



EMBRACE THE UNITED FRONT

Reject petite-bourgeois radicalism

The fascist MAGA movement is no longer scattered and ineffective but has become a unified threat to us all. In the first two months of Trump’s second term, the Republican Party is finally fulfilling its dream of destroying the legacy of the New Deal: the strangling of all social services, the rewinding of civil rights, plunderous privatization of the last remaining public goods, the erosion of all universal programs which help workers, the needy, sick, and powerless. Under the Reaganite assumption that government only hinders business, Trump has dramatically shrunk the federal workforce, and, using the logic of “starv[ing] the beast,” is taking steps to reduce both tax collection and social spending, (though instead of spending the money they “save” on the deficit they periodically are concerned over, they are ultimately sending it to themselves, and their other capitalist friends in the form of tax breaks, reifying the racquetteer-like structure of Washington insiders. The Department of Education, Environmental Protections Agency, NLRB, USPS, the National Institutes of Health, and so many more are under assault by the Trump-Vance-Musk troika. This campaign of “shock and awe” has one important objective: making us feel scared, divided, and weak. Their goal is to privatize these institutions in order to find new ways of increasing their rate of profit, which will lead to mass suffering. The time has never been more important to embrace and inject ourselves into truly mass movements in a center-left alliance to fight back against the march of barbarism.

Our politics and organizing strategies as communists and progressives must fundamentally transform to confront the rising tide of fascism. We must shift our mentality from hoping and waiting for the masses to join us, to realizing it’s time for us to join the masses, take up their banner, and show them how mutual solidarity and action is our only super weapon. Fascism does not have a mandate, it has not won this war, we are still in the preparatory stag-

es of fascism. As the Bulgarian communist Georgi Dimitrov, (who was falsely blamed for the Reichstag fire,) said during his speech to the 7th Congress of the Communist International, **“Whoever does not fight the reactionary measures of the bourgeoisie and the growth of fascism at these preparatory stages is not in a position to prevent the victory of fascism, but, on the contrary, facilitates that victory.”**

This is all to say that it is time for our movement to realize that it is the masses themselves who make history, not our many different sects of progressive clubs. We cannot hope to ever achieve our goals of liberating the working and exploited masses if our efforts are only focused on organizing the already progressive sections of the working class. This has been historically proven time and time again, from the revolutions in Russia, China, Vietnam, Cuba, and many more. The way we in the Communist Party USA develop our organizational strategies and tactics is not solely based on the ideological and political positions we currently hold but based on the masses. We cannot hope to achieve “politics in the millions” if we do not include this very important understanding into our tactics. The concepts and ideas that lead revolutionaries to petite-bourgeois radicalism are not wrong in the abstract but we have the luxury of history in 2025 to show us how fatal this form of radical politics truly is. In such times of upheaval from the masses caused by events in which the contradictions of capitalism rear their ugly heads, many newly formed radicals develop moments of significant militancy. They create inspiration for all sorts of different sectors of economic and social classes (including but not limited to the working class) and have historically only set their sights on short-term tactics. When their tactics ultimately result in no change or significant victory, this creates extreme frustration within these groups, and it turns into petite-bourgeois radicalism. This frustration leads militant and revolutionary individuals to begin separating themselves

from the majority of the working and non-working exploited masses, rejecting it all together as a vehicle for change. This form of radicalism has the name petite-bourgeois (small business owners), because just as when the small capital owning class are faced with issues of big bourgeoisie repression they tend to reflect their individualistic tendencies, and only focus on their position within the class struggle; newly formed radicals who with short sighted tactics also tend to reflect their own individualistic tendencies caused by frustration, thus rejecting class struggle.

This tendency still lives on today, by forgetting the very basics of Marxism, rejecting all concepts of class unity, preferring instead to act as a “missionary” with the goal of “enlightening” the worker. The inherent contradictions of capitalism lead to the system breaking down, to chaos, revolt, and revolutionary fervor: but what is the nature of this fervor, totalitarian or liberatory? Given the exploitation and immiseration of workers via the expropriation of their surplus value, the capitalist, in pursuit of the endless drive for rising profits, accumulates more and more power over workers, exerts more power in the form of discipline and surveillance over workers, and creates the conditions for widespread dissatisfaction. This can lead to the victims, the great masses of exploited workers and non-wage-workers alike, to see their own self-interests in revolutionary ideas, either of the Fascist or Left variety, rejecting the neo-liberal formulation of our government. Some view the role of the revolutionary to lay outside the dominant movements, to stay separate and to instruct or to model good behavior for the people, but CPUSA would disagree. The thought leaders of our party for over 100 years have been consistent in this view on revolutionary politics. The former General Secretary of CPUSA, Gus Hall says that **“Policies and tactics, to be successful, must be related to this objective process [of achieving class unity]. A revolutionary force must take full**

advantage of each new situation presented by this process. Only then can it become a revolutionary force propelling events. Tactics must be synchronized to each stage of this development.” Petite-Bourgeois radicalism has attempted many times to bypass this albeit long and difficult

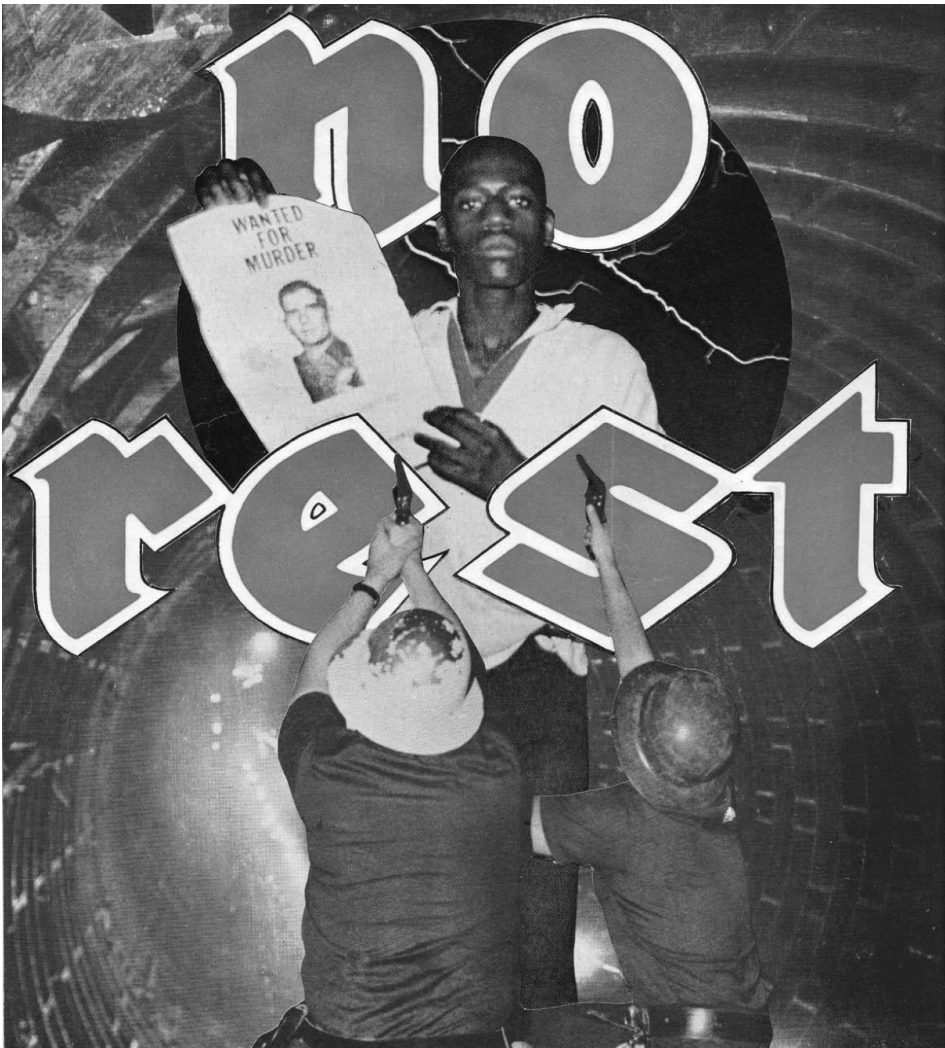
process of **“consistent and sustained work, the work of organizing, educating, mobilizing and leading people in mass, of leading people on the level of their understanding, of their own self-interest, and in this sense reflecting the objective processes leading to a revolution-**

ary struggle against capitalism.” These kinds of radicals tend to substitute the unavoidable and slow process of mass work with shortcuts and actions divorced from the greater mass movement, in a disorganized, spontaneous spasm of ineffective activi-

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ty. Radical clubs who follow these kinds of policies tend to make no progress in their efforts and will at times move away from the working class and seek niches within it. Even worse at times they reject concepts of mass struggle wholly.

In this current political movement the masses are seeing their self-interest as a class more and more, as the Republicans in Congress are following in step with the Trump-Vance-Musk troika, destroying even the most basic rights and victories our working class has fought for since the inception of our country. They are terrified to attend town halls for fear of getting run out of town by their constituency. Just the other week, Rep. Chuck Edwards from North Carolina hosted a town hall where he voiced his support of the actions of the DOGE (pronounced Doggy) Department; this sentiment was met with loud boos, and one person getting up to call Edwards out over Trump and Musk, saying they do not care about the very people they claim they do. The attendee said “I’m a veteran, and you don’t give a f--- about me. He [Musk] has nothing to say but lies. You’re lying.”. That attendee was then promptly removed from the event by security. This is only one example of people beginning to realize their own self-interests against the capitalist form of government, but it is up to us to reinforce them in their struggle, translate their demands, and show them the inherent contradictions of capitalism that have remained concealed from them. We have also seen a rejection happening among the leaders of the supposed “opposition” party, when Democratic senate minority leader Chuck Schumer bent the knee with no fight against the Trump-Vance-Musk troika’s attempts at dismantling and privatizing our government. Even cult-level Democrat defenders have come out against Schumer and his abhorrent weakness and indecision. People are desperate to do something, they want to participate. Over the last few weeks AOC and Bernie Sanders

For the Last Time

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have been holding events named “Fighting Oligarchy” all across the country in specifically districts with Republican victories (including our district) and have been received with massive crowds wanting to know how to fight and bringing the conversation of “radical” ideas. People innately realize the importance of at least some form of government against the unending pursuit of profit by capitalists, that we all deserve some form of social welfare. It is our task to continue to build on this notion by the masses to make granular changes for progress and democracy.

It is incumbent on communists everywhere to join mass movements, not to only critique them from afar, and a recent example of just such a self-organized working-class movement was the boycott on Feb. 28th, protesting the removal of DEI policies from companies like Target. As communists and progressives we are shooting ourselves in the foot and confirming the biases of the

critics of left activists. If we spend precious time making fun of misguided actions, we are only alienating ourselves into an even more marginal position in mainstream politics. We must take up their banner and participate, only then can we engage with these folks on how to improve their level of organized struggle and to expose the contradictions of capitalism which render non-systemic, uncoordinated resistance ineffective. For far too long the socialists and communists have been too comfortable on the marginal edges of mainstream politics. Contrarily, in Iowa City we saw a broad coalition of people ranging from the center to far-left supporting Oliver Weilein’s campaign for city council. Oliver’s campaign to great effect was able to bring this tactic of broad unity to bear on a local race and put pressure on those contradictions in order to fight against those who exploit our very existence for profit. In an interview with *The Daily Iowan*, Oliver rightly pointed out that a

movement of the working and exploited masses starts from the “ground-up... like grassroots organizing and radical unionism...” These are words we need to live by if we hope to fight back against this overwhelming fascist government. The only thing that will give the people hope and courage to fight back is community — we have to keep that in mind always.

I want to close out this statement by calling on all those who worked in the coalition around Oliver’s campaign and those who want to be in a movement to fight back against this fascist danger to begin the work of hosting a public forum, a People’s Town Hall. We need to show that there are people fighting against the Trump-Vance-Musk troika and the fascists within our state government; and that we want to include everyone’s input into this process. Our club will commit all of our energy and bandwidth to this very objective and we hope others will too.

Please email us at thecorridorclub@iowacitycpusa.org if you are interested in being part of this coalition.
— MICHAEL POWERS, CHAIR OF THE IOWA CITY COMMUNIST PARTY

Donations support homeless and housing insecure people in Iowa City and queer incarcerated people in Iowa. Consider a monthly donation to help sustain our work!

Poetry

HELP II

BY BOBBY MESSIER (PAWZ)

The emptiness of the hopelessness that eats at my life light
Leaves me so depressed and sad that I feel I just might
Die, wither away, and leave this fucked up world behind
But I can’t, I just can’t, take this life of mine
Death is only the beginning, but the pain is also too
The feelings of depression, helplessness, they will follow you
So take your life, kill yourself, we don’t give a shit
But after you’re gone from this world and you feel the same don’t
Throw a fit
Because I warned you that this doesn’t fix a fucking thing
So put down the gun, the knife, and bring down that string
Listen to me and do as I say to you
Listen to your heart, and to thy own self be true
Stop the bullshit, quit with the games, and open your mouth
People do listen to you, and the words that do come out
So stop your crying, bitching, and complaining and ask for help
And you’ll be surprised that you don’t have to yell
Or say some bullshit or do something dumb
Let’s ask for help and see who will come

DECLASSIFIEDS

The Iowa City
Community
Fridge is
Officially Open!

Wright House of
Fashion, 910 S
Gilbert St., North side
facing Jimmy John’s

Corresponding
bus stop: 7010
Open 24/7



Ready to volunteer?

Email iowacityfridge@proton.me to be added to the food drop off group chat



Help clean the fridge on a monthly or weekly basis by signing up using the QR Code



AUTONOMY
IOWA CITY

Supporting bodily autonomy,
right here in Iowa.

Assistance getting abortion pills for a self-managed abortion or miscarriage

Assistance with out of state travel for abortion related medical care

Support and education for people choosing self-managed abortion

Free DIY HRT

autonomyiowacity.org

ASK AN ANARCHIST

Life got you down? Having trouble navigating this fucked-up capitalist hellscape? Get some good-ol’-fashioned anarcho-advice:

