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NHS Confederation calls for plan to protect health service from rising exhaustion, caseload and second surge of virus

DON'T LET OUR NHS BURN OUT

by Lamiat Sabin

UNIONS and campaigners have urged the government to invest in the NHS as a new report warns of a "triple whammy" of staff exhaustion, treatment backlogs and a second wave of Covid-19.

The NHS Confederation says that the disruption caused by the pandemic must lead to a transformation of the health service and urged more government funding to restore services, cover rising demand and tackle health inequalities.

Its NHS Reset report warns that the service is dealing with local outbreaks and a second surge of cases alongside a "huge backlog" of people needing care, with staff exhausted and capacity reduced due to infection-control measures.

The health-service body says that

the "road to recovery will be long" for the NHS, which it adds was already under significant pressure as it entered the pandemic.

Its survey found that that 74 per cent of 252 NHS leaders are concerned about being able to hit targets for resuming routine operations by the end of October.

And only 8 per cent of NHS leaders surveyed said that current funding allows them to deliver safe and effective services.

The report's authors warn that while the NHS has made huge progress to restore services towards pre-pandemic levels, the impact of Covid-19 is likely to have an effect on NHS capacity for several years.

It argues that there must also be action to tackle health inequalities exacerbated by the crisis.

NHS Confederation chairman Lord Victor Adebawale said: "This is the

moment for government to grasp the nettle, be bold and invest in a health and care system – not just for this winter but for the long term.

"Above all, we need to see a radical and conscious shift in every part of the country towards tackling health inequalities."

Sara Gorton, head of health at public-sector union Unison, said that the "stakes are too high" and the "pressures too great" to delay an "early and significant" pay rise of at least £2,000 for all NHS staff.

She added that a pay rise this year would "help keep skilled workers in their jobs and attract many much-needed new recruits."

GMB union's national officer Rachel Harrison warned that staff face a "looming mental health crisis" due to stress and unresolved issues surrounding personal protective equipment and Covid-19 testing.

She said that health workers need to be "ministers' top priority."

Dr Louise Irvine, GP and Keep Our NHS Public member, told the Morning Star that ministers "must recognise this critical situation and give the NHS the resources it needs, including giving staff a decent pay rise now to aid recruitment and retention."

Labour called for the national cancer screening programme to fully restart, as new data shows a record low in the number of people receiving treatment during the pandemic.

Just 319 people started cancer treatment in July after attending a screening programme – a decrease of 64 per cent compared with the same timeframe last year.

Shadow health and social care secretary Jonathan Ashworth urged ministers bring forward a plan to tackle the non-coronavirus backlog. lamiatsabin@peoples-press.com



FEATURE

First-year students have been betrayed

DAISY-MAE STEWART, a fresher in student halls at Manchester Met University, argues that it was wrong for institutions to forge ahead this year "as normal."

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CULTURE

The secret story of a communist creative

MICHAEL BERKOWITZ tells the tale of Alvaro Cunhal – a Portuguese political hero who led a lesser-known literary life under pseudonym.

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FOOTBALL

'Clubs are planning for administration'

EFL and National League teams warn Tories that they will be unable to survive if neither a financial support nor a safe return for fans is allowed to take place.

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WELFARE

Labour raps Tories for £1.7bn failure in childcare support

by **Lamiat Sabin**
Parliamentary reporter

LABOUR accused the government yesterday of “serial incompetence” after it was revealed that it underspent on tax-free childcare support for parents in work by at least £1.7 billion over the last three years.

The new Department for Education figures were revealed in response to a written parliamentary question from Tulip Siddiq, shadow minister for children and early years.

Just one in six parents who were eligible for tax-free childcare support have claimed it, HMRC data published earlier this year found. More families would have benefited if they had been aware of the scheme and how to use it.

Half of parents of children under five told researchers that the government has not done enough to publicise the scheme and support parents in accessing childcare during the pandemic, according to a survey by the Early Years Alliance in August.

And more than half (51 per cent) of mothers surveyed in July by cam-

paign group Pregnant Then Screwed said that they did not have adequate childcare in place to allow them to do their jobs.

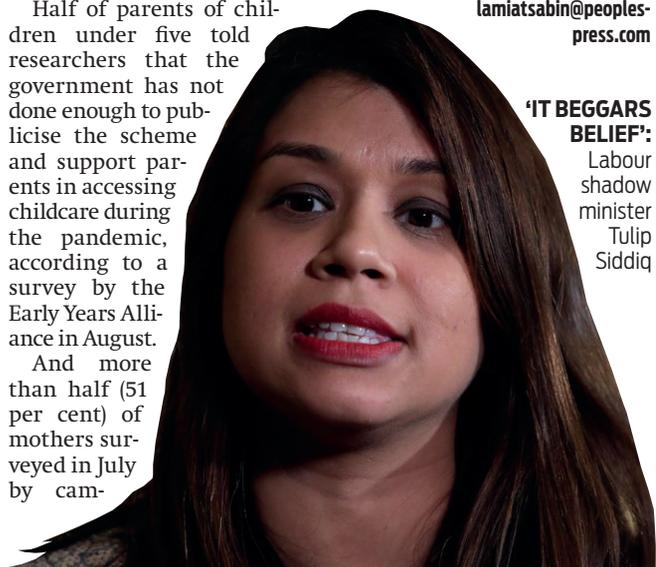
The government plans to spend £2.1bn more on the scheme until 2024 but still has “no credible plan” for ensuring every family eligible benefits from the support, Labour says.

Ms Siddiq said: “With around half of parents struggling to access childcare and the sector on the brink of collapse, it beggars belief that ministers have repeatedly failed to get support to every family who needs it.”

There were 14,000 fewer childcare providers in England in March this year than in March 2015, and the total number declined by 500 in the first three months of this year, Ofsted statistics show.

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‘IT BEGGARS BELIEF’:
Labour shadow minister Tulip Siddiq



ECONOMY

Minister on back foot over Sunak job scheme

JUNIOR Health Minister Helen Whatley was criticised yesterday for claiming that there is no need for government to save jobs in industries where there “isn’t work at the moment.”

Ms Whatley was asked how someone who works in a nightclub or a theatre closed due to the coronavirus pandemic would benefit from Chancellor Rishi Sunak’s new scheme.

The scheme, which replaces the furlough scheme from November 1, offers a limited top-up to wages if workers work at least a third of their hours.

Describing nightlife industry workers, Sky News presenter Kay Burley said: “They’re not earning any money, so they’re not going to get any money at all from the government, are they?”

Ms Whatley said: “It doesn’t make sense to continue supporting jobs where there simply isn’t work at the moment. We’ve got to support people where they can be working.”

Wes Streeting, Labour’s shadow Exchequer secretary to the Treasury, said: “We’re back to the worst days of Thatcher’s sink-or-swim mentality. And just like in the 1980s, it’s people on the lowest incomes in the north and the Midlands who will pay the highest price.”

He added that Mr Sunak should incentivise bosses to keep staff on.

INCARCERATED: Mia Winrow (left), Natasha Kutscheruk (centre) and Niamh Morrow, who are among hundreds of students forced to self-isolate at Manchester Metropolitan University’s Birley Hall after 127 of them tested positive for coronavirus



EDUCATION

STUDENTS ‘GOING WITHOUT FOOD’ AT LOCKED-DOWN UNIS

CRISIS: Security guards bar anyone from leaving halls of residence

by **Peter Lazenby**

STUDENTS have been trapped in their lodgings by security guards and are going without food, living in disgusting conditions, the National Union of Students warned yesterday.

At the start of autumn term, thousands of university students have been forced into lockdown and self-isolation for two weeks in their halls of residence.

NUS president Larissa Kennedy said that students nationwide were reporting “security guards outside blocks where students are being kept, stopping people from leaving, coming and going.”

“Where students are being discouraged from getting deliveries and told by the university that they’ll deliver food and that delivery has not arrived,

they’ve gone for the day without food.”

Some students were even worried “where the next toilet roll is coming from,” Ms Kennedy told ITV’s Good Morning Britain.

“It just feels like these are disgusting conditions for students to have been trapped in,” she said.

Her accusations came as the union leadership of more than 100,000 university and college lecturers called for the institutions to switch to online teaching.

The University & College Union (UCU) said the government has a duty to “protect students’ education and stop any further damage to community health.”

The union has written to Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling for speedy action and “a clear policy that the majority

of teaching should be online.”

The UCU also called for students to be allowed to return home if they wish without fear of financial penalty for leaving student accommodation.

Outbreaks of Covid-19 infections have been reported at rising numbers of universities in England and Scotland since students returned.

UCU general secretary Jo Grady said: “Given the rapidly changing situation and the increasing Covid outbreaks, now is the time for swift action and to move the majority of universities’ work online.”

“We are not prepared to take chances with the health and safety of students, staff or local communities.”

Preventing university students from returning home “looks even more like a cynical effort to extract accommodation fees and then worry about

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■ WESTMINSTER

Parliament bows to anger over bar curfew exemption

by **Lamiat Sabin**
Parliamentary reporter

PARLIAMENT was forced to make an embarrassing U-turn yesterday, driven by public anger over its bars and restaurants being exempt from the 10pm curfew.

MPs, peers and parliamentary staff would have been allowed to continue drinking past 10pm in the Palace of Westminster because its watering holes had been classed as “workplace canteens” under PM Boris Johnson’s coronavirus rules.

Hospitality businesses across England have had to close at 10pm under regulations

imposed from Thursday in a supposed bid to slow the spread of the virus.

After the outcry from the public and MPs from all parties, Parliament announced its U-turn with immediate effect. Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle is understood to have made the decision not to serve alcohol in any Commons bars beyond 10pm last week, but the rule was made clear yesterday – the first Monday in which proceedings were likely to run past that hour.

Catering facilities will, however, continue to serve food when the House is sitting after 10pm.

One venue in the House of Lords was planning to use the

exemption to serve alcohol alongside food after 10pm, but this was now being ruled out.

Before the U-turn, MPs complained that they were not being held to the same laws as the public.

The SNP’s Ronnie Cowan tweeted: “One rule for the public and another for Westminster (sounds familiar).”

Labour’s Dawn Butler had described the exemption as outrageous, adding: “It’s one rule for MPs, one rule for everyone else.”

And Labour’s Rupa Huq had said: “Hypocritical Parliament follows no rules that everyone else must.”

“Nightly, hundreds of MPs queue up for over 1km with

no social distancing to vote, ignoring the ‘rule of six,’ and now it’s watering holes exempt from 10pm curfew that’s killing hospitality sector.”

Food-and-drink businesses have warned that their income will be jeopardised by the 10pm curfew and Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham called for an urgent review yesterday, warning the curfew may be doing “more harm than good”.

He said that people have been piling onto public transport, continuing their socialising at home and queuing outside supermarkets that were “packed out to the rafters” to buy more alcohol once bars and pubs had closed.

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■ TRANSPORT

RMT makes last bid to avert Caledonian Sleeper walkout

RAIL workers in Scotland are to hold last-ditch talks with bosses of the renowned Caledonian Sleeper service before strike action begins on Sunday.

The service, between London’s Euston station and destinations in Scotland including Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness, is operated by disgraced private Serco.

The firm has been fined millions of pounds for making false claims for payments on government contracts.

Rail union RMT says Serco’s rail operation is

so badly run that safety is being jeopardised and that workers are overworked to the point of dangerous fatigue.

Two 48-hour strikes are planned to start this Sunday and Sunday October 11.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: “We have a chance to broker a settlement on Wednesday but the ball is now firmly in Serco’s court and the clock is ticking.”

