



ABORTION BAN UNMASKED **Backed by Big Oil and War Profiteers;** **They All Lie, Don't Care if Children Die**

***Protesters say:
WE WON'T GO BACK!***

The push for laws banning abortion is led mainly by rich white men and funded by ultra-rich capitalists. These are the same people who oppose equal pay for women, civil rights laws, raising the minimum wage, and funding for programs that help women and families raise children. These are the same people that cheer for wars that kill thousands of children. They encourage their buddy war profiteers to raid the federal budget while they try to end programs like Food Stamps and WIC. They are for profit-making jails, religious intolerance and environmental destruction. They deny funds for programs that would address Louisiana's maternal mortality crisis, where more women die in childbirth than anywhere else in the country—the number of deaths being twice as high among Black women. While they wrap themselves in the cloak of religion, their real motive is to increase profits by further driving women down.

These immoral forces have

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Protesters demonstrate against the abortion ban bill at the Louisiana State Capitol building on May 15, 2019, in Baton Rouge.

City Budget Ignores Youth, **We Must Fight for Youth Services Not Jails**

63% of City Budget goes to cops and jails, only 3% to children and families.

By Malcolm Suber

New Orleans mayor Latoya Cantrell and arch-racist DA Leon Cannizzaro have teamed up to announce yet another scheme to supposedly curb an uptick in crimes committed by youth, especially young Black men. They are using sensational reports of youth crimes to call for more

funds for the NOPD, more police patrols and more police contact with our youth (meaning more unwarranted stops and searches). They are also calling for stepped up enforcement of the citywide youth curfew.

The mayor and DA paint a picture of Black youth as predators in need of rounding up and locking away from the majority of law-abiding residents; so they call for an expansion of the juvenile lock-up as well as the trying of more juveniles as adults.

We workers should not be taken in by this ruling class propaganda. Youth crime is tied to

the lack of gainful employment opportunities and lack of recreational and cultural programs that provide youth with positive things to do in their non-school hours. Why don't the Mayor and DA address the root cause of juvenile crime instead of offering a band-aid on the cancerous conditions which exist for New Orleans youth? The working class community is rightly frustrated by the almost nightly barrage of reported criminal activity by alienated youth. But the Mayor and DA are only playing to this frustration in order to get the public to consent to their plan to lock up more youth.

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THE NEW ORLEANS WORKERS GROUP

WE ARE WORKERS, employed and unemployed, youth, students, and seniors. We are multi-racial and multi-national and organize for the unity of the working class. We are funded by and for workers, for the liberation of all workers and oppressed people.

We organize for jobs and higher wages, against racism, women's, and LGBTQ oppression, and for solidarity with immigrants. We organize for community schools, lower rents, and food on our tables. We organize for workers' power so that everything will one day be removed from the capitalists' private ownership.

We oppose the Pentagon, which is looting our tax dollars and handing them over to war-profiteering private companies, while social programs are gutted. We oppose war for empire which is pursued only to lower our wages and plunder the world's resources while destroying the environment. We reject the monopoly media who feed us lie after lie.

The labor of workers produces enormous wealth here in Louisiana, the U.S. and the world—so much wealth that everyone could have housing, meaningful jobs, education, healthcare, and genuine equality. But this wealth is stolen and privately owned by the capitalist class for their greed and profit. We believe that we, the workers of the world, can unite in revolution to overcome capitalism and build a better world.

Education Not Experimentation

By Christina Tareq

"This is our Tuskegee," shouted Armtrice Cowart, co-founder of Erase the Board, a grassroots coalition of community leaders, parents, and education justice groups. "Our children are being experimented on. This is our civil rights movement." On Saturday, May 18, Erase the Board, along with the Peoples' Assembly, Take Em Down NOLA and Step Up Louisiana, took to the streets to demand an end to OneApp, an end to charter school expansion and to demand the re-opening of quality public schools that are adequately resourced with the city's tax dollars.



May 18, Erase the Board lead a march demanding quality public schools.

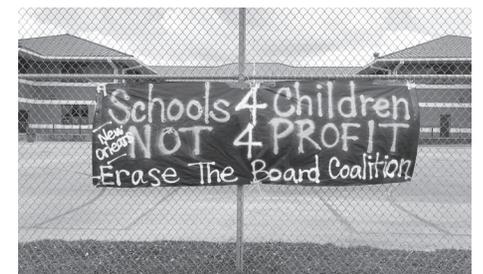


Post-Katrina, the New Orleans education system has become a cash cow for private charter school networks. Charter schools are not accountable to parents or children but only to the people who bankroll these education experiments on children through grants. Charter

schools are also allowed to use unchecked disciplinary action which traumatizes children through rigid and damaging "behavior rules." They are increasingly replacing educators, nurses and school social workers with police officers. They've also replaced thousands of qualified local

educators with unqualified young people through Teach for America.

Currently, nearly 60% of students in the top 6 performing schools in New Orleans are white while 80% of Black students are in failing charter schools. The closure of public schools and the rise of charter schools marks a new era of segregation in education. If you support equitable and quality education in Orleans Parish for ALL children, get involved with Erase the Board. You can find out more on their social media pages @erasetheboardnola.



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ABORTION BAN UNMASKED

Continued from Front Page

hidden hands and deep pockets. Their funders include the Koch brothers—oil billionaires and extreme racists responsible for widespread voter suppression—who run the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). ALEC gives politicians money in exchange for passing prewritten laws. A majority of the Louisiana legislature are recipients of ALEC funds and are members. Gov. Edwards gave the keynote address at their recent convention. These hypocritical men have always used their wealth to fly “their” wives and mistresses to have abortions no matter what they proclaim. They want to limit the number of heirs to their wealth. Banning abortions will not stop them; it will just mean that more working class women will die.

WOMEN CANNOT THRIVE OR BE EQUAL WITHOUT REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

RICH MEN WANT TO FORCE WOMEN INTO CHILDBEARING



On May 22, hundreds of demonstrators rallied at Poydras and St. Charles Ave. in New Orleans to demand full funding for all programs that help women raise children if they choose to do so, including free abortion access.

Women should be free to choose whether to have an abortion, use birth control, or raise children. Whether her decision is based on concern for the rest of her children, her religious beliefs, health, rape or incest or timing, this is a fundamental right. Without this right, women are deprived of full participation in every aspect of society. Without this right, women will die and be driven to desperation.

At the same time that abortion access is criminalized, women are being driven deeper into poverty, especially single moms. The Catholic Church, like all other institutional religions, has already declared women second class to preserve male white supremacy. They even ban birth control, which most Catholic women use because they are smart and care about their families.

REAL CHOICE IS ABOUT HAVING ABORTION ACCESS, BIRTH CONTROL, LIVING WAGES AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO HELP RAISE HEALTHY CHILDREN.

The recent demonstration in New Orleans organized by Women With a Vision, the New Orleans Abortion Fund, Black Youth Project 100, Peoples' Assembly, New Orleans Workers Group and the Hospitality Workers Alliance demanded full funding for all the programs that help women raise children if they choose to do so, while so called right-to-lifers are part of the right wing forces opposing this. Pro-choice means fighting family separation by mass incarceration and imprisonment of our immigrant sisters and brothers. Pro-choice means good schools, early childhood education, full-service free neighborhood childcare centers and sex education and abortion access. It means



In Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the other 47 states, reproductive choice rallies took place May 21 and 22. Tens of thousands of women and men came out. Every poll shows the majority of Americans support choice, including abortion access. Photo: Birmingham, AL.

standing against racism, homophobia and transphobia. There are two movements here. The pro-choice movement stands for uplifting the people in all regards. Those behind the abortion bans are also behind every other right wing attack on the people.

