Racist violence won’t stop workers’ fight back!

**What you do counts!**

As a result of the sit-in, that there is a new, mutually inspiring bond between activists at Hopkins and the greater Baltimore community. In fact, this has become the third surge in the size and strength of West Wednesday; over the nearly six years since the death of Tyrone West.

The first major upsurge was during the rebellion in Ferguson, responding powerfully to the police murder of Michael Brown. The second major upsurge was during the occupation of Garland Hall, against the police killing of Freddie Gray.

And there will most certainly be intense feelings at the upcoming May 22nd West Wednesday; that will be the day of Tyron’s 50th birthday. The struggle continues!

---

**Violence against the working class**

One of the key issues that has emerged from the Hopkins sit-in is the need for workers, students, and community members to resist and fight against the police violence and harassment that has been directed at those who have been detained.

The meaning of victory

The Hopkins sit-in was a powerful demonstration of the working class’s ability to stand up to the police and demand justice. It was a clear victory for the workers and students who were involved, and it set a precedent for future struggles.

The revolution of the consciousness

The Hopkins sit-in was a significant event in the ongoing struggle against police brutality and racial injustice. It was a demonstration of the working class’s determination to stand up for their rights and fight for a better future.
Cyber wars, a prelude to world war

Google's move to cut off Huawei phones from access to the company's software is a stark reminder to capitalists worldwide and a blunt message to the rising Chinese ruling class: U.S. imperialism will be ruthless in defending its global profits. Google's signing on to U.S. efforts to beat back the projection of Chinese power intensifies the pressure on European and other capitalist rulers to choose sides in the escalating cyberwar between the two superpowers. Neutrality—for countries as well as courses—will be difficult, if not impossible. But workers must choose our own side, the side of the international working class. As World War III gets closer, we must be prepared to turn imperialist war into class war for communist revolution.

High technology: spy vs. spy

U.S. President Donald Trump's assault on Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment manufacturer, is an attempt to block the Chinese bosses from developing their leading edge in national and global high technology, the centerpiece of the country's "Made in China 2025" industrial policy, work hand-in-glove with its Belt and Road initiative to gain political and military power through infrastructure projects and economic thievery around the world. Huawei was born to spread Chinese power globally. It was founded in 1987 by a former officer of the People's Liberation Army (PLOP, org. 12/18/18). Just as AT&T and Verizon are arms of U.S. imperialism, Huawei is an arm of Chinese imperialism.

Currently China is leading the world in building infrastructure for the future 5G wireless network technology. The implications for the U.S. bosses are terrifying. China's first 5G network is already operational. Chinese advances in global high technology, the centerpiece of the country's "Made in China 2025" industrial policy, work hand-in-glove with its Belt and Road initiative to gain political and military power through infrastructure projects and economic thievery around the world. Huawei was born to spread Chinese power globally. It was founded in 1987 by a former officer of the People's Liberation Army (PLOP, org. 12/18/18). Just as AT&T and Verizon are arms of U.S. imperialism, Huawei is an arm of Chinese imperialism.

While an article may be written by one person, the discussion even precedes an individual's writing of the final version. Any "benefits" for workers will take a back seat to the needs of the capitalists' war machine and their move toward full-blow fascism.

Trade wars push patriotism

As the superpowers' trade war intensifies, the U.S. rulers' use of state power to support their "national" or "state" capitalists, who are more efficient in disciplining and unifying their own class—an essential element of fascism. The current impasse between Trump and Congress threatens to paralyze the U.S. government's ability to implement new policy, at least in the short term. In a fast-moving world situation, this is highly unfriendly for U.S. rulers, struggling with Trump's ally-smashing style, and U.S. imperialism may be isolated as it falls from its brief perch atop the profit system's global pecking order.

U.S. workers have come to rely on cheap goods from both China and the U.S. to offset some of the rampant income inequality that concentrates obscene wealth on the top 1 percent of the population. But in recent years, a number of U.S. manufacturers, including critical sectors like aerospace (warplanes) and trucks (tanks), have come to rely on high-quality Chinese steel and electron components. After Trump's "digital silk road." Chinese advances in global high technology, the centerpiece of the country's "Made in China 2025" industrial policy, work hand-in-glove with its Belt and Road initiative to gain political and military power through infrastructure projects and economic thievery around the world. Huawei was born to spread Chinese power globally. It was founded in 1987 by a former officer of the People's Liberation Army (PLOP, org. 12/18/18). Just as AT&T and Verizon are arms of U.S. imperialism, Huawei is an arm of Chinese imperialism.

While an article may be written by one person, the discussion even precedes an individual's writing of the final version. Any "benefits" for workers will take a back seat to the needs of the capitalists' war machine and their move toward full-blow fascism.

Trade wars push patriotism

As the superpowers' trade war intensifies, the U.S. rulers' use of state power to support their "national" or "state" capitalists, who are more efficient in disciplining and unifying their own class—an essential element of fascism. The current impasse between Trump and Congress threatens to paralyze the U.S. government's ability to implement new policy, at least in the short term. In a fast-moving world situation, this is highly unfriendly for U.S. rulers, struggling with Trump's ally-smashing style, and U.S. imperialism may be isolated as it falls from its brief perch atop the profit system's global pecking order.