He called on Serco “to respond in a meaningful and positive way to the serious safety issues at the heart of this dispute.”

■ COURTS

Labour’s Claudia Webbe facing prosecution

LEICESTER Labour MP Claudia Webbe has been charged with harassment, prosecutors said yesterday.

Ms Webbe is due to appear at Westminster magistrates’ court on November 11 to face one count of harassment between September 1 2018 and April 26 2020.

Jenny Hopkins, from the CPS, said: “The CPS has today decided that Claudia Webbe, MP for Leicester East, should be charged with an offence of harassment against one female.”

“The CPS made the decision after receiving a file of evidence from the Metropolitan Police.”

“Criminal proceedings against Ms Webbe are now active and she has the right to a fair trial.”

“It is extremely important that there should be no report-



ing, commentary or sharing of information online which could in any way prejudice these proceedings.”

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■ SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

Activists attack crackdown in Turkey

by **Steve Sweeney**

BRITAIN-BASED campaign group the Kurdistan Solidarity Campaign describes the continued oppression of Turkey’s opposition HDP as “one of the biggest attacks on a legal political party since the second world war.”

The HDP (the Peoples’ Democratic Party) has been relentlessly targeted by Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, with members and senior figures thrown behind bars and

criminalised, but last week, this campaign of repression was increased with the jailing of 20 senior members of the pro-Kurdish party.

“HDP is the key to unlocking democracy in Turkey and ending Erdogan’s war on Kurds in Syria and Iraq and his support for jihadist terror groups that are bringing instability to the Middle East,” the group said in a statement. “We must break the silence and make Turkey a pariah state.”

The campaign group also called on the British govern-

ment to stop arms sales to Turkey, having licensed £806 million worth of weapons to the country since 2016.

Speaking to the Morning Star in the Maxmur Kurdish refugee camp in northern Iraq, where hundreds attended a demonstration yesterday in solidarity with the victims of Mr Erdogan’s onslaught, co-ordinator of the Ishtar Women’s Association Nuran Sezgin also called for Britain to place sanctions on Turkey and to stop arms sales.

With Turkey currently facing

an economic crisis, Ms Sezgin said this would force its government to “reverse its attacks on democracy and turn away from its destructive foreign policy.”

“The attacks on the HDP are an extension of the Turkish state war on Kurds, the attack on Kobane [in northern Syria] and its support for Isis and jihadist terror groups,” Ms Sezgin said.

Since 2015, some 16,000 HDP members and supporters have been arrested and 5,000 sent to prison, the party said.

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SILENT FURY: Signs on the window of a student’s room at Birley Hall

what to do,” Ms Grady added.

Nicola Dandridge, chief executive of the Office for Students (OfS), the higher-education regulator in England, said it would be “looking very closely” at the quality of education being provided by institutions.

Manchester Metropolitan University said it could not

stop students under Covid-19 lockdown leaving their accommodation but that it expected them to follow self-isolation guidance. On Sunday, it said that foundation-year and first-year students will switch to online learning for the next 14 days.

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■ EXTRADITION

Assange will be in solitary confinement, court warned



SUPPORT:
Contemporary artist and activist Ai Weiwei during a silent protest outside the Old Bailey in London in support of Julian Assange

by Tim Dawson

WIKILEAKS founder Julian Assange will spend an indeterminate period in solitary confinement in a cell the size of a parking space if extradited to the United States, a court heard yesterday.

The 49-year-old is fighting extradition to the US on charges related to leaks of classified documents exposing war crimes.

Mr Assange's defence have said that he is a "high" suicide risk, having already spent 16 months in top-security Belmarsh jail.

His near-certain destination would be the notorious X block at the Alexandra Detention Centre in Virginia, the Old Bailey in London heard.

Yancey Ellis, a US lawyer who has visited that jail on numerous occasions, described the area used to house remand

inmates on "administrative segregation."

He said: "X block can contain four to six prisoners, who are each held in 50-square-foot cells with heavy metal doors.

"Inside is a shelf for sleeping, a metal toilet and sink. Inmates can't communicate with each other and are held in their cells for 22 or 23 hours each day.

"When they are let out to exercise, it is in such a way that inmates never see each other."

District judge Vanessa Baraitser asked Mr Ellis how he could be sure that Mr Assange would be held under administrative segregation. He replied: "The combination of his being a public figure with mental-health issues and the potential risk from other inmates makes me certain that they would hold him in this way."

Prisoner advocate Joel Sickler told the court that, if convicted, Mr Assange would likely be sent to the "supermax" prison in Florence, Colorado.

The extradition case continues.

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■ UNBEERLIEVABLE

Speaker calls time on Westminster's serving exemption

by Lamiat Sabin
Parliamentary reporter

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TO THE RESCUE: The launch of the Cromer lifeboat, captured by Stephen Duncombe, is the winner in the industry category of the 2020 Ultimate Sea View photography competition run by national maritime charity, the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society

EDINBURGH Job cuts: lecturers ballot on strike action

LECTURERS at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh are balloting on strike action over redundancies.

Members of the University & College Union (UCU) begin voting today over plans to make at least 130 staff compulsorily redundant.

The UCU has accused the university of imposing a "rushed timetable" to shed the jobs, meaning that alternatives to redundancy have not been sufficiently explored.

The union also says the sackings would have a "drastic impact on both the student experience and the university's reputation."

In 2017, 70 staff were made redundant and recruitment was frozen.

UCU Scotland official Mary Senior said: "We urge the university to work with us to identify alternative savings, not rush through job losses at this difficult time."

"However, we are clear that members need to show their strength of feeling against these job losses, and that's why we are balloting members for strike action to defend jobs."

The university has been contacted for comment.

SIX COUNTIES 'Police failing to find journalist's killers'

THE British and Irish governments were accused yesterday of "turning a blind eye" to police failure to catch the killers of a murdered journalist.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ), which covers both countries, spoke out on the 19th anniversary of the murder of Sunday World investigative journalist Martin O'Hagan by loyalist terrorists in the north of Ireland on September 28 2001.

NUJ general secretary

Michelle Stanistreet and assistant general secretary Seamus Dooley called on the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Taoiseach Micheal Martin to support the union's demand for an independent international investigation into the killing.

The NUJ said in a statement: "The two governments can no longer turn a blind eye to the failure of the policing authorities to properly investigate and bring to justice those respon-

sible for the murder of Martin O'Hagan.

"There are many unsolved murders in Northern Ireland, and the pain and suffering of Martin's family, colleagues and friends is shared by too many families and communities across Northern Ireland.

"In the case of Martin O'Hagan, the identity of the perpetrators of this vile murder has been openly discussed in the media, yet no-one has been convicted of his murder."

IMMIGRATION 70 STARS DEMAND END TO 'INHUMANE' LAWS ON ASYLUM

ISOLATED: Child refugees can't sponsor close family members' claims

by Bethany Rielly

MORE than 70 high-profile figures including Olivia Colman and Stephen Fry are calling on the PM to change "inhumane" asylum laws that force refugee children in Britain to "live their lives alone."

Dozens of sports stars, musicians and actors have written an open letter to Prime Minister Boris Johnson demanding he open safe routes for family members of children who have already been granted refugee status in the country.

Under current rules adult refugees are allowed to sponsor close family members to join them in Britain. But children who have been granted refugee status after travelling to the country alone are not able to bring their close relatives to live here.

The impact of this forced separation on children has been described by charities as "devastating," with many suffering constant anxiety, fear for the safety of their parents and siblings and, in some cases, serious damage to their mental health.

The letter, which has also been signed by actors Patrick Stewart and Chiwetel Ejiofor, the band members of Cold-

Lineker reads: "After finally reaching safety, many must now grapple with a future of insecurity, knowing they might never see their family again."

"Tragically, at a time when children need their parents the most, our current rules mean that child refugees in this country will be left to live their lives alone."

The signatories are among the 70-plus celebrities to back the Families Together coalition, which includes Amnesty International, Refugee Council and British Red Cross.

One person affected by the

tight restrictions is Merhawi Hagos, 18, who came to Britain as a refugee from Eritrea. Although he was granted asylum two years ago, his family remains in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

"I have found the experience of living without a family to be unbearable ... I cannot plan, I cannot focus on my work or studies," he said. "I feel lonely and depressed and do not sleep well."

Chief executive of the Refugee Council Maurice Wren described the current rules as inhumane.

"The pandemic has made us all acutely aware of the pain of family separation, but this is something that children to whom the UK gives refugee protection have been living with for years," she said.

"It's time to end the inhumane rules that separate children from their parents and cause long-term harm to children's development and wellbeing."

The government also plans to close the only remaining safe route to Britain for child refugees living in Europe, including those stranded in squalid camps in northern France and the Greek islands.

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NOT AMUSED: Actress and star of *The Crown* Olivia Colman signed the letter from Families Together

WAR CRIMES

Experts blast Bill protecting soldiers from prosecution

by Bethany Rielly

EXPERTS in international law described new legislation that would give British soldiers protections from prosecution "monstrous" and "unjustifiable" yesterday.

Ministers are seeking to introduce a statutory presumption against prosecution making it exceptional for serving and former military personnel to be prosecuted five years or more after an incident via the Overseas Operations Bill, which passed its second reading in the Commons last week.

Proponents of the legislation claim it is aimed at preventing soldiers and veterans facing "vexatious" claims, but critics argue it would effectively decriminalise war crimes and torture.

Giving evidence to the joint committee of human rights yesterday, senior lawyers said that the presumption against prosecution was not necessary or justified.



Elizabeth Wilmshurst (pictured), a former senior Foreign Office lawyer who resigned over the legality of the Iraq invasion, said: "The presumption puts at risk the UK's reputation as upholder of international law."

The Rev Nicholas Mercer, a former senior military legal adviser during the Iraq war of

2003, echoed warnings made by campaigners that the Bill could breach the UN Convention against Torture, which "expressly states that there is to be no statute of limitations." He said that if a statutory limitation was imposed there could be a "temptation to run down the clock."

Soicitors Leigh Day co-founder and director Martyn Day told MPs: "Anything serious - murder, torture and inhumane treatment - the idea that we could be standing by and saying that after five years that the burden is on the prosecutor in the way they've described it in the Bill, I think is monstrous."

Some crimes, including sexual offences, have been excluded from the Bill, but war crimes and torture have not.

Ms Wilmshurst, who is now professor of international law at University College London, said that crimes not excluded include genocide, adding that this "gives a poor example" to other countries.

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■ ZIMBABWE

Schools begin to reopen after 6 months

SCHOOLS in Zimbabwe have begun reopening this week for the first time in six months despite health and safety concerns from striking teachers.

Teachers from two unions are on strike after expressing coronavirus concerns.

Schools closed earlier in the year because of the pandemic but the government has said children will now be safe at school.

Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (Artuz) national president Obert Masaraure told the BBC that teaching would not take place at most schools.

On why they were striking, he said: "We want to press the government to review our salary, which is now at about \$330 (£255) and also to ensure the government provides the bare minimum to ensure that our teachers and learners can safely get back into schools."

"Most parents and teachers have agreed it is not safe, and for parents, it is also the economy has been affected and so they are not able to pay for fees."

"We want the government to provide the minimums. For example, we want protective gear in public schools and we want running water in schools to prevent the spread of the virus."

■ CAUCASUS

Dozens killed as fighting in disputed region gets worse

by Ceren Sagir

ARMENIA and Azerbaijan continued to fight over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region yesterday in the heaviest clashes in years, with dozens of people reportedly killed.

The mountainous region is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but has been governed by ethnic Armenians since the war in 1994.