NO SHAME IN HAVING AN ABORTION. THE SHAME IS ON THE IMMORAL FORCES THAT IMPOVERISH AND CRIMINALIZE WOMEN FOR PURSUING OUR ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE.

More and more, women workers and youth are coming into movements for social change: unions, community organizations and revolutionary groups. The anti-choice forces want women to be chained, desperate and unable to participate. But Orleans Parish women and women across the U.S. are declaring that whatever laws they pass, we are still the greatest power. Our voices are being raised, louder and clearer—let the ground shake under these greedy, rotten, rich men.

We Must Fight for Youth Services Not Jails

Continued from Front Page

These youth in many cases are lashing out against the rich white ruling class and their politicians who have written them off as nothing more than a public nuisance.

Where is the money for more programming at our recreational centers? Where is the money for hiring full-time coaches? Where is the money for counselors and for youth employment? Rather than ‘disrupting’ the pipeline to prison, the Mayor and DA are actually facilitating the mass incarceration of our youth. They would rather spend more money on surveillance cameras and give fat contracts to their friends to monitor ankle bracelets on the growing number of youth arrested by the NOPD.

“What we are seeing and the rhetoric we are hearing from the political elites is because the system continues to fail our communities. We do a great job of holding vulnerable youth and parents accountable, but who will hold the system accountable? WE WILL THAT’S WHO!”

— Families and Friends of Louisiana’s Incarcerated Children (FFLIC)

Even though the capitalist media claims the USA economy is robust and nearing full employ-

ment, Black youth unemployment is nearly 50%. Many of their parents and guardians are forced to work two jobs and the youth are left to raise themselves. By allowing these conditions to fester, we show that we are not really concerned about saving these youth from the path to enslavement in the USA prison system.

Our task is to help our youth build a movement that champions their demands for a quality of life that gives them the freedom to explore their revolutionary history of struggle for Black liberation. This movement will train our youth to avoid the modern day slave catchers and give real meaning to being woke and the understanding that Black Lives Do Matter.

Media Monopoly Spins the "News" to Benefit the Rich

The Advocate & The Times-Picayune merge. Both now owned by wealthy businessman John Georges.

By Gavrielle Gemma

Every newspaper, TV and radio station represents the interests of either the capitalist class or the working class. Workers Voice newspaper represents the interests of the workers, whether employed, unemployed, undocumented or incarcerated. There is another difference in that Workers Voice openly sides with the workers, while the establishment media lie and promote a hidden agenda on behalf of the super-rich.

The two large capitalist newspapers, The Advocate and The Times-Picayune, plus Nola.com (and the Gambit) just merged in the hands of one of Louisiana's richest businessmen, John Georges.

Georges is CEO of Georges Enterprises, which includes over 50 businesses: Imperial Trading Company (with sales of \$1 billion), AMA Distributors, The Advocate newspapers, and numerous restaurants. He made a fortune off of video poker machines across the country, as well as restaurants and an exclusive country club. He is also on the board of First National Bank. From the profit extracted from the labor of workers in those industries, he didn't raise wages but spent \$50 million to buy The Advocate. He pushes alcohol, cigarettes and gambling at truck stops around the country.

Why did King Georges want The Advocate? In that paper's own words: "His counsel will be sought. He will be courted and schmoozed by every powerful person in the state, sooner or later. What's more, he will have a forum for his platform should he choose to run again for office. Should he not, he will be in a position to help crown the next king." So much for "democracy!"

Both newspapers have been around for over

150 years. As recently as 1960, The Times-Picayune used its pages to openly advocate white supremacy and to maintain segregation. In an editorial, they wrote:

"The Orleans Parish School Board, the governor, the attorney-general and members of the Legislature have worked hard to avoid even token integration...[we] regret that their efforts did not achieve complete success."

The Times-Picayune ended: "So far as we are concerned, we don't like school integration any better in 1960 than we did in 1954, when we urged a relentless legal fight against it: but it doesn't do any good to adopt an ostrich attitude and stick our heads in the sands."

Today, they are more subtle but still uphold "news" and opinions that satisfy the rich white establishment at the expense of working class people, Black and white. They routinely oppose raises for teachers and attack their unions. While in the recent past they promoted outright segregation, today they promote policies that uphold institutional racism like gentrification, the privatization of schools, mass incarceration, low wages and high Black unemployment.

While Workers Voice is written and funded by workers of all nationalities, The Advocate and The Times-Picayune are solely under the editorial control of rich, white people.

As Dwight Ott, one of the first Black reporters with The Times-Picayune, wrote in a 1993 letter entitled "New Orleans' newspapers give white view of the city":

"For most of its years, historians and journalists said, the newspaper has been a powerful



John Georges' pals at his Cypress Lakes Country Club in Destrehan, LA.

force in New Orleans, shaping and reflecting racial attitudes and the character of the city. And for the greater part of its years, the newspaper gave readers an image of black people as intellectually and morally inferior, relegated to a lower social caste than white people and often little more than lazy or criminal. It's that image of black people that many people carry today...Many people remember a newspaper that fought to keep schools segregated, calling integration 'evil' and [Dr. Martin Luther] King a 'troublemaker.' The Times-Picayune was a paper with no full-time black reporters until the 1970s, one that rarely wrote about black people unless they committed crimes."

On May 2, The Times-Picayune bosses notified staffers by email at 2 pm to show up for a 3 pm meeting. At the meeting they were informed that as part of the merge deal, they would all be laid off. They were then told that they could reapply for their jobs.

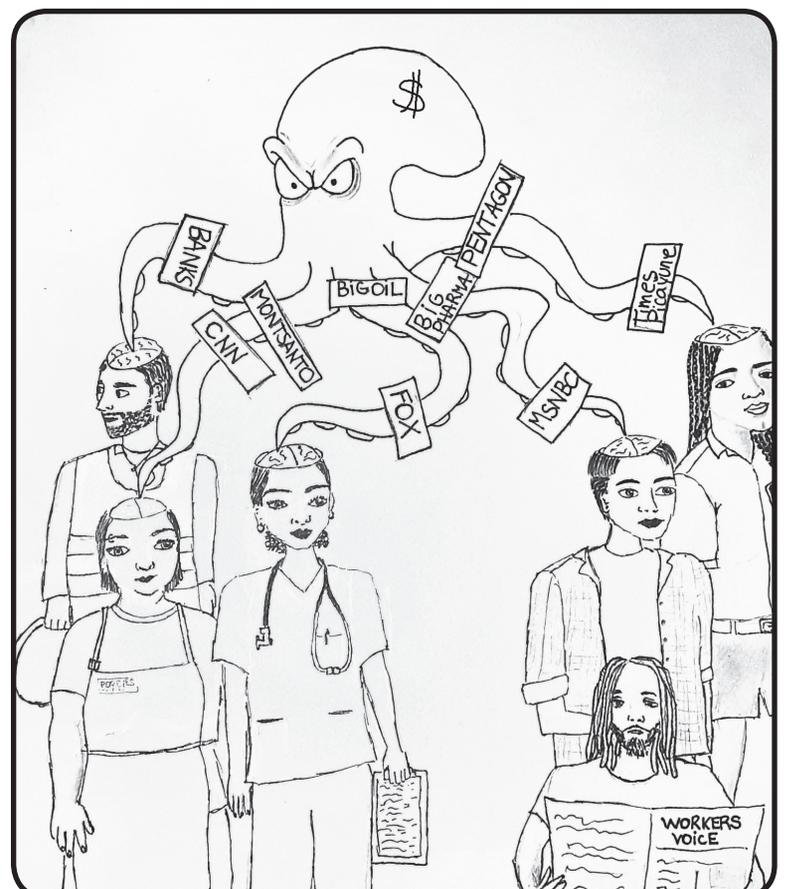
According to a report in VICE News, "Times-Picayune staffers were shocked." According to a WARN (Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act) notice filed with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, 161 staff members are being fired.