U.S. workers have come to rely on cheap goods from both China and the U.S. to offset some of the rampant income inequality that concentrates obscene wealth on the top 1 percent of the population. But in recent years, a number of U.S. manufacturers, including critical sectors like aerospace (warplanes) and trucks (tanks), have come to rely on high-quality Chinese steel and electron components. After Trump's "digital silk road." Chinese advances in global high technology, the centerpiece of the country's "Made in China 2025" industrial policy, work hand-in-glove with its Belt and Road initiative to gain political and military power through infrastructure projects and economic thievery around the world. Huawei was born to spread Chinese power globally. It was founded in 1987 by a former officer of the People's Liberation Army (PLOP, org. 12/18/18). Just as AT&T and Verizon are arms of U.S. imperialism, Huawei is an arm of Chinese imperialism.

While an article may be written by one person, the discussion even precedes an individual's writing of the final version. Any "benefits" for workers will take a back seat to the needs of the capitalists' war machine and their move toward full-blow fascism.

Trade wars push patriotism

As the superpowers' trade war intensifies, the U.S. rulers' use of state power to support their "national" or "state" capitalists, who are more efficient in disciplining and unifying their own class—an essential element of fascism. The current impasse between Trump and Congress threatens to paralyze the U.S. government's ability to implement new policy, at least in the short term. In a fast-moving world situation, this is highly unfriendly for U.S. rulers, struggling with Trump's ally-smashing style, and U.S. imperialism may be isolated as it falls from its brief perch atop the profit system's global pecking order.

U.S. workers have come to rely on cheap goods from both China and the U.S. to offset some of the rampant income inequality that concentrates obscene wealth on the top 1 percent of the population. But in recent years, a number of U.S. manufacturers, including critical sectors like aerospace (warplanes) and trucks (tanks), have come to rely on high-quality Chinese steel and electron components. After Trump's "digital silk road." Chinese advances in global high technology, the centerpiece of the country's "Made in China 2025" industrial policy, work hand-in-glove with its Belt and Road initiative to gain political and military power through infrastructure projects and economic thievery around the world. Huawei was born to spread Chinese power globally. It was founded in 1987 by a former officer of the People's Liberation Army (PLOP, org. 12/18/18). Just as AT&T and Verizon are arms of U.S. imperialism, Huawei is an arm of Chinese imperialism.

While an article may be written by one person, the discussion even precedes an individual's writing of the final version. Any "benefits" for workers will take a back seat to the needs of the capitalists' war machine and their move toward full-blow fascism.
NYC Transit
MTA workers on track to build worker-rider unity

NEW YORK, MAY 29—Recently a subway conductor for the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) went on strike while on a bench in his uniform. Meanwhile, toxic silica dust will be released during major repairs of the L Train subway tunnel and will affect both transit workers and riders. To top it off, the MTA bosses just raised the fares.

The billionaire capitalists who run New York City and control the MTA blame the workers for these problems. The MTA’s plan is to try to drive a wedge between transit workers and fellow workers who ride the train. The vast majority of transit workers have resisted their attempts, by not playing into the bosses’ fear mongering. They don’t fear the riding public and are eager to help when ever they can. Similarly most riders do not blame the workers for train delays or unsafe conditions.

Mental health
Actually, the stabbed conductor was closer to the truth: “What’s going on is that there’s a heavy mental health crisis in this country. The stressors caused by racism and exploitation are the main drivers of mental illness. Many workers never receive the care they need, due to the closure of mental health hospitals. “The dis appearance of long-term-care facilities and psychiatric beds has escalated over the past decade, sparking by a trend toward deinstitutionalization of psychiatric patients in the 1950s and 1960s, says Dominic Sisti, director of the Scattergood ...” (NPR 11/30/17)

Silica dust kills workers, as bosses profit
At a recent Transit Workers Union (TWU) meeting it became clear that the bosses and the union have the same “solution” to the silica dust health problem: “Educate” workers about the health risks it poses, while scheduling repairs for no more than one year—about 35. As for the risks to riders, the bosses have no answers and the union says, “We’ll get back to you.” This is how the working class is treated in liberal New York City with a Democratic mayor and governor.

Progressive Action is a group of transit workers organizing against the dangers from silica dust. They also held a march to City Hall to demand that Transit Authorities take action against the assaults on transit workers. Unfortunately, this march has led to demands for more police to “protect” transit workers, which is a dead end. Kkkops will more easily harass Black and Latin transit workers; no MTA badge will change that. This “solution” also send more workers with mental illnesses to prison. “The Treatment Advocacy Center reported American prisons and jails housed an estimated 356,264 individuals with serious mental illnesses in the same year—about 35,000 people” (The Washington Post, 4/30/2015).