The region's authorities said 31 of its soldiers had now died, and some lost positions had been retaken.

Azerbaijan said its forces had inflicted "heavy losses" and that Armenian shelling had injured 26 civilians.

Fighting spread on Sunday morning after Armenia's defence ministry said that an attack on civilian settlements in the region had begun, resulting in 19 deaths, including a woman and child, and leaving 100 wounded.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan accused Azerbaijan of "planned aggression."

He warned that the region was on the brink of a "large-scale war" and urged the international community to unite to prevent further destabilisation.



Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan accused Azerbaijan of sabotaging a peaceful settlement to the conflict and insisted that Armenia must defend the region.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said that he was confident of regaining control over the region.

Martial law has been declared amid the violence in some parts of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

The casualty claims have not been independently verified.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has pledged his support for Azerbaijan – the countries have close ties – and Armenia has accused Turkey of providing direct military sup-

port for Azerbaijan, a claim denied by Azerbaijan.

UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres said he was "extremely concerned" over clashes and called for both sides to stop fighting. France and Russia called for an immediate ceasefire and dialogue, while Iran, which borders both countries, offered to broker peace talks. President Donald Trump said the United States was seeking to stop the violence.

The region is rich in oil and gas reserves and important pipelines, drawing attention from imperialist nations for years.

Nagorno-Karabakh broke away from Azerbaijan in the early 1990s after years of bloody war that resulted in about 30,000 deaths and an estimated one million people being displaced following the collapse of the Soviet Union, of which both countries were republics.

The region was left in control of ethnic Armenians following the signing of a truce in 1994 and many Azeris were forced to flee their homes. Since then, periods of hostilities have erupted, with at least 200 people killed in 2016.

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MORTAR MAYHEM: Azerbaijan's soldiers fire from a mortar at the contact line of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, on Sunday



ROCKET ATTACK: An Azerbaijani rocket launches from a missile system at the contact line of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, on Sunday



SHAMEFUL TREATMENT: Migrants cook on an open fire in an abandoned factory outside Velika Kladusa, Bosnia, Saturday

■ BOSNIA

Refugees evicted and left with no help

BOSNIAN authorities have begun evicting refugees from their accommodation, forcing them to fend for themselves with no access to medical care or food.

Local authorities in Bosnia's Krajina region decided last month to start pushing refugees away from town centres and to kick them out of UN-run reception centres there.

Remote woods, abandoned buildings and roadsides in the

north-west region have begun filling with makeshift camps with tents built from sticks and black plastic tarps, according to the Associated Press.

Krajina shares a highly porous 620-mile border with EU member Croatia, making it a major draw for refugees crossing Bosnia.

Local authorities said they were bearing the brunt of migration into Europe and that other parts of the impoverished

country are failing to help out.

The EU has provided Bosnia with €60 million (£54.4m) in emergency funding, most for seven refugee centres, including five in Krajina, with capacity for more than 7,000 people.

Aid organisations and volunteers helping refugees in Krajina warn that the situation is shifting quickly into a crisis as the numbers scavenging the forests for food and bathing in the chilly rivers keeps growing.

■ TURKEY

Demonstrations continue against HDP detentions

by Steve Sweeney

DEMONSTRATIONS continued for a fourth day yesterday against the detention of more than 80 Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) politicians and supporters in Turkey.

The public prosecutor extended their detention period yesterday after bringing them to court in the Turkish capital Ankara, amid warnings of a "political genocide" against the party.

Eighty-two HDP members were arrested last week, along with lawyers, journalists and other opposition supporters, in one of the biggest operations against the party in recent years.

The government said that the detentions were related to 2014 protests in support of the Kurdish city of Kobane in northern Syria, which was

under attack from Isis.

The HDP had called people onto the streets as the Turkish state refused to allow sympathisers to defend Kobane. Turkey blocked aid and equipment from reaching the city, fuelling accusations that it was supporting the jihadist death cult.

At least 36 people were killed in clashes with Turkish security services as they tried to suppress the street demonstrations. The government blames the HDP for the deaths.

The Union for Democracy, an umbrella group of 83 political organisations in Turkey, accused President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government of intensifying attacks on the opposition to cover for a "shrinkage of its political support" due to a deepening economic crisis.

Zeyno Bayramoglu, former HDP Ankara co-chair, told the Morning Star that the ongoing

clampdown is an indication of the Turkish government's weakness.

"The government is unable to manage the economy and the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic crisis are deepening," Ms Bayramoglu said. "The Kurds and the HDP will stand firm and come out stronger from these attacks."

Ankara Women's Platform spokeswoman Derman Gulmez said that international solidarity was vital as the HDP comes under intense pressure from the Turkish state.

"While steps have been not taken against people like Musa Orhan [the Turkish soldier accused of repeatedly raping Kurdish teenager Ipek Er], the arrest of HDP members who wanted freedom for Kobane six years later is an act of revenge and nothing but racism," she said.

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OREGON

Police clampdown on protesters in Portland clashes

by Ceren Sagir

PROTESTERS against police brutality were arrested in Portland, Oregon, in the United States on Sunday evening, hours after demonstrations ended with few reports of violence.

The protests, which began on Saturday night with hundreds of people gathering in a park near the Hatfield US courthouse, where there have been regular protests over the summer, were declared unlawful. A protester was seen burning a US flag.

Police said that they began forcing demonstrators out after objects were thrown at officers. Several arrests were made, though police did not immediately specify a number.

Video footage showed police grabbing a news photographer and pushing him to the ground as he was trying to document them tackling and detaining a demonstrator on a sidewalk.

Freelance photographer John Rudoff, who was wearing a helmet with a "press"

sticker on, told local media later that he was "physically OK, but quite annoyed."

Another online video showed an officer apparently deploying a chemical spray in the face of a man who was yelling at police and waving a sign at them.

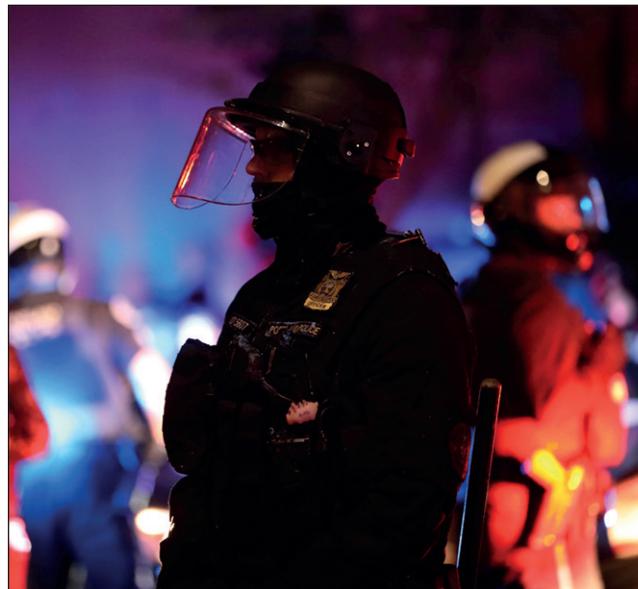
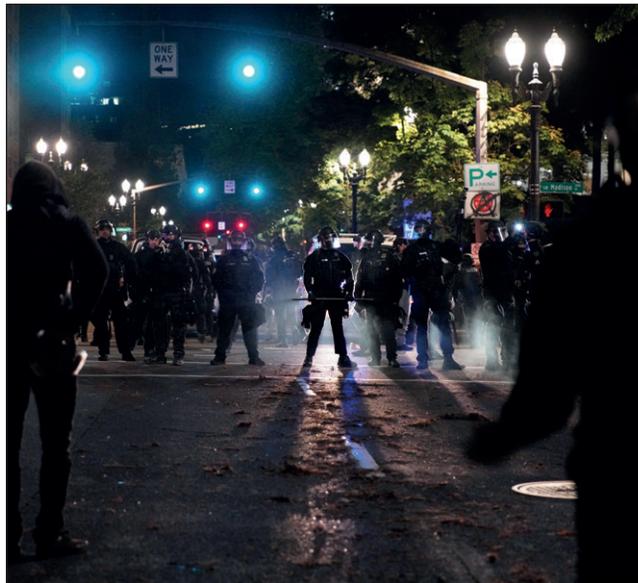
Portland has seen protests almost nightly since the police killing of George Floyd in May.

Far-right demonstrators have also been mobilising in the city in counterprotests, several in military-style body armour, and in support of President Donald Trump and his "law and order" re-election campaign.

Police said that they were investigating an assault at the far-right protest on Saturday when one person documenting the event was pushed to the ground and kicked in the face.

Separately, police said that a criminal citation was issued after officers confiscated firearms, paintball guns, baseball bats and shields from a pick-up truck that was initially stopped for having obscured licence plates as it left the rally.

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STATE REPRESSION: A man burns a US flag (above) while armoured police look on (left) in Portland, Oregon, on Sunday

UNITED STATES

TRUMP 'PAID NO US TAX IN 10 OF LAST 15 YEARS'

by Ceren Sagir

DONALD TRUMP paid just \$750 (£587) in federal income tax both in 2016, when he ran for US presidency, and in his first year in the White House.

The New York Times, which has obtained tax records for the president and his businesses over two decades, reported on Sunday that he paid no income taxes at all in 10 of the previous 15 years, "largely because he reported losing much more money than he made."

According to his presidential rival Joe Biden's campaign team, the figure compares with the typical income tax return of \$7,239 for teachers, \$5,283 for firefighters and \$10,216 for nurses.

Mr Trump, as always, called the report "totally fake news."

He said: "Actually I paid tax. And you'll see that as soon as my tax returns – it's under audit, they've been under audit for a long time."



"The IRS [Internal Revenue Service] does not treat me well... they treat me very badly."

In the past, Mr Trump has faced legal challenges for refusing to share documents concerning his fortune and busi-

ness. He is the first president since the 1970s not to make his tax returns public, though this is not required by law.

Democrat Senator Bernie Sanders tweeted: "Shock of shocks! Donald Trump, the self-proclaimed billionaire, received

a \$72.9 million tax refund from the IRS while not paying a nickel in federal income taxes in 10 out of 15 years.

"Yep. Trump l-o-v-e-s corporate socialism for himself, rugged capitalism for everyone else."

Democrat Senator Elizabeth Warren wrote: "He knows better than anyone that there's one set of rules for the wealthy and giant corporations and another for hard-working Americans – and instead of using his power to fix it, he's taken advantage of it at every turn."

"This is about more than one man's personal tax scams. Donald Trump is a liar, a cheater, and a crooked businessman, yes."

"But he's also taking advantage of a broken, corrupt, and unequal system that's built for people like him to do what he did."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said the report showed that Mr Trump had taken "extraordinary measures" to "game the tax code and avoid paying his fair share of taxes."

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SPAIN

Catalonia's president barred from his office

SPAIN'S Supreme Court barred Catalonia's regional president from his office yesterday for refusing to remove a banner calling on the release of independence leaders from prison.

The banner had been displayed ahead of the 2019 general election at a public building.

A panel of judges unanimously agreed yesterday to confirm a decision by a lower court last year to ban Quim Torra from holding public office for 18 months and fine him €30,000 (£27,190).

Mr Torra, who became the head of Catalonia's government following the 2017 push for independence from Spain, had previously criticised the case as an act of repression against the democratic mandate of voters in the north-eastern region.

The court ruling could trigger further tensions and a new period of uncertainty in Catalonia.

Mr Torra's deputy is expected to take over as president-in-charge until a new election is held.