SIX COMPANIES CONTROL NATIONAL TV/CABLE MEDIA

As of 2019, 90% of the United States' media is controlled by six media conglomerates: Comcast/NBC; Fox Corporation; Disney/ABC; Viacom; Time Warner Media; and CBS.

118 people who sit on the boards of directors of the 10 biggest media giants are on the corporate boards of 288 national and international corporations, and 8 out of 10 big media giants share common memberships on each other's boards of directors. ("Big Media Interlocks with Corporate America" by Peter Phillips, CommonDreams.org, June 24, 2005)

This integration occurs at the very pinnacle of corporate power. For instance, board members of ABC/Disney, NBC/GE, CBS/Viacom, CNN/Time Warner, Fox/News Corp., New York Times Co., Washington Post/Newsweek, Wall Street Journal/Dow Jones, Tribune Co., Gannett and Knight-Ridder also sit on the boards of 13 of the Fortune 500's 25 most profitable companies and have indirect connections to the other 12. This linkage forms a huge matrix of interlocking corporations and monopolies, usually with banks at the center, that control the U.S. and to a large extent the world economy.



We Deserve 100% of Hotel Taxes, That's a "Fair Share!"

By Ashlee Pintos

Mayor Cantrell's office is claiming a victory for "Fair Share" New Orleans on the issue of what we call the Stolen Tax dollars. This ridiculous months-long negotiation between the Mayor's office and the Convention Center has resulted in huge benefits for big business with a marginal benefit for the city. While \$180 Million is stolen from New Orleans yearly, Cantrell has only asked for a fraction of the money (a one-time \$48 Million with an additional \$27 Million over the next 5 years). While the remaining yearly \$153 Million is forgotten about for a perceived victory for the Cantrell administration, the convention center has been promised \$300 Million for a new hotel and a portion of (more) Airbnb taxes among other concessions. How is this a fair share for the workers?

For over two years, the New Orleans Hospitality Workers Alliance and the Peoples' Assembly have been bringing this issue to light. It was not until this past year that Mayor Cantrell started to acknowledge the \$180 Million in tourism taxes (such as the hotel tax) that are collected yearly. NONE of this money touches the city's general budget: it currently goes to private, non-elected boards composed of big business/corporation owners and politicians who use these millions to further fatten their wallets. \$180 Million is a quarter of the city's general budget. We could use this yearly money to fund healthcare, childcare centers, paid vacation and sick leave, quality transportation, AND fix streets.

Tax money is supposed to be collected to use for goods and services for the benefit of the people. How can it be that politicians are nicely asking for the return of tax money from rich capitalists? This is robbery of the people on behalf of big business. Cantrell is complicit and as Mayor, she should be

held accountable. Why does she want to give the people's money to the same rich capitalists who oppress us workers?

Without hospitality workers who hold up the tourism industry, none of the profits or the tourism taxes would flow into the city. Meanwhile who pays high rents, high property taxes, and high sales taxes, all with a constant boot on our neck? Us workers! Who gets huge tax breaks and also makes away with millions in tourism tax money? The Convention Center! In New Orleans workers would need a quadruple raise to make a living wage as we currently make a base of \$7.25 an hour and even less as tipped workers at \$2.13.

If someone had been taking a quarter of your already-too-small paycheck, every single month, for years and you found out about it; would you kindly ask them to pay you back? Would you only ask for a fraction of it? Would you negotiate? Absolutely not!

We as workers have consistently maintained our demand that ALL of the money be given back to the people. All tax money should go into the general budget for city council discussion and public input. It is not up to the Mayor to unilaterally decide to give this money to the Sewage and Water Board to pay the extremely high salaries of their administrators. These funds will not be used to lower our rates. In fact, the Mayor has said she supports raising taxes for drainage. This scheme does not insure a properly functioning system. It's because of a lack of public oversight of the board that millions were stolen from the budget before.

We need all of us workers to come together to continue the struggle, and we must be ready to fight for what is ours in the first place.



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Protest at a Bayou Bridge pipeline site in Maurice, Louisiana, May 12, 2018. Credit: Julie Dermansky.

ST. JAMES RESIDENTS, WATER PROTECTORS BATTLE ANTI-PROTEST LAWS

By Sasha Irby

Around the country, big energy companies are bribing politicians to pass laws that severely criminalize the protest of dangerous and costly oil and gas projects such as the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Bayou Bridge Pipeline. These anti-protest laws have gone into effect in eight states already. In Texas, the legislature is currently considering a bill that would make the protest of a pipeline a third-degree felony. This means that a peaceful water protector would do the same amount of time as someone convicted of attempted murder. In Louisiana, a law (HB 727) went into effect last year which makes it a felony offense to trespass on “critical infrastructure”—a category that the law expands to include pipelines, any pipeline construction site, and “all structures, equipment, or other immovable or movable property” located within the pipeline site. More than

a dozen peaceful protesters have been arrested under the new law.

On May 22 a federal lawsuit was filed by three organizations—RISE St. James, 350 New Orleans, and the Louisiana Bucket Brigade—as well 10 individuals affected by the new law. They argue that the law could be used to criminalize anyone who happens to be near the 125,000 miles of mostly unmarked pipelines that criss-cross the state of Louisiana. St. James residents are concerned the law would prohibit them from speaking out against the petrochemical industries that have turned their home into “Cancer Alley.”

How it is that we live in a state that is willing to spend millions of dollars attacking peaceful water protectors in the name of “critical infrastructure” while New Orleanians live with Sewerage and Water Board infrastructure so broken that we have frequent boil water advisories and pumps

that can’t keep our streets from flooding in routine rainstorms? Is a water system that provides safe drinking water not critical infrastructure? Are safely navigable streets not critical infrastructure?

Why aren’t we issuing felonies to the crooked bureaucrats selling our wetlands off to petrochemical companies which are killing local ecosystems and threatening the very existence of our coastal communities? Because the state cares more about protecting the profits of the energy companies than it does about our public health or safety.

Among the many petrochemical and energy companies that pushed HB 727 were Energy Transfer Partners, Embridge, and Transcanada, all of which were involved in the construction of pipelines that have been met with protest in Louisiana. All three of these companies also financially contributed to Louisiana state representatives who co-sponsored the bill. At least 16 of the bill’s co-sponsors are affiliated with ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council), a right-wing task-force controlled by billionaires like the Koch brothers. Across the country, ALEC has pushed to enact laws that favor corporations—mainly oil and gas companies—at the expense of the public.

It is obvious that these laws do not protect the people or infrastructure that is “critical” for the public good. The energy companies are buying off politicians and fast-tracking these laws because they hope that they can stop communities from protesting the destruction of their homelands. The politicians are criminalizing free speech while subsidizing the planet-killing corporations. Worse, they are criminalizing those who fight for the future of our planet. We cannot stand by idly while our water protectors are made into criminals. We must unite with other communities in the struggle against the oil and gas executives and the state which is attempting to silence us. We must not let fear swallow our voice.



Coalition Against Death Alley

On May 30, Coalition Against Death Alley (CADA) started a 50 mile march from St. John the Baptist Parish to Baton Rouge to protest and demand an end to the poisoning of Black communities by petrochemical companies located throughout Louisiana’s Mississippi River parishes.

Residents of St. John the Baptist Parish decided to organize a fightback after the EPA confirmed that their community and areas surrounding a nearby Denka plant have the highest risk of air pollution-caused cancer in the country.

Governor Edwards illegally blocked the march from crossing the Sunshine Bridge near Donaldsonville and the Mississippi River Bridge over Interstate 10 in Baton Rouge but the fight for justice continues.

