CHICAGO, June 15—On a 100-degree afternoon, 100 students, parents, and workers marched through the south side Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago in the fifth annual “We Walk For Her” march organized to bring awareness to the Black and Latin women and girls that have gone missing because of sexist violence. This deadly sexism and racism is part and parcel of a system based on profit and exploitation.

Militant students led the action, from chants to marshaling the march. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members marched with dozens of workers and distributed fliers and CHALLENGE. Workers were receptive to our message of communist revolution and a worker-run society as being the only solution to the countless attacks that the international working class faces daily. Many took the Party’s literature and engaged in deep discussions in the blazing heat.

A system flooded with racist and sexist violence

Chicago has tragically been home to an increasing number of murders of women workers, the majority of them Black. These deaths have spanned from the South to West sides where the most vulnerable Black and brown working-class people live. Chicago’s long history of racist discrimination has facilitated the unsolved and forgotten fate of our working-class sisters.

The capitalist kkkops and kourts, far from protecting women workers, are some of the worst abusers, guilty of terrorizing, incarcerating, and murdering them! Having Lori Lightfoot as the city’s first Black gay woman mayor has done nothing to alter this state-sponsored violence, and no politician ever will. The bosses make billions of dollars in profits from racist and sexist super exploitation, and the role of the state is to manage and ensure that. They are not neutral, nor do they have the interests of the working class at heart.

As capitalism spirals into chaos, it has become a free for all, with violence against workers on the rise, and Black women taking the brunt. In May, a 36-year old Black woman was found chained up in an abandoned building after screaming in order to get the neighbors attention (Block Club Chicago, 5/23). Also in May, a teenager from Chicago was found by hotel workers in a hotel in Tuscaloosa, Alabama after she had been sex-trafficked (WVTM-13, 5/23). In both instances, it was not politicians, the kkkops or capitalists with many institutions at their disposal that found these Black women; it was other workers who stood up and did something.

Black women account for less than 15 percent of the U.S. population but more than one third of all missing women. The racist and sexist foundation of capitalism in the U.S. would have it no other way.

Lessons from Claudia Jones, Black communist woman leader

In 1949, revolutionary Black communist Claudia Jones wrote and published the pamphlet An End To The Neglect Of The Problems Of The Negro.
The government of hope has arrived...We are going to develop communism in Colombia.

—Gustavo Petro, in a presidential victory speech.

The election of misleading Gustavo Petro as president of Colombia is a desperate move by the country's capitalist rulers to pacify millions of angry workers and youth from economic transformation. On the heels of a humiliating Summit of the Americas (see CHALLENGE, June 22), his victory reflects the U.S. bosses' desire to keep workers and students in their political backyard. While an electoral circus makes the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real force that will continue to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the wealthy landowning elite. He promised not to expropriate private property and danced around the issue of appropriate private property and danced around the issue of от the bosses, who gave free rein to murderous paramilitaries and who gave free rein to murderous paramilitaries and brutalized them in their inevitable next crisis.

Petro's "socialism from below" is not socialism. It's not a "social democracy," but a "bourgeois democracy," with the bosses as the "good boss" and "good boss is a dead one!" Workers' anger won't be contained if we don't make the bosses and their stooges pay. Workers' anger won't be contained if we don't make the bosses and their stooges pay.

While the bosses' and their mouthpieces' claims are false, it's true that Latin America has the highest level of economic inequality in the world, and Colombia has one of the highest. While the bosses claim to build a worker-run society, they say the bosses will retain the "right" to property and money while the workers and students are shed in poverty and alienation, racism, nationalization, and individualism.

Despite the bosses' and their mouthpieces' claims, "capitalism is the real force that will continue to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the wealthy landowning elite." Petro was an active member of guerrilla organizations that are the "broaden its coalition and do not foresee disruptive policy proposals" (Financial Times, 6/19). If the election of Gustavo Petro as president in Colombia is a desperate move by the coun-

Colombia:

ELECTORAL FARCE EXPOSES CAPITALIST CRISIS

Colombia has long been the most reliable U.S. ally in Latin America and is now the region's second largest recipient of U.S. arms (visualcapitalist.

Colombia is a crucial ally for U.S. imperialist interests, and it's no surprise that the U.S. has poured billions of dollars into Colombia to help it fight the drug war. But the U.S. isn't the only country interested in Colombia. The nation's constitution was written in 1991 under the military dictatorship of General Juan Manuel Santos, who was in power from 2006 to 2018. Santos' government was notorious for its human rights abuses and its support for paramilitary groups. In 2016, Santos signed a peace agreement with FARC, the largest guerrilla group in Colombia, ending a 52-year conflict. However, the peace agreement was rejected by the Colombian people in a referendum, and the fighting continued.

Colombia's economy is dependent on the drug trade, which brings in billions of dollars in revenue for the government. But the drug trade also fuels violence and corruption, and it has led to the displacement of millions of people. In addition, Colombia is one of the most unequal countries in the world, with a large gap between the rich and poor. The pandemic has only made things worse, with many people facing food and housing shortages.

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Strike against racism, steer toward revolution!

LANDOVER, MARYLAND, June 15—“The bosses can’t profit when the workers unite, shut it down, and shut it tight,” said one organizer. The leadership of Black women workers is key to a socialist revolution. The worker took the paper and we looked over the latest newsletter on negotiations together. Some retired workers eagerly took the paper to discuss the racist Buffalo murders and think about how to get younger transit workers engaged in the struggle. Only a communist world run by workers for the benefit of all can truly free workers from this violent system that routinely sacrifices human life and the environment on the altar of profits. The PLP needs all of these workers to join the broad struggle for a communist world.

Continued from page 1

Leadership of Black women workers is key

‘Walk for her’

There was a well-attended ‘Walk for her’ earlier this year. The leadership of Black women workers is key, and it holds true today when we witness their fearlessness and solidarity. The leadership of Black women workers is key to the strikes in healthcare currently erupting in Zimbabwe and in textile factories in Haiti. Black women workers regularly face the most brutal exploitation and oppression under capitalism, and for this reason are a section of the working class best suited to be leaders in the fight for revolution.

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PLP believes that strikes can be turned into schools for communism, helping to build workers’ class consciousness, to help our class brothers and sisters recognize their true labor power. However, strikes on their own will never be enough to secure workers’ future as reforms are temporary. Workers must free themselves from the treadmill of reform to smash capitalism once and for all. We, the workers, run by workers serving other workers instead of profit-hungry bosses.

Union bosses only exist to negotiate the terms of exploitation for workers. Union bosses have sent strikers back to work with pitiful contracts billed as “victories,” and even “successful” strikes do not go farther than getting larger crumbs for workers. Under capitalism reforms workers mightily fought for are easily stripped away. Moreover, bosses need racism, sexism, unemployment, and imperialism war like living organisms need oxygen. Thus, no sweeping progressive reforms will eliminate these evils because they form the bedrock of the capitalist system.

Put class struggle on the right track towards communism

When one worker described their lack of health insurance and oppressive unscheduled late pick-ups required by management, a comrade responded, “Wow, we really need a revolution; check out our communist newspaper CHALLENGE.”

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The working class in Pakistan is under attack. Inflation is rising out of control. The May inflation rate was officially over 13 percent and unofficially prices on key staples are rising at five to ten times that rate. Capitalism is literally failing the working class, the crisis in Pakistan cannot be fixed, more war and fascism are on the horizon and the only way to prevent this is through a fight for communist revolution. We in Progressive Labor Party (PLP) are trying to give the working class leadership and help them fight back. The Pakistani bosses are at the center and their nuclear arsenal while bleeding international debt. Both the U.S. and Chinese imperialists are working with the bosses to mobilize and control the working class dry. The Pakistani bosses are at the center of personality cults and other backward ideas. The bosses are spreading fascism to curb the working class rising with each other in the name of sectarianism, nationalism, racism and so-called political parties. The working class must unite to critically examine concepts important to the working class, but also train more and more workers to discern fascism from the pro-working-class forces along with the supporters of Khalq Khan’s PTI party and banned Khan’s planned march on the capital (Reuters, 5/24).

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Workers must unite to smash capitalism

The working class is in search of basic food and shelter from severe weather conditions, but pro-capitalist leaders are fighting back, not for the other’s interests. The working class in Pakistan is getting poorer everyday. They are being deprived of basic food and shelter by the bosses for their own interests. The working class as for the middle class, it has for the most part been opportunist and has aligned themself with both the rich capitalist and the working class. As for the middle class, it has for the most part been opportunist and has aligned itself with both the rich capitalist and the working class. The bosses are spreading fascism to curb the working class rising with each other in the name of sectarianism, nationalism, racism and so-called political parties. The working class must unite to critically examine concepts important to the working class, but also train more and more workers to discern fascism from the pro-working-class forces along with the supporters of Khalq Khan’s PTI party and banned Khan’s planned march on the capital (Reuters, 5/24).

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Frank Alexander, a red leader for life

Frank Alexander, pictured right, was a life-long Black communist

This is part eight of a series about Black communists in the Spanish Civil War. In the early 1930s the urban bourgeoisie (capitalists) of Spain, supported by most workers and many peasants, overthrew the violent, repressive monarchy to form a republic. In July 1936 the Spanish army, eventually commanded by Francisco Franco, later the fascist dictator, rebelled to reestablish the repressive monarchy. Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy gave Franco massive military aid.

In 1936 the International Communist Movement, called the Comintern, headquartered in the Soviet Union and led by Joseph Stalin, organized volunteers, mainly workers from more than 60 countries into the International Brigades (IBs) to go to Spain to defend the Republic. Black workers, especially Black communists, emphasized the importance of fighting racism to win anything for the working class. And they brought this antiracist struggle to the United States. They were building a movement they hoped would lead to communist revolution around the world. They succeeded in organizing millions around communist ideas and practices. But the movement believed that uniting with liberal bosses to defend the Republic in Spain would further the fight for communism. This was part of the united front against fascism, which resulted in only fortifying the bosses system and laid the basis for the corruption of the old communist movement.

In the Progressive Labor Party, we are against any unity with capitalists. They all have to go and the working class must rule: that's communism.

If the working class is to seize and hold state power throughout the world, Black workers' leadership is essential. That is the only way our class can destroy racism, the lifeblood of capitalism. The following is a story of one such leader, Frank Alexander.

Frank Alexander was born of a white and indigeneous mother and a Black father on the Omaha Sioux reservation on February 8, 1911. The indigeneous people welcomed mixed marriages, which were illegal in most of the United States. He first moved in with his younger brother, Herschel, who was in the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and lived in the home of the famous communist leader Mother Ella Reeves Bloor.

A proud Black communist

Frank moved to Los Angeles, where he became active with the Communist Party, which he joined in 1931, at the age of 20. He said:

"Put me on the list!"

"I just knew that I wanted to go to Spain when I heard about Spain… Because I told you that I'm the kind of person who wants to fight back, and I thought this was a way of really getting to the source. I thought the American people would learn much faster when America became involved in that struggle, that they would wise up to the problems that were here. So I figured that was the best way to show my support for what I believed in. So when they began to talk about sending guys over there, I said put me on the list.

In May 1938, Frank was assigned to the Washington Battalion. After recovering from a wound to the face, he was reassigned to the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion (Canadian) and appointed squad leader of a machine-gun company.

He was wounded twice during the fighting at Fuentes de Ebro (July – November 1938). Eager to continue fighting the fascists, Alexander "deserted" the hospital where he was recovering to rejoin the XVth Brigade.

During the fighting at Teruel (Dec. 1937-Feb. 1938), Frank and his squad were ordered on a reconnaissances an the enemy's lines but were caught in the open and cut down by long-range machine gun fire. Alexander was the only man to survive the sprint back to friendly lines.

During the retreats that followed the Nationalist's rapid advance in April and March 1938, Alexander found himself behind enemy lines. After several harrowing days, including a night perched in a tree directly above an Italian encampment, Alexander made it back across the Ebro into Republican territory. Alexander was with the Mac-Paps when they crossed the Ebro during the Republican's last offensive in July 1938. However, he was wounded shortly after the offensive began and he spent the remainder of his time in Spain in a hospital. Due to the severity of his wound, Alexander was left behind when the other Americans were withdrawn. He finally crossed the Pyrenees, together with thousands of Spanish refugees and, together with them, was imprisoned by French authorities in a hastily constructed concentration camp around Perpignan where he spent several weeks until a U.S. embassy official arranged his passage to the United States.

In 1939 Alexander married Lillian Perlowe, also a Communist Party (CP) member. Because interracial marriages were illegal in California, she had to register as "Negro." During World War II Alexander served in the segregated U.S. Army with an all-Black Engineer Combat Battalion.

After the war Alexander was a full-time Communist party functionary from 1948 to 1955. He chaired the Negro Commission of the Los Angeles Communist Party and was a member of the California state committee. During the McCarthy period, Alexander endured constant surveillance and harassment. He was indicted as one of the Los Angeles Twenty-One, a group of Communist Party members charged with conspiracy. Alexander was the chief liaison between the CPUSA and the indicted CP members. The charges against Alexander were subsequently dropped but not before he had served a short jail term.

Discouraged and confused like many other communists by class traitor Nikita Khrushchev's attack on the communist leader Joseph Stalin, and then the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956, Alexander and his wife quit the CP. But he continued to support the struggle.

But I'll never be able to leave my philosophy. And I'll never be able to renounce the working class and whatever struggles they have… I still support the movement in every way that I possibly can since the late fifties. I was in every damn picket line about Korea or Vietnam that there was.

Fighters Frank Alexander is a testament to how there was success in sending guys over there, I said put me on the list.

Part 7: Black communists in Spanish Civil War
Fired for being a good teacher

This letter is to support a fellow comrade. A wonderful, bilingual, anti-racist, high school teacher who has just been fired, not for doing his job poorly, but for doing his job extremely well!

The conditions that he teaches in are deplorable, racist and dangerous - made even worse by the COVID-19.

• The school is severely understaffed.

• Since September his rosters have changed due to a revolving door, making consistency difficult, but he worked to continue quality by making home visits to make sure his students were OK.

During the pandemic, this caring communist teacher - a resident of Newark, and an immigrant, ORGANIZED his co-workers to:

• Collect and deliver food to students and their families, helping the school community to be more cohesive.
• Raised thousands of dollars for some families so that they could pay rent.
• Went to the airport to get the siblings of students who had been released from deadly detention centers.
• Regularly worked with a social worker to try to figure out how to help his students.

He also volunteered after school for "the Big Blue Student Academy," which consists of 95 percent Black male youth who have been removed from their classes. This was important for him to find a way to learn from, and to build with these students who legitimately were angry.

• He organized an Amnesty Internationale day of action where students could learn about imperialist war and racist borders, and that it's never OK to kill our working-class brothers and sisters for the bosses.

For these and many other major accomplishments, until the racist administration said this teacher did something they ruled as very dangerous. What was this dangerous thing? He REFUSED to be transferred and be forced to remain outside in freezing temperatures waiting for the guards to show up. This communist teacher has a better understanding of the capitalist system than his classroom so they wouldn't get sick. For this he put a letter in his file, and the district has now "suspended him with up to 5 years on his rap sheet," hold events in the cafeteria that involved the whole student body, and organize student-led meetings that tackle issues such as sexism, homophobia, and transphobia.

The club has helped me to develop deeper relationships with many students and incite students of color to CHALLENGE newspapers. We have also created a club that promotes multi-racial, multi-lingual, and multi-cultural learning.

It can be difficult walking the line between being supportive of students and not encouraging identity politics. However, the fight for unity and struggle with some student leaders over the need for unity have helped to bring our pro-student, pro-working-class politics.

Since there are many activities in June for pride month, it has been particularly busy lately. While there are many LGBTQI+ identities that I have worked with, there is one particular church that the flag represents. My response was "communist and working-class unity." I am looking forward to further discussions with them and bringing students into the conversation.

I continued the conversation with Sam. I am finding many of my coworkers siding with "freedom of speech." For doing his job poorly, but for doing his job extremely well!

continued the conversation with Sam. I told him, "This conversation about gun laws or armed guards is like trying to couch the racist administration that needs racism and sexism, and women and Black, Latin and Asian workers seem to be the ones that are the victims of these shootings. They are in order to protect these images of murder in the media they call it 'free speech.'

I told him there are many examples of counties that have been able to make racism and prostitution illegal successfully and that not making racism legal wasn't a factor that would make it better, for example, the Soviet Union and China." We agreed to continue this conversation later after giving it some thought.

I'm finding many of my coworkers siding with protecting "freedom of speech." This will be my focus in future discussions, on how we can have freedom of speech but not if it hurts the working class.

*****

The solution to capitalist gun violence

U.S. capitalism is the greatest producer and exporter of worldwide, racist terror and violence. It has been responsible for more than 95 percent of its existence, committing genocide and slavery against Native American and African workers. The U.S. has contributed significantly to capitalist imperialism and industrial mass violence. It has produced and exported guns, weapons, troops and drones designed to protect its interests and its Empire of occupations with presently 800 military bases in over 100 countries.

Currently over 100 million refugees fleeing the wars and slaughters from 60 U.S. wars since WWII are being subjected to racist harassment and accusations of terrorism from capitalism and imperialist military. Recent U.S. racist massacres at all Black shopping center in Buffalo, NY and at an all Latin school in Uvalde, Texas just this week are being blamed on the mentally ill but it's capitalism. Workers produced this, respect for the needs of others and the satisfaction of being able to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and the imperialist war.

To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead workers into killing our working class sisters and brothers in the next imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. They support the bosses and represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational military industries like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil and chemical companies like Exon-Mobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the entire media complex. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the leaders of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. They support masses of workers on U.S. financial and military power and operate in the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, the U.S. and Asia. They sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multinational mili tary for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. capitalism. Since their interests are less tied to control of the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to alienate themselves with whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and committed to the open right to racist and reactionary political.  **
Multiracial unity in Tupelo, 1976

Continued from page 8

The United League, a Black reformist group, recently cancelled a march originally scheduled for Okolona (a town not far from Tupelo) today, because its leader Skip Robinson, essentially blackened out of the struggle. More and more people are realizing that the leadership of UL cannot stand up to the rigors of the class struggle.

Workers put themselves on the line

Respect for PLP was growing in Tupelo. Two residents of Tupelo put up their houses as collateral so that their comrade could be bailed out of jail. When the two marchers who had been wounded were treated in the hospital, they were warmly received and treated by white doctors and other hospital workers. After the march stopped to rally, hundreds of Black workers surrounded the marchers to protect them from the cops (who would have been only too glad to be trigger happy).

This was the first time a racist had been beaten by an antiracist march in Tupelo. The leadership of the UL had always guaranteed the safety of the KKK and the cops by holding back the anger and hatred of Black workers in the fight to liberate themselves from the racism they faced every day. The bosses always think that they can destroy a worker's movement by getting its leaders, but little do they know that leaders always spring up in the midst of struggle. There were many, many people in Tupelo, and other cities North and South, and there still are today, who can develop as working-class leaders in the fight against racism and fascism, and they are and are being trained by Progressive Labor Party.

This was readily proven by the response not only of the marchers, in their determination to continue the march, not to be intimidated by the cops' harassment, but also by the tremendous support of the local people. Over 200 copies of InCAR Arrow and CHALLENGE were sold, 4 people joined InCAR on the spot. Another demonstration was planned on the spot.

The main lesson PLP learned in Tupelo, as everywhere, is to be bold. The holder we were, the more seriously people took us and the more willing they were to respond to us. Western underdevelopment system will come down hard when you try to fight it. They are also ready to understand that you only win on the offensive.

The time period is different, but there are still lots of lessons to take away. Let's be bold at our annual summer project in New York and New Jersey this year from July 6–July 13. Contact your local PLP or email desafio.challenge@gmail.com for more info!

Help PLP sustain the fight as we build for communism all over the world. Donate by scanning the QR code or go to www.tinyurl.com/donate2plp Follow us on social media! @PLPchallenge

As imperialists build for world war, junior capitalists hedge their bets

Foreign Affairs, 6/15—Western states locked to an even broader range of countries to isolate Russia diplomatically...These efforts, however, have been less successful...35 countries—representing almost 50 percent of the world population—abstained or voted no on a March 2 resolution to condemn the Russian invasion. Western diplomats were surprised by the number of countries across the global South that refused to condemn Russia and by the sense of frustration they encountered in negotiations; one analyst characterized the Western reaction as "disappointed and a bit confused."

Western policies have consistently locked developing countries across Africa and Latin America out of decisions that directly impact their interests. An early flashpoint was the U.S. and European failings in the African continent; one analyst characterized the Western reaction as "disappointed and a bit confused."

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Tupelo, 1976

Fight racism like a red

Worldwide, the summer months are a time of training for Progressive Labor Party (PLP). As we gear up for a summer of learning, it’s helpful to reflect on past Summer Projects. The following article is a reprint from CHALLENGE in 1979.

This issue, we look at the Tupelo Project of ’79. Lessons include:

★ In the face of the Ku Klux Klan and the racist capitalist government, we must be bold and have confidence in the working class to take the lead of communists.

★ Multiracial unity is our class’s weapon, and the bosses’ greatest fear.

★ To sustain our gains, we must grow the Party and train more Black, Latin, Asian, and white young people in leadership.

Significance of Mississippi

To many who remember the Civil Rights movements of the 1960s, Mississippi symbolizes the most extreme racism, the most brutal murders of Black workers and antiracists, and the stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan.

For Progressive Labor Party, Mississippi signifies a base for revolution among Black and white workers, spreading the ideas of multiracial unity and the fight for communist ideas in the South. To many who remember the Civil Rights movement, Mississippi demonstrated that masses of white workers and students in Tupelo and throughout the South are winnable to antiracism.

The project showed that masses of white workers and students in Tupelo and throughout the South are winnable to antiracism.

The political climate is changing rapidly in the South, and only groups like PLP are prepared to respond to the changes, to give leadership and organize the multiracial, antiracist fightback that is necessary to move workers to the left.

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