Hong Kong protests defy Beijing’s drive to tighten grip

BY TERRY EVANS
Defying a ban by Hong Kong authorities, thousands joined the biggest demonstration in the city in many months, on the July 1 anniversary of the end of British colonial rule and the territory’s return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

They voiced opposition to a national security law imposed days earlier by Beijing that widens its authority to jail working people and others who have organized strikes and taken to the streets to fight for greater political rights.

Cops arrested over 300 at the action, including nine people they accuse of violating the new law, which prohibits calls for “secession.” At least two of those arrested carried signs urging Hong Kong’s independence from China.

“We demanded the same things we have been calling for over the past year,” Daniel Chan told the Militant.

Continued on page 7

Protests demand: ‘Charge cops who killed Breonna Taylor, and others!’

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS
Protests against police brutality and police killings are continuing in cities and small towns across the country, as well as worldwide. They’ve remained strongest and most determined where new cases of police violence have been forced into public view, or where longstanding fights by families whose loved ones have been slain by police have gained new publicity. These fights revolve around demands for the arrest and prosecution of the cops responsible.

“These protests have helped bring a light to our fight,” Jimmy Hill, father of Jimmy Atchison who was shot and killed by cops in Atlanta last year, told the Militant at a June 27 rally of several thousand.

Continued on page 3

Amid layoffs, workers resist attacks from bosses, govt

BY ROY LANDERSEN
The unity and fighting spirit of thousands of striking shipbuilding workers at Bath Iron Works in Maine is an example for workers everywhere as we seek ways to resist growing boss attacks on our jobs, wages and conditions.

Backed by the government, bosses are pushing to reopen factories, warehouses, retail stores and restaurants, while at the same time seeking to pare away “excess” workers to better be able to compete with their rivals and rebuild profits. Many are dumping workers, speeding up work for those who remain and showing utter disdain for workers’ safety on the job.

Workers are standing up and saying “No!” In addition to the Bath strikers, thousands of Amazon workers in Germany struck for two days beginning June 29 for a union contract, better pay and safer working conditions. Hundreds of Indian women garment workers laid off by Euro Clothing Company in Sri Lanka are demanding back pay, union contracts and protection of seniority that together would let them return to work.

Continued on page 6

Shipyard strike is a fight for all working people!

Over 4,300 shipbuilding workers on strike in Bath, Maine, since June 22 on the picket line.

Demand jobs program to put millions back to work!

Allyson Kennedy, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, issued the following statement July 1.

Malcolm Jarrett is the party’s candidate for vice president.

Workers today confront rising competition among our class for jobs amid massive unemployment, a result of capitalism on the lives of working people. These fights revolve around demands for the arrest and prosecution of the cops responsible.

“We demanded the same things we have been calling for over the past year,” Daniel Chan told the Militant.

Continued on page 9

SWP 2020 campaign presents fighting working-class program

BY SETH GALINSKY
Outrage at the impact of the crisis of capitalism on the lives of working people — from police brutality to bosses’ assaults on wages and working conditions, and workers’ resistance to these attacks — is increasing interest in the Socialist Workers Party, the only working-class party in the 2020 elections. There’s also growing interest in the Militant newspaper and books by party leaders and other revolutionists.

SWP candidates and campaign supporters are marching with signs and banners calling for the cops who killed Breonna Taylor and others to be indicted; backing solidarity with striking workers at the Bath, Maine, shipyard; and urging a fight for a government-funded public works program to put millions to work at union-scale pay, building hospitals, housing and other things working people need.

SWP campaigners discuss their program and activities with workers, farmers and small proprietors they meet when they campaign on doorsteps from small towns and big cities to farms and rural areas.

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Malcolm X: ‘There has to be a change’ 8

Photo: Bobby Bank

A working-class road to expand rights for all the oppressed

— PAGE 6

AUSTRALIA $1.50 · CANADA $1.50 · FRANCE 100 EURO · NEW ZEALAND $1.50 · U.K. 50 · U.S. $1.00
Cuban medical missions face US govt slander and threats

BY SETH GALINSKY

Revolutionary Cuba has sent more than 2,000 doctors and other health care workers to 30 countries over the last few months in response to governments’ requests for help in treating patients during the COVID-19 worldwide outbreak.