GORDON PLAZA RESIDENTS SUFFER SECOND HIGHEST CANCER RATE IN LA



Gordon Plaza residents are fighting for a fully funded relocation from the toxic site the city built their homes on decades ago.

A new report by the Louisiana Tumor Registry confirms the findings of previous studies: Gordon Plaza has the second consistent highest rate of cancer in Louisiana. The study consistently found between 125 and 406 more cases per 100,000 residents than the state average. Gordon Plaza homes were built on a city landfill containing arsenic, lead and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons—all known or probable carcinogens according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

**MAYOR CANTRELL:
THE TIME TO REMEDY
THIS INJUSTICE IS NOW!**

SPECIES EXTINCTIONS THREATEN US ALL

By LaVonna Varnado-Brown

Writer Nikita Gill states that, “We have calcium in our bones, iron in our veins, carbon in our souls, and nitrogen in our brains.” Composed of the stuff of stars, we see patterns and designs replicated in the human body and in organisms and creatures in nature. We are all connected. We must prioritize our deep connection to all inhabitants of the earth before it’s too late.

According to a recently released report, nearly one million species risk becoming extinct within decades, while current efforts to conserve the earth’s lifeforms will likely fail without radical action. On at-risk fauna and flora, the study asserts that human activities “threaten more species now than ever before” – a finding based on the fact that around 25 percent of species in plant and animal groups are vulnerable.

What is radical action? They want us to believe that use of pa-

per straws and hemp grocery bags will make a difference, but the real difference can only come once the masses force the mammoth capitalist industries and the military to end their greedy tactics. This would greatly impact the health of the Earth. The U.S. military admits to using 395,000 barrels of oil per day. The coral reefs are dying. Nature is becoming overwhelmed by our never-ending output of poisonous waste matter. “Marine plastic pollution in particular has increased tenfold since 1980, affecting at least 267 species”, the report says, including 86 percent of marine turtles, 44 percent of seabirds and 43 percent of marine mammals.

Those effects do not end within the habitats of those species. We all



Declining populations of pollinators such as bees threaten global food production.

coexist. There is no “my air, your dirt.” It is our water. We must realign to acknowledge this truth. During a speech at Morgan State in 1967, Kwame Ture quoted the poet John Donne: “the death of any man diminishes me because I am involved in mankind”. We must see it as our duty to get involved. We must not

allow the capitalist ruling class to kill everything and anything that gets in their way. We must not fall into rank with the machine—no, we must organize ourselves to dismantle the capitalist apparatus and become active members in cultivating the society we know should already be.

Science Could Serve the World, but Instead It Serves the Rich

By Nathalie Clarke

Through the development of science, humans have become capable of producing more than enough food every year for every single human being—without risk of ecological disaster. Yet the World Health Organization estimates that one in six children worldwide is underweight due to undernourishment and disease. The scarcity we experience under capitalism is artificial and stems from super-rich billionaires deciding how we practice agriculture, science, and pretty much everything else. Science has become a tool that elites use to get richer and hoard more resources and wealth.

As we are faced with impending environmental catastrophes, federal and private grants continue to disproportionately favor research in fields that benefit the ruling class. According to the National Science Foundation, in 2017, universities in the United States spent only \$686,729 on natural resources and conservation. Meanwhile, geological and earth sciences, which largely research ways of drilling and mining for

oil and minerals, was allocated over \$1,086,382. Electrical engineering, a field where research is often directed towards the production of weapons for the United States military, received a whopping \$2,727,498—over half of which came from the federal government.

As they send us into their wars and into their oilfields and their mines, the billionaires who profit off the pillage and plunder of the planet make clear that they do not care about the lives of working people. This is no news—time and time again the ruling class has shown that they view us as worthless (except for the wealth that we produce for them). Science will not be the solution to any of our problems until we have successfully overthrown capitalism, the current system that rewards bosses who maximize profits regardless of the cost to workers. Only with socialism can we finally direct scientific research to solve the urgent problems of hunger, disease, and climate change.

The Pentagon and the Internet

The U.S. military operates 5,000 websites through its Defense Media Activity branch. Nafeez Ahmed reported in Motherboard on October 30, 2018, that “a series of research projects, patent filings, and policy changes indicate that the Pentagon wants to use social media surveillance to quell domestic insurrection and rebellion....The United States government is accelerating efforts to monitor social media to preempt major anti-government protests in the US, according to scientific research, official government documents, and patent filings reviewed by Motherboard. The social media posts of American citizens who don’t like President Donald Trump are the focus of the latest US military-funded research. The research, funded by the US Army and co-authored by a researcher based at the West Point Military Academy, is part of a wider effort by the Trump administration to consolidate the US military’s role and influence on domestic intelligence.”

The Pentagon has spent millions of dollars finding patterns in posts across platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, and beyond to enable the prediction of major events. Ahmed further reports that “a Pentagon-funded report titled ‘Social Network Structure as a Predictor of Social Behavior: The Case of Protest in the 2016 US Presidential Election’ was funded by the US Army Research Laboratory (ARL), which is part of the US Army’s Research Development

and Engineering Command (RDECOM).”

Ahmed continues: “The tool was originally developed under the Obama administration back in 2011 by the US Army Research Laboratory and US Defense Threat Reduction Agency, in partnership with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of Illinois, IBM, and Caterva (a social marketing company that in 2013 was folded into a subsidiary of giant US government IT contractor CSC). Past papers associated with the project show that the tool has been largely tested in foreign theaters like Haiti, Egypt, and Syria.

“The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is part of the ARL Network Science Collaborative Technology Alliance (NSCTA), a consortium of three industrial research labs and 14 universities which receives multi-million-dollar support from the US Army Research Laboratory. Much of that research has been funded by the US government’s spy research organization, IARPA—the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency and the Government National Business Center.”

To show the extent of the collaboration between the Pentagon, universities and corporations, HRL, a main company involved in this domestic spying, is jointly owned by General Motors and Boeing.

The same technology being used against people in the U.S. was developed to interfere in the use of social media during the lead-up to and during elections of other countries, which the U.S. has been doing for decades.

