



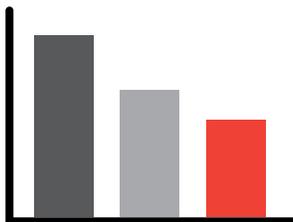
The Philadelphia Partisan

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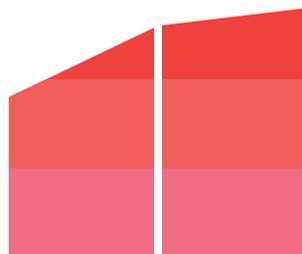
new fronts in organized labor

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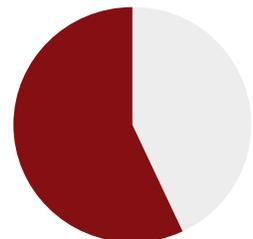
PHOTO BY LEXI LEWIS



Average union membership sits at 10.7% of the workforce today, compared to 14.1% in 1997 and 20% in 1983, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics



according to research, general strikes are on the rise in Western Europe, with 18 strikes in the 1980s, 26 in the 1990s, and 28 between 2000–2006 alone. General Strikes are defined as a stoppage of work by workers in all industries, directed at the government, to enforce a demand



of Americans who work in the "gig economy," 57% have household incomes under \$30,000 per year, according to the Pew Research Center

Graduate Workers “GET-UP”

to Take Penn Back from Millionaire Board

by Samuel Berkman

May 1, 2017



The office of the GET-UP campaign (Graduate Employees Together at the University of Pennsylvania) at 4305 Locust sits just off the campus of the University of Pennsylvania, nestled among the delis and restaurant fronts. Inside, the spartan feel to the decor contradicts the warmth exhibited by the people scattered throughout the long room. Pairs of organizers and activists cycle in and out reporting on their canvassing work. They have been canvassing for weeks in an attempt to make the case to their peers that a union is not only good, but necessary. The goal is to authorize a vote that would allow the graduate workers at Penn to choose whether or not to unionize.

The effort has made once isolated departments begin to interact and discover that, "...[our] concerns were not gripes or personal issues, but university-wide structural problems." According to the GET-UP website "Through these conversations, GET-UP activists aim to connect all graduate student employees to the union campaign with the ultimate goal of creating a democratic coalition of graduate student employees."

Familiar territory

The current effort has its roots in an NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) ruling from spring of 2016 that overturned a prior ruling that graduate students were not workers and could not unionize. According to Salar Mohandesi, an activist at the campaign and a current History PhD student, "[we were] encouraged by the legal ruling, and inspired by similar campaigns at peer institutions, we decided to organize a formal campaign at Penn." Shortly after, GET-UP voted overwhelmingly to affiliate with the AFT (American Federation of Teachers) who, according to a Department of Labor report, boast around 1.5 million members and represent public educators and nurses, among others. The effort went public in March and canvassing has commenced in earnest.

But the campaign has its original roots in a 2000 push for a grad student union at Penn. The original GET-UP campaign was very nearly successful. They got the signatures necessary to authorize the unionization vote, and, despite a lengthy legal delay effort by the Penn administration, the vote finally took place. According to exit polls, the vote was overwhelming yes, but before the votes could be officially counted a Bush-era shake up to the NLRB reversed the Clinton board's decision that graduate workers could unionize and thus

nullified the effort.

Though the effort failed, the current campaign points to the substantial gains that the administration, in order to deter a union, had given graduate workers. During the 2000 campaign graduate workers were given raises (up from \$12,000 a year to \$17,500 a year) and healthcare for all PhD students.

By any meaningful measure there should already be a union of graduate workers at Penn, but chicanery from the Penn administration and conservative politicians guaranteed it would not permit democracy to prevail. The 2000 GET-UP campaign was sabotaged.

Graduate workers without vision-care, what could go wrong?

The GET-UP website contains stories from graduate workers describing scenarios of abuse by the administration. As graduate workers they are responsible for conducting research and teaching courses for the university (on top of taking courses), typical living stipends range from \$25,000 to \$32,000 per year. These living stipends are not guaranteed for more than 5 years, often requiring students who need additional time to complete their degree to seek alternative funding or go into debt to pay costs. Yearly increases to stipends have also failed to match rising inflation rates.