The Cuban volunteers have treated some 110,000 patients, saving lives and slowing the spread of the disease. The COVID-19 missions come on top of the more than 28,000 health workers who were already volunteering in 59 countries.

Worried that these international medical missions are bolstering the prestige of the Cuban Revolution, Washington is stepping up its slander campaign.

In June the State Department released its annual “Trafficking in Persons Report,” which rates nations on their alleged violations. In fact, the ratings reflect how the U.S. rulers rate their alleged violations. In fact, the State Department claims that the medical missions bring in some $7 billion as a “for-profit activity of the medical missions bring in some “forced labor.”

But the Cubans don’t provide aid based on the politics of the requesting government. They went to serve in imperialist Italy. They are in Martinique, a French colony, and serve in two British territories. The Cuban volunteers scrupulously respect the sovereignty of the nations they aid.

Cuba offered to send 1,600 medical volunteers, field hospitals and 83 tons of medical supplies to New Orleans one day after Hurricane Katrina devastated neighborhoods there in 2008 — a request that was rejected out of hand by Washington.

On June 17, Sens. Rick Scott, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio introduced a “Cut Profits to the Cuban Regime Act.” Ronald Sanders, the ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States, responded the next day. He said the three senators “disregard the sovereign right of other countries to enter arrangements with Cuba.”

The Cuban internationalists who are currently treating COVID-19 patients in 15 Caribbean countries have “made a huge and beneficial difference,” Sanders said. Without them, “the medical system of several Caribbean countries would have collapsed.”

Internationalism has always been a hallmark of the Cuban Revolution, which itself was fought for independence from French colonial rule. After independence was won it sent 57 doctors and other health care workers.

Today Cuban internationalist missions — contrary to the lies of the State Department — health workers went to Algeria as volunteers. “Nobody was pressured or required to participate,” Pablo Resik Habid, who headed up the first medical brigade to Cuba in 1963, told Cuban journalist Hedelberto López Blanch.

Cuba’s medical situation was challenging for the young revolution, Resik said, because half of the island’s 6,000 doctors emigrated to the United States after 1959. At the same time, Washington was organizing economic warfare and military aggression against the new workers and farmers government.

Revolutionary morality

Sending doctors to Algeria “was like a beggar offering his help,” said 89-year-old José Ramón Machado Ventura, who joined the revolutionary war against Batista as a doctor. He helped establish the mission, and remains a leading member of Cuba’s revolutionary government today. “But we knew the Algerian people needed it even more than we did and that they deserved it.”

This is proletarian morality the opposite of the dog-eat-dog morality of capitalism. It’s possible only because Cuba’s workers and farmers took power out of the hands of the landlords and transformed themselves in the process. They are determined to continue to defend Cuba’s revolutionary missions that today against Washington’s slanders.

The U.S. rulers fear that if more working people elsewhere learn the true meaning of Cuba’s revolution, they will emulate its example.

Solidarity with working-class battles worldwide

Radio Guantánamo

Dr. Leonardo Fernández greeted by neighbors, family and representatives of Federation of Cuban Women, the association of small farmers and other mass organizations June 21 on his return to Guantánamo, Cuba, after two months treating COVID-19 patients in Lombardy, Italy.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the Militant’s views. These are expressed in editorials.
Jury indictment for 1½ years, we’re neutral hundred organized by the NAACP.

March 13. In response to the break-in, cops busted down the door to Taylor’s Louisville, told the Militant March 27 to protest the cop killing of 23-year-old Elijah McClain in August 2019. McClain was walking home from a convenience store when three cops stopped him, saying they had a complaint about a young Black man acting “suspicious.” One officer put the 140-pound youth in a chokehold, although he was already handcuffed on the ground. On a now public body camera video, McClain can be heard saying, “I just can’t breathe.”

McCain’s family said he was always very sensitive. He would go to a local shelter and play his violin to help soothe the animals.