BARRED BANNER-MAN: Catalan regional President Quim Torra leaves the Spanish Supreme Court in Madrid, Spain, Thursday, September 17

★ Star comment

Trump's tax returns, trust and public confidence in change

NEWS that Donald Trump paid no federal tax in 10 of the last 15 years will likely be met with a shrug in Britain.

The US President has made such a meal out of not releasing his tax returns – he will, he won't, they're none of anyone else's business, they can't be released as they're being audited, voters aren't interested. Nobody who has followed this saga could conclude that the tax returns show the president as a good citizen.

The New York Times revelations, which Trump decries as inaccurate, are only significant as a symbol of the divorce between the transnational super-rich and ordinary people who can no more determine the amount of tax they pay than live wherever they like.

Trump's comic-book-style exploitation of his office for personal gain – charging the secret service a fortune to protect him when this requires accommodation at his hotels or golf courses, for example – should not distract from the fact that private profit and public office are now inextricably intertwined in Britain no less than in the United States.

You cannot prove corruption in circumstances like the government handing PPE supply contracts worth tens of millions to Meller Designs Limited, a firm co-owned by a major Tory donor.

Or, to go back a few years, in Theresa May's husband Philip's investment firm Capital Group making a killing, because of its shareholdings in arms manufacturers Lockheed Martin and BAE Systems, from her administration's decision to bomb Syria in April 2018.



Or, taking a longer trip down memory lane, in Tony Blair's health secretary Patricia Hewitt taking up a retirement post as a non-executive director at private healthcare corporation Bupa, one of the firms she welcomed into the "NHS Partners Network" in 2006 to deliver NHS services for a profit.

You cannot prove corruption. But, like Trump's tax returns, they speak of a networked elite whose interests are not ours. Social cohesion relies on the idea that those at the top have some shared interest with everybody else.

Often this relies on ignorance of the real motives of the people who rule us – which is why the publication by revolutionary Russia of the first world war's "secret treaties" were so damaging to European ruling classes, just as nearly a century later the Panama papers caused outrage as people realised that Britain's prime minister and even the Queen were beneficiaries of tax evasion.

Tax evasion was a big topic during the early years of "austerity" Britain – it spoke to the injustice sensed by ordinary people realising the rich were not required to make sacrifices like everyone else.



It even led to a consumer boycott of Starbucks that tangibly hit the company's profits, and it fed the narrative of the 99 per cent and the 1 per cent that helped give birth to the socialist revival known as Corbynism.

But the racket continues, and the risk now is that the pervasive sense that those who rule us are all in it for themselves leads not to a collective struggle to throw off the parasites but to apathy and political disengagement.

An assumption that politicians' promises cannot be trusted seriously damaged Corbyn's Labour, once its convoluted Brexit manoeuvring killed off its reputation for "straight-talking, honest politics." It explains why a manifesto packed with policies commanding overwhelming public support failed to cut ice across huge regions of Britain.

The defeat of that project makes the risk of mass "political lapse" even higher. Pointing to the undoubted corruption and worthlessness of the likes of Trump is not a sufficient argument for an alternative.

The left's path to renewed credibility doesn't rest on parliamentary votes or policy statements – let alone vague and ahistorical waffle about "values," as preferred by Labour's new leadership.

It rests on engagement, activism and organisation. On demonstrating, through mobilising to defend jobs, homes, high streets, communities, that a different kind of world can exist.

NEXT week sees the start of Challenge Poverty Week co-ordinated by the Scottish

Poverty Alliance. Their key message is that "as we plan our economic recovery, we must redesign our economy to reflect the values of justice and compassion we all share."

This reflects the view, widely held among Scotland's civil society and campaigning organisations, that recovery must not mean going back to the place we were before the pandemic.

That place is a Scotland where the two richest families now have as much wealth as the poorest 20 per cent of the population, while Scotland's richest twenty families are wealthier than the bottom 30 per cent of the population combined. Low pay is endemic and work is insecure for hundreds of thousands of people.

Some 619,000 households live in fuel poverty including 279,000 households living in extreme fuel poverty.

The pandemic is exacerbating this perilous situation. Coronavirus may not technically discriminate on the lines of class – but its effects are clearly exacerbated by imbalances of income, wealth and power.

One of the ironies of Scotland's unjust society is that essential workers can barely afford essentials. Despite boasting of having spent £160 billion this year to stem the jobs crisis, it is obvious that the Tories consider such spending a necessary evil.

Last week's additional £3.6 billion over six months may well save some jobs, but it is clear the Chancellor's heart is not really in it. He dithered for too long in the summer, sparking redundancies in many sectors of the economy.

When the scheme was finally announced, the expectation that employers will routinely stump up additional monies to pay for workers to stay at home ignores the precarious nature of so many employment contracts and the zero-hours and fire-and-rehire culture particularly prevalent in the sectors it is trying to help.

Some £3.6 billion may sound like a hefty sum, but it is in all truth small beer compared to the challenges we face.

Even if Rishi Sunak's sticking plaster announcement of last week was of the scale required to safeguard enough jobs – maybe closer to the German Kurzarbeit scheme – it would still be far less than half of the picture.

Acting to retain these low-paid jobs in the service sector may be necessary, but it is no way to organise an economy. Sunak was wrong not to bring forward a budget alongside his emergency job support package and it should have been a budget to create new, good quality jobs.

This week the STUC is pub-

A recovery pro for Scotland's

A new report from the Scottish Trades Union Congress calls for a national care service to support the NHS, a green economy, collective bargaining and democratic public ownership.



RECOVERY FOR ALL: Scotland needs measures to rebuild a democratic, green economy and a society in which workers and their families have decent work, housing and welfare

lishing "The People's Recovery: A new track for the Scottish economy." The paper combines short-term measures to rebuild our economy with medium and longer-term measures to create a democratic and green economy and a society in which workers and their families have fair work, decent housing and a proper safety net.

It calls for a fundamental rethink on the purposes of growth and the introduction of urgent measures such as a National Care Service, a green stimulus package, sectoral collective bargaining and democratic public ownership.

Given that the private sector has shown itself to be woefully inadequate to meet the challenge of the crisis, government intervention is at the heart of our proposals.

A number of our proposals clearly require government to borrow to invest and for a deci-



£3.6 billion may sound like a hefty sum, but it is in all truth small beer compared to the challenges we face

sive move towards more wealth taxes and progressive taxation to fund public services and pay increases. Our research reveals that investing £13 billion over two years in clean transport and clean infrastructure would create over 140,000 jobs in Scotland. £13 billion is a very significant sum of money, but it is spending that would come with massive medium and long-term economic rewards as well as making a significant contribution to tackling greenhouse gas emissions.

However, many of our other policy proposals would save money by taking back the profits and asset building inherent in private-sector delivery and the failed financialised capitalist model.

A Scottish national care service would see public money recycled into better care and into decent pay for careworkers.

Programme s workers

Congress calls for the introduction
green stimulus package, sectoral
partnership, reports **ROZ FOYER**



A national Scottish construction company would break with the model which saw Carillion collapse at a cost to the taxpayer of £148 million and with the loss of thousands of jobs.

Scottish households are currently subsidising energy companies to scatter jobs globally rather than support local supply chains with knock-on revenue benefits for the exchequer.

Equally, finance is currently being drained out of local economies by corporations. Local councils lack the powers, the finance and all too often the will, to commit to community wealth building.

Community wealth building would involve an expanded role for public-sector investment, under the collective guidance of local communities. Fair work, progressive procurement and the socially productive use of land and property could be institution-

alised. The Youth Guarantee, in large part aimed at creating new jobs for young people, could be tied to local authority led public works programmes.

Fully implementing the programme laid out by us in The People's Recovery would require concerted action by governments north and south of the border and, even then, it would not happen overnight.

But action can start now to put us on a different track, by taking action to combat Scotland's renewables jobs crisis, moving to national collective bargaining in key sectors such as care and implementing a decent pay rise for workers.

As we move towards next year's Scottish Parliament elections these are the some of the key issues we will be campaigning on.

■ Roz Foyer is general secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress.

THIS week's announcement from Rishi Sunak about how the government would move on from the furlough scheme was too little, too late and it will not stop a jobs and living standards catastrophe on a scale many of us have never experienced before.

As John McDonnell tweeted on Thursday, "it's clear from Sunak's announcement today that the Tories are willing to countenance large numbers of job losses [and] clearly they believe it's a price worth paying."

As the former shadow chancellor also added: "This is archaic economics when a Marshall-style plan is needed from government to aim for a full employment economy."

We then need to both fight for every job and put forward proposals to protect and create jobs.

In response to the government's disastrous and continuing failure to put people and health first throughout the pandemic – which is now approaching a dangerous second wave – it is vital that we link up across labour and progressive movements, including within the Labour Party, to set a different policy agenda and build-up resistance to the Tories.

As part of this response, Labour MPs Jeremy Corbyn, John McDonnell, Apsana Begum, Richard Burgon, Ian Lavery, Kate Osborne, Bell Ribeiro-Addy and Claudia Webbe have supported a People's Plan circulated by the Labour Assembly Against Austerity and currently signed by over 9,000 Labour Party members.

With the Tories failing to take the action needed to defend jobs and livelihoods, this campaigning couldn't be more timely or important.

It reads as below and we hope it provides a basis for unity, discussion and action across the movement.

A People's Plan

The economic crisis we now

Working towards a new 'People's Plan'

Labour members are organising to take the fight to the Tories and to unite around a series of demands for real change, write the **LABOUR AGAINST AUSTERITY** team

face is set to be the worst any of us have experienced. We urgently need to transform our economy and society to ensure that people's jobs, livelihoods and health come before private profit.

Defend living standards and jobs: invest in our future

The fight to prevent soaring unemployment is paramount. We need to build a movement that demands the government takes the action needed to create full-employment with well-paid secure jobs for all.

This will need massive, sustained investment in our infrastructure, in council housing, transport, public services, industry and beyond.

We must eradicate financial insecurity through a minimum earnings guarantee at a decent level, ensure Statutory Sick Pay at living wage levels, support for renters and build a Social Security System that is universal and not punitive.

The crisis has shown we need trade unions more than ever. Greater union rights and freedoms will help end the exploitative zero-hour and precarious contracts that dominate our economy, save jobs and give workers a proper say in their workplace.

Rebuilding to tackle the climate catastrophe and achieve social justice

We must rebuild in a way that tackles the existential threat of climate breakdown with ambitious, redistributive policies that put jobs, equality and improving people's lives first. Research shows £85bn investment in green infrastructure could help create 1.24 million jobs in 2 years.

The state must urgently invest to create high-quality green jobs and technologies through a Green New Deal, providing a just, environmentally sustainable transition of our industries and infrastructure by safeguarding the employment of all.

Universal, publicly owned services

Our public services provided the vital support needed during the pandemic. But this crisis also sharply exposed how a decade of austerity and privatisation has left them at breaking point. We need to rebuild them to be the world class services our communities deserve creating hundreds of thousands of socially useful jobs at the same time. Only public ownership and universality will ensure

access to our public services.

Our transport system should be integrated and upgraded, with the railways and buses publicly owned and education properly funded and free for all. NHS underfunding, staff shortages and privatisation must end. We urgently need a public, universal social care service.

Equality for all

This pandemic has shone a spotlight on the deep structural inequalities in our society. Now is the time for real change. The dismantling of systematic inequality and liberation for all must be at the heart of how we rebuild better.

The Black Lives Matter movement has rightly pushed the structural racism to the top of the political agenda. Real government action, not just words, is now needed.

Women and disabled people have already seen a rolling back of equality gains under the Tories and these risk being further undermined, while LGBT+ people face a reactionary government which is not afraid to use the tactics of divide and rule.