Other issues grads say need to be addressed include basic vision and dental care, improved healthcare, better security for international students, workers compensation, intellectual property (the rights to their intellectual work), and an independent grievance procedure. All of which they say only a union contract can adequately address.

The grievance procedure for example, tends to favor "departmental harmony" by placing power in the

continued on page 7

Sex Workers Organizing in Philadelphia

by Veronica Miller

May 1, 2017

Sex workers should be included in any discussion about labor rights. Culturally we stigmatize sex work in a way that other physical, emotional, and sometimes dangerous professions are not. For example, a healthcare worker deals with similar threats to their health, a therapist or other service-industry worker deals in emotional labor, and an athlete or dancer might use their body to make money but they are not stigmatized in the same way.

Some sort of ancient morality is probably driving this extremely negative view of sex work, keeping it illegal in many countries and making it difficult to organize. In order to unionize, many in the industry feel they would have to be 'out' about what they do—and most are not. Most sexual service providers support decriminalization (meaning that people wouldn't be arrested for it) but do not support making it fully legal and regulated. Their belief is that any official regulation would further marginalize the most vulnerable in the industry and drive them further underground. Despite these limiting factors, there are still efforts to organize in many countries.

In Philadelphia, two organizations fighting for the rights of sex workers are the Red Umbrella Alliance and Project SAFE. The Red Umbrella Alliance (RUA) is an "all volunteer collective dedicated to ending stigma and violence towards sex workers through labor organizing, advocacy, and decriminalization." Project SAFE is a harm reduction organization that "aims to promote social justice and human rights among folks working in the street-based sex industry in Philadelphia." Both have Facebook pages, and both have organized events and meetings in the last few months.

Project SAFE

Sex work is criminalized in Philadelphia. Because of this, workers don't feel safe reporting violent attacks to the police. This is compounded for black, brown, and trans street-based sex workers, who are disproportionately targeted for arrest and incarceration. Project SAFE has a 'bad date' hotline where workers can report incidents without going to the police. Workers can also request a 'bad date' sheet, which includes physical descriptions of clients who should be avoided. Project SAFE also distributes supplies like condoms and provides referrals to welfare, detox/drug treatment, housing, shelter, medical care, public assistance, mental health care, and legal aid.

An anonymous Project SAFE collective member told the *Partisan* that the organization "...makes me feel like someone actually gives a shit about us as people – no one knows what it's like to be out here and to do this work; people make you feel like you're not even human. But the days I'm here gives me strength and hope."

Another member and volunteer at Project SAFE told us, "It is possible to be opposed to sex trafficking and in favor of sex workers' rights at the same time. These are not conflicting issues." Human trafficking is forced transporting and harboring of people and often includes violence and a forced labor component. The workers don't benefit from their labor and are forced to give their earnings to their captors. When this labor is sex work it is called sex trafficking. This is very much a part of the discussion on sex workers' rights, as the general population realizes there is a big difference between a person being violently forced into sex work and choosing it as a job.

Red Umbrella Alliance

While Project SAFE's mission is to help the most vulnerable in the industry, the Red Umbrella Alliance includes all aspects of sex work, from 'high-end' escorts to club dancers, in their organization. A member of the RUA says, "I think part of what is keeping sex work illegal are anti-trafficking groups who believe that decriminalizing prostitution will lead to an increase in trafficking. However, they ignore the fact that sex workers are often in the best position to identify trafficking victims, because they know their own industry and the people who work in it. Anti-trafficking groups are supposedly about ending trafficking, but really their goal is to abolish the entire sex industry, because they often back "end demand" campaigns in entire states." An Amnesty International report from 2015 did indeed call for global decriminalization of sex work. (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/pol30/4062/2016/en/>)

Sexual service providers who don't work from the street have access to ways of protecting themselves by using online date-checking services and other types of background checks. But those who don't have internet access aren't able to use these services.

People who have access to safer methods of running their sexual service business have very different experiences from those working on the street. Not all sexual service providers hate their jobs. But the idea of organizing in a culture that both consumes their services at staggering rates and simultaneously condemns them is daunting to many. Project SAFE and the Red Umbrella Alliance are out in front of the struggle.