Fare hikes
But why? The bosses want to squeeze the work ers some more by raising the fares. Then they can get the media to blame the lack of money for tran sit repairs on fare beaters. There was a big media blitz about how workers don’t pay the fare on the buses and jump the turnstiles to ride the subway. That won’t be a problem under communism as public transportation will run everywhere and it will be free. Here the MTA bosses and the TWU union sellouts have a “disagreement.” The bosses want more cops to go after workers who apply for too much overtime! But the union, and even the Progressive Action group within the union, want more cops to supposedly protect the transit workers. They want the cops to protect the tra nsit workers from other workers. When asked what the union was doing to improve the relationship between MTA workers and riding workers, union reps replied with, “y’all ain’t got to worry about that because no one’s gonna want to fight with a guy who’s wearing a uniform. That’s probably the most callous, and individualistic thing heard from the union misleaders. The union member responded that he cares about the safety of all workers, not just those in his division.

Then the media went after workers who worked “too much” overtime. “The study found MTA workers are putting in so many extra hours ... that the agency spent $418 million on overtime last year (CBS New York, 4/23).” With over 50,000 transit workers, a majority is required to work seven days a week. These workers are not rolling in the dough. There is lots of overtime because the MTA bosses refuse to hire more workers.

All things change
After the union meeting a PLer had a lunchrope of capitalists with him a commuter. At a train stop, they were afraid he would lose his job for criticizing the company. Many felt it wouldn’t change anything raising the issues with the union. They were right about the sell-out union. One worker mentioned how hard it would be just to get the workers to a union meeting, himself included. The PLer’s re sponse was that all things change. The PLer also proposed a flyer to pressure the union and to ad dress mental illness. The workers are in the midst of planning a struggle.

So what do the MTA bosses, politicians, and media lackeys have in store for the working class? More fare hikes and pay cuts in workers salary overtime. Not to mention, exposing workers and riders to toxic silica dust. We need to fight back with a united working class and eventually seize power with a communist revolution for the working class.

Letter: From May Day march to recruitment?
We are a church-based group in Manhattan and five of us chatted about PLP’s May Day March on May 4 in Brooklyn (see page 7). Everyone was excited about the organization of the march, the effectiveness of the sound struck, and the power of the speeches. A first-time marcher was impressed that we avoided police pens and reached out to multiple communities, particularly about fighting racist police terror. Several had questions and disagreements about the slogan, “The Only Solution is Communist Revolution.”

They agreed to continue to discuss this slogan at our study groups. Altogether, the Party has seven young possible recruits over the next six months—still MORE nails in the coffin of capitalism.

Mexico May Day

Continued from page 8
Wealth and political power with a communist revolution for the working class.

We are a church-based group in Manhattan and five of us chatted about PLP’s May Day March on May 4 in Brooklyn (see page 7). Everyone was excited about the organization of the march, the effectiveness of the sound struck, and the power of the speeches. A first-time marcher was impressed that we avoided police pens and reached out to multiple communities, particularly about fighting racist police terror. Several had questions and disagreements about the slogan, “The Only Solution is Communist Revolution.”

They agreed to continue to discuss this slogan at our study groups. Altogether, the Party has seven young possible recruits over the next six months—still MORE nails in the coffin of capitalism.

We are a church-based group in Manhattan and five of us chatted about PLP’s May Day March on May 4 in Brooklyn (see page 7). Everyone was excited about the organization of the march, the effectiveness of the sound struck, and the power of the speeches. A first-time marcher was impressed that we avoided police pens and reached out to multiple communities, particularly about fighting racist police terror. Several had questions and disagreements about the slogan, “The Only Solution is Communist Revolution.”

They agreed to continue to discuss this slogan at our study groups. Altogether, the Party has seven young possible recruits over the next six months—still MORE nails in the coffin of capitalism.

We are a church-based group in Manhattan and five of us chatted about PLP’s May Day March on May 4 in Brooklyn (see page 7). Everyone was excited about the organization of the march, the effectiveness of the sound struck, and the power of the speeches. A first-time marcher was impressed that we avoided police pens and reached out to multiple communities, particularly about fighting racist police terror. Several had questions and disagreements about the slogan, “The Only Solution is Communist Revolution.”

They agreed to continue to discuss this slogan at our study groups. Altogether, the Party has seven young possible recruits over the next six months—still MORE nails in the coffin of capitalism.

We are a church-based group in Manhattan and five of us chatted about PLP’s May Day March on May 4 in Brooklyn (see page 7). Everyone was excited about the organization of the march, the effectiveness of the sound struck, and the power of the speeches. A first-time marcher was impressed that we avoided police pens and reached out to multiple communities, particularly about fighting racist police terror. Several had questions and disagreements about the slogan, “The Only Solution is Communist Revolution.”

They agreed to continue to discuss this slogan at our study groups. Altogether, the Party has seven young possible recruits over the next six months—still MORE nails in the coffin of capitalism.

We are a church-based group in Manhattan and five of us chatted about PLP’s May Day March on May 4 in Brooklyn (see page 7). Everyone was excited about the organization of the march, the effectiveness of the sound struck, and the power of the speeches. A first-time marcher was impressed that we avoided police pens and reached out to multiple communities, particularly about fighting racist police terror. Several had questions and disagreements about the slogan, “The Only Solution is Communist Revolution.”