We must demand an end to the scapegoating of disabled people on benefits.

■ Visit bit.ly/planforthepeople.



TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE: Labour MPs (from left to right) Diane Abbott, Ian Lavery, Kate Osamor and Jeremy Corbyn have all backed the plan

HALLOWEEN may be fast approaching, but you don't have to wait until October 31 for a truly scary tale.

Damning reports and allegations have come out detailing the nightmarish conditions at immigration detention camps in the United States.

Things were already bad inside the centres, but the situation is now exacerbated by a deadly global pandemic.

Unfortunately, this is a horror story that has the potential to extend well past November 3 if major change does not occur.

In the past six months, people of the US have had to deal with a record-breaking 200,000 deaths due to the coronavirus pandemic, skyrocketing unemployment, Republican disinformation tactics and fear about the survival of the physical world as we know it.

Seemingly lost from this centre stage filled with tragedies is the ongoing battle against human rights violations happening across the country in immigrant detention camps.

The issue has all but disappeared from the front pages of the corporate press, but as the nation marches towards what is perhaps the most important election of our lifetime, it is an issue that cannot be ignored.

That is because it is intertwined with many of the liberties voters will be fighting to hold on to.

The 'uterus collector'

In recent weeks, an explosive whistleblower complaint made headlines when former nurse Dawn Wooten came forward with testimony alleging forced hysterectomies and medical neglect at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centre in Irwin County, Georgia.

Wooten detailed the questionable gynaecological procedures women detainees there were subjected to.

"The uterus collector" is what Wooten said fellow nurses would call the off-site doctor that performed the surgeries.

The whistleblower complaint, filed with the Department of Homeland Security's office of the inspector general (OIG) with the help of attorneys from the Government Accountability Project, paints a gruesome picture of medical malpractice and fear.

One could sensationalise the complaint and boil it down to an individual "bad" doctor and a facility that is an outlier to the other detention camps in the United States.

We could champion the fact that Democratic lawmakers have come out calling for an investigation of the facility, just as they have done in the past regarding one too many reports of sexual assault at other detention centres.

Yet, to do this, one would have to fall into the line of thinking that detention centres, as they are, are normal

American horror story of the 21st century: US immigration detention centres

The inhumane treatment at migrant camps is systemic and has been decades in the making. But behind the human misery lies the drive for profit, writes **CHAUNCEY K ROBINSON**

within the realms of what we consider democracy. And that reining in a few bad apples will get these centres back on track.

One would have to accept that numerous privately owned detention facilities across the country holding thousands of men, women and children for long lengths of time, often without due process, legal counsel and family contact, are OK. And that effectively making prisoners out of a group of people who have not been sentenced by any court of law is what we've always done.

The fact of the matter is this system didn't exist 30 years ago.

By looking at both past history and the ongoing reports of human rights abuses at these facilities, it becomes clear that the inhumane treatment at these camps has been decades in the making, that it is systemic and that it's connected to the drive for profit at the expense of human life.

The growth of a multi-billion-dollar industry

Up until 1979, the number of immigrants held in detention centres hovered around 3,000 detainees.

All of this began to change in the 1980s. Republican president Ronald Reagan began using detention facilities as part of his effort to deny Haitian refugees entry into the US under what could be inferred as anti-black prejudice.

In 1988, the practice of mandatory detention of immigrants with criminal records was implemented.

This detention would be automatic without consideration to an individual's circumstances.

What followed in the 1990s was the wholesale criminalisation of immigrants through a number of policies that resulted in harsher conditions and a higher number of detainees.

The Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act



(AEDPA) and the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) of 1996, passed by a Republican Congress and signed by Democratic president Bill Clinton, expanded mandatory detention.

In 2003, ICE was established under the guise of promoting "public safety and national security" by getting rid of all "removable aliens" from the United States.

This shift was given space to flourish through the so-called "war on terror" implemented after the World Trade Centre attacks of September 11 2001.

With roots in racist criminalisation and draconian laws, all that was needed to complete the machine were companies who saw an opportunity to make a profit.

Enter private companies like CoreCivic Inc (originally known as Corrections Corporation of

America) and you've got what the Centre for American Progress deemed an industry fuelled by for-profit prison corporations with an "incentive to detain."

Just as private companies began making revenue in the prison industry, so too did they seek to profit from immigrant detention to help fill their beds.

In 2016, 73 per cent of immigration detention beds were run by private prison companies.

These companies have made billions of dollars. They are able to do this through contracts with the United States government, paid for with taxpayer dollars, that ensure guaranteed quotas for a minimum number of detainee beds filled each night.

According to an American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) report, the number of immigrants held in detention

facilities between 1995 and 2016 quadrupled.

The detained population has grown from 7,475 to 32,985 on average per day.

The biggest increase in this multibillion-dollar detention industry, however, has taken place under President Donald Trump.

Sinking his clutches into an already destructive system, Trump in the past four years has used the detention of immigrant people to line the pockets of corporations and appeal to the racism in the segment of his base that longs for an America that upholds white supremacy.

If Trump is given another four years, he has made it clear that he will continue on this path to the detriment of all working people.

Trump, Covid-19 and the future



Trump came into office playing on xenophobic sentiments that certain kinds of immigrants were violent criminals taking the jobs of hard-working US citizens.

He used scapegoating tactics that caused division in order to justify his expansion of the detention industry.

In the past three years, the Trump administration has expanded the infrastructure of detention by more than 50 per cent. This has resulted in an average of over 50,000 people being held in 2019, according to the ACLU.

In February of this year, Trump requested yet another massive increase in funding for ICE of \$10.4 billion for the year 2021.

The detention industry has patchwork regulation when it comes to the safety of the human beings they imprison.

The already imperfect ICE National Detention Standards (NDS), designed to govern how immigrants are treated, were weakened further earlier this year. And during the global coronavirus pandemic, the state of the detention system has proven absolutely disastrous.

Covid-19 has put a grisly spotlight on the inhumane conditions detained immigrants are subjected to.

Cramming dozens of detainees into common areas has made the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations on social distancing impossible to implement.

So far, nearly 6,000 detainees have tested positive for Covid-19, according to ICE.

This is a number that many immigrant rights advocacy groups believe to be undercounted, given that a June report by the Office of Inspector General revealed just how unprepared and ill-equipped ICE was to test detainees or manage an outbreak.

Immigrants being held in these facilities are staging hunger strikes and other forms of



protest in a desperate struggle for their lives as they demand a fighting chance against a virus that has already resulted in so much death.

Trump's continued mismanagement of the pandemic extends into the detention industry. Any accounting of his failures must include the lives lost and those put in peril in these camps across the country.

Through designating a group of people as the "other," Trump has been able to take away their rights, place them in camps and subject them to cruel conditions that result in abuse, sickness and death.

This is not the first time in history this has happened and we should be well aware of just how

system, but he has shown that, if given four more years, he will use it in ways that will cause devastation and human destruction.

The nation cannot afford four more years of this administration. And once he is unseated in November, there must be continued pressure to do away with a detention system that has grown out of control and that only sees individuals as dollar signs rather than the human beings that they are.

■ This article appeared at peoplesworld.org.



Pic: Fibonacci Blue / Creative Commons

dangerously fast the situation can escalate.

Trump has not currently put forward any concrete plan for immigration reform.

Instead, he forecasts a road toward even harsher restrictions and an expansion of facilities to hold hundreds of more people he has designated as outsiders.

This will line the pockets of corporations and imprison more people without due process.

His continued vilifying of immigrants is connected to his attacks on other groups to sow division and violence.

As we know from the famous poem *First They Came*, written by Pastor Martin Niemöller in Nazi Germany, when the people don't speak up for the rights of the persecuted, it creates a slippery slope leading eventually to the abuse of everyone. It's time to speak up.

Trump didn't create this

Starting university during a global pandemic – everything's basically back to normal... right?

With halls of residence going into lockdown, a lack of communication from uni authorities and rising stress levels among students, **DAISY-MAE STEWART** believes it was wrong for universities to forge ahead this year 'as normal'

ON Wednesday September 9, I moved to Manchester to start my creative writing degree at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Obviously, amid a global pandemic, I was sceptical about making such a big decision, but, when life began to head in an upwards, "normal" direction in July and August, I felt reassured in my choice.

I mean – they wouldn't allow thousands of students to move into university if it wasn't safe to do so, would they?

Actually, as it turns out, they would.

My first two weeks here have been exactly what I had hoped for – I mean, not exactly. The sweet dream of a fun-filled, crazy "freshers" experience was quickly flattened.

Nevertheless, with nothing to compare the traditional party week against, I'd say we managed to make the most of the situation.

Flat parties made a quick return, some flats hosting up to 50 students in their kitchen.

Things quickly got pretty wild, but, really, what do you expect?

Freshers students to move to a new city and spend their time alone in prison cell rooms, adhering to social distancing measures? I mean, come on...

The buzz of excitement came to a sudden end this week as more and more students began isolating due to symptoms, positive tests or flatmates with positive tests.

Last night, at 5pm, the accommodation halls surrounding mine were forced into lockdown.

I walked down to the main door of my building and was greeted by a security guard who told me that my building was locking down.

He told me I had to quickly go to the shop and buy any-



SAFETY FEARS: Signs on a window at Manchester Metropolitan University's Birley campus where hundreds of students have been told to self-isolate after 127 of them tested positive for coronavirus

thing that I needed. (This guy actually told me to stock up on alcohol and cigarettes, and so, obviously, I did.)

The pressure was immense, I was literally told to run to the shop to buy anything I may need for the next two weeks.

I won't tell you exactly what I did panic buy, that would be purely embarrassing.

Anyway, £40 later, I stumbled back to my flat, bags of alcohol in hand, emotionally taking in the outdoors, knowing this would be my last time outside for a couple of weeks.

When I arrived back, I was confused to see that there was no longer a guard on my door.

A few moments later, I found out that my building was not being locked down at all – the security man had stood at the wrong door. I was fuming, to say the least.

Tension grew higher last night, the realisation of the situation hit us all.

We have since been preparing for the inevitable isolation we will endure in the upcoming weeks.

All across group chats and social media stories, more and

more positive cases are being posted.

The strangest thing is reading headlines about the "Covid outbreak at Man Met." We seem to be all over the news at the moment.

The university has informed students that all classes will be online for the next couple of weeks.

Even though I was only on campus one day a week, I, like most, am gutted to be restricted to online learning.

I think at the back of my mind, behind the initial excitement of moving to university, I knew that it was inevitable that a further outbreak of the virus would mean lockdown for students.

However, the lack of communication has made things incredibly hard to navigate.

I have heard from other accommodation buildings that information about how to do washing, how to get food and basic living needs while under forced isolation has been non-existent.

To my understanding, residents receive an email explaining the enforcement and are

then left to their own devices.

As my own building is not yet locked, I am experiencing stress and anxiety about what the next steps are for my safety, my wellbeing and overall living situation.

Emotions are high, stress levels rising. I find it difficult to explain the exact situation and to get all of my thoughts to make sense.

I am living in a new city, starting a new life, from a small room. Looking out over the city; unable to explore and adjust naturally.

It's a crazy time for everyone, but I empathise wholly with students right now.

It seems totally barbaric to have gone ahead with university this year as "normal." Universities are a breeding ground for illness anyway, never mind during a pandemic.

It infuriates me to think that this many young people have been placed at risk, and to think that we could be blamed for behaving irresponsibly.

I will end on a positive note, that despite everything, I am finding the good in the chaos.

Student life is supposed to be a challenge. We are all in this together. Here's to students everywhere – and to hope for a better second year!

