

Grad students seek a world of change

BU strike threat fueled not just by pay issues but also by sense of social justice

By Katie Johnston
GLOBE STAFF
and Esha Walia
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

The 3,000 Boston University graduate student workers planning to walk off the job Monday are part

of a nationwide surge of union activity in higher education, as grad students grapple with pandemic-related inequities and looming student debt, amid rising costs and a growing awareness of social injustice.

The student workers, who joined Service Employees International Union Local 509 in late 2022, have spent eight months bargaining for higher pay, better health care coverage, and stronger benefits such as child care assistance. With a first contract still not in sight, they said, their only option is a strike that could potentially disrupt the city's largest university and its 37,500 stu-

dents. And it's about far more than working conditions, as it is for many workers organizing today.

"You've got people who are organizing to change the conditions of a world they've inherited," said David Foley, president of SEIU Local 509. "That includes the insurmountable debt and a climate crisis. You also have workers in their 30s who are

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Gunmen kill 60 at arena in Russia

Witnesses describe scene of terror; ISIS claims attack

By Francesca Ebel and Mary Ilyushina
WASHINGTON POST

Several gunmen opened fire Friday night at Crocus City Hall, a popular concert venue on the outskirts of Moscow, Russian state news agencies reported. At least 60 people were reported killed and more than 100 injured, and the building was on fire in the most deadly terrorist attack in Russia in over a decade.

"People in camouflage, at least three, burst into the ground floor of the Crocus City Hall and opened fire from automatic weapons. There are definitely wounded," state news agency RIA Novosti reported, citing its correspondent at the scene.

The terrorist group ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack, according to its news agency. A US official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive information, said the United States had "no reason to doubt" the claim.

"After that they threw a grenade or an incendiary bomb, which started a fire," RIA Novosti added. "The people in the hall lay down on the floor to escape the shooting, and stayed there for 15-20 minutes, after which they began to crawl out. Many managed to get out."

Videos, which were shared on Russian Telegram channels and verified by The Washington Post, show four men in camouflage entering a

RUSSIA, Page A6

From Maine to around the world

She knew she wanted to sail, and so she did — for 30,000 miles



ALVARO SANCHIS

By Shannon Larson
GLOBE STAFF

As the sun rose, only one mile separated Cole Brauer from the coast of A Coruña in Spain, where a crowd of supporters eagerly awaited her arrival after 130 days alone at sea. The 40-foot yacht First Light sliced through the waves, its blue and red sails emblazoned with "USA 54" billowing against the wind. Victory in sight, Brauer stood at the bow and spread her arms wide, a firework sparkling in each hand. As she neared the finish line, the 29-year-old sailor hollered and cheered, flashing a wide smile.

At 8:23 a.m. on March 7, Brauer made history. Four months after setting sail from A Coruña for the Global Solo Challenge, Brauer became the first American woman to race around the world without stopping or assistance. The youngest skipper and the only female competitor, Brauer finished second out of 16 racers.

"I'm so stoked," Brauer, of Boothbay Harbor, Maine, said in a livestream as she approached the end. She wore a headlamp over her beanie with the words "wild feminist" across the top, and a couple of boats



JAMES TOMLINSON

'They allowed me to flourish in Maine.'

COLE BRAUER

Above, Cole Brauer embraced her dad, David Brauer, after finishing the race in A Coruña, Spain. Left, Brauer neared the finish line as the sun rose.

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trailed her. "I can't believe it. I still feel like I've got another couple months left of this craziness. It's a really weird feeling."

She circumnavigated the globe by way of the three great capes — Good Hope, Leeuwin, and Horn — headlands that extend out into the open sea from South Africa, Australia, and Chile, respectively, and are notorious for presenting a challenge to sailors.

'March is the new January' for N.E. ski resorts

By Billy Baker
GLOBE STAFF

For New England skiing, is spring the new winter?

Following a season that could generously be described as "mixed," ski resorts in Northern New England have seen a week of steady snow and are bracing for a major dumping over the weekend, with forecasts calling for 1 to 2 feet in many areas.

"We're really excited; the mountain is buzzing," said Molly Shaw, brand manager for Saddleback Mountain in Rangeley, Maine. "We've already had about 30 inches in the last week, and we're supposed to get another 18 inches in this

storm, which is shaping up to be a trend for March."

Shaw said last March was the snowiest month in Saddleback's season, and that could be the case again this year.

"March is the new January, and people need to keep that on their radar," she said. "Up here, skiing doesn't end because the calendar says spring."

For New England skiers and the industry that depends on them, it is a welcome turn after a season that got off to a decent start turned disastrous during Christmas vacation — typically one of the busiest times of

SKIERS, Page A10

The House passed a \$1.2 trillion spending bill to fund the government through September, setting off a GOP revolt that threatened Speaker Mike Johnson's hold on his job. **A2.**

Plans to overhaul White Stadium in Franklin Park cleared a legal hurdle as a judge denied an attempt to halt the project. **B1.**

Mayor Michelle Wu's administration announced \$69 million in new funding for affordable housing developments around Boston. **D1.**

A US resolution calling for a cease-fire as part of a deal in the Gaza Strip failed in the UN Security Council. **A4.**

DIAGNOSIS REVEALED

After weeks of speculation regarding her whereabouts, Catherine, the Princess of Wales, asked for "time, space, and privacy" for her family as she deals with a cancer diagnosis and chemotherapy. **A4, B1.**

Streaming service

Saturday: Rain, heavy at times. Flooding possible. High: 50-55. Low: 29-34.

Sunday: Breezy and colder. Mix of sun and clouds. High: 38-43. Low: 29-34.

Sunrise: 6:42 Sunset: 7:00

Comics and Weather, **D4-5.** Deaths, **C10.**



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