They agreed to continue to discuss this slogan at our study groups. Altogether, the Party has seven young possible recruits over the next six months—still MORE nails in the coffin of capitalism.

We are a church-based group in Manhattan and five of us chatted about PLP’s May Day March on May 4 in Brooklyn (see page 7). Everyone was excited about the organization of the march, the effectiveness of the sound struck, and the power of the speeches. A first-time marcher was impressed that we avoided police pens and reached out to multiple communities, particularly about fighting racist police terror. Several had questions and disagreements about the slogan, “The Only Solution is Communist Revolution.”

They agreed to continue to discuss this slogan at our study groups. Altogether, the Party has seven young possible recruits over the next six months—still MORE nails in the coffin of capitalism.
Indigenous farmers demand justice, bosses offer repression and death

COLOMBIA—For 27 days 13,000 organized peasants blocked traffic on the Pan-American highway (the region’s biggest roadway). This struggle persists despite the Colombian bosses’ racist terrorism which has killed more than 600 local workers in the last two years. Progressives of the Labor Party (PLP) in Colombia is organizing the only solution to this class struggle: communist revolution.

These peasants organized themselves in indigenous rural collectives and descended from different locales and blocked the road in several points such as Cauca, Narino, and elsewhere. They were protesting and angrily demanding from the racists Ivan Duque and Alvaro Uribe (current and former Colombian presidents) an agrarian reform, resources for hospitals, schools, housing, roads, drinking water, sewage, not spraying their crops with glyphosate and stopping the murder of social leaders and local peasants.

On March 13, the workers blocked nine miles of the Pan-American Highway and the bosses, instead of discussing their just demands, sent the ESMA riot squads, the army and the hordes of paramilitaries that attacked the native population using tear gas and excessive force. The workers defended themselves with their only weapons: clubs and stones.

Never stopped fighting

The bosses’ forces left eight peasants dead, more than 80 injured and 92 disappeared. Despite the state terrorism characteristic in Colombia in recent decades and despite the paramilitary barbarism, which has resulted in thousands of deaths, disappearances and exiles, the workers of the countryside and the city, and students have not stopped fighting. Practically all the peasants and oppressed people are proletarianized. The vast majority have no land or means of production, so they are forced to fight for higher wages and shorter work hours to save their lives.

The previous 1,300 treaties that were agreed upon during the past 30 years were totally or partially broken by different governments. This has left 3.5 million people in this area living in poverty, misery, and exploitation. They are displaced from their lands, which are now dominated by companies, landlord mafiosos, and thieves. These bosses want the lands for mining, cattle raising, and to plant coca, African palm, and, above all, for the production of cocaine.

Historical materialism teaches us to recognize the oppressive and lying nature of the Colombi- an bourgeoisie. We know that they will again fail to control the masses, as they have already rejected an agreement 10 years ago of a similar struggle, and then massacred the peasants.

Thousands of indigenous workers in the public square of Caldono waited in vain to meet Ivan Duque as promised, but that never happened. The corrupt prosecutor Martinez invented the lie that indigenous groups would attack this fascist president.

In PLP we see racism as a class problem. We understand that the capitalists use it to super- exploit and divide the workers (today the indigenous population tends to be more urban than rural in many parts of the world). Racism is a political weapon used by the bourgeoisie to obtain super profits and divide the proletariat and prevent a struggle by a united working class to defeat capitalism.

PLP’s anti-racist and anti-racists politics offers the true answer to the indigenous question from Colombia to Mexico to Peru to Ecuador. Under communism, proletarian internationalism will create a new society where production will be according to the needs of those who produce all wealth, and where any form of racism, sexism, will be fought using workers’ power and the dictator- ship of the proletariat.

Newark: Capitalism behind racist environmental crisis

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, MAY 6 — About 75 people in this working class, mostly Black and Lat- in city, attended a forum whose key purpose was to alert neighborhood residents about the ongo- ing lead contamination of their water. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) alerted residents to the destruc- tive nature of capitalism that destroys our envi- ronment and all aspects of our lives, from working conditions to education to healthcare.

Many of the forum’s organizers were critical of the city administration’s initial failure to address the crisis and their attempts to lie their way out of public criticism. PLP members have consistently pointed out that capitalism’s insatiable demand for profit is the source of racist attacks on the working class such as lead poisoning. Only communism, a society run by the working class, can create a new society where production will be for the needs of all people.

Liberal misleaders

Elducating “progressive” politicians like Newark’s Mayor Ras Baraka to end these racist at- tacks. As one of the forum panelists said: “I tell my students that politicians running for president in 2020 promise they will fix the water system; but ask my students why we, as working class parents, teachers and students, couldn’t run things much better than the politicians and the rulers behind them do.”

The forum opened with a short statement sum- marizing the 20th century history of corporate use of lead products. In the 1920s, the oil, auto, chemi- cal and lead industry bosses competed to promote lead in gasoline. Even before that, the lead indus- try was successfully campaigning to convince city administrations to use lead pipes to transport wa- ter. While raking in billions in profits from the sale of products containing lead, these capitalists were well aware of their lethal toxicity. Years later, cities like Newark were left to deal with the murderous consequences of long-term exposure to lead.