WEATHER OUTLOOK



TODAY

Cloud, rain and drizzle slowly clearing south-east England. Elsewhere, mostly dry with sunny spells, though a few showers are likely across some western areas.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Unsettled with showers and some longer spells of rain for all parts. Windy at times with gales possible around some western coasts and generally rather cold.

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Tell us what you'd like to see more of in your paper! Email editorial@peoples-press.com

Fighting Fund with Keith Stoddart

1 day left

YOU'VE RAISED: **£15,664** WE NEED: **£2,336**



OUR column's relationship with books continues. "Nurse Emma Gracie, who wrote Blue Girl, presented me with a signed copy, so here's £10 for the Fund."

I mentioned Martha Grant, a lifelong reader, recently to wish her a happy 93rd birthday. A supporter to the end, Martha, who died last week in Renfrew, left instructions that £250 was for the Fund. Condolences to her family.

Many say I drive them daft, so I'm surprised to be told "you keep me sane," along with £10. And "keep up the good work" came from folk sending £5 and two times £10.

"I've started a recurring donation for £20." Thanks for this – and I hope others follow suit.

Another tenner accompanied: "I was despairing over the emasculation of the Labour Party and

the absence of a media platform for the left. You've given me fresh hope that things can and will get better."

From Newcastle CPB it's £10, London £100, Hereford £5, and another ensuring we "keep shining." A Geordie sends £25: "Great articles every day for sharing on Twitter and Facebook: keep them coming!"

Contributions came from pen-

sioners, ESA claimants and others who wished they could send more. We rely on the many, not the few, so don't apologise. As a sister said: "I can't really afford much, but I can't afford losing my Morning Star!"

So, when all 64 contributions are totalled, it's £980 that arrived yesterday. September's target is doable if you send what you can right now. Thanks all.

Give by BACS...

Sort code 08-90-33, account 50505115, name PFFF

online...

morningstaronline.co.uk/page/support-us

by phone...

9am - 4pm,
0778 0220 391

...or by post

Cheques to PFFF, 52 Beachy Rd, Bow, London E3 2NS

DAILY SUDOKU

(middling)

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Solution tomorrow...



Yesterday's sudoku

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TV & radio preview

with Neil Jenkin



JAZZ ROYALTY:

Duke Ellington, pictured in June 1948 seated at the piano on the Cunard White Star passenger liner Media, heading for a concert tour of Britain

Fighting for freedom round the world – but things were different back home

KEN BURNS'S epic documentary series **Jazz** (9.40pm PBS America) continues, a history of black struggle in the United States in microcosm.

We're up to WWII and, though jazz is banned by the Nazis, musicians continue to play, turning the music into a weapon of resistance. For many black GIs, though, the sound has a hollow ring: they find themselves fighting abroad for liberties their own country denies them at home.

Back in New York, Duke Ellington premieres his symphonic work *Black, Brown and Beige* at the Carnegie Hall, introducing it, in the parlance of the time, as "a parallel to the history of the Negro in America."

More telly: **Tennis: French Open** (10am ITV4), live coverage of day

three at Roland Garros; **Life** (9pm BBC1), start of a six-part drama written by Mike Bartlett set in a house divided into four flats, where stories of love and loss interweave; **The Shipman Files: a Very British Crime Story** (9pm BBC2), second of a three-part documentary that shows how attitudes to elderly people enabled a "respected" GP to become a mass murderer; **Honour** (9pm ITV), conclusion of the two-part drama based on the family murder of south Londoner Banaz Mahmood, a 20-year-old woman of Iraqi Kurdish origin, in 2006; **Banaz: an Honour Killing**, a documentary on the same subject, follows the news at 10.45pm.

Films on TV: **Seance on a Wet Afternoon** (6.45pm Talking Pictures), 1964 Bryan Forbes-directed psychological thriller with Kim Stanley and Richard

Attenborough, plus a John Barry soundtrack; **Manthan** (1.30am Channel 4), Shyam Benegal's powerful 1976 drama in Hindi with English subtitles is set in 1970s rural India and follows a team setting up a milk co-op in rural Gujarat; **Things to Come** (1.55am Film4), Isabelle Huppert stars in Mia Hansen-Love's 2016 drama about a middle-aged philosophy professor whose domestic life begins to fall apart. In French with English subtitles.

Radio: **Book of the Week: Agent Sonya** (9.45am Radio 4), Ben MacIntyre's account of the life story of Ursula Kuczynski; **Free Thinking** (10pm Radio 3), academic Rana Mitter talks to writers about their explorations of colonial, indigenous and personal histories shortlisted for 2020's Nayef al-Rodhan Prize for a book fostering global understanding.

QUIZMASTER

with William Sitwell



Pic: Alvin Gast/creative commons

TODAY'S QUESTIONS

- 1 What is an otter's holt?
- 2 Canvey Island lies near the mouth of which notable river?
- 3 What kind of reptile is a green anole?

3. One hundred years ago, Dorothy L Sayers became one of the first women to receive a degree from which university? **Oxford** (pictured is Somerville College Library)

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

1. A famous British sandwich-shop chain has a name meaning 'ready to eat' in which language? **French (Pret a Manger)**
2. Huckaback is mostly used to make what? **Towels, it's a rough linen or cotton fabric**

FICTION | FIVE DAYS, FIVE NIGHTS

MANUEL TIAGO (ALVARO CUNHAL), TRANSLATED BY ERIC GORDON,

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ILSE GORDON | INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS, £12.89

Secret story of a covert creative

Legendary communist Alvaro Cunhal became a national hero in Portugal after the overthrow of the country's dictatorship in 1974. But, writing under a pseudonym, he was also a novelist – and a fine one too, says **MICHAEL BERKOWITZ**

ALVARO CUNHAL, who spent nearly 35 years underground or in jail for his role in building the communists into the only well-organised opposition to the dictatorship of Antonio Salazar and then Marcelo Caetano, was also secretly an author of fiction.

One of his novels, *Five Days, Five Nights*, written under the pseudonym Manuel Tiago, has just been published in English for the first time by International Publishers.

Cunhal had a little secret and it was a good thing that he did. Living under the fascist Salazar dictatorship for the first half of his life, Cunhal needed secrecy.

After all, for decades he was a leader and ultimately the general secretary of the Portuguese Communist Party, which waged a life-and-death struggle against the fascist regime.

He was forced to go underground into hiding and after he was caught he was imprisoned for 11 years, eight of them in solitary confinement. He was routinely tortured and starved.

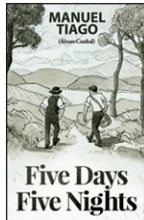
After his daring 1960 escape from the fortress prison of Peniche, Cunhal was driven into exile from his native land, where he served the cause from abroad.

He returned in 1974 after the

revolution that finally, after almost half a century, overturned fascism and immediately led to the independence of the Portuguese colonies.

Once again, he became politically active in his native country, a public figure never to be ignored or forgotten. When he died at the age of 91 in 2005, half a million people packed the streets of Lisbon to celebrate his life.

Most of those celebrants could probably tell you something of his daring adventures and of how he devoted his life to the service of the Portuguese people. But very few knew Cunhal's secret – Manuel Tiago.



Five Days
Five Nights

It turned out that Cunhal had used his time in prison and exile, and still later his freedom back home pretty well. Aside from his political writings, he had become an accomplished artist, a translator of Shakespeare and, under the pen name of Manuel Tiago, the author of nine books of fiction.

Five Days, Five Nights was later adapted into a film and another work became a popular TV series. The authorship of Cunhal's books was known only to the party leadership until

much later in his life.

Clearly, a communist who gave his life to the cause must have had a higher purpose in leaving the world such a body of fiction. Now, English-speaking readers have their first opportunity to find out.

The novella had been mouldering in the archives of Peniche prison after Cunhal escaped and, after the 1974 revolution, the military officers who ran the prison handed the manuscript back to Cunhal and it was published the following year.

Five Days, Five Nights is the fictional story of 19-year-old Andre and his attempt to flee to Spain from oppression in Portugal. To cross the border he enlists the help of the shady and dangerous older criminal Lambaca. They must cross rough border terrain, passing through villages and encountering a number of peasants along their way.

Cunhal sketches his characters sparsely but as sharply as the rugged landscape. Andre's youthful optimism, high sense of morality and energy contrasts with Lambaca's evasive, secretive behaviour, perhaps cultivated as a response to the corrupt, fascist order.

Their relationship is one of constant mistrust and occasionally violence flares to the surface. The plot is driven by this conflict, which threatens the outcome of Andre's flight from the country. Through such dramatic tension, we see the struggle of the old order against the promise of a new progressive age.

Yet Cunhal is a shrewd narrator. If Andre is an impatient youngster, is he perhaps too

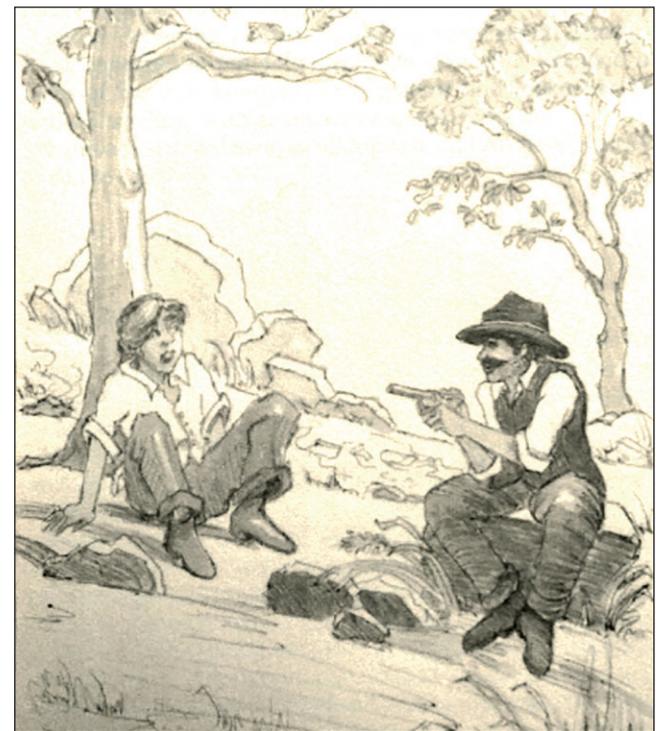


Illustration: Ilse Gordon

naïve and impetuous for his own good? And if Lambaca is so crude and immoral, why does he trouble to guide this young rebel over the border at such risk? The answer perhaps lies in this passage:

"Andre... spoke of the importance of the crossing, of responsibilities, co-operation. Now he spoke with a calm, persuasive voice and, leaning forward, attempted to discern in Lambaca some expression or gesture.

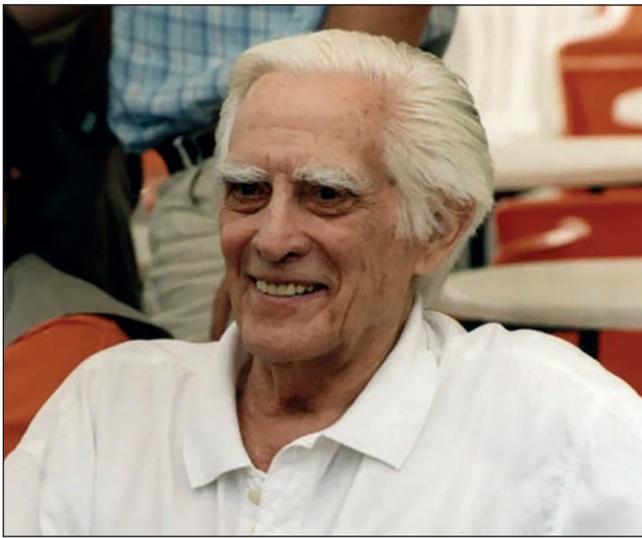
"In the dark of the night, Lambaca, still as a stone, did not react. Only when Andre had finished did he say, his words drawling with contempt, 'I've known all that for more than

twenty years.'"