<https://projectsafephilly.org>
1-866-509-SAFE 🇺🇸



Immigrant Workers Win with Solidarity

By Suzy Subways

May 1, 2017

Immigrant Philadelphians are being stalked by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Arrested at work and taken to detention centers, jails or prison. Followed and arrested on the street. Grabbed by ICE at traffic court. Scanned with mobile fingerprinting machines in their own homes as ICE agents check their immigration history.

When ICE arrests people at home, they often come after midnight, terrorizing families with aggressive tactics. In an interview with the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Erika Almiron said that more immigrants are refusing to open their doors to ICE since her organization, Juntos, trained hundreds of families on their human and legal rights.

Many immigrant workers from Mexico and Central America are Native American, unlike most U.S. citizens.

Juntos and the New Sanctuary Movement have also helped immigrants like Javier Flores, who moved into the Arch Street United Methodist Church on November 13th, seeking sanctuary from deportation. He is still living there now, as the *Partisan* goes to press.

Since ICE often arrests immigrants when they go to court, New Sanctuary Movement organizes volunteers to go with undocumented people to court in groups. "NSM is working with members of our congregations and the accompaniment program to build strategy that breaks all the remaining holds ICE still has on our city, where they can still arrest people at city sites," organizer Sheila Quintana says.

On April 21st, Philadelphia got a warning letter from Trump's Department of Justice that the city would lose federal funding if local police do not hand over detainees to ICE without a federal warrant. But as Juntos observes in a statement on their website, "ICE still has access to people's information through the police database.... There is still lots of work to be done if we want to declare Philadelphia a sanctuary city, one not just for immigrants but for black and brown folks, poor people, workers, etc.," because of stop-and-frisk policing, racial profiling, cash bail, and police in the schools.

What makes people "criminals"?

President Obama deported about 3 million immigrants and kept an average of roughly 40,000 locked up in detention, including women with small children. And Trump has turned up the vol-

ume on some frightening rhetoric that could allow him to surpass even Obama's record-breaking numbers.

Right after the election, Trump said he would deport or incarcerate 2 or 3 million "criminal" immigrants. His numbers are wildly wrong. The Migration Policy Institute estimates that only about 820,000 unauthorized immigrants in the United States have criminal convictions. Studies have shown immigrants are less likely to break the law than people born here. But in March, ICE began publishing hand-picked information on crimes allegedly committed by immigrants in "sanctuary cities" – a tactic used by the Nazis in its magazine called *The Criminal Jew*.

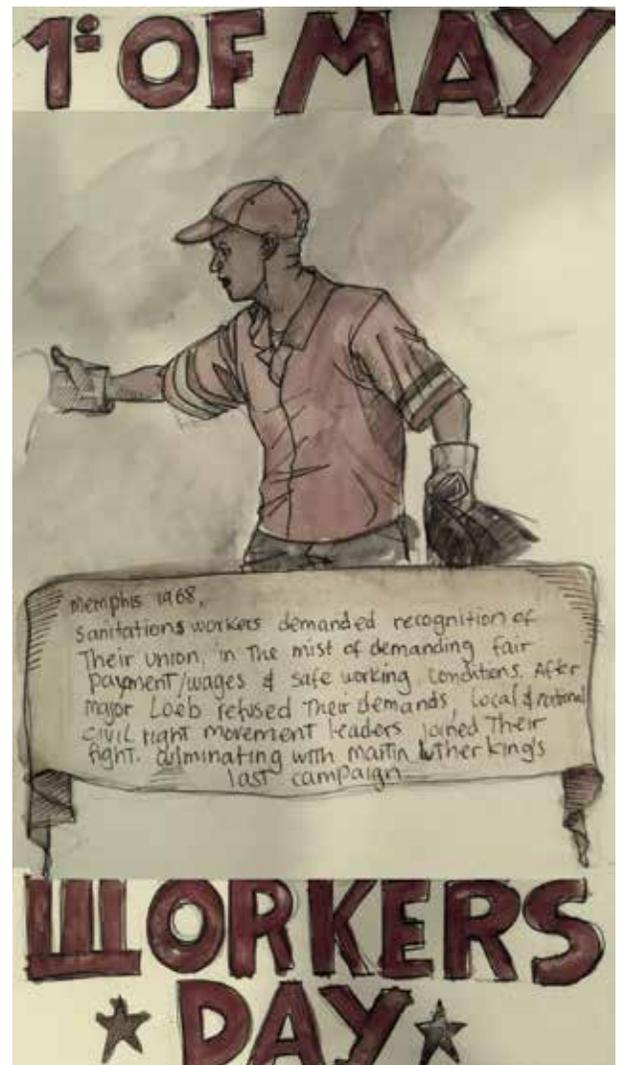
This talk of "crime" itself is racist. What is legally considered a crime is often about controlling people to protect capitalism, gender injustice and white supremacy, not public safety. (For example, I have two misdemeanors for burning a Confederate flag in 2001.) Immigration itself can be a crime – thousands of people each year are convicted of illegally re-entering the country and sent to federal prison. Regardless of the rhetoric, arrests of immigrants with no criminal records this January through mid-March more than doubled compared to the same period last year, according to the *Washington Post*.