The bosses of Newark’s water of lead. The panelists discussed the centuries old history of the human use of lead, the deadly long term consequences of lead expo- sure, and the current status of the lawsuit.

The environmental attorney pointed out that lead poisoning disproportionately affects cities with large Black and Latin working class popula- tions. As with Flint, Michigan, Newark’s lead test- ing in 2017 and 2018 showed that almost 20 per- cent of measured households had levels at or above the federal action limit, and both cities measured elevated amounts among children (nrdc.org). Just as racist unemployment, police brutality, gentri- fication and skyrocketing rents have plagued for- mer industrial cities like Newark and Flint, so have environmental catastrophes.

Several residents accused the city administra- tion and Mayor Baraka of lying about the safety of Newark’s water. In July of 2017, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection gave the city six months to develop a plan to address the problem of lead leaching into the water system. The city only commissioned a further study, doing nothing to remedy the problem.

In February of 2018, Newark’s own consultant advised the Water Department that preliminary results also showed that corrosion control was ineffective. But, in June of 2018, the Water De- partment Director issued a statement proclaiming that the water was completely safe, accusing the environmental lawyers of “outrageously false” charges. Ras Baraka said the same thing during his 2018 reelection campaign, with mass Robocalls and mailings, claiming the water was safe to drink. The city did nothing until October 2018, after the lawsuit was filed, when the final results of its study showed conclusively that the corrosion control in one of the two city reservoirs was not working.

Workers need clean water and communism

Several media outlets, including the Newark- based Star Ledger, have reported extensively on the lead crisis. All of these outlets have their own motives for exposing and controlling Mayor Bara- ka, including keeping gentrification on track in Newark. Also, the federal judge overseeing the law- suit has already made it clear that she thinks the city’s belated remedial actions absolve it of legal responsibility for the problem. Both the pres- s and the rulers’ courts serve the capitalists and their lackey politicians and have little care for the interests of the workers.

PLP members and friends are actively fighting for clean water. We want the local bosses and de- velopers to pay the entire cost of the lead clean- up and we want workers and students to join us in the revolutionary struggle to overthrow this rac- ist, capitalist system. Then we can end capitalism’s environmental destruction and focus on building communism, a healthy and productive world for the working class.
Workers Salute CHALLENGE
with “The Internationale”

The following story has been reprinted from Wally Linder’s Life of Labor and Love (see all page 6).

In June 1964, the Progressive Labor Movement decided to print an eight-page weekly newspaper; CHALLENGE was born. Our search for a printer led us to an outfit in Trenton, N.J. After laying down a deposit, the printer looked at the first issue and told us that would be the last he’d print.

We called up the Harris offset press manufacturer and asked for a list of newspaper printers to whom it had sold web offset presses. That’s how we found the Sun Publishing Co., located in the Chinese community on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. We showed our first issue to the owner, Mr. Chan, and he agreed to print our newspaper. His wife and kids helped with various tasks. Milt Rosen, PLM chairperson, and I packed the papers into boxes for pick-up.

As it happened, later that month the Harlem rebellion erupted, during which the rebels were holding the front page of CHALLENGE as their flag while marching. This prompted the NYPD Red Squad to visit Mr. Chan and warn him that if he continued to print our paper he would be in for trouble. Chan told them he was within his rights to print any newspaper brought to him. “What about freedom of the press?” he shot back in enthusiastic approval. When the bosses saw the article they went wild. They told us it was all lies and one-sided and challenged us to print their side, “the truth.” We told them that there was only one “truth,” the “workers’ truth,” which made them even crazier. From then on, they scrutinized every issue. Soon afterwards, the owners renovated the bathroom into a halfway decent condition.

When we went to pick up the paper, the workers showed us the horrible condition of what passed for their bathroom and asked us to write about it. Our editor Luis Castro wrote an exposé for the next issue, which the workers read with enthusiastic approval. When the bosses saw the article, they went wild. They told us it was all lies and one-sided and challenged us to print their side, “the truth.” We told them that there was only one “truth,” the “workers’ truth,” which made them even crazier. From then on, they scrutinized every issue. Soon afterwards, the owners renovated the bathroom into a halfway decent condition.

The workers attributed that improvement to the exposés we wrote about the lousy working conditions that profit-hungry bosses were pushing on workers throughout the country. When we went to pick up the paper, the workers showed us the horrible condition of what passed for their bathroom and asked us to write about it. Our editor Luis Castro wrote an exposé for the next issue, which the workers read with enthusiastic approval. When the bosses saw the article, they went wild. They told us it was all lies and one-sided and challenged us to print their side, “the truth.” We told them that there was only one “truth,” the “workers’ truth,” which made them even crazier. From then on, they scrutinized every issue. Soon afterwards, the owners renovated the bathroom into a halfway decent condition.