This neorealist noir novella takes pains to detail aspects of the modest lives of those subsisting along the border. Smugglers, vulnerable prostitutes, herders and villagers comprise the repressed underclass of fascist Portugal.

Cunhal purposely doesn't set his characters in too specific a place or time but clearly the border represents hope and the possibility of change.

■ *Five Days, Five Nights* is available with free p&p from Book Depository, bookdepository.com. This review first appeared in *People's World*, peoplesworld.org



PICTURE: PCP

ALBUM REVIEWS | IAN SINCLAIR

Kate Rusby
Hand Me Down
(Pure Records)

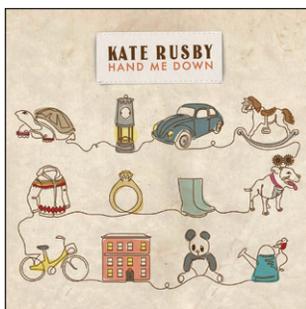
★★★★☆

HAVING spent most of her career reinterpreting very old songs, English folk singer-songwriter Kate Rusby's new record is made up of versions of more contemporary material.

Along with her delightful voice, there is a terrific lightness and brightness to her covers of The Bangles' *Manic Monday* and Paul Young's *Love Of The Common People*.

The Cure's *Friday I'm In Love* is transformed into a stripped-back slow ballad, while *Shake It Off* is a largely faithful and banjo-led take on Taylor Swift's monster dance hit.

Recorded during lockdown,



the set is very much a family affair, with husband and multi-instrumentalist Damien O'Kane engineering and playing on the album and their two young daughters contributing backing vocals on the eternally positive and Bob Marley-inspired closer *Three Little Birds*.

All together now: "Don't worry about a thing, because every little thing, is gonna be all right."

Bright Eyes
Down In The Weeds, Where The World Once Was
(Dead Oceans)

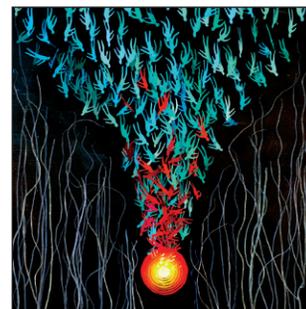
★★★★☆

HERALDED as the voice of their generation in the mid-2000s, US indie band Bright Eyes – Omaha singer-songwriter Conor Oberst and friends – were last heard on 2011's *The People's Key*.

Forty-year old Oberst didn't take early retirement, though. He has released several solo albums and teamed up with Phoebe Bridgers last year as Better Oblivion Community Center.

However, it's great to hear the power of Bright Eyes again, with Oberst's distinctive vocals and the infectious poppy folk-rock of the band.

There is lots to chew on here,



with his dramatic and earnest lyrics piling up on songs like peak Bright Eyes-sounding Marina Trench and the redemptive *Persona Non Grata*, including added bagpipes.

Of course, it doesn't match their 2005 *I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning* album, but let's be honest, what does?

Be happy with what you are given.

Dana Gavanski
Yesterday Is Gone
(Full Time Hobby)

★★★★☆

YESTERDAY Is Gone marks Dana Gavanski's full-length debut, released at the same time as a covers EP of some of her favourite artists.

Currently based in London, the talented Serbian-Canadian musician has created an enticing set of psychedelic-tinged indie folk rock and, in a similar vein to Weyes Blood, many of the songs are unhurried and expansive, unspooling slowly alongside her personal-sounding musing.

It is only at the end of the eighth track *Everything That Bleeds* and on *Other Than* that the music moves up a gear, her



band blowing out the cobwebs and shifting to fairly conventional rock music.

That provides some welcome energy and sunlight but beyond this the album sounds a little muted at times, with Gavanski arguably not quite alighting on the fully formed musical or lyrical identity that would set her apart from her peers.

COVID-19

Oldest and poorest hit most by NHS app issue

MANY people trying to download the NHS track-and-trace app launched on September 24 were presented with a message that the software only works with devices operating on Apple iOS 13.5 and later.

This means that a large proportion of vulnerable people trying to download the app will be thwarted in the process. People on low incomes and the elderly will be affected more as they are more unlikely to have the surplus income to buy an up-to-date smartphone.

It was back in 1971 that Rhondda GP Dr Julian Tudor Hart formulated the "inverse care law" which states that the availability of good medical care tends to vary inversely with the need for it in the population served. The law operates more completely where medical care is most exposed to market forces and less so where such exposure is reduced.

Medicine's exposure to market forces has been



LOCKED OUT: The NHS app will not work on older phones such as the iPhone 6 – which came out six years ago

highlighted by the Morning Star throughout this pandemic, most recently in its coverage of the scandal-prone outsourcing giant Serco (M Star September 26).

Access to track-and-trace technology needs to be equitable and be provided irrespec-

tive of one's ability to buy the most expensive and up-to-date devices.

One way of overcoming the need for smartphones has been developed in Singapore, where the government provides free dongles – wearable devices used to participate in the track-

and-trace system – to citizens and visitors.

Whatever system is agreed in the UK, it needs to accord with the original core principle of the NHS – free at the point of use.

BABS CLEGG
Addingham

APOLOGY: The Star apologises for the repetition between our letters pages of September 26 and September 28. Due to failures in our home-working process, a sub-editor was not aware that some letters had already been printed and this mistake was unfortunately not corrected before the page went to print. We will work more carefully in future to ensure that this embarrassing incident is not repeated.

MORNING STAR

Stellar contributions marred by dodgy headline

THE letter from David Grove (Colonial rule must come to an end, M Star September 25) was the best we remember reading for a long time, and it is run a very close second by David Marchesi's in the same issue. We have been reading the paper since 1948.

The issue, sadly, was marred by the mistake in the page-five headline. Ed: The headline 'Rishful thinking in 'winter' plan' referenced a draft splash headline that was later rejected.

CHRIS & BETTY BIRCH
Kettering

ENVIRONMENT

No ifs, no butts: Drop littering for good

AS ONE of the village idiots who voluntarily walk the streets each day collecting litter, I can confirm that masks by the thousand are now being chucked away (Masks now outnumber jellyfish in our coastal waters, M Star September 18).

Smokers remain top of the league of mess-makers,

closely followed by patrons of McDonald's and Coca-Cola.

And let's face the uncomfortable truth that the more working-class an area, the worse its litter and fly-tipping problem is.

Care for the global environment begins with pride in one's immediate environment.

COLIN YARDLEY
Chislehurst

VENEZUELA

Holding gold a political move

THE shameful political nature of the Bank of England's refusal to release Venezuela's gold deposits was made clear last week when the UK Supreme Court released its judgement on the case.

The Venezuelan Central Bank had gone to court to force the Bank of England to release funds to the United Nations Development Programme for the purchase of much-needed supplies of food and medicine.

Despite clarifying that the UK government's recognition of Juan Guaido as interim president did not mean that he was running the Venezuelan government, the court agreed with the British government in recognising Mr Guaido rather than the elected President Nicolas Maduro.

The Bank of England showed the political nature of its decision to break its contract with the Central Bank of Venezuela and that position has now been supported in the courts.

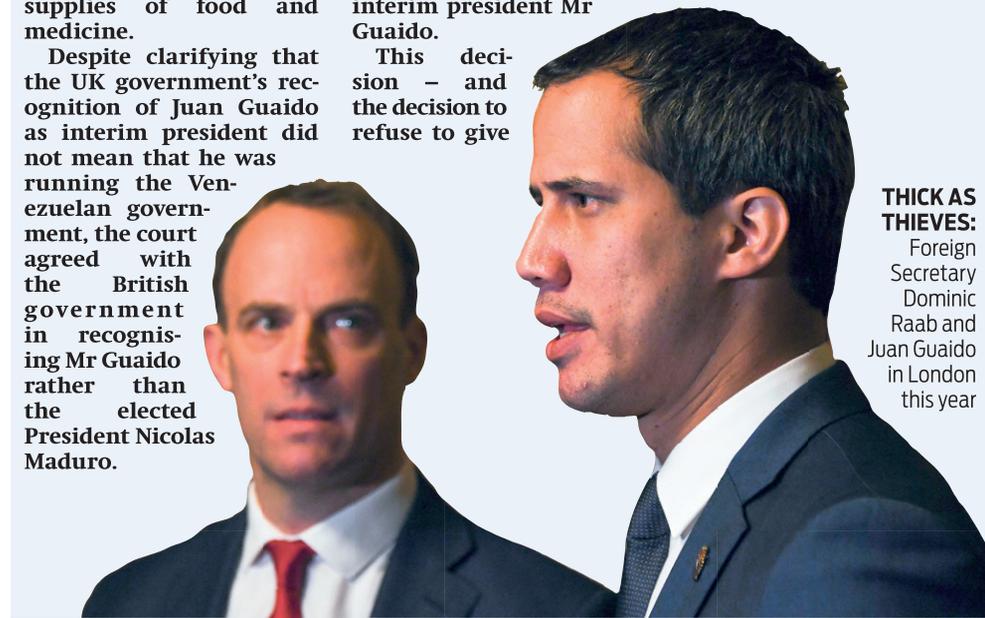
The judgement rests largely on a hasty decision by the British government in January 2019 to issue a statement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office recognising the minor politician and self-described interim president Mr Guaido.

This decision – and the decision to refuse to give

Venezuela back its gold – has nothing to do with concerns about the Venezuelan people and has everything to do with supporting US President Donald Trump's illegal regime-change agenda in Venezuela.

You can read more comment about the decision and sign our petition at venezuelasolidarity.co.uk

TONY BURKE
Chairman, Venezuela Solidarity Campaign



THICK AS THIEVES: Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab and Juan Guaido in London this year



'GIVING CREDIBILITY': (l-r) TUC leader Frances O'Grady, Chancellor Rishi Sunak, and CBI head Carolyn Fairbairn

TRADE UNIONS

'Ghosts of reaction alive again'

IT APPEARS that Walter Citrine's (pictured inset) cadaver is warming up, with the ghosts of reaction again haunting the corridors of British trade unionism.

Now we have Unite's Amanda Campbell (M Star September 26) allying with the right-wing governments of Poland and other Baltic states interfering in Belarus. In Citrine's time as TUC leader it was over Finland.

And we see TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady posing in Downing Street with the "likeable" Rishi Sunak, giving credibility to the Chancellor's schemes for camouflaging the Tory government's incompetent handling of the pandemic.

It would not surprise me that the TUC had earlier run this stunt past Keir Starmer's Labour Party. When the Covid crisis worsens with

its attendant economic consequences, it's possible that we shall hear calls for a national government – and it's likely that they will be answered.

But there is a difference from 80 years ago. Then Citrine sued the Daily Worker for telling the truth about him; now the Morning Star gives many column inches to Campbell and O'Grady to peddle their truths.

Recently the Russian communist leader Gennady Zyuganov warned that "the world is sliding into an era of chaos." Unfortunately the British left is ill-prepared.

BRYN ROWLANDS
Malmesbury



■ FORMULA ONE

Masi: Hamilton is treated the same as everyone else

by Our Sports Desk

FORMULA ONE race boss Michael Masi has told Lewis Hamilton that he is not being singled out for punishment.

Hamilton's bid to match Michael Schumacher's record 91 victories at the Russian Grand Prix was derailed when he was handed a 10-second penalty for performing two illegal practice starts ahead of the race.

The six-time world champion claimed afterwards that F1 bosses were finding new ways to stop him from winning.

But Australian race director

Masi said: "As the FIA, we are here as the sporting regulator to administer the regulations, we have the stewards as an independent judiciary to adjudicate those, there was an infringement and it doesn't matter if it was done by Lewis Hamilton or any one of the other 19 drivers.

"If a breach of the regulations has occurred, the stewards will consider it on its merits, and further to that, adjudicate it equitably and fairly in the circumstances, taking all the key elements into account.

"From my perspective, it is very simple, if Lewis wants to raise something, as I have said

to him before, the door is always open and I am more than happy to discuss anything."

Masi also dismissed Hamilton's suggestion that he had carried out a similar practice start a "million" times before.

"At every other event, Lewis has complied with the requirements of where you perform a practice start in accordance with the race director's instructions," added Masi.

"There was a miscommunication between Mercedes and Lewis because Valtteri Bottas, and all the other drivers, used the exact practice start location where it was supposed to be.

"You need to look at every-

thing on its own merits and the stewards believed Lewis took a sporting advantage so they thought an appropriate penalty was an in-race penalty."

Hamilton will now have to wait until at least a week on Sunday to match Schumacher's all-time tally.

The F1 circus next heads to the Nurburgring for the first time since 2013 for the 11th of 17 rounds this year.

Despite Bottas's triumph on Sunday, Hamilton, who finished third in Sochi, will head to Germany with a 44-point lead in his quest to win a record-equalling seventh world crown.

■ MEN'S FOOTBALL

Grimsby v Bradford off due to Covid

by Our Sports Desk

ANOTHER English Football League (EFL) match has fallen victim to Covid-19 after the league announced Grimsby's League Two game against Bradford this weekend had been postponed.

The Lincolnshire club has

players and staff still self-isolating, which forced their match against Cheltenham on Saturday to be called off as well.

The EFL said the circumstances surrounding the postponement would be the subject of an investigation, as was the case for the Cheltenham game.

Leyton Orient's match

against Walsall last weekend was also postponed, with the Os having to forfeit their League Cup tie against Tottenham last Tuesday.

Stevenage's League Two game at Bradford on Saturday afternoon went ahead even though the Hertfordshire club discovered two players had tested positive for coronavirus when

they tested all players and staff in the wake of an initial positive case being recorded on Thursday.

The club's chairman Phil Wallace and Rochdale chief executive David Bottomley both called for weekly testing last week, with the latter saying it was essential for the continuation of the competition.

■ MEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE

St Helens dealt a blow as Percival's season is over

ENGLAND centre Mark Percival's season has come to a screeching halt after learning he needs an operation to repair his troublesome hamstring.

Percival has played just three times since the resumption on August 2 and has limped out of Saints' last two matches against Castleford and Warrington.

He was already ruled out of tonight's Super League derby with Wigan at Salford and is now booked in for surgery.

"Unfortunately, he's going to be out for an extended period, somewhere in the vicinity of eight, nine or 10 weeks," Saints coach Kristian Woolf told a news conference yesterday.

"There's a couple of things going on there, they've found something they think they can repair.

"Once we get through that, there should be no more dramas. It should speed up the rehab time and put him in a much stronger position when he comes back so we don't get any of those problems any more."

The season is due to finish on November 28, which is eight weeks away.

Percival's absence is likely to present an extended run for 19-year-old Josh Sim, who deputised for him in recent matches against Huddersfield and Hull KR.

"Josh will get a crack there," Woolf said. "He was going really well.

"He's developing really well.

"He's going to be a good player in the future and he will only get better through playing more and more games."



■ MEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE

No supporters at Challenge Cup

by Our Sports Desk

AS EXPECTED, the Rugby Football League (RFL) confirmed yesterday that the 2020 Challenge Cup final at Wembley next month will be played behind closed doors.

The news had been anticipated following the government's tightening of restrictions due to a worsening of the coronavirus pandemic, and the cancellation of pilot crowds for Super League fixtures.

Plans for a first-ever July final in 2020 were scuppered by Covid-19 and the absence of a crowd for the rescheduled date of October 17 will cost the RFL between £1 million and £2m.

Coming on top of a projected loss of around £4m through the cancellation of the Ashes Series which was due to take place in October and November, it is another major financial blow for rugby league.

However, the RFL has already started to look ahead by announcing the date for next year's final at Wembley and says fans who have bought tickets



for 2020 can either claim a full refund or transfer them to July 17 2021.

Tickets will go on general sale in November.

Saturday's semi-finals at the Totally Wicked Stadium in St Helens are also being played behind closed doors.

Leeds play Wigan in the first game at 2.30pm and that will be followed by the meeting of holders Warrington and Salford at 5pm.

Both semi-finals and the final will be shown live by the BBC.





MEN'S FOOTBALL

NO FANS AT GAMES MEANS NO CLUBS

EFL and National League tell Tories they are 'preparing' for administration

by Our Sports Desk

CLUBS in the English Football League (EFL) and National League pulled no punches yesterday when telling Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden that they have already begun to plan for administration if the government doesn't intervene and give the green light for fans to return to stadiums.

An open letter co-signed by 17 individuals including former Football Association chairmen Greg Dyke and Lord Triesman and former footballer-turned pundit Robbie Savage says help is urgently needed to ward off the threat of financial collapse.

The government announced last week that plans for spectators to return to sports venues from October 1 had been scrapped due to a rise in coronavirus infections.

Dowden has now been told that without some sort of rescue package, a number of clubs will be lost.

"Without any plans being made to rescue clubs, many in the EFL and others in the National League as well, are now actively preparing to make all but essential staff redundant, cease playing, close down their youth academies and community foundations, and put

their business into administration," the letter warns.

"This could lead not only to the failure of many historic community clubs, but the collapse of the national league structure that we have known for over one hundred years.

"These are decisions that will be made in the coming weeks, with many clubs unable to meet their payroll obligations for next month."

The government needed to set out what financial support it could offer, the letter said, because it was "not the sole responsibility" of the Premier League to bail out those lower down the pyramid.

It pointed out that Premier League clubs too "face swingeing losses from lost ticketing receipts and falling revenues from broadcasting matches."

The letter referenced the £1.5 billion rescue package for the arts sector and added: "We would ask that the government now make clear what financial support it's prepared to give before it is too late."

Dowden attempted to pass the buck to the Premier League on Sunday when he said that they needed to "step up to the plate" to help clubs in the EFL and said he was hopeful of a deal being agreed this week.

Top-flight clubs are sched-

uled to gather today for an update following the government's decision to press pause on fans returning.

The league has stated English football will lose £100m a month while no fans are admitted to venues. On the one hand the league was working with the government agency, the Sports Grounds Safety Authority, on plans for fans to return on a socially distanced basis, but is now being told by a different part of government that those plans have been halted and that it must still help out the pyramid.

The Rugby Players' Association has joined the calls for the government to put together a rescue package.

"Premiership Rugby clubs have already suffered significant financial losses from the suspension of the season following the outbreak of Covid-19 and subsequently playing matches behind closed doors.

"To continue along this path will cause irrevocable damage to clubs across the Premiership that will impact the wider game and communities they serve in England.

"In the absence of the revenues that live crowds bring to the sport, it is imperative that the game gets significant financial support to help it through this challenging time."



TONIGHT'S FOOTBALL

Champions League

Dynamo Kiev.....AA Gent, 8pm
Ferencváros..... Molde, 8pm
Omonia Nicosia..Olympiakos, 8pm

League Cup

Tottenham.....Chelsea, 7.45pm

EFL Trophy

Colchester.....West Ham U21, 7pm
Crewe.....Newcastle U21, 7pm
Scunthorpe.....Man City U21, 7pm
Tranmere.....Liverpool U21, 7pm
Walsall.....Chelsea U21, 7pm
Rochdale.....Man Utd U21, 7.45pm
Salford.....Morecambe, 7.45pm

Women's Prem South

Gillingham.....Crawley, 7.45pm

Welsh Prem

Newtown.....Cefn Druids, 7.45pm

SPORT ON TV

■ CRICKET: Indian Premier League, Delhi Capitals v Sunrisers Hyderabad – Sky Sports Cricket 2.50pm, Sky Sports Main Event 3pm.

■ FOOTBALL: Carabao Cup, Tottenham v Chelsea – Sky Sports Football/Sky Sports Main Event 7pm; Champions League play-off, Ferencváros v Molde – BT Sport/ESPN 7.45pm; Omonia v Olympiakos – BT Sport 2 7.45pm.

■ RUGBY LEAGUE: Super League, Salford v Warrington – Sky Sports Arena 5.55pm; Wigan v St Helens – Sky Sports Arena 8.15pm.

■ RUGBY UNION: Premiership, Northampton v Sale – BT Sport 15.15pm.

■ TENNIS: French Open – Eurosport 1 & Eurosport 2 9.55am, ITV4 10am.

TODAY'S TIPS

Farrington's Doubles

REVE
Bangor 1:10 (nap)
DROGON
Ayr 2:05

Houseman's Choice

HARRISON POINT
Ayr 3:15

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Tinkler says British Gymnastics have 'lied to' her

by Our Sports Desk

AMY TINKLER claims she was "lied to" and "let down" by British Gymnastics over the governing body's handling of allegations of mistreatment she submitted in December 2019.

The Rio Olympic bronze medalist discovered this month that her complaint relating to national head coach Amanda Reddin, who has temporarily stepped down subject to an investigation into her conduct, was closed in March.

British Gymnastics have apologised for failing to directly inform Tinkler about the progress of her complaint sooner, but robustly refute the latest claims by the 20-year-old that she continues to be kept in the dark.

In a post on her social media channels, Tinkler confirmed that she received a response from British Gymnastics last week, in which she alleged she was lied to by the organisation's integrity director, Richard Evans, and that he "went back on his public apology to me."

Tinkler added: "This really stinks and my patience has run out. I've tried to do the right thing but the people running British Gymnastics can't be trusted.

"They have let us all down. They lie. We deserve better than this. Change at the top must happen before the right thing will be done."

In an email sent by Evans to Tinkler last Monday, Evans assured Tinkler that despite the closure of her personal

complaint her views in regard to Reddin will be sought by the head of the independent investigation.

Evans writes that the QC in charge of the investigation "has begun his work and when he begins interviewing and gathering evidence, he will wish to talk to you about your experiences and your complaint to determine how the matters you raised with us should be taken into account."

Evans continues: "I hope this reassures you that we have taken and are taking your complaint and others' about Amanda Reddin seriously and that we are making sure this is done in an impartial and thorough way."

Responding to Tinkler's frustration that she is yet to have

direct contact with under-fire British Gymnastics chief executive Jane Allen, Evans insisted it was a "deliberate" move to ensure the integrity of the ongoing investigations.

"I have ... shared your tweet with her and we agreed that as your questions were about our complaints processes I should respond to you," wrote Evans.

"This is because Jane does not play any role in the direction or handling of complaints and does not therefore have access to the details to answer your questions.

"This is quite deliberate to ensure that our complaints handling is as independent and objective as possible."

Tinkler retains an outstanding complaint about alleged improprieties at her former

club, South Durham, which has been referred by British Gymnastics' case management team to a Durham local authority designated officer.

An independent review, commissioned by UK Sport and Sport England, has been established to look into allegations of bullying and abuse within the sport, made by numerous leading present and former gymnasts including Becky and



Ellie Downie, Louis Smith and Nile Wilson.

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