The Militant July 13, 2020 3
Continued from front page candidate Alyson Kennedy, her running mate Malcolm Jarrett, and supporters campaigned at the Knollwood Court Mobile Home Park in Faribault, Minne-
sotta, a town of some 23,000 people an hour south of Minneapolis June 27.
“T I haven’t voted for president since Bill Clinton,” Minnie DeLuna told
Kennedy. “Maybe all the presidents are the same. I would love to see a woman president though.”
“The first order of business is to elect a president that matters,” Kennedy replied. “It’s highs in class is in power. The SWP says we
need to build a labor party that will or-
ganize our class to defend its interests.”
“On Election Day people were running on the slogan for jobs, and for a labor party. It’s about to be elections in a demon-
defended country,” Musa said. “The SWP is organizing to put its presi-
dential ticket on the ballot. They’ve been certi-
fied for the ballot in Colorado and have fulfilled all the necessary require-
ments in Vermont. Supporters are organ-
izing to get on the ballot in Louisiana.
“Is the SWP organizing to put its presi-
dential ticket on the ballot? They plan to get 500 —
double the requirement — by the filing
deadline of July 20. Five who signed the
campaign supporters set up a literature table in
mobile home park in Faribault, Minne-
sotta. The candidates joined other
organizations, mobilized to make sure
working people, led by their mass or-
nizations, had something to
accomplish together in struggle. When youth
and working people had something to fight for, the
monopoly elite’s political system collapsed.
“Many do have two, maybe three jobs,” Musa replied, “mostly low-pay-
ing and part-time, making it impossible
for youth today to do what you did. This is
why the Socialist Workers Party pro-
poses a federally funded jobs program with union-scale wages and benefits,
lessen the competition among work-
ers for jobs. Cunningham purchased a
of the Militant. SWP campaigners
plan to drop by again soon.
“We have collected some
150 signatures on petitions to put Musa
on the ballot. They plan to get 500 —
double the requirement — by the filing
deadline of July 20. Five who signed the
didn’t get union contracts. Don’t tell us to go in without it.
I had two full-time jobs, which
made it possible for me to sustain my
family and buy this house. It is pos-
sible for young people today to do
the same,” said Cunningham.
Many do have two, maybe three jobs,”
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need to build a labor party that will or-
ganize our class to defend its interests.”
A working-class road to expand rights for all the oppressed

Court ruling muddying biological sex and ‘gender identity’ endangers gains won in struggle

An article in last week’s issue of the Militant — under the headline “Supreme Court: ‘Discrimination for Being Gay, Transgender Is Illegal. Ruling Includes ‘Poison Pill’ Against Women’s Rights Fight” — was wrong.

It erroneously implied that the June 15 court decision, though flawed, should be welcomed by the working class and others fighting to eradicate prejudice, bigotry and discrimination in employ- ment and other areas.

The stakes for the working class and our allies in opposing each of the three separate filings at issue in the court case are indisputable. The bosses themselves readily acknowledged they had fired the workers only upon learning they were gay or transsexual, without the pretense of any work-related reason. If employers get away with arbitrarily singling out a worker for firing or other penalties, then any-fighting capacity of the workforce and unions for unity in protecting one another is set back, irreparably so if not combated and reversed.

Building such class solidarity is the central task of all class-conscious workers today. It starts with fights on the job over wages and working conditions, including the health and safety of all. This is how we begin rebuilding a fighting labor movement, a fighting trade union movement.

Advancing rights of all workers

The recent Supreme Court decision, however, has nothing to do with strengthening class consciousness or class solidarity.

To the contrary, the ruling laid the basis for further eroding hard-fought gains conquered by the working class and our allies — including those won over centuries of struggle for women’s equality — by consciously mud-dying the fundamental differences between an individual’s biological sex and matters of “gender identity” or “sexual orientation.”

What’s worse, it deceptively called on the authority of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 while making a travesty of that law’s Title VII, which outlaws job discrimination on the basis of “race, color, religion, sex or national origin.”

For anyone who lived through that period of American history marked by the proletarian-based civil rights battles of the 1950s and 1960s, much less participated in them, the signifi-cance for the entire working class of its conquests in toppling Jim Crow segregation and tearing down em-ployment barriers for workers who are Black, female or foreign-born are beyond dispute.

Rights that truly register progress for working people expand and strengthen the rights of all the oppressed, as well as their political space for fighting. That has been true for every advance in combating the denial of rights under capitalism based on “race, color, religion, sex or national origin.”