The power of immigrant workers

Many immigrant workers from Mexico and Central America are Native American, unlike most U.S. citizens. "Free trade" policies like NAFTA threw them off their ancestral farmland and they had to go north for work. But Trump and other white supremacists believe white descendants of the settlers who took Native American land are entitled to decide who belongs here. This is why "A Day Without Immigrants" strikes are brilliant. As immigrants refuse work for a day, on February 16th, May 1st and beyond, they demonstrate how things would be if they were deported. White supremacists' attacks on the working class can sometimes go against the interests of the capitalist owning class. Deporting line cooks, construction workers and fruit pickers in massive numbers is bad for business. Immi-

grant strikes can divide the ruling class and win victories, as in 2006 when they defeated anti-immigrant legislation.

And they can show the whole labor movement a path forward, blazed with rank-and-file solidarity. "While most people who participated in the February 16 strike reported being supported by their employers, several were intimidated against participating," Quintana says. "Twenty-two workers at a recycling plant in North Philly were fired the day after the strike. With support from the Movement of Immigrant Leaders in Pennsylvania and NSM, the workers organized to demand that every one of them be hired back or they would all refuse to return. The boss tried dividing them by offering the job to all except the ones who organized and who regularly defied injustice in the job. Because they remained united and several organizations helped apply pressure on the business, the workers were all rehired." ❖





No Union With Cops

By Caleb Gallus and Sean West Wispy

May 1, 2017

May Day, International Workers' Day, began in 1886 as a demonstration in Chicago's Haymarket Square against police violence. Police had killed a number of mainly immigrant workers striking for an eight hour work day at the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company and workers took to the streets in response. As we continue their struggle, it's important not just to honor those who died to improve the lives of all workers, but also to identify the enemy. Then as now, the police are the ones called on by the rich to defend their privilege. So what happens when the Police form unions, such as the Fraternal Order of Police? Shouldn't we support unions of all workers?

Several problems immediately arise from this situation. One, even if most individual officers come from a working class background they act against the working class. They rough up striking workers blocking the entrance to their workplace. They act like an occupying army in Black and Brown neighborhoods where they control the population through 'Stop and Frisk' policing and getting people caught up in the courts and in prison. They arrest poor people for stealing food and other basic necessities. They are meant to keep order in a deeply unequal society. The police function very differently in this society than do other working people. They have power to arrest, jail, and kill with near impunity; this kind of power puts them outside of the working class. Two, the FOP acts narrowly in its own members interests and throws all other working people under the bus. We need only to look at the FOP's endorsement of Donald Trump in the latest election to show the disconnect between the FOP and the rest of the labor movement. Increasingly, through the lobbying efforts of orga-

nizations like the FOP the police attempt to gain even more special privileges, political power and immunity from prosecution. They seek to elevate themselves above other workers.

Working class people, whether employed, under-employed, unemployed, employed in unwaged labor, or incarcerated, need to work together to keep each other safe. We must make sure our common enemies cannot exploit the most oppressed amongst us.