Labor Briefs

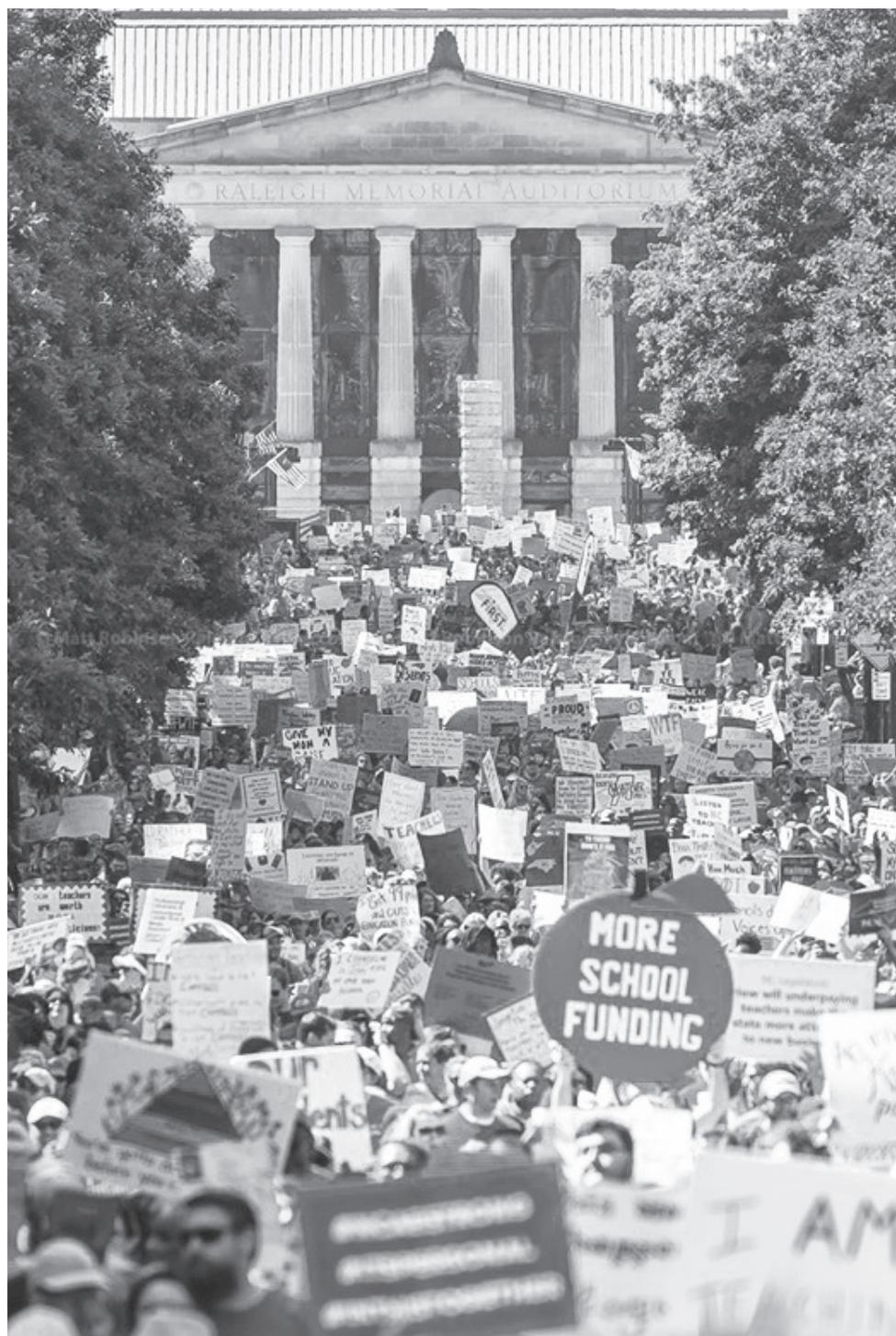
IN NORTH CAROLINA, OVER 20,000 EDUCATION WORKERS STRIKE

May 1 is International Workers' Day. This past May Day, over 20,000 education workers in South Carolina took a "personal day" and converged on the state legislature in Raleigh. Strikers included not only teachers, but bus drivers, custodians, counselors, and nurses. Student supporters from across the state also turned out. In total, they shut down 35 school districts for the day, showing that when workers get organized, they can shut down whole systems and even industries. Workers really do hold the cards, if only we learn how to play them!

The work stoppage was organized by the North Carolina Association of Educators. Like teachers striking in other states since 2018, the union and its supporters are demanding better pay and conditions for school workers, as well as a better education for students. For example, they want the schools to be adequately staffed with psychologists, librarians, nurses and counselors. They are also demanding \$15-an-hour minimum for all school personnel.

In South Carolina, over 10,000 educator workers and supporters amassed outside the Department of Education in Columbia, the state capital. The action was organized by a Facebook group called SC for Ed. Like their counterparts in North Carolina, demonstrators called for improvements for both workers and students. This was one of the biggest gatherings ever to take place at the state capital, matched only by the crowds that gathered in 2015 to see the Confederate flag finally removed from the statehouse.

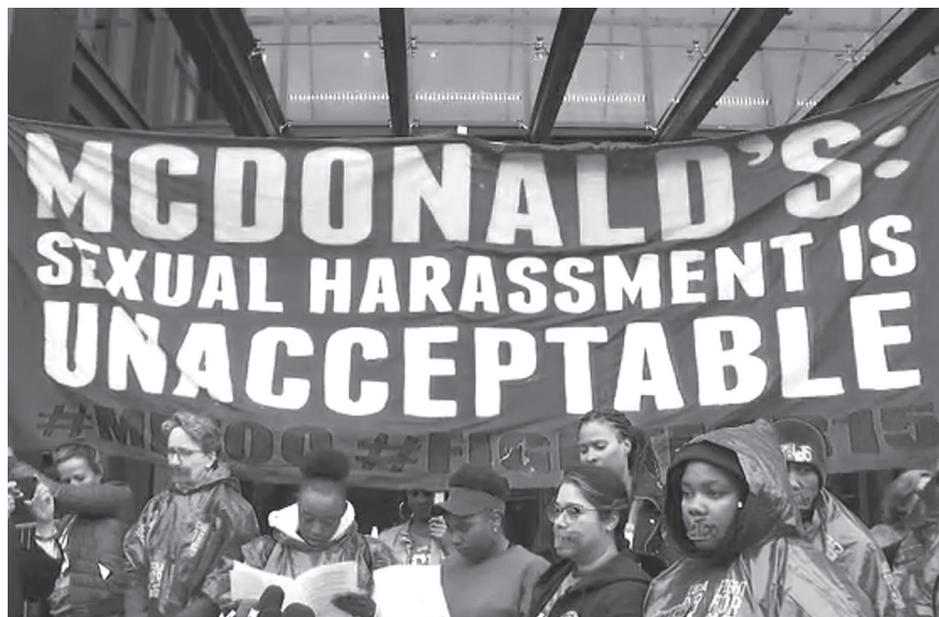
Kathy Maness, with the Palmetto State Teachers Association, said, "For many years, I have said that teachers in South Carolina have been sleeping giants. They would go in their classroom, they would do their job and would not speak up for their profession. I think that sleeping giant is waking up."



McDonalds Workers Fight Back in Houston, Dallas, and Other Cities

On May 21, a group of 25 women McDonald's workers in 20 different cities filed sexual harassment complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In filing these claims, they are helping to expose the rotten culture of sexual exploitation that exists in the food service industry, as well as other industries. McDonald's top leadership is trying to shirk responsibility by arguing that they are not liable for what goes on in supposedly "independent" McDonald's franchises, even though franchise holders are little more than glorified sub-contractors. No matter who is the owner of a McDonald's location, it is still McDonald's.

On May 23rd, several hundred McDonald's workers went on strike in 13 cities, including Houston, Dal-



las, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, Milwaukee, Orlando, St. Louis, and Tampa. The workers, who were demanding the right

to form a union, a \$15 minimum wage, and protections from sexual harassment, timed the walkout for maximum impact: they stopped

working during breakfast and lunch rushes (hitting the bosses where it hurts—in the pockets), on the day that the company was having its annual shareholder meeting in Dallas. The actions were coordinated by the Fight for \$15 campaign, unions, and other labor advocacy groups.

Rita Blalock, a nine-year McDonald's employee in Raleigh, North Carolina, makes only \$8.50 an hour and decided to join the strike. She told a reporter with the Wall Street Journal that, "the best way for us to make our jobs better is by joining together."

Both the lawsuit and the coordinated strike are promising signs for workers ready to organize in the food service industry.

Italian Port Workers Block Weapons Shipment in Solidarity with the People of Yemen

Dockworkers at the Italian port of Genoa went on strike on May 20 to protest the Italian government's decision to harbor a cargo ship carrying weapons to the Saudi government. The workers refused to load shipment onto the ship 'Bahri Yanbu' which was set to further arm the Saudi monarchy in their genocidal war on the people of Yemen. In solidarity with refugees fleeing the wreckage of imperialist wars, they demanded that the Italian Prime Minister, Matteo Salvini "open the ports to people and close them to arms."

Earlier, on May 9, peace activists had prevented the loading of an arms shipment at the Le Havre port in France.

"We will not become complicit in the deaths of Yemeni civilians."

In a joint statement with Potero al Popolo, a coalition of anti-fascist political organizations, the dock workers and transport workers from the Italian General Confederation of Labor (CGIL) in Genoa stated, "we believe this resistance is our small contribution to resolve a big problem for a population that is killed daily in wars...We will not become complicit in the deaths of Yemeni civilians."

The U.S./Saudi war on Yemen, which started in March 2016, has caused at least 50,000 deaths and has pushed 13 million Yemenis to the brink of starvation, according to the United Nations. The relentless airstrikes by Saudi Arabia—with arms and support supplied by the U.S., Britain



Workers struck to prevent a Saudi ship from loading a weapons cargo at the Italian port of Genoa in protest of their intended use in the war on Yemen. Signs read "Ports are closed to arms" and "Disobey Salvini [the Italian prime minister]"

and France—have targeted and destroyed vital civilian infrastructure like hospitals and sewage treatment systems.

Worldwide, dockworkers have played a historic role in defending the international working class. Here in the U.S., the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) has shown what it means for union workers to take seriously the slogan that "an injury to one is an injury to all." As part of the international struggle against apart-

heid South Africa, for 10 days in 1984 they carried out a strike, refusing to unload cargo from a South African ship—an act of solidarity recognized by Nelson Mandela. In 2014, in support of the Palestinian fight against apartheid Israel, members of the ILWU Local 10 prevented the docking of an Israeli ship at the Port of Oakland.

The leadership of organized, class-conscious dock and transport workers shows the awesome potential of workers' power: without us, the world stops. We can stop their wars.

TEACHERS ORGANIZING IN HIGHER ED

By Jennifer Lin

Contingent workers—temporary and part-time workers and independent contractors—have been steadily replacing full-time workers at colleges throughout the country. This trend reflects how the core mission of higher ed has shifted away from education. Most of tuition is spent on an excess of administrators and amenities (like luxury dining halls and shiny new squash courts) designed to convince students that a college education is a worthwhile 'consumer experience.' Colleges are run like businesses in which professors are being exploited and education has become a commodity stripped of value.

Businesses thrive off contingent labor. By classifying workers as independent contractors, businesses can avoid having to pay a minimum wage or provide any benefits. College administrators perpetrate this form of exploitation by hiring adjuncts. Adjuncts are part-time professors with semester-long contracts. They are constantly working to secure jobs for the next term, and classes often disappear without notice, meaning they have absolutely no job security. Most have to teach at multiple colleges just to make ends meet. Adjuncts make less than half the salary that full-time faculty do, and they are denied health insurance and pension contributions. 31% of part-time

faculty are living at or near the federal poverty line, and one in four families of part-time faculty qualify for Medicaid and food stamps. This is the purgatory of contingent life, in which adjuncts toil incessantly but are denied the rights that their full-time coworkers previously struggled to win.

Students also suffer from the exploitation of adjuncts' labor. Adjuncts are often hired a few days prior to the beginning of the semester, so they have less time to prepare for their classes. They are often assigned lower-level and introductory courses, which mostly include students who need the most assistance. The time adjuncts need to spend updating their courses, commuting between classes, and working extra jobs—just so they can pay rent and health insurance—takes a massive toll on their psychological and physical well-being, placing serious constraints on their ability to give students the intensive mentoring they might need.

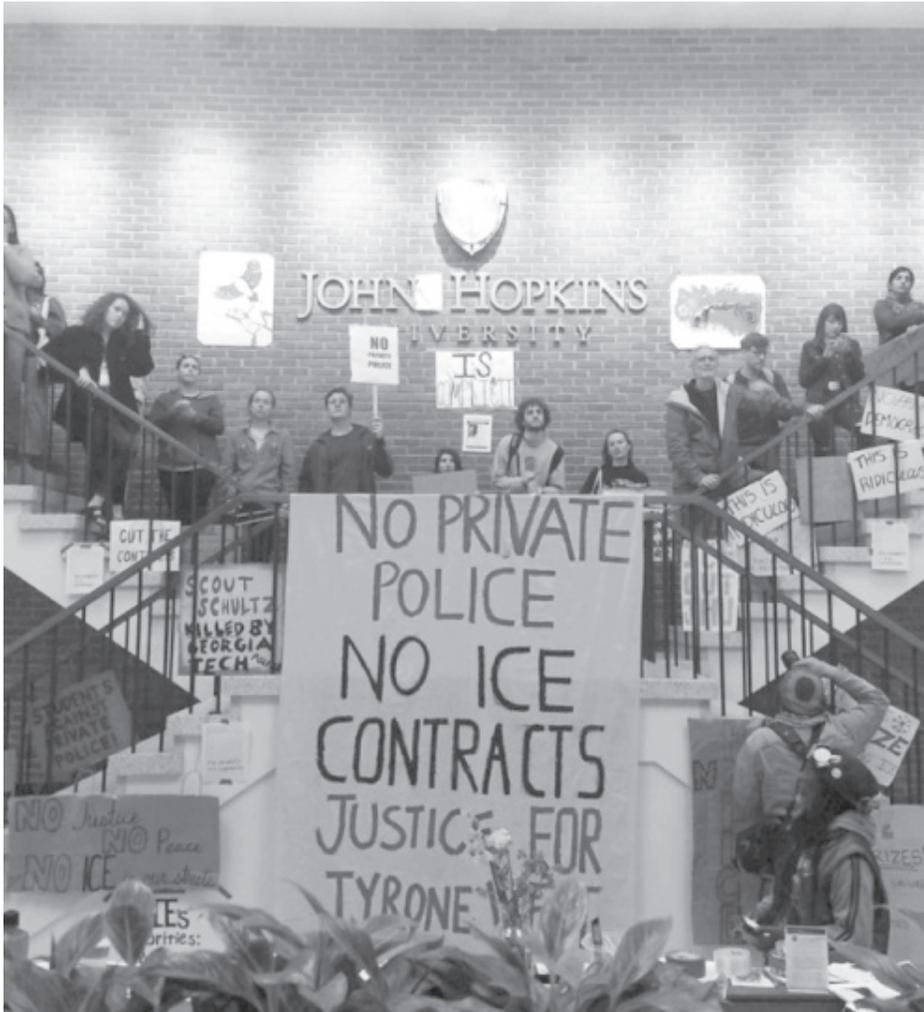
In response to this crisis, adjuncts have been organizing across the nation. Recently, members of the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO) at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), a student union, went on strike. Many of them are international grad students working as part-time teaching assistants. They demanded that the administration pay them fair wages, cover health

care costs, and reduce exorbitant student fees. Prior to striking, the union increased membership, invited students to participate in bargaining sessions, and organized informational pickets. Undergraduate students boycotted classes and organized a rally in solidarity with the strikers. Through their organizing, students managed to freeze enrollment fees, reduce health care costs, and secure a 14% wage increase. Despite the fact that many students didn't have any experience organizing, the GEO won a significant victory that inspired the professor union, the UIC United Faculty, to hold their own strike less than a week later.

For some of us, college remains a bastion of higher learning. However, we must not forget that colleges are capitalist institutions; they are just as likely to exploit workers as any other business. Tuition is skyrocketing, and less and less of that money is being used to pay workers. Contrary to what administrators might have you believe, colleges have more than enough money to employ full-time faculty and to provide quality education at a low cost, but they will not do so unless we students and professors collectively organize to demand what is justly ours: fair pay and quality education. The future of higher ed is in our hands.

STUDENTS PROTEST ICE, POLICE, BORDER PATROL

Students Stage 36-day Sit-in at Johns Hopkins University



Until they were arrested on May 8, students at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD had staged a 36 day sit-in to protest the school's contracts with Immigrant and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the formation of JHU's own private police force. Over this time, hundreds of fellow students and faculty and community members came to the occupied building for screenings, panels, and community meetings.

