

# CHALLENGE



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## Mt. Sinai workers' fightback sickens bosses



Mount Sinai hospital workers in Chicago occupy office of racist CEO

### Marching on the bosses

Today marked the start of new contract negotiations between the Mount Sinai workers, represented by the SEIU healthcare union local, and the bosses. Among our chief demands for a new contract are higher wages, safe staffing, dignity and respect on the job, and employer-paid healthcare. We are also making the demand that all other groups of hospital workers get recognition from the bosses and become part of a wall-to-wall hospital-wide union.

The union first organized us to speak at a rally in front of the hospital, then march inside to deliver a poster board with our collective demands signed by hundreds of Mount Sinai workers to the CEO, Karen Teitelbaum. The entire group of workers crammed into the executive office, only to be informed that she had not yet arrived. (Funny that, workers have spoken up about being disciplined for being just one minute late while the boss can stroll in whenever she wants!)

Thinking the action was drawing to a close, we left the poster board in the office and started making our way out of the hospital. Just then who should we see walking in the hallway but Teitelbaum herself. We wasted no time in confronting her.

A worker shouted, "We want better working conditions!" At this, Teitelbaum showed her true colors, condescendingly raising her finger and insisting that we be silent out of respect for the patients. As if she really cared about the patients over profits! Flustered, she stammered something about "proper time and place" and a "chain of command" before storming off in a huff.

### Not boxed in by bosses or unions

Most of us were pretty shocked by her response, and the union organizers started to usher people back to the entrance of the hospital to start talking to the media. But one nurse wasn't having any of it. She marched directly after Teitelbaum to confront her personally in her office. Like many others, she knew that individual workers who try to go through the "chain of command" are ignored or pacified with little or no action by the hospital administration. It becomes obvious the bosses are there to oppress workers and to keep a lid on

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**CHICAGO, May 22**—Over 30 workers from Mount Sinai Hospital on the city's west side united this morning to boldly challenge their racist and sexist bosses. What began as a mild speak-out organized by the union around contract negotiations, evolved into a much more militant action, as workers courageously decided to sharpen this reform struggle.

Communist workers in the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) are in this fight to improve working conditions and help build for an egalitarian society without racism or sexism. We envision a bright

future when we smash the capitalist profit motive, and replace it with communism, a society that fulfills the needs of our working class brothers and sisters.

Black, Latin, and white workers, young and old, male and female were all present in an inspiring display of multi-racial unity. Many different job classes were represented, from dietary workers to nurses, from housekeepers to respiratory therapists, as we sharpened our understanding of our common interests against the bosses' exploitation.

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## OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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## WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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## Editorial

# EU splinters, liberal fascism still main danger

The European Union's parliamentary elections revealed the fraying alliance between the U.S. and the European Union (EU), as well as the weakening of U.S. imperialism and its liberal world order. The voting also exposed the growth of openly fascist movements and the widening ruling-class splits within the most important countries in the EU. Finally, it underlined the urgent agenda for the main-wing, finance capitalist bosses as they move toward the next global military conflict.

The instability and splintering within longtime U.S. allies like Germany, France, and Britain, alongside the sharpening rivalry between the U.S. and rising imperialists in China and Russia, points squarely to an eventual world war. That's the only way imperialists can solve their contradictions, even if only temporarily. At the same time, this volatile period offers a strong opportunity for Progressive Labor Party to organize and turn the guns around for communist revolution.

The old-guard European leadership includes the French banker president, Emmanuel Macron; Germany's lame-duck chancellor, Angela Merkel; and Britain's imploding Conservative/Labour establishment. They want to continue to ally with the U.S. main-wing bosses, represented by liberal Democrats like Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, and Elizabeth Warren.

### EU split

These Big Fascists, whose multinational alliances (like the EU and NATO) protect their long-term imperialist profits, are the ones who continue to hold lethal state power in both the U.S. and most of Europe. They're still the main threat to the international working class. If anything, the far right's recent surge enhances the liberal bosses' ability to mislead workers into backing “the lesser of two evils.”

At the moment, however, the Big Fascists are under siege from more domestically-oriented bosses. These Little Fascists are crudely racist nationalists who share an isolationist, short-term, profit-taking outlook. They don't want to be taxed for the next big war because their investments are less directly tied to imperialism. As finance capital finds its core interests threatened, the main-wing bosses will necessarily resort to fascism to unite and discipline their own ranks. Then they will intensify their attacks on the working class in preparation for World War III.

The growing split between these two camps can be seen in the EU parliamentary election results in the following countries:

- Germany: The ruling main-wing coalition parties, the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, both took major hits. The Little Fascist Alternative for Germany made gains in eastern Germany, while the outsider liberal Greens grew among young, urban voters, mainly in the west.
- Italy: The openly fascist, anti-immigrant League swept the field and won more than a third of the vote, expanding from its base in the north and more than doubling its support in just one year.
- France: Marine Le Pen's National Rally won big on an anti-immigrant platform, mainly in rural areas, defeating Macron's En Marche! party, which remained strong in cities.
- Britain: Nigel Farage's anti-EU Brexit Party, formed just six weeks earlier, won an easy victory. The Conservative and Labour Parties, which together represent London-based finance capital, combined for just 23 percent of the vote.

In general, the centrist coalition that has run the European Parliament for decades lost its majority of seats, declining from 54 percent to 43 percent (npr.org, 5/27).

### Weakening EU vacillates between imperialist rivals

The European Union, made up of 28 European

countries, or 27 if and when Britain leaves, was created in 1993 to counter the almighty rule of U.S. imperialism in the post-Soviet era. The EU is essentially a borderless union to increase the bosses' profits through a free flow of goods and labor. On one level, the Union has worked well for the blood-sucking bosses.

*The EU's trade structure has propelled it to become the world's second-largest economy after China. It produced \$19.9 trillion....China produced \$23.1 trillion and the U.S. was third, producing \$19.4 trillion (The Balance, 2/27).*

As the EU rulers attempt to cope with both their struggling economies and waning political influence, some are turning toward China and Russia—and away from a weakening U.S.—for trade, alliances, and security. A number of countries are actively hedging their bets. In fact, the escalating trade war between the U.S. and China appears to be pushing much of the EU toward the China camp. France and Germany have publicly resisted U.S. President Donald Trump's threat campaign to ban the Chinese telecom giant Huawei, though two British carriers “said they would not offer Huawei phones to customers who wanted access to their new 5G services” (New York Times, 5/24).

Meanwhile, Europe's open fascists seem to be pivoting toward Russia. In a recent scandal in Austria, the deputy prime minister and leader of the far-right Freedom Party was forced to resign after a video showed him offering government contracts to a reported Russian oligarch's niece (CNBC 5/22).

### The main danger

Millions of workers in Europe are rightly skeptical about the EU, a capitalist creation that has created widespread unemployment and gross inequality. But because of the decline of class consciousness since the reversal of the communist revolutions in China and Russia, many of these workers are falling for the old divide-and-conquer trick of racism. “...In some countries, such as Poland and Germany, extremist parties have risen in popularity despite decent rates of G.D.P. growth. Migration, racism, demagoguery, and the development of social media have all played significant roles” (New Yorker, 5/30).

Despite the alarming rise of a new generation of open Nazis, the liberal Big Fascists remain the main danger to our class. These main-wing finance capitalists are committed to maintaining U.S. control over the Middle East and its cheaply extracted oil and natural gas. They are pulling out the stops to build a patriotic, multiracial mass movement to convince workers to fight and die in the next world war. They're creating reformist anti-revolutionary mass movements like Black Lives Matter or the various European Green parties to channel working class anger into electoral politics and an agenda for war and fascism.

When workers lack class consciousness and a communist understanding of the world, they see reforming capitalism as their only option for a better life. They side with one camp of bosses or another. But relying on any bosses' side is a lose-lose strategy for our class. Neither the Big Fascists nor the Little Fascists can make capitalism work for workers. They can bring us only exploitation, oppression, and a living hell on earth.

### Fight for communism!

The rulers' deepening instability means increased racism, sexism, nationalism, and attacks on the working class. But as we immerse ourselves in the rulers' mass movements, injecting communist politics, exposing the bosses' hypocrisy and fighting off their attacks, we will build confidence in the working class. This is a necessary step toward building an international communist movement and transforming the bosses' wars into communist revolution. Only then will our class be able to seize state power and lead society for the benefit of billions, not the profits of a few billionaires. Join us!👊

## Haiti:

# Small victories and revolution grow out of fightback

**HAITI**—These are bad days for the bosses and their lackey politicians. There is hardly any growth in the capitalist economy. But it's even worse for workers—double-digit inflation, currently at 15% (worldbank.org). The value of the Haitian gourde is falling at breakneck speed (currently 95 hgd (Haitian gourdes) to \$1 U.S., while just last year it was 66 :1), meaning the cost of living really went up about 50 percent. And with an unemployment rate of 70 percent (haitipartners.org), life is an agonizing struggle. The masses are angry!

Tens of thousands took to the streets throughout Haiti on June 9 to demand the ouster of Pres. Moïse Jovenel, just found guilty of allowing the theft of PetroCaribe funds (profits from the sale of subsidized Venezuelan oil). As our comrades here pointed out, amid the police bullets and teargas, the whole damn system is putrid and cannot be fixed just by putting another actor in the same role. The whole play has to be rewritten—communism—with the working class and its communist party in charge.

### Capitalism feeds Haitian workers misery

The world produces enough food to feed twice the number of inhabitants on the planet (Jean Ziegler, *La faim dans le monde expliquée à mon fils*, 2011). Yet food insecurity (a socio-economic term, indicating hunger and starvation) threatens 2.6 billion working class people here (out of a population of 11 billion), and 386,000 in phase 4 starvation, according to the last report of the CNSA (National Council for Food Insecurity, cnsa509.org). Each working class person—here or anywhere in the world—who dies of starvation is actually murdered, and the capitalist system is the assassin.

Six million Haitians live below the poverty line

with a daily income of \$2.41 U.S. ; 2.5 million live in “extreme poverty,” with \$1.23 U.S. per person (worldbank.org). Although tuition is “free” in public universities in Haiti, the rulers line their pockets by increasing the “fees.” In Public University of the South, the university fees were 4,000 hgd in 2015; between 2016 and 2018 they were raised to 10,000 hgd. This year, the school administrators demanded another 25 percent. Most students in public universities are children of the working class, who clearly don't have the economic ability to pay these outrageous fees and fee hikes. University bosses know this, but cast a blind eye to the difficulties of their students and their parents. They are only concerned with digging an even deeper ditch of social inequality. Yet things didn't go as expected.

### PLP a party for the international working class

A member of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is studying at this university. While most students were complaining about fees, she gathered friends to demand no fee hike. They wrote a letter to the university dean and demanded a meeting to discuss the issue. Never having experienced a militant and unbending student delegation protesting a university decision before, the dean was speechless. He feared the birth of a radical movement on this campus, following the tradition of militant communist student movements throughout the region. The dean rescinded the fee hikes, for the moment!

But the struggle is clearly not over. Our PLP comrade made it clear to her classmates that raising fees in one public university where there is already hardly enough funding and resources for those who want to attend, let alone enough students who have the economic means to attend, is

just another attempt to block access of the working class to education in general. They agreed that this was a class question and would have to be fought by the working class as a class. And that this was a small victory that might be taken away at any moment, and that they must keep up the fight. Our comrade was initially disappointed that many more students did not join the struggle, out of fear of repercussions or inexperience in struggle. However, she learned the important lesson of working with the most advanced and class-conscious students around her, building their confidence in organizing struggle, with the outlook of having them bring along others as the struggle grows.

Our Party is a party of the working class; we are involved in class struggle, big and small. We point out every attack against our class in order to fight for and win the liberation of our class from the yoke of capitalist exploitation and misery. Our young student comrade has only recently joined the Party. Yet with the support of the Party, she is learning to arm herself with the ideas Marxism-Leninism and to bring these ideas to the class struggle on her campus, and beyond. Her plan is to organize a PLP study group with some of her friends in struggle, to develop both her and their revolutionary leadership.

While millions of workers and their families in this part of the world currently known as Haiti can't find enough to feed themselves, and many more are under constant exploitation, engaging in anti-capitalist and pro-communist class struggle is more important than ever. For a small few, it's a good life, but at our expense! The only way out of this trap is to make the commitment to fight the system and smash it completely. The only solution is communist revolution, under the leadership of the PLP. ☺

## Letter

### Anti-abortion fight plays into hands of Democrats

Voting for liberals will not protect women's reproductive rights. This fact was not the atmosphere of the May 21 rally that Planned Parenthood of NYC hosted against the anti-abortion laws. It was the kind of rally the bosses wanted. It was a collection of middle-class white women who believe that the next presidential elections will put an end to the Trump trend. There also were a few white middle class men there. Routine.

Six states passed a six-week abortion ban, including Georgia, Ohio, Mississippi, Kentucky, Iowa, and North Dakota. Most women don't even realize they're pregnant at that time. This includes cases of rape, incest, and human trafficking. Alabama governor Kay Ivey signed a near-full ban on the procedure, the harshest anti-abortion measure in the country (The Cut, 5/21).

The issue of reproductive rights is an attack by the bosses. It's the same bosses who let police kill Black and brown youth—including young women like Shantel Davis, Kyam Livingston and more. It's the same bosses who pay white males more than any other

group and pay Black women the least. These workers must take a multiracial stand on all these issues. Working-class women are affected the most. Working-class men need to show up. Once we see the connection, the workers cannot be defeated.

Anything you believe is a feminist issue, we see as a communist issue. The workers cannot win if we are divided. That was our stance as we distributed CHALLENGE. This led to a fairly cool response from the crowd but we stuck to our position.

The workers who unite will be victorious when it comes to reproductive healthcare issues. The answer to the sexism women face is communism. We don't simply mean that communism is good for women; we mean that women should be leading the fight for communism. It's the only way sexism, police terror, or any other fascist attacks the workers face will be beaten back. ☺

## Mt. Sinai workers' fightback sickens bosses

### Continued from page 1

any fightback. The nurse was fully ready to confront Teitelbaum by herself, but a PLP comrade quickly organized the majority of workers in the hallway to go back into the executive office to support the nurse's bold move. More than 20 of us found ourselves back in the office, demanding to address our complaints then and there, not waiting for the official start of the bargaining meetings. This was workers learning how to organize ourselves to fight back. This was a taste of workers' power. This was a glimpse of a communist future when workers run all of society.

Our class enemies, were clearly shaken by our initiative. They agreed to an impromptu meeting in which workers took turns blasting them for the racist and sexist working conditions. They pretended to be concerned and made notes about our grievances. It was satisfying to see them squirm as the workers briefly got the jump on them.

It was also satisfying to see workers move past the boundaries of the union's passive action and turn it into something more militant. The unions have a lot of resources and talk a big game, but

at the end of the day, their role is to put caps on the workers' movement and keep the racist and sexist capitalist system intact. Only by fighting for true workers' power – communism – by building a mass PLP can we ever expect to overcome the deadly attacks of capitalism and create a society that serves our needs.

### Workers deserve communism

The working class is capable and deserving of more than what any union or boss can offer them. It's up to those of us in PLP involved in this campaign to broaden the scope of this anti-sexist, anti-racist struggle and win more comrades and friends to the only real fight for workers' liberation: communist revolution. More on this fight to come! ☺



# NJ study group combats bosses racist ideology

**NEWARK, NJ, JUNE 9**—The New Jersey chapters of the Progressive Labor Party met today with both members and friends to discuss the history of residential zoning and how it leads to racism and anti-working class ideology here in Newark and throughout the U.S. and in many other parts of the world.

According to U.S. Census Bureau 2019 data, 87.9 percent of the housing units were occupied and 12.1 percent were vacant; 56.5 percent were owner-occupied and 31.4 percent were renter-occupied.

While home-ownership is being promoted by ruling classes as the most desirable form of housing, the fact is that renting is on the rise in the U.S., Europe and Asia because workers are unable to afford to buy their own homes. Yet we, as communists, know that the ruling classes of the world control all property, whether rented or “owned” by the working class.

These facts led us to discuss how gentrification connects to a racist, classist and anti-communist history. To start this discussion, we based our study around Robert Rothstein’s *The Color of Law* (how the U.S. government forced racial segregation in public housing), and a 2006 study titled “Who Can Afford to Live Where” by the U.S.



Census Bureau. As we delved further, we used our collective memory and experiences to discuss redlining in Chicago, the Newark Rebellion in the 60s, poor living conditions for workers in China, undocumented workers’ living conditions at the Texas-Mexican border, and a reverse migration in the current period of Black workers from North to South to find significantly lower housing costs. We also connected the conversation to similar patterns of pitting the working class against each other by the ruling class in Germany, as described by Frederick Engels.

However, it is possible for us to share information with fellow tenants in apartment buildings, to form our own associations with fellow homeowners on our blocks, press officials in town hall meetings as they form new zoning laws and fight back against foreclosures and predatory loan sharks in our neighborhoods. By the end of the meeting, PLers and friends had offered insight into their experiences as bartenders, residents, teachers and parents and how it relates to the ruling class’ plans of division through zoned segregation, job hiring and public versus charter school education, and a host of other ideas. Many of the participants expressed eagerness to continue this study group. ☸

## Letter

# Police slaughter yet another black worker



On May 13, on Chicago’s West Side police shot and killed yet another Black man, 26-year-old Sharell Brown. A Progressive Labor Party member was informed soon after the deadly shooting by one of their hospital co-workers. They quickly relayed this to fellow Party members who went door-to-door in an effort to get more information about the killing. It was reported on the Internet that Sharell was shot multiple times in confrontations with two cops, who—of course—claimed he was shooting at them. PLers went to neighborhood people to give PL’s perspective on the need to organize in order to advance the fight against these racist murders. They brought CHALLENGE with them too to help bring home that racism pervades the whole country and is the life-blood of U.S. capitalism. Capitalism needs and breeds racist hatred and racist murder, and if there’s going to be an end to racist murders it means

building and winning the revolutionary fight for communism. It’s the only way.

Just like police killings all over the U.S., this police murder came as no surprise to the West Side. Police murders here are not rare. Last summer, another young Black man, 15-year-old Steven Rosenthal was killed by a cop who claimed that Steven committed suicide at the back door of his grandmother’s house after being chased on foot by the cops. PLP joined Steven’s family and friends in many marches to protest this fake account, which was supported by the Chicago Police Department.

The lives of Black folk in poor neighborhoods like the West Side are cheap to capitalist bosses. They not only don’t care but have to harass, pin crimes on, jail and terrorize working people, especially Black workers, to keep them down. The police are an essential

part of the whole machine that oppresses working people and then blames them for the problems we face. Those who run the U.S. look like they’re above it all, because the cops do their dirty work.

PLers distributed CHALLENGES and made contacts in an effort to develop a bigger base to keep the fight going. We’re clear that we need to get the word out to our co-workers and neighbors. One way was to have our May Day March and Dinner this year in the community itself. As we marched, many said that we all need to get better organized. It’s said that the bosses create their own gravediggers, but it’s not enough to be a gravedigger. You have to take the life out of capitalism first to have something to put in the grave. We’ll be continuing to protest this latest killing and to organize for the struggles to come. ☸

## Tupelo Summer of '79

# Fight racism like a red!

Continued from page 8

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. The United League, a Black reformist group, recently cancelled a march scheduled for Okolona (a town not far from Tupelo) today, because its leader Skip Robinson, essentially chickened 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 is growing here. Two residents of Tupelo put up their houses as collateral so that Floyd Banks 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 is the first time a racist has been beaten by an antiracist march in Tupelo. The leadership of the UL 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 face every day. The bosses think that they can destroy this movement by getting its leaders, but little do they know that leaders always spring up in the midst of struggle, and that there are many, many people right here in Tupelo, and other cities North and South, who can develop working-class leaders in the fight against racism and fascism, and they 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 is being organized for August 4. ☸

# Honduras in crisis; smash all borders



The political and social situation in Honduras continues to deteriorate even further. The corrupt, repressive and renderer, Honduran president, who allows the US government to maintain a military base in its territory, threatened to privatize the

health and education sector. Workers in these sectors went on strike and with the solidarity of other workers, took the streets to protest massively, with militant marches that were violently repressed by the police, who used tear gas, bullets, and beat-

ings on the protesters. Many were arrested, but the press controlled by the empire and the worried Donald Trump did not condemn these acts of brutality as they do when demonstrations against the government are repressed in Venezuela or in Nicaragua.

In the meantime, caravans of migrants from El Salvador and all of Central America continue to flee from poverty, hunger, marginalization, repression, racism, fascism, corruption, and extreme poverty.

Once again it is demonstrated that communism as the future system, for the working class in power and the Progressive Labor Party as the vanguard, is the only solution to the needs of the entire working class and society.

This is why we must work with much passion and dedication to make of our Party a strong, massive party only this way can we accelerate the fall of capitalism, which in its years of existence has not been able to resolve the growing needs of the international working class and once and for all, give the final thrust to defeat the imperialism led by the United States, Russia and China, who maintain a fierce competition for control of worldwide power.✪

## Book review: Anticomunist book misrepresents Marxism

The Progressive Labor Party fights for communism, working class power, based on a scientific study of society and the world dating back to the first scientific communist, Karl Marx. Communist ideas are sometimes called “Marxist” ideas, as a credit to Marx for lifting the fog of antiscientific ideas and helping forge for the international working class a guide to struggle and revolution.

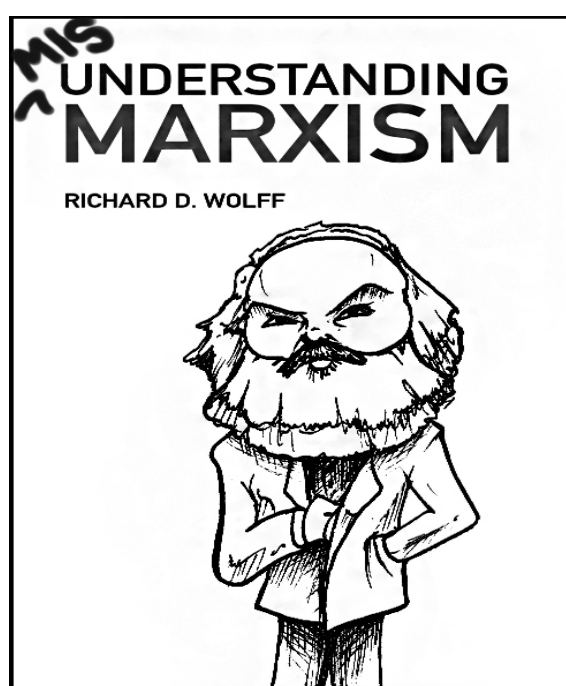
And since Marx’s time, a continuous circus of fake revolutionary intellectuals and academics has strived to “update” or “rethink” the communist ideas by removing their revolutionary content and mislead workers interested in these ideas. One of the latest in this line is an economics professor famous in the capitalists’ universities from CUNY to Paris: R. D. Wolff.

His latest book, *Understanding Marxism*, states that our current profit-based system of capitalism can be overcome by economic reforms and voting. Wolff, like many fake leftist wolves in sheeps’ clothing, is a Marxist in name and appearance, but in essence spreads more of the same anti-communism we hear in the capitalist-owned media.

### Lifting the fog, again

The essence of communism can be found in Marx’s statement, “The proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains. They have a world to win. Workers of all countries UNITE”. Marx believed that the working class needed a communist system, and that revolutionary class struggle was the way to get it. In appearance the book is a very logical, simplified reading of Marx for many people having difficulties negotiating his three large volumes of *Capital*, or trying to understand his writings on capitalist crises. Wolff argues that workers think they are emancipated as “free labor”. In reality, they are still exploited to extract surplus value, which is used in turn to enslave them.

The author also describes wars as social dis-



rival imperialists, and conquer new markets, resources, and workers.

The author presents Marx as a talented economist unaware or unconcerned about a world of colonialism and imperialism. The author also says that it appears that Marx spoke and wrote very little about the future beyond capitalism, and never suggested that the state or government had any role to play in a post-capitalist world. On the contrary.

### Communists were and are internationalists

Marx’s lifelong involvement in organizing labor and revolutionary movements worldwide and his correspondence with thousands of activists made him the main enemy of capitalists who

chased him from country to country, but could never divert him from organizing for a system based on equality, distribution according to need and an end to money, privilege and the profit system.

Winston Churchill, British imperialist, aware of Marx’s *Communist Manifesto* that began with the words, “A spectre is haunting Europe” and aware that a communist-led working class posed a threat to capitalism, organized fourteen armies including the U.S. to invade Russia to put down the 1917 workers’ revolution to “strangle [communist] baby in the cradle”.

### The only solution..

As the solution to achieve an ideal society and end exploitation, the author suggests cooperative (anarchistic profit oriented) organizations to make decisions on fundamental change in how production gets done.

These decisions, “must be made democratically on the basis of one person-one vote by productive and non-productive workers” (p. 69) the latter who are described in Chapter Five as managers, security officers, lawyers, funded politicians, shareholders, debtors and tax collectors. But the voting idea is later contradicted by the author himself as a, “gaudy spectacle of billionaires competing to buy votes” (p.71)!

### ...is communist revolution!

The essence of production is not how it gets done but why it gets done. The fruits of production belong equally to the international working class and only an international revolutionary communist party - the Progressive Labor Party - dedicated to that goal can achieve it.

Reforms and voting is the message the workers get from both liberal and socialist movements who have made their accommodations to the profit system. Workers survival depends on destroying it with communist revolution!✪

# LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

What's THE POINT  
OF HAVING A  
VOICE  
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE  
SILENT  
— WHEN YOU —  
SHOULDN'T BE?  
ANGIE THOMAS

## Red youth talk dialectics and racism

I'm a 6th grader in a middle school in Brooklyn, N.Y. who meets with a study group to learn about communism. You may think that I am too young to learn about this topic but I'm your next generation. Our latest discussion was about a movie called *The Hate You Give* (It's also a book by Angie Thomas). This movie showed how bad racist police brutality is. Starr lives in two worlds, the poor Black neighborhood where she is from and an all white high school. She witnesses her friend being shot to death by a cop. Over the course of the movie, she overcomes her fear of speaking up. By the end, when the cop is let off, she helps lead a march in protest. This tells us that when it is your time to shine you should speak up.

After the movie, we talked about sameness and difference. For instance, was Haley (a white friend of Starr's who had racist ideas) more like Starr (the one fighting against the death of Khalil) or the white cop (the one that killed Khalil)? We decided she was more like Starr because, although she had racist ideas, she could change because she is so young. There was another debate over whether the Black cops in the movie were more like the protesters from the area or more like white cops? Starr talks to her uncle, a cop, who admits that he would treat a white man in a suit differently than a young Black man. Our conclusion was that the Black cops were more like the white cops, because racism is too much of a part of policing in this country.

This study group also taught me about essence and appearance. For instance, in this movie, you might see a cop that is defending himself, but really he is still part of a racist system. We are learning to scientifically analyze the world. We will continue to meet on Mondays.

★★★★★

## Criticism: Revolution over reformism

The front-page article on the Johns Hopkins University sit-in (CHALLENGE, June 12) gave appropriate credit to a sustained, militant, anti-racist struggle. But the story was also a missed opportunity. It focused on tactics and reform demands to the virtual exclusion of any communist analysis. It failed to ask basic questions: Where do racism and sexism come from? (Short answer: Capitalism.) What's the connection between the brutality of racist cops and the ruling-class ideas taught by elite schools like Johns

Hopkins? And perhaps most important: How is this courageous reform struggle being used to build Progressive Labor Party and a revolutionary communist future? What are we really fighting for?

The article's reformism was reflected in its one-sided reference to the anti-Vietnam War movement. It's true that initial opposition to the war was rooted in anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist politics, thanks in large part to the influence of PL within the May 2 Movement and SDS. But it's also true that as the anti-war movement grew, it got hijacked by the bosses' Democratic Party hucksters and shills. It became submerged in pro-capitalist electoral politics, notably in the presidential campaigns of Eugene McCarthy in 1968 and George McGovern in 1972. It lost its anti-capitalist character. By the mid-1970s, after U.S. imperialism was defeated by brave and committed Vietnamese communists plus widespread rebellion within the U.S. military, the mass movement died. Though we didn't recognize it at the time, the international working class had entered a Dark Night—the continuing (though temporary) eclipse of class struggle by nationalism, reformism, fake-left revisionism, and open fascism.

For fifty years, PL has waged a principled fight against the historical dangers of reformism, the cynical force that reversed the communist revolutions in the Soviet Union and China. In 1970, *Road to Revolution III* called out “right opportunism” as a betrayal of communist ideas and practice. Years later, “Dark Night Shall Have Its End” may have said it best: “While we must fight for reforms to participate in the class struggle and win workers to communist ideas, reformism is a deadly ideology. It makes reforms the end rather than a means to build the revolutionary movement.... Although PLP may remain small for some time, we must continue to sharpen the internal struggle against reformism/revisionism. Without this struggle, we can never hope to overcome the errors of the past.”

In this period of rising fascism and looming inter-imperialist war, as tens of millions of honest workers are misled into embracing a liberal or “socialist” Democratic Party alternative to the openly racist Donald Trump, defeating reformism has never been more urgent.

From the outside, it is difficult to gauge how the dialectic of reform and revolution is playing out at Johns Hopkins or any other reform battle. But this much is certain: Militancy alone is not enough. Politics are primary. And CHALLENGE needs to do a more consistent job of injecting PL's communist analysis into each and every article on the class struggle.

★★★★★

## Solidarity with migrant workers

Day after day and week after week, Maryland volunteers go to the local bus station with the intention of giving Latino migrants and their families care packages and information. We start conversations about our purpose with the mainly Black station employees and other people waiting on buses who receive us warmly. Our goal is to help migrants feel welcome and give them information that will help them feel ‘safe’. The migrants arrive having traveled for two to four days without money and often without food. Though clearly exhausted, their joy at the reception we give them is palpable—lots of hugging and “thank you/gracias.” The recent arrivals thank their family members and sponsors who in turn thank the volunteers. And the bus employees—they go the extra mile to make sure connections are made. The daily moments of JOY, community, and international worker-to-worker solidarity mean a great deal to all of us in this crappy exploitative, oppressive capitalist world. We were thrilled when one of the migrants, after getting settled in, joined us as a fellow greeter at the bus station!

At the same time, the migrants' fears, frustrations, and yes, anger at the vicious treatment they experience from the fascist system are just below the surface. Sometimes we find out at the bus station and other times, we learn about their situation when they call us later for help. For example: “My brother is in detention. He has a colostomy bag because he was shot in the stomach. He's only twenty-seven. He doesn't have any children so I'm not sure how he will get out. If he goes back home,

they'll kill him. But I don't know the names of the detention people. None of the officials ever give their real names.”

“I have no idea what that paper [document] says. Nobody asked me anything. I didn't refuse to sign anything. The border patrol agents told me and my kids that we were disgusting pigs and that we were the cause of all the troubles in the United States. My five-year old son was coughing the whole time and they didn't help us.”

“My child will be fine [the child is clearly disturbed] . . . If I ask for too much help at school, I'm afraid they're gonna deport us.” Scores of volunteers drive migrants to their ICE check-ins, where they face even more frustration. Paperwork for migrants who file a change of address form is kept in a big binder. It's not logged into any computer database. How is any migrant going to prove that they followed the rules? The rules only help those who make them!

We volunteers also help beleaguered migrants navigate the local school systems to register their children, get a no/low-cost legal consultation, and direct them towards food and clothing and health clinics. We all want to build community and solidarity. But our efforts are a trickle against the flood of fascist ICE attacks on our brothers and sisters. We must take our solidarity with migrants and our visceral hatred for the bosses, reinforced by the horror stories we hear at the bus station, and challenge the entire capitalist imperialist system that has created borders in the first place to help the rich by dividing workers from each other.

★★★★★

## Soviets defeated fascism, not D-day

On June 6 the bosses' media swamped us with commemorations of the 1944 U.S. invasion of France, saying it was the U.S. that “won the Second World War.” A New York Times editorial praised Eisenhower's “great crusade to liberate Europe” from Nazi tyranny and just managed to include a mere 20 words about “the Russian view” that “the Western front” was “far less important in the victory over Germany than their Eastern Front.”

The fact is the communist-led Soviet working class and Red Army had been fighting alone for three years prior to D-Day, battling 80 percent of Hitler's legions on a 2,000-mile-long front from the Arctic to the Crimea, suffering the loss of 27 million of its heroic citizens. (The U.S. lost barely a half million.) U.S. generals conceded that without the Red Army defeating the Nazi troops, the D-Day invasion could hardly have succeeded, referring to the earlier battle of Stalingrad — not D-Day — as “the turning point of World War II.”

Even U.S. General Douglas MacArthur told the Associated Press (Feb. 23, 1942) that, “The hopes of civilization rest upon the worthy banners of the courageous Red Army.” Their heroic “resistance to the heaviest blows of the hitherto undefeated enemy, followed by a smashing counterattack which is driving the enemy back into its own land” is “the greatest military achievement of all time.”

In publicizing D-Day, the U.S. ruling class spreads “fake news” to avoid telling the world that it was communist-led workers who played the main role in defeating Hitler's fascism.

★★★★★

## Midwestern May Day

Our small collective gathered for May Day. Our program included a discussion on what would Lenin would think of socialism today, plus what would be the role of a communist society without money, and how long would the Dictatorship of the Proletariat last.

The Soviet Union at the end reverted back to capitalism. The May Day presentation made it clear the next Marxist revolutions led by PLP will be a clean break with no socialist half-way house. No money, managers, or capitalist practices. The only solution to ending racism, sexism, and imperialist war is a communist revolution.

★★★★★

# In memory of Bob, lifelong anti-racist and communist

Comrade Robert “Bob” Patterson died in Brooklyn, NY on May 8 of heart failure. He was 72 years old. He leaves behind a son, daughter-in-law, grandson, brother, nieces and nephews, and a large group of friends and comrades.

Bob was a presence that could always be counted on. His passing leaves a tremendous hole that we will work hard to fill. After Bob was introduced to the Progressive Labor Party, he embraced it and regretted that he had not met our Party earlier in his life.

As a child, Bob was taught anti-racism by his Mennonite grandmother. This was solidified on a trip to Cape Canaveral, Florida which he won for selling newspapers as a teenage delivery boy. As the van with the winners drove deeper and deeper into the Jim Crow South, he was angered at the treatment of two Black youth who also won the trip. They were not allowed to use the same hotels and restaurants as the white youth, their dignity being stripped away. This was the start of his militancy. Bob was deeply involved in struggles for workers’ rights and antiracism for the rest of his life.

As a young man, he worked with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the Civil Rights Movement. He also participated in the famous anti-racist march for voting rights over the Edmund Pettis Bridge in Selma, Alabama in 1965, a life-changing event for Bob. The marchers were trained to be passive in the face of all attacks that were directed at them. Bob was outraged when one of his best friends, a young Black man, was doused in white paint by the racists and no one fought back. When Bob met PLP 17 years ago, he came to understand the misleadership of pacifism and on relying on legislation to end racism, and how reform movements lead to reversals. Comrade Bob also took part in antiwar efforts of the 1960s, helping many Vietnam Vets who went AWOL (absent without leave).



Bob’s acting ability was recognized by Sir Tyrone Guthrie and he received a full scholarship to act in Minneapolis’ prestigious Guthrie Theater. All through his professional career as an actor and teacher of the acting craft, he continued to promote and organize around antiracism and for social justice. He was a visionary and always thinking about the larger world, in his studio, in his church, in the community, and in the Party. Bob thought of acting as a collective craft and that actors could be won to be politically antiracist and fighters for social justice. He thought actors must search for the truth in the world around them and that this truth leads to understanding the necessity for an egalitarian world. Through his years in the Party, he brought many of his students to PLP events and study groups. And through PLP cultural work, Comrade Bob used his skills to help spread our political ideas, helping develop collective performances and presentations.

Bob aided in creating a social justice group in his church 20 years ago, which continues to this

day. He proposed and organized forums, marches and protests, to which we could invite our friends, always making sure we were in motion to fight racism and injustice. He was the “go-to guy” if you wanted information or wanted to plan an event, but he did not do all the work himself. He was able to encourage others to step up and realize their untapped talents. He often got people to go beyond their limits (such as shyness) to make presentations at forums, dinners, demonstrations, etc.

The forums were on a range of subjects: “single payer health insurance,” racist treatment of Hurricane Katrina victims, anti-Muslim hysteria after 9/11, racist police killings such as the murder of Kyam Livingston, etc. Bob also encouraged those of us working at Downstate Medical Center to have a big rally against plans to close down the hospital, resulting in the largest rally there since the 1960s. Four hundred workers, doctors and patients rallied, putting the fear of workers’ power into the bosses and building our confidence. Thanks for the push, Bob.

Up until his last breath, Bob was organizing for a better world for his grandchild and all of our grandchildren, making dozens of daily phone calls; he was sorry that he missed the Brooklyn May Day March.

Bob was, modest yet immodest. He did say that he was the best acting teacher around but rarely boasted about his standing in the profession or the famous people he knew. He was also a man of many interests, beyond art and politics. He loved basketball and watched every NBA game he could. He had long arms and was quick on the court. He battled to keep in shape and hid his failing health from his friends.

Bob was a great presence and constant organizer. If a measure of a person is that they leave the world a better place, then Bob has more than exceeded that measure. He will be greatly missed by all who worked with him.☺



## RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from the capitalist press that may be of use for our readers.

NYT=New York Times  
GW= Guardian Weekly

### U.S. trained Salvadoran death squads to massacre workers at El Mozote

NYT, 5/29 — In December 1981, a Salvadoran Army battalion, whose officers had just returned from counterinsurgency training in the United States, slaughtered nearly 1,000 residents of El Mozote and surrounding villages. After the village men were taken away and executed, the soldiers ordered the women and children into the convent behind the Roman Catholic church. They opened fire with their automatic weapons, then set fire to the building, falling beams crushing the skulls of victims, dead or alive. Many of the children were toddlers; the average age was 6.

### Indigenous women targets of Canadian genocide

NYT, 6/4 — The widespread killings and disappearances of Indigenous women and girls in Canada are a “genocide” for which Canada itself is responsible, a national inquiry concluded....

...Indigenous people expressed skepticism that the report would make much of a difference....The report said the violence against women and girls amounted “to a race-based genocide of Indigenous peoples, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis. This genocide has been empowered by colonial structures...It cited...Canada’s onetime practice of forcibly sending thousands of Indigenous children to government-sponsored residential schools, where they were abused over decades...

The police and the criminal justice system have failed...Indigenous women by...viewing them “through a lens of pervasive racist and sexist stereotypes...”Survivors and their families... found the “court process inadequate, unjust and

retraumatizing...”

Indigenous women and girls make up about 4 percent of Canada’s females but 16 percent of the females killed....Some 1,181 Indigenous women were killed or disappeared...from 1980 to 2012.... Indigenous advocates...say the number is probably far higher since so many deaths have gone unreported.

### Britain 14 million in poverty— “I skip meals so my daughter can eat”

NYT, 5/23 — A United Nations poverty expert [compared] ... Britain’s...austerity program...to a version of a Victorian workhouse....inflicting “great misery” on its people with “punitive, mean-spirited and often callous austerity policies....

More children and older people are living in absolute poverty — defined as severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information — and inequality rates have spiked...

Food banks have proliferated, homelessness has increased, life expectancy is falling...and tens of thousands of poor families are living in accommodations far from schools, jobs and community networks...

...14 million people in Britain — one-fifth of the population — live in poverty and...1.5 million...experienced destitution in 2017, living on less than 10 pounds a day, about \$13...

...Nearly 40 percent of children are predicted to be living in poverty two years from now; 16 percent of people over 65 live in relative poverty....

...The Department of Work and Pensions...[is] designing a digital and sanitized version of the 19<sup>th</sup> century workhouse, made infamous by Charles Dickens...

...Tens of thousands of poor families in Britain have been left without food because of government welfare cuts....

### Exploited airline workers headed toward strike

NYT, 6/5 — About 11,000 airline catering employees...who prepare and transport food and beverages that millions of passengers consume on flights...will vote on...a possible labor stoppage. Many make the minimum wage...or less and toil in harsh conditions with limited benefits. But collectively they have the power to disrupt the air travel network....

“If a plane doesn’t get catered, it can interrupt all the people getting on that plane and all the other flights that plane has to do....”

The muscle-flexing by airport workers... threatens the wheels of commerce.

During the government shutdown...air controllers calling in sick prompted [a] halt [in] flights headed for LaGuardia....

Mechanics at Southwest Airlines won raises after...maintenance issues they flagged forced flight delays and cancellations....

...Airline catering workers...are among the lowest-paid workers at airports, especially among those whose labor directly affects operations in flight.

The union is proposing a national wage floor of \$15 per hour...and wants...health insurance substantially more affordable.Preston Strickland... said he typically prepares over 1,500 cold entrees in a shift...in an area kept at 40 degrees or below.

Mr. Strickland makes a little over \$11 an hour... and cannot afford health insurance....

...He recently spent several months homeless because he didn’t have money for rent...Workers also complain about the companies’ tendency to run kitchens with too few workers, too little equipment and haphazard upkeep....

## Tupelo Summer of '79

# Fight racism like a red!



Worldwide, the summer months are a time of training for Progressive Labor Party. As we gear up for a summer of learning, it's helpful to reflect on past Summer Projects. We will 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, antiracists, and the stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan.

For Progressive Labor Party, Mississippi signified a base for revolution among Black and white workers, spreading the ideas of multiracial unity and the fight for communist ideas in the South. Today, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Tupelo Summer Project of '79. About one hundred communists and friends—Black, Latin, Asian, and white—took part in this struggle.

Though relatively small (population of 20,000), Tupelo was an industrial center with over 14,000 workers. The South was of great importance to the ruling class as an industrial area because its carefully-nurtured tradition of racism has made it the citadel of low-wage non-union labor, where the bosses have been able to keep the working class divided and weak in order to extract extra profits.

The main lesson PLP learned in Tupelo, as everywhere, is to be bold. The bolder we were, the more seriously people took us and the more willing they were to respond to us. Workers understand that the system will come down hard when you try to

fight it. They are also ready to understand that you only win on the offensive. Below is an edited excerpt from PL Magazine (Fall 1979) analyzing an aspect of the Tupelo Summer Project:

### The great July demonstration

Sixty five antiracist marchers, organized by Progressive Labor Party and its [then-mass organization] International Committee Against Racism (InCAR), were marching through the streets in Tupelo, Mississippi chanting, "Death to the Klan."

Shots rang through the air.

As the bullets grazed two marchers, a disciplined group of people, Black and white, rushed out of line, isolated the racist who wielded the gun, and beat him to the ground. In the fight that ensued with this Klansman, or Klan supporter, the antiracists broke his neck. While this was happening, the marchers, maintaining a tight discipline that won them the respect of Tupelo's working class, continued the march. The marchers, encouraged by the friendly faces that lined the streets and by the workers who joined the march, were able to withstand the menacing threat of the Tupelo police, who aimed their cocked guns at them.

From the start, it was clear that the racist local rulers wanted to stop this march. A new ordinance was created by the city government banning sound devices (in response to successful PLP-led rallies in the past); the police and their flunkies systematically tore down posters in the housing projects; and a permit for the march

was not granted until the very last minute. As the march gathered in front of the courthouse, the bosses' seat of power, a militant rally began, attracting a lot of attention from workers in the area. A few minutes after the march began, the racist Klan member named Brasil shot into the demo. By the time the antiracist and antifascist fighters got hold of him, they were surrounded by cops who prevented them from finishing the racist off. The cops then grabbed one of the fighters, Floyd Banks, an InCAR member from Galveston, Texas and arrested him for "attempted murder." The march, meanwhile, regrouped and continued to lead workers in the area who joined the march in chanting, "The cops, the courts, the Ku Klux Klan, all a part of the bosses' plan."

### Before I was scared, now I'm mad'

Many militant workers in Tupelo have come to see InCAR as the main mass organization that can lead workers in the fight against racism and the resurgence of fascist groups like the Klan. One Black woman worker said, "Before I was scared, but now I'm mad." This represents the feeling of many people here, that there is no longer the luxury to sit back and watch the ruling class and its flunkies hold power, that they have to get active and build a movement that has as its goal the destruction of ruling class ideas of racism and fascism, and in the final analysis, the ruling class itself. The political climate is changing rapidly in

Continued on page 4

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