Though the police have not always been as militarized as they are in the US today they have always played a repressive role in society going back to the beginnings of the modern police force in the mid-1800's. In the slave states of the South for instance, the police evolved out of the slave patrols that kept Black people in shackles and enforced a racial divide between white and Black workers. Despite the demographics of the Philadelphia Police Department today, it still enforces the racial division of the US working class between white and Black, immigrant and 'native born'.

Today, this repressive role looks like the case of PPD Lieutenant Jonathan Josey, who in 2012 sucker punched a Latina woman in the head at the Puerto Rican Day parade. We see it in the case of Officers Nicholas Carrelli

and Heng Dang, who pulled over Brandon Tate-Brown in December of 2014 for 'driving while Black' and shot him dead as he ran away. Despite mass protests all of these officers remain in the PPD to this day largely because of the efforts of the FOP.

Some people claim that police officers have the most dangerous job in society, but US Bureau of Labor statistics prove otherwise. Loggers, construction workers, and garbage collectors have far higher injury and fatality rates on the job than police officers, but you won't hear the Blue Lives Matter crowd calling for safer working conditions or better protections for these workers.

As we take to the streets this May to defend all workers, especially those who are the most exploited, let's remember who the police serve, and their long history of brutality. We must resist calls to 'support the police' or their so-called labor union because their job is to protect the private property of the wealthy and to control and manage poor and working class populations, particularly Brown and Black folks. Another way is possible. We can build democratically-controlled community self-defense squads, on a neighborhood-by-neighborhood or even a block-by-block basis. These would be transformative justice initiatives that mediate conflicts and address harm in our communities. Working class people, whether employed, under-employed, unemployed, employed in unwaged labor, or incarcerated, need to work together to keep each other safe. We must make sure our common enemies cannot exploit the most oppressed amongst us. We need each other, we don't need the police! 🇺🇸

Trapped in the Gig Economy

by Sejong, the Marxist
May 1, 2017

If you haven't worked in the "gig economy", chances are you have at least taken part. But chances are rising that you have been, or will be, working for the gig economy.

The "gig economy" is a growing section of our economy. According to a 2016 report by economists Alan Kruger (Princeton University) and Lawrence Katz (Harvard University), the percentage of workers engaged in "alternative work arrangements" is approximately 16%, a rise from 10% in 2005. According to the authors, this means that all new job growth between 2005 and 2015 is due to the growth in alternative work arrangements; in other words, over ten years, no growth has appeared among traditional full-time jobs.

Despite this, such jobs represent a minority in the labor market. If we focus on the online gig economy, we are looking technically at an even smaller portion. According to the Pew Research Center, about one-in-twelve Americans (8%) have earned money in the last year using digital platforms to take on a job or task. However, even small percentages can have large impacts; Uber alone has more than 200,000 active drivers.

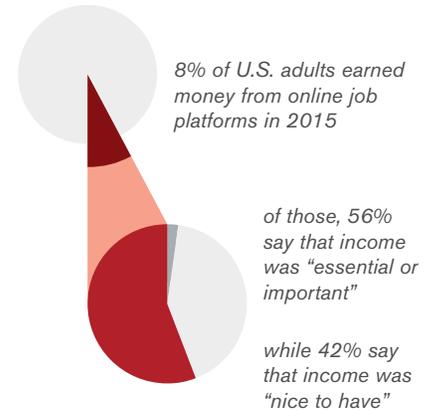
Still, while the gig economy continues to grow, many people are unsure what the gig economy is, or who even works in it. What is emerging from the research is that there exists a class of workers that is isolated from the traditional labor market and is dependent on the gig economy to meet its basic needs. According to the Pew Research Center, about 56% of people say that their gig income is either essential or important for meeting basic needs. One-third of them have full-time employment; people with full-time jobs who cannot make ends meet are turning to the gig economy. It should not be surprising that this same group is disproportionately made of people of color and the working-class. What may be more surprising to some is that this group is also disproportionately recent

college graduates. Those who have traditionally been at the margins of the labor market and those just entering the labor market struggle to find either full-time employment or full-time employment with a decent wage; as a result, they are turning to the gig economy.

