to answer if the Abrams tanks will be equipped with a depleted uranium cage.

The long-term consequences for the people in Ukraine and Donbass are dire. Depleted uranium

ammunition is radioactive, extremely toxic, and linked with a variety of birth defects, cancers, and other illnesses. In Iraq, doctors reported a spike in birth defects and cancers since the Gulf War, when the U.S. fired nearly a million depleted uranium rounds in the invasion of that country.

In 2022, Congress approved more than \$113 billion in U.S. "aid"

Continued on page 3



"Today I am announcing that the United States will be sending 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine," Joe Biden, Jan. 25.



Ellie McCrow speaks at protest demanding justice for Tyre Nichols in Baltimore, Jan. 28.

Baltimore demands justice for Tyre Nichols

By Lev Koufax

On Jan. 29, a cold but sunny Saturday, organizations and individuals from across Baltimore city gathered at the corner of North and Charles streets to protest the brutal murder of Tyre Nichols at the hands of the Memphis Police Department.

The protestors, numbered around 60, demanded justice for Tyre Nichols and the speedy conviction of his murderers. More broadly, the demonstration

demanding justice for all victims of racist police terror, community control of the police, and the abolition of mass incarceration.

Peoples Power Assembly and the Socialist Unity Party worked with community leaders like Rev. Annie Chambers, Marvin "Doc" Cheatham, and Towanda Jones to organize the emergency protest.

All three gave tremendous speeches. Towanda Jones told the story of her brother, Tyrone West,

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