The students also took up the cause of Tawanda Jones, who for 300 straight weeks, has held a weekly "West Wednesday" march to protest the Baltimore Police's murder of her brother, Tyrone West. "Tawanda has been working for 300 weeks, she has been struggling to demand accountability—we also will not stop and these are the kinds of actions we are willing to take to be listened to," Jilene Chua said. "We've tried so many ways to be listened to and nothing has really been working. This is the extent to which right now we are willing to go to be heard."

"We demand the cancellation of the private police force. We demand the end of the contracts with ICE. We demand justice for Tyrone West."

After chaining themselves to the building, they issued a statement: "we hope we have shifted the path of this campus. We hope to have changed the history of Johns Hopkins and its relationship with Baltimore and the broader world. We will remain here until President Ronald Daniels negotiates," a statement from the sit-in read. "We demand the cancellation of the private police force. We demand the end of the contracts with ICE. We demand justice for Tyrone West."

After Border Patrol Arrests Classmate, 200 High School Students Walk Out in Arizona

Around 200 students at Tuscon Arizona's Desert View High School staged a walkout after fellow student Thomas Torres-Maytorena was detained by Border Patrol. Torres-Maytorena is facing possible deportation just weeks ahead of his graduation date. The students marched four miles from their school to the local sheriff's office to demand that sheriffs immediately end their collaboration with immigration authorities. The students demand Torres-Maytorena's immediate release back to his family and friends.



Six Children Have Died in U.S. Border Patrol Custody Since December 2018

CLOSE THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS! FREE THE CHILDREN!



**Carlos Gregorio
Hernández Vásquez**
(16 years old)



**Jakelin Caal
Maquín**
(7 years old)



**Felipe Gómez
Alonzo**
(8 years old)



**Juan de León
Gutiérrez**
(16 years old)



**Wilmer Josué
Ramírez Vásquez**
(2 years old)



**Darlyn
Valle**
(10-year-old girl)

IRAN IS NOT THE THREAT; WAR-CRAZED TRUMP IS NO MORE WARS FOR OIL!

By Gregory William

Without ceasing their efforts to overthrow the legitimate government of Venezuela, the Trump administration and the U.S. military command have been revving up threats against Iran.

Trump and his gang have already demonstrated through their use of inhumane economic sanctions that they are willing to destroy the lives of thousands of people—all so that their capitalist masters can gain control of Iran and Venezuela's oil fields.

In early May Trump's National Security Advisor, John Bolton, announced the deployment of a carrier strike group and a bomber task force to the Persian Gulf to "send a clear and unmistakable message to the Iranian regime that any attacks on United States interests or on those of our allies will be met with unrelenting force." Since then Trump has sent an 1,500 additional troops to the region.

Does Iran pose any threat to the U.S.? No!

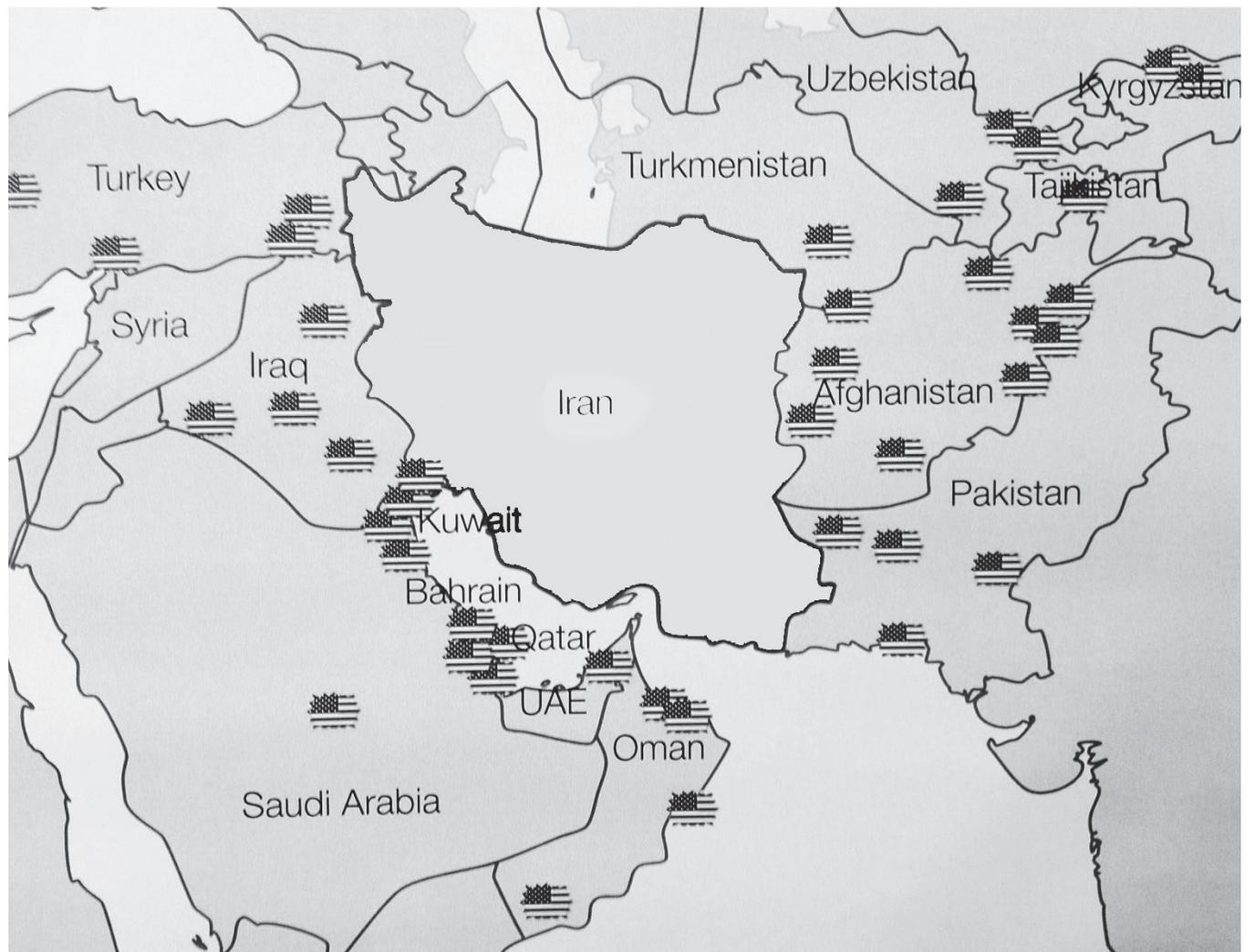
Since the beginning of the last century, the United States has carried out more than 100 invasions of countries around the world. In that time, Iran hasn't invaded a single country. Nor have they started a single war.

Bolton has had a hand in several U.S. invasions and wars—not least in Libya and Iraq, where hundreds of thousands have died as a result. During the lead-up to the Iraq war, Bolton systematically churned out lies about Iraq's non-existent "weapons of mass destruction" to convince the public that war was necessary, leading to absolute devastation in that country and massive looting of U.S. taxpayers' money. Bolton has been advocating for war with Iran for over 20 years and is now trying ratchet up tensions so that an accident or a false-flag attack might provide a pretext for war.

Here's another claim workers might hear in the U.S. capitalist-owned media. Isn't the Iranian government a despotic theocracy that curtails the rights of its people, and isn't that a good reason for the U.S. to intervene?

There's no reason to believe that this is a concern of Trump and company. One of the U.S.'s closest allies in the region, Saudi Arabia, recently beheaded 37 men and hung one of their bodies upside down on a pole in public. This hasn't been a topic of discussion in Washington. Meanwhile, the U.S. continues to support the Saudi regime's genocidal war in Yemen and gives the Israeli government billions of our tax dollars to murder innocent Palestinian children.

The Iranian forces that Bolton and Trump are promoting as the possible "liberators" of the country hail from the now-deposed fascist monarchy or alternately, from the so-called 'National Council of Resistance,' an organization aligned with the Saudi monarchy and Israel.



Who's threatening who? Map shows locations of the dozens of U.S. military bases surrounding Iran.

U.S. imperialists clearly have no interest in promoting democracy or human rights in Iran or anywhere else in the world. The long history of U.S. interference in Iran proves it.

In U.S. wars for oil, playbook hasn't changed

In 1953, U.S. and British espionage agencies orchestrated a coup in Iran, ousting the democratically-elected prime minister, Mohammad Mosaddegh. In 1951, under the leadership of Mosaddegh, the Iranian parliament voted to nationalize Iran's oil industry which had until then been under the control of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company—later known as British Petroleum (BP), the same company responsible for the horrible Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The Iranian government intended to use their oil resources to benefit the people of Iran rather than British and American shareholders.

Before the coup, the British initiated an international boycott of Iranian oil. They were trying to put an economic stranglehold on the country to make it bend to the wishes of the British and U.S. capitalist classes. In place of the popular government of Mosaddegh, the coup orchestrators installed General Fazlollah Zahedi, who shored up the rule of the Shah (the Iranian prince). The new regime relied heavily on Washington to stay in power. According to the CIA's own declassified documents, for example, Iranian mobsters were on the U.S. payroll to stage pro-Shah riots as the coup was underway.

Under the Shah's rule until 1979, thousands of social leaders, trade unionists, workers, students, and peasants were tortured and murdered by the SAVAK, a Gestapo-like agency set up by the CIA. Inequality soared to become almost the worst in the

world, according to the International Labor Office. The people of Iran suffered all these hardships to enrich the owners of an imperialist oil cartel. This is really existing "free" market capitalism at work.

In 1979, the Iranian masses rose up to overthrow the imperialist-backed Shah. Although many of the demands of the revolution have not been met by the government of the Islamic Republic that replaced the monarchy, national independence remains a victory that the masses of Iranians are intent on defending. Any progressive Iranian knows that a U.S. war would be a terrible setback to their own struggle for political power within the country.

Why we must say no to intervention today

Nearly four times the size of Iraq, Iran is a country of 80 million people. A war with Iran would condemn an entire region of the earth to years of death and insecurity. This terrible cost to humanity would be paid by U.S. workers too. For every dollar of our taxes that's wasted on death machines, that's one less dollar spent on education or healthcare or all the things necessary to give us real national security.

We—the workers of the world—must stand up and declare that we will not pay for their oil with our blood.

**U.S. HANDS OFF IRAN!
END U.S. SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN!
BRING THE TROOPS HOME!
CLOSE THE U.S./NATO BASES!
END U.S. AID TO
SAUDI ARABIA AND ISRAEL!**

Stonewall Means Fight Back!

By Gregory William and
Sally Jane Black

On June 28, 1969, the cops raided the Stonewall Inn in New York, and the mostly working class queer and trans people there fought back. For three days they fought, forcing the cops to withdraw. This was a small victory over the police, but that victory was won with blood and sacrifice. And it inspired the whole world.

Stonewall was an important moment of resistance because it brought working class LGBTQ people together to fight back, and in the wake of the rebellion, they began to organize. Within a week of Stonewall, a group known as the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) formed, naming themselves after the Vietnamese National Liberation Front. Taking cues from the civil rights movement, the women's movement, the labor movement, the resistance around the world against imperialism, and especially from those who had been fighting for LGBTQ rights before them, the GLF and other organizations like Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) fought for the rights of LGBTQ people with militant action, collective visibility, and radical anti-capitalism.

Without the radical resistance that followed, ACT UP and other groups might never have forced the pharmaceutical corporations, the FDA and other government agencies to respond to the AIDS crisis at all. Without it, homophobic anti-sodomy laws might never have been struck down. Without it, our spaces would be raided more frequently, and our love would still be hidden away. Without it, many more of us would have died in the closet.

The rebellion at Stonewall and the radical organizing that came afterward were the birth of what is now known as Pride, but Pride no longer reflects this legacy. Instead of fighting the police, Pride celebrations often include them despite their role as our oppressors. Instead of being anti-capitalist, they have corporate sponsorships. Instead of taking inspiration from anti-imperialist movements, they celebrate the U.S. military that wages murderous wars for profit around the world.

The current administration has



Protesters march ahead of the corporate Pride parade to protest attacks on the LGBTQ community. New Orleans, June 9, 2018.

taken away many of our rights. Last year, the Trump regime released a memo instructing federal agencies to define gender strictly based on biology, effectively erasing trans people's legal rights, and attempting to set up a DNA database to match people to their sex chromosomes. They also instructed them to reinterpret Title VII, the law that protects against employment discrimination, so that no protections would be extended to LGBTQ people at all. Now, three similar cases are going to the Supreme Court to determine if this reinterpretation will be upheld.

At the same time, cases have made it legal for businesses and healthcare professionals to refuse to serve LGBTQ people on religious grounds, and insurance companies and Medicaid have stopped covering trans healthcare needs--if they ever did to begin with. Furthermore, bathroom bills continue to be announced, anti-sex work laws that disproportionately affect LGBTQ people are being passed, murder and suicide rates of LGBTQ people are rising, and more.

This is no time to throw a party. This is a time to fight back.

These attacks are not fueled by religion or morality, but by the capitalist class's growing fear of a united working class. As the economy continues to head toward crisis,

the capitalists know that they are vulnerable. If a crisis occurs while the ruling class is not strong enough to fight back, the capitalist class will fall. Trying to divide us, they pass these laws and policies to scapegoat and criminalize LGBTQ people (just as they do with immigrants, women, prisoners, black people, indigenous people, etc.) They're terrified that we workers will unite in our understanding that the greedy rich are the real criminals.

We will not be liberated unless we are united. We must stand in solidarity with one another against all of their attacks. There is no race or nation that does not include us. Attacks on immigrants, women, prisoners, and sex workers are attacks on LGBTQ people. Attacks on black, brown, and indigenous people are attacks on LGBTQ people. We must all stand together to protect our rights as workers.

The ruling class wants us to forget that everything we've won has been through our own blood and sweat. For this reason, they sometimes pander to us or take our slogans for their own—only as long as we don't name them as the enemy. But we must fight for ourselves. We must organize and take to the streets if we have any hope of winning true liberation.

We know that it is possible to

fight back and make change even in this period of deep reaction. If the wave of teacher strikes since 2018 has shown us anything, it's that mass, collective organizing still gets the goods.

In 2018, the TransLatin@ Coalition in Los Angeles unfurled a massive banner reading "Trans People Deserve to Live" at the 5th game of the World Series at Dodger Stadium. They did this at personal risk to themselves and were escorted by security out of the stadium. This kind of in-your-face politics is a far cry from the tame corporate Pride events we have become used to.

And the militant spirit and tactics of LGBTQ rights groups like ACT UP are alive and well here in Louisiana. On May 15, activists from the New Orleans Abortion Fund, Women with a Vision, the New Orleans Workers Group and the New Orleans Peoples Assembly staged a "die-in" in the style of ACT UP at the Louisiana State Capitol, protesting the suite of anti-abortion legislation being pushed through by the legislature. These brave demonstrators have been slapped with bogus charges of disturbing the peace and criminal destruction of property, but they are persevering. This is the politics of militant confrontation that we need and can inject into the LGBTQ and other peoples' struggles today.