The workers attributed that improvement to the exposés we wrote about the lousy working conditions that profit-hungry bosses were pushing on workers throughout the country. When we went to pick up the paper, the workers showed us the horrible condition of what passed for their bathroom and asked us to write about it. Our editor Luis Castro wrote an exposé for the next issue, which the workers read with enthusiastic approval. When the bosses saw the article, they went wild. They told us it was all lies and one-sided and challenged us to print their side, “the truth.” We told them that there was only one “truth,” the “workers’ truth,” which made them even crazier. From then on, they scrutinized every issue. Soon afterwards, the owners renovated the bathroom into a halfway decent condition.

The workers attributed that improvement to the exposés we wrote about the lousy working conditions that profit-hungry bosses were pushing on workers throughout the country. When we went to pick up the paper, the workers showed us the horrible condition of what passed for their bathroom and asked us to write about it. Our editor Luis Castro wrote an exposé for the next issue, which the workers read with enthusiastic approval. When the bosses saw the article, they went wild. They told us it was all lies and one-sided and challenged us to print their side, “the truth.” We told them that there was only one “truth,” the “workers’ truth,” which made them even crazier. From then on, they scrutinized every issue. Soon afterwards, the owners renovated the bathroom into a halfway decent condition.

The workers attributed that improvement to the exposés we wrote about the lousy working conditions that profit-hungry bosses were pushing on workers throughout the country. When we went to pick up the paper, the workers showed us the horrible condition of what passed for their bathroom and asked us to write about it. Our editor Luis Castro wrote an exposé for the next issue, which the workers read with enthusiastic approval. When the bosses saw the article, they went wild. They told us it was all lies and one-sided and challenged us to print their side, “the truth.” We told them that there was only one “truth,” the “workers’ truth,” which made them even crazier. From then on, they scrutinized every issue. Soon afterwards, the owners renovated the bathroom into a halfway decent condition.

The workers attributed that improvement to the exposés we wrote about the lousy working conditions that profit-hungry bosses were pushing on workers throughout the country. When we went to pick up the paper, the workers showed us the horrible condition of what passed for their bathroom and asked us to write about it. Our editor Luis Castro wrote an exposé for the next issue, which the workers read with enthusiastic approval. When the bosses saw the article, they went wild. They told us it was all lies and one-sided and challenged us to print their side, “the truth.” We told them that there was only one “truth,” the “workers’ truth,” which made them even crazier. From then on, they scrutinized every issue. Soon afterwards, the owners renovated the bathroom into a halfway decent condition.

The workers attributed that improvement to the exposés we wrote about the lousy working conditions that profit-hungry bosses were pushing on workers throughout the country. When we went to pick up the paper, the workers showed us the horrible condition of what passed for their bathroom and asked us to write about it. Our editor Luis Castro wrote an exposé for the next issue, which the workers read with enthusiastic approval. When the bosses saw the article, they went wild. They told us it was all lies and one-sided and challenged us to print their side, “the truth.” We told them that there was only one “truth,” the “workers’ truth,” which made them even crazier. From then on, they scrutinized every issue. Soon afterwards, the owners renovated the bathroom into a halfway decent condition. The workers attributed that improvement to the article we had written.

When a pre-May Day issue came out, we printed the words of the workers’ anthem, “The Internationale.” When we went to pick up that issue, a pressman suddenly leapt up the two flights of stairs to the top of the huge web press and in a loud, flat voice began singing “The Internationale.” As the strains of the final words, “the international working class shall be the human race,” drifted across the pressroom, the workers spontaneously burst into applause.

We never found out how this worker knew the song’s melody, but news of the performance soon traveled to the far reaches of Brooklyn. We are now in our 55th year of publishing CHALLENGE, and have never missed an issue.

Don’t Undersell it!

Sometimes, we think that Progressive Labor Party’s modest size and modest distribution of our literature limits our influence to a few close friends.

While it is true that PLP needs to grow tremendously to be in a position to take state power away from the ruling class in any area of the world, the mass character of the response to our May Day March in Flatbush, Brooklyn bears out our line on concentrating our forces and bodes well for the future.

For quite a few years now, hundreds of people along the route of the march intensely watch our march, honk in support, put thumbs up, dance to our chants, or otherwise show support for our march. Thousands take CHALLENGE newspaper. This year, near the end of the march, one comrade on the outside of the line of march told me she had seen exactly one negative response from those watching us.

I drove in from New Jersey with a full car. As soon as the closing rally ended, I headed for my car so that I could come back and pick up my passengers. As I was about to reach my car, I noticed two young Black men on bikes riding in the street. They had obviously been observing the march because I distinctly heard one of them say to the other “The big problem with capitalism is that it keeps us all separate.” I marveled at the effect our communist march had on these young men, who probably just happened to be riding near Flatbush Avenue when we marched by.

No doubt the determination and perseverance of our Brooklyn comrades to expand the party and its ideas is being duplicated in other PLP concentrations all over the world. This is an important step on the road to communist revolution and workers’ power.

Workers Salute CHALLENGE
Students organize against youth jail construction

On May 18 in Newark, NJ at West Side High School, over 500 young people, and supporters marched against Governor Phil Murphy’s plan to construct a youth jail only five blocks from that high school.

One hundred CHALLENGE newspapers were distributed to the packed auditorium before we left for the street. We mentioned a high school student wrote the first CHALLENGE article. One issue was left behind as we went a few blocks away to surround the lot where the jail was to be built.

The plans for construction were hidden from the public. A week ago, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice called the demonstration. This protest showed the willingness of youth in general to light a spark to a future communist movement. They take the lead, throwing out these lying politicians.

We linked arms surrounding the fenced-off lot of the proposed site as passing cars honked in solidarity. Two other youth prisons are planned in addition to this one, opening the destructive school to jail pipeline.

It was obvious that the Governor’s office was afraid. One speaker noted we take no notice of the state’s 92% acceptance rate indicating that they would delay the plans. The protest reveals the deception of voting for a liberal politician after years of the conservative policies of former Governor Chris Christie.

*****

Retirees need meds and red leadership

Over the past two years I have been fighting alongside union retirees against the outrageous costs of prescription drugs.

Opinion polls show that 80 percent of adults in the United States support rollbacks in the costs of these drugs.

My retiree group passed some resolutions. However, the misleaders at AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees) have shown little interest in building this fight. Only retirees took action in demonstrating around drug costs at the annual Labor Day parade. They also demonstrated outside the headquarters of drug manufacturer Pfizer.

Progressive Labor Party members criticized union misleaders as agents of the bosses. The fight against high drug prices shows the proof of what we say. The misleaders as agents of the bosses. The need for a larger international.

Let’s get to work.

*****

Pink-tide governments = social welfare with dead end politics

The article entitled “There’s Nothing Socialist about Venezuela” in the May 1 issue of CHALLENGE left a lot to be desired.

The overall emphasis doesn’t explain that social democracy in Venezuela improved the life of the poor by spending on housing, healthcare and education. It was made possible because a combination of armed/violent struggle and electoral politics allowed so-called pink-tide governments under the leadership of social democrats to run the government and spread wealth extracted from the sale of oil and agricultural commodities.

*****

Fight fascism with communist internationalism

The CHALLENGE editorial “China’s Cyber Fascism” (5/1) paints a graphic picture of 21st century fascism. The piece makes clear that China’s cutting edge repression system is the envy of U.S. and other capitalist ruling classes.

China is rapidly becoming the biggest, richest, and strongest imperialist power, an obvious threat to the current top dog empire, the United States. China’s manufacturing sector surpassed the U.S. years ago to become the world’s largest producer of ships, steel, aluminum, textiles, computers—almost everything.

The scale is hard to envision. As Graham Allison noted, “Between 2011 and 2013 China produced and used more cement than the U.S. did in the entire 20th century” (Dеsignаr for Wаr: Cаn Аmericа and Chине Еscаре Thuесday’s Tраgе). China’s GDP measured in purchasing power parity (PPP) surpassed the U.S. in 2014. More important, China has more than four times the population, graduates twice as many from college including four times the number of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) majors, as the U.S.

So we face with two large trends: increasing political control of the Chinese population and increasing scientific production dominance by China. Which will have more impact on the life-and-death struggle between the world’s two largest empires? Both are needed for any country’s capitalist ruling class to overpower a competitor. Mao Zedong said, “Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun.”

For communists, the key is the political understanding of the person holding the gun. That means winning workers and soldiers in both the U.S. and China to an anti-imperialist understanding, eventually turning the guns around and rebelling like U.S. troops did in Vietnam.

For workers of China and the United States, victory or defeat of “our” country must not be the focus. Our focus is taking power away from the murderous capitalist planners that shoot us down in the streets, read our emails, lock us up for fighting back, and, basically, fear us because we outnumber them 100 to 1.

(See article describing fightback and pro-communist political developments in China, 2/20/19 in CHALLENGE.)

Turning inter-imperialist war into class war for workers’ power is absolutely essential, but it will require a lot from us, including becoming much more international.

Let’s get to work.

 *****

A Red memoir: A life of Labor and Love

A memoir from Wally Linder, who helped found the Progressive Labor Party.

For a copy, send $16 for the book (plus $4 for shipping and handling) and your address via PayPal to wallylinder5230@gmail.com

For information about other payment methods, send an email to the above address. Please include your name and address with all orders.
Millions poisoned by toxic water systems

NYT, 5/22 — Water is currency in California, and the low-income farmworkers who pick the Central Valley crops...labor in the region's endless orchards made possible by sophisticated water systems, but at home their faucets spew toxic water tainted by arsenic and fertilizer chemicals.

"Clean water flows toward power and money," said Susana De Anda, a water-rights organizer. Homes, schools and clinics are supposed to be the safest places to go. But not in our world.

Today, more than 300 public water systems in California serve unsafe drinking water...a slow-motion public health crisis that leaves more than one million Californians exposed to unsafe water each year...

...In east Orosi, a farmer-worker community...surrounded by fields of oranges...residents complain of...nitrates exposure in the tap water...which...have linked to an increased risk of infant death, and...an elevated risk of cancer in adults — which...have linked to an increased risk of infant death...

The "Shepherds" job was to keep our contingent...for example one comrade, a young single mother, has suffered continual deprivations from...our Black and Latin members and friends calls oppression.

But equally important is the mutual support we bring in times of pain, sorrow, loss and racist terror.

Eggcited for May Day!

Currently, we are building the campaign to stop the New York Police Department from murdering people undergoing a mental health crisis. We meet twice a month to plan. The morning of May Day, everyone was invited to the church for "Eggcourage for Encouragement." Over breakfast we discussed how to make our participation most effective: Fourteen marchers volunteered to carry large posters, each with the name of a police victim.

Two "Good Shepherds" volunteered to carry a large poster in Spanish, Creole, and English saying...in an NYFD Killing People in Mental Crisis." The "Shepherds" job was to keep our contingent together for maximum visibility by our sisters and brothers along the route.

Three "Evangelists" gave out flyers in three languages inviting participation in this struggle against racist police terror.

Everyone, of course, understood that this was a communist PLP event.

One second-time marcher was so enthused that she sent out the list of our chants widely to others. Her only criticism was that we needed many more posters and banners making all chants fully visible to onlookers.

Celebrate the joy, share the sorrow, fight the good fight

Little of this would've been possible without ongoing organization—week in and week out, among our comrades, and with our friends, new and old. Celebrating the joy of anniversaries, birthdays, new births, and all other important life events cement ties, personal and political.

But equally important is the mutual support we bring in times of pain, sorrow, loss and racist oppression.

Particularly, the horrific suffering endured by our Black and Latin members and friends calls forth both practical and emotional support and exploration of possible new fronts for struggle.

For example one comrade, a young single mother, has suffered continual deprivations from the NYC "Human Resources" Administration. We plan to mobilize for her next fair hearing, and involve her peer-friends in an anti-racist campaign that we hope to spread worldwide.

After this excellent May Day, we are in a stronger position to advance all of this work. As we end every meeting, we continue to shout, "Fight the Good Fight!"
From Mexico to Haiti, Workers celebrate May Day

HAITI, MAY 27—“We have to destroy capitalism to make room for communism.” This was the most memorable sentence at the Progressive Labor Party’s May Day activities. To mark the International Workers’ Day, PLP participated in a number of militant activities in several locations.

Red discussions
One event was organized in a community of agricultural workers and their families where PLP has been active for a long time. A discussion was held under the Mapou tree on May 1 about the history and importance of May Day as a worldwide workers’ celebration of fights against the capitalism. “Today is really not a fête,” said one of our comrades. “It is a moment of reflection about how to organize ourselves noting the difference between May Day as a day of commemoration of struggle and not just the celebration of ‘agriculture and work’ as the Haitian capitalist class would have us believe.”

These ideas were greeted with smiles and applause. The comrades noted that Haitian workers and students have contributed to this world-wide movement in their fight against corruption, unemployment and all the misery that capitalism brings to workers and their families.

Mass mobilizations
In the capital city, Port-au-Prince, several participated in mass mobilizations of thousands of workers and students. They continue to build confidence inside the working class about the necessity to fight back under the communist leadership of the PLP. The current period is favorable to these ideas because there is a real lack of leadership among those engaged in spontaneous mobilizations against the Haitian and international bourgeoisie.

Mass mobilizations
In the capital city, Port-au-Prince, several participated in mass mobilizations of thousands of workers and students. They continue to build confidence inside the working class about the necessity to fight back under the communist leadership of the PLP. The current period is favorable to these ideas because there is a real lack of leadership among those engaged in spontaneous mobilizations against the Haitian and international bourgeoisie.

Mass mobilizations
In the capital city, Port-au-Prince, several participated in mass mobilizations of thousands of workers and students. They continue to build confidence inside the working class about the necessity to fight back under the communist leadership of the PLP. The current period is favorable to these ideas because there is a real lack of leadership among those engaged in spontaneous mobilizations against the Haitian and international bourgeoisie.

Mass mobilizations
In the capital city, Port-au-Prince, several participated in mass mobilizations of thousands of workers and students. They continue to build confidence inside the working class about the necessity to fight back under the communist leadership of the PLP. The current period is favorable to these ideas because there is a real lack of leadership among those engaged in spontaneous mobilizations against the Haitian and international bourgeoisie.

Mass mobilizations
In the capital city, Port-au-Prince, several participated in mass mobilizations of thousands of workers and students. They continue to build confidence inside the working class about the necessity to fight back under the communist leadership of the PLP. The current period is favorable to these ideas because there is a real lack of leadership among those engaged in spontaneous mobilizations against the Haitian and international bourgeoisie.

Mass mobilizations
In the capital city, Port-au-Prince, several participated in mass mobilizations of thousands of workers and students. They continue to build confidence inside the working class about the necessity to fight back under the communist leadership of the PLP. The current period is favorable to these ideas because there is a real lack of leadership among those engaged in spontaneous mobilizations against the Haitian and international bourgeoisie.