In the 1970s, for instance, as women fought their way into industrial jobs from which they had tradi-tionally been barred, they often de-manded and won contract terms guaranteeing that the difficulty or danger of particular tasks was not grounds to deny women em-ployment. To the contrary, they insisted, work rules should be ad-justed to protect all workers from such harmful job conditions. The unions and many co-workers who were male were won to these fights, which led to victories for the entire working class and labor movement.

Another example was the union contract fought for and won in 1974 by members of the United Steelworkers union at the Kaiser Aluminum plant in Gramercy, Louisiana. Some 40% of workers there were Black, but prior to the new agreement fewer than 2% of them were Black, both male and female — were convinced at that time that all workers in the plant would benefit from a job-training program that re-served half the spots for Blacks and women, thus strengthening the unity and fighting capacity of the workforce and their union.

When lab technician Brian Weber, who was Caucasian, filed suit against the union, claiming “reverse discrimi-nation,” the fight to defend the new trainee program was championed not only by the USW but more broadly in the labor movement and beyond. In June 1979 the U.S. Supreme Court re-jected Weber’s challenge — a victory for working people.

That is the kind of working-class action needed to defeat arbitrary and discriminatory hiring, firing or promotion practices of any kind by pri-vate or government employers. Chang-ing attitudes about countless forms of discrimination and bigotry are not the product of either legislation or court rulings but of unity forged in struggle by working people, the oppressed, and our class organizations.

That’s what we can celebrate. Such actions, and others like them to come, point the way forward.

Working class: defender of science

The court’s contrived ruling as to what constitutes discrimination based on “race, color, religion, sex or nation-al origin” is a blow to working people and the oppressed. It lends credence to the utterly anti-scientific notion pro-moted by many who consider them-selves enlightened: that human beings (unlike almost all other animal species) are not born as either female or male.

According to proponents of this an-ti-materialist outlook, whether a baby bears two x chromosomes or an x and y chromosome, they don’t come into the world with a pre-established sex, but are instead arbitrarily “assigned” one based on physical appearance at time of birth.

The court’s holding this unscientific view demand that “gender” — solely a grammatical term until several decades ago — instead be left open at least to be “chosen” by the individual sometime later in life from literally dozens of possible options. Anyone can supposedly be a woman or a man, a transwoman or a transman, merely by declaring themselves so.

“The only difference between a trans woman and a cisgender woman is that one was assigned the sex she felt she belonged to,” according to a June 23 op-ed column in the New York Times by Kevin Michele Bumgarner, an assistant professor of ur-ban economics at M.I.T. (Perhaps a professor of “rural economics” might be more acquainted with sexual re-production among mammals than this PhD-certified “teacher”?)

What is seen by some as a revolu-tionary advance in the understanding of “gender” is in fact a counter-revo-lution. The oppression of women as a sex throughout millennia of class-divided society is simply erased. The gains for women’s emancipation won through centuries of struggle by the working class, often led by women, since the consolidation of industrial capitalism in the 1800s — all this disappears with a wave of the same magic wand that allegedly turns a man into a woman, or vice versa.

SILENCING SPEECH, CLIMATE OF FEAR

Millions of working people and others in the U.S. and elsewhere oppo-se employment or housing discrim-ination, intimidation, bullying and violence against anyone who has chosen to live as a sex different from that of their biology. That’s a funda-

Continued on page 9

SWP ‘stimulus’ appeal now stands at $132,300

Over the past week five new contributors increased the total of the Social-ist Workers Party special “stimulus” appeal to $132,300. The number of contributors stands at 120.

“My check finally came,” wrote Greg McCartan, an early partisan of the appeal. “I’m sending my contribution gladly to help ‘stimulate’ the SWP’s work to organize, educate and lead tens of millions of working people to take power.

The appeal was launched in late March when Congress announced the special “stimulus payout,” after an initiative from several party supporters who asked how to make out their check when they got their payment. That put the appeal on its way. It has steadily grown over the last three months and continues to do so.