Given the importance of gig income, many workers expend a great amount of labor at their gigs. In a recent paper, economists at UCLA and Yale found that nearly one-third of active Uber drivers worked 20+ hours a week and nearly one-fifth of active drivers worked full-time. Additionally, using the study, we can estimate that active Uber drivers working full-time or more account for about 40% of the labor done within a given week. The gig economy is not composed entirely of people working odd hours, here-and-there; a substantial segment work full-time and contribute a large portion of the labor within the gig economy.

What we need to understand is that the gig economy is an essential or important source of income for a core group of traditionally economically vulnerable people. Few of us would consider "gigs" as anything more than dead-end jobs—something to do in your free time or between jobs, but not something to propel you into the middle-class, not something to begin your career with. Gigs let people survive, but do little to alleviate someone's poverty. But, for a large, and growing, portion of the economy, the gig is all people can do.

To that end, Uber drivers have been organizing, but the point of this article is not to suggest methods of organization; rather, it is to motivate solidarity between those who are exploited by the gig economy and those who are not. It is clear that some people are better with the gig economy than without it. Among those who worked in the gig economy, 42% did it to simply supplement their incomes. For the 92% of Americans that do not work in the gig economy,



PEW RESEARCH CENTER

many of them likely benefit from the goods and services provided by the gig economy. However, in exchange for giving some access to more spending money and cheaper and more modern services, the gig economy has chopped up one good full-time job into a few part-time ones; it has justified employing people at full-time hours for part-time pay and no benefits. It has trapped substantial portions of people—who have historically been in precarious positions in the labor market—in the gig economy rather than placing them as its beneficiaries.

The gig economy does not run on free time; it runs on real, hard labor. It is not motivated by entrepreneurial spirit, but by the fear that there is no other way to meet basic needs. We must choose between an economy where a few benefit by the aggressive exploitation of the poor and marginalized, or an economy where everyone is entitled to a full-time job with full-time pay. It is socialism or barbarism. It is exploitation or decency. To choose socialism is to believe that a decent and just society can be wrenched from the barbarity of daily exploitation. *

¹ Alternative work arrangements refers to temp workers, on-call workers, workers who are contracted out by their company, and freelance/independent contractors.

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Chamber of Commerce Lawsuit Nothing But Capitalism At Work

By Mackenzie Yoffe Morris

May 1, 2017

In April, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, an organization advocating for the interests of predatory capitalists against workers' rights, filed a federal lawsuit against the City of Philadelphia to stop the implementation of a wage equity law passed in January. The law, to take effect May 23, would ban company requests for workers' salary history, in an effort to prevent the cycle of underpaying women workers from continuing on this basis. The Chamber is arguing that this, somehow, infringes on the "free speech rights" of businesses. This move is par for the course when it comes to the interests of the capitalist ruling class in their struggle against even minor advances for workers. This is because capitalist wage labor is nothing more than the extraction of surplus value (the value of what workers produce above and beyond what they are paid for, because they are deliberately underpaid) so a minority can get rich at their expense. Meanwhile, the bosses provide no socially useful function or notable labor at all, beyond the management of their own exploitative enterprises.

The gender pay gap, in other words the economic super-exploitation of women workers, is ultimately not something that can be legislated away. It is a function of the fundamentally patri-

archal structure of capitalism. Capital needs the exploitable labor-power of workers to be reproduced generationally, which means it relies on women workers' unpaid labor of birthing and raising children and caring for other workers so they can work for the bosses. Ideological and repressive measures enforce the sexual division of labor, undervaluing women's reproductive, domestic and sexual labor, even for those unable to bear children. Women are kept underpaid in relation to men not just because capitalists can use the ideological justification of their inferiority to save money, but also to put pressure on them to rely on men for greater financial stability. In addition to their own work, women are expected to provide reproductive labor within the nuclear family—that is, working overtime to take care of men workers and perhaps bearing children that can themselves be exploited for their labor-power. Those who resist this arrangement, with its expectations of heterosexuality, stability of gendered roles, and coercive control over childbirth, are also punished in various ways.

In the end, the capitalist class sees workers as nothing more than their labor-power. This is their economic imperative. They literally cannot afford to see the workers they exploit as people with legitimate needs—their needs matter only

insofar as it affects their ability to efficiently carry out exploitable labor processes. The capitalists can sustain economic growth only through a strictly selfish view, not of how workers can be satisfied with their conditions, but how they can be exploited to the greatest extent possible while still able to complete labor processes. Those who are not, whose disabilities of body or mind complicate labor processes, are subject to their own specific oppression on the economic, repressive, and ideological levels. Additionally, many disabilities, particularly those designated as psychiatric, are associated with misogynist stereotypes of what is feminine. Both disabled oppression and women's oppression compound each other significantly. The oppression of racialized nationalities and peoples often plays a crucial role as well, subjecting workers of color to super-exploitation and genocidal terror to maintain the supremacy of certain colonial imperialist powers, principally the United States. These powers suppress the self-determination of their colonized subjects whose land, labor and resources they have plundered. The only solution to these problems is the revolutionary implementation of an entirely new system, socialism, and the disestablishment of the entire capitalist order. ✖

GET-UP | from page 2

hands of the departments to pursue grievance. Outside of the obvious abuses such a system invites, graduate workers also fear for reprisals. Danielle Hanley, an activist for GET-UP and 5th year Political Science PhD student, echoed this concern, "I can't tell you how many stories I have heard about people experiencing harassment or discrimination and feeling as though they could not speak up about it because they might jeopardize their position in the program."

According to the GET-UP website the union's grievance procedure would be, "inseparable from and guarantee the contract". Assuring that grievances are not swept under the rug but instead reviewed by a third party, while prioritizing the the victim of abuse. Activists say that only through contract can they be guaranteed anything.

Threats from within and without

The unexpected results of the election in November have put the union effort into a difficult position. Currently the union is attempting to do

what would ideally be allowed to take place over two years in less than half that time.

Mohandesi sees the election of the Trump administration as the campaigns greatest threat, fearing a repeat of the Bush NLRB shake up, "...there are two vacancies on the NLRB at the moment, and when Trump fills them, it's guaranteed that our right to collectively bargain will be taken away again." Authoritarians traditionally target unions, as democratizing forces that shift power to the public they are unacceptable. And the Trump administration, for all its talk of the American worker, seems dead-set on pursuing virulent anti-worker policy. He has supported instituting national "right-to-work" laws and has placed bankers and CEO's whose money is made on worker insecurity into cabinet positions.

Organizers must also contend with an unfriendly administration. According to Danielle, "Amy Guttman [President of the university] has come out with a letter which basically attempts to scare graduate student workers by trying to

convince them that unionizing will detrimentally affect their relationship with professors." This is directly contradicted by a letter signed by nearly 80 professors at Penn expressing support for the unionization campaign. Hanley believes this is partially motivated by the administration's "...fear of having to look graduate student workers in the eye when it has to make the decisions that affect the conditions of our labor, and our lives."

For the activists and organizers this means one thing: organize, and fast. The organizers have spent every day for the past several months going door-to-door, lab-to-lab, and making countless phone calls to reach the over 3,000 Ph.D. and Master's students, to make the case for the union. In Salar's experience, "...the majority of graduate students we have spoken to have been receptive to the idea of a union. Most want to talk, share their experiences, and learn more about the campaign."

Unions and the endless struggle to expand democracy

Unions in 2017 sit in a historically weak position, membership is at an all-time low (according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2017 US Average union membership sits at 10.7% of the workforce, compared with 14.1% in 1997, and over 20% in 1983).

As such, unions must re-imagine their purpose within society in order to regain their foothold and remain important democratizing forces in society.

In an address to the First International Karl Marx said, *"Apart from their original purpose, they [the unions] must now learn to act deliberately as organizing centers of the working class in the broad interest of its complete emancipation,"* and that they, *"...must aid every social and political movement tending in that direction."* In other words unions must organize around class-conscious principles, which must crucially include issues of gender, race, colonialism, etc.

Consciousness raising must be deliberately built, and the graduate workers at Penn seem acutely aware and have taken steps to address them. For example, by creating a standing, "Unity Committee", which Danielle says, *"serves as a forum to discuss and work on resolving issues that those who are*

historically under-represented or marginalized...tend to face...includ[ing] discrimination based on... race, nationality, ethnicity, language, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, age, religion, and ability."

More broadly though a graduate worker union would play a role in shifting the balance of power in Philadelphia from within the heart of the city's largest private business. The University is the largest private employer in the city - it is a major landowner