The funds are dedicated to building a financial long-term stake for the SWP — to build a proletarian party as the crisis of capitalism and the class struggle unfolds. A party that can organize workers and their allies to end capitalist exploitation and rule, and join hands with toilers world-wide to build a new social order based on human solidarity.

If you’d like to donate from your government payout, send a check to the Socialist Workers Party at 306 W. 37th Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018, earmarked “Special Fund.”

— EMMA JOHNSON

Pamphlet socialist workers campaigned with to recognize the卉计数用系案民Brian Weber claiming new trainee program championed by United Steelworkers was “reverse discrimina-tion.” Supreme Court ruling against Weber in 1979 was an important victory for all workers in the plant — Blacks, Caucasians, men and women.
Workers resist amid layoffs

Continued from front page

rupture against up to 20% of their own jobs, and around the world both demand strength, and help reinforce workers’ de-

fight to regain strength.

Unemployment remains at levels un-

One in five workers in the U.S. filed

security, largely due to continued

pilot, 1 million lost year to year, for

and ultimate labor force.

the global pandemic and the US

in the second world imperialist slaugh-

government debtors are in need to

and other blow for millions.

job security and stimulus” bonuses of $600 a

Demanding their jobs back.

Jobs and the trade unions

To order the print edition of the Militant, contributors may find the online audio version of each issue is available

malinois, and the U.S.

The Militant provides a working-class perspective of what’s going on in the world today, continuing the tradition of the capitalist system, the bosses are trying to

Yielding to the demands for political rights in opposition to new “security” law imposed by Beijing.

Workers resist amid layoffs

Workers resist amid layoffs

Continued from front page

the National Federation of seamen in

The Militant published a regular

Weekly audio version of ‘Militant’ available online

BY LEJLA CRAGIN

The Militant puts out a regular

weekly audio edition of the paper, a special direct print edition for working people who are

the people hard-

the bosses and their govern-

The Chinese rulers are
determined to keep the

protest is a fight for all working people!

Shipyard strike is a fight for all working people!

Continued from front page

command poses the

The 2020 edition includes a

New edition from Pathfinder: The Jewish Question

By Abram Leon

At the opening of the 21st century, incidents of violent assault on Jews have increased in a spate

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ism on increasing health care costs.

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Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Power

By Jack Barnes

Red Zeen: Cuba and the Battle for the Caribbean

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Malcolm X: You’re in revolutionary times, there has to be change

Malcolm X Talks to Young People is one of Pathfinder’s Books of the Month for July. In the last year of his life, Malcolm became the authentic voice of the forces of the coming American revolution. The main excerpt is from his speech “See for Yourself. Listen for Truth. Form Your Own Mind” given in Harlem on Jan. 1, 1965. He was speaking to high school youth from McComb, Mississippi, who had been engaged in an effective drive to get all adults in their district to register people to vote there in 1964. Ku Klux Klan thugs had retaliated by firebombing churches, homes and businesses.


BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY MALCOLM X

[One of the first things I think young people, especially nowadays, should learn is] See for yourself, listen for truth and listen for yourself and think for yourself.

Then you can come to an intelligent decision for yourself. But if you form the habit of going by what you hear others say about someone, or going by what others think about someone, instead of going and searching that thing out for yourself and seeing for yourself, you’ll be walking west when you think you’re going east, and you’ll be walking east when you think you’re going west. So this generation, especially of our people, have a burden upon themselves, more so than at any other time in history. The most important thing is to learn how to do today is think for ourselves.

It’s good to keep wide-open ears and listen to what everybody else has to say, but when you come to make a decision, you have to weigh all of what you’ve heard on its own, and place it where it belongs, and then come to a decision for yourself. You’ll never regret it. But if you form the habit of taking what someone else says about a thing without checking it out for yourself, you’ll find that other people will have you hating your own friends and loving your enemies. This is one of the things that our people are beginning to learn today — that it is very important to think out a situation for yourself. If you don’t do it, then you’ll always be maneuvered into actually — You’ll never fight your enemies, but you will find yourself fighting your own self.

Now the point that I’m making is this: Never at any time in the history of our people in this country have we made progress or advancement, or made advances or advancement, or any of the forces of the coming American revolution. It has existed since they first brought us over here and made slaves out of us. They trick you up on a conversation and make it appear that they have our good interests at heart. But when you study it, every time, no matter how many steps they take us forward, it’s like we’re standing on a — what do you call that thing? — a treadmill. The treadmill is moving backwards faster than we’re able to go forward in this direction. We’re not even standing still — we’re walking forward, at the same time we’re going backward.

So when we saw that we were up against hopeless battle internally, we saw the necessity of getting allies at the world level or from abroad, from all over the world. And so immediately we realized that as long as the struggle was a civil rights struggle, was under the jurisdiction of the United States, we would have no real allies or real support. So we decided that we would have to make the problem rise to the level where we could get world support was to take it away from the civil rights label, and put it in the human rights label. Now, you’ve lived in Mississippi long enough to know what the language of the Ku Klux Klan is. They only know one language. If you come up with another language, they don’t communicate.

You’ve got to be able to speak the language they speak, whether you’re in New York City, or Alabama, or California, or anywhere else. When you develop or mature to the point where you can say ‘another man’s business,’ that’s his level, that man gets the point. That’s the only time he gets the point. You can’t talk peace to a person who doesn’t know what peace is. You can’t talk love to a person who doesn’t know what love means. And you can’t talk any form of nonviolence to a person who doesn’t know what nonviolence is. Why, you’re wasting your time.

So I think in 1965 — whether you like it, or I like it, or we like it, or they like it, or the agony of this country is long enough to know what the language of the Ku Klux Klan is. They only know one language. If you come up with another language, you don’t communicate. You’ve got to be able to speak the language they speak, whether you’re in New York City, or Alabama, or California, or anywhere else. When you develop or mature to the point where you can say ‘another man’s business,’ that’s his level, that man gets the point. The only time he gets the point. You can’t talk peace to a person who doesn’t know what peace is. You can’t talk love to a person who doesn’t know what love means. And you can’t talk any form of nonviolence to a person who doesn’t know what nonviolence is. Why, you’re wasting your time.

[In my opinion the young generation of whites, Black, browns, whatever else there is — you’re living at a time of extremism, a time of revolution, a time when there’s got to be a change.] The only way our people have missed it, and now there has to be a change and a better world has to be built, and the only way it’s going to be built is with the organization and coordination and equip ourselves and qualify ourselves to protect ourselves. Appliance And once you can protect yourself, you don’t have to worry about being hurt.

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A working-class road to expand rights for all

Continued from page 5

mental principle of human solidarity, of which the working class and workers’ movement are intransigent champions and defenders.

But many advocates of the anti-materialist, anti- working-class views described above aren’t really interested in countering discrimination and bigotry. They are more interested in promoting their views. They seek to deny freedom of speech as well as the right to employment to anyone who disagrees with them, even resorting to thuggish intimidations and physical attacks.

One recent target of such abuse is J.K. Rowling, the author of the Harry Potter books. Her “crime” is to say that humans are biologically male or female. This kind of attack is no different than the kind of attack that working people have faced for decades. The bosses and their governments want us to believe that people are inherently greedy and capitalism will last forever. But history teaches us that the working class and its exploited and oppressed allies are capable of overthrowing those who try to divide them and transform themselves in the process, and taking political power into our own hands. This will be the first step towards a society without exploitation and inequality.

Many people have been subject to reactionary laws pressing them to one side or another. This is no different. This kind of attack is no different than the kind of attack that working people have faced for decades. The bosses and their governments want us to believe that people are inherently greedy and capitalism will last forever. But history teaches us that the working class and its exploited and oppressed allies are capable of overthrowing those who try to divide them and transform themselves in the process, and taking political power into our own hands. This will be the first step towards a society without exploitation and inequality.

The Confederacy battle flag came down

There is no broad working-class movement today demanding Confederacy symbols be taken down as part of advancing the working-class struggle against racism. There are no wide movements in the South demanding Confederate symbols be taken down as part of advancing the working-class struggle against racism. Nevertheless, the bosses and their government want us to believe that people are inherently greedy and capitalism will last forever. But history teaches us that the working class and its exploited and oppressed allies are capable of overthrowing those who try to divide them and transform themselves in the process, and taking political power into our own hands. This will be the first step towards a society without exploitation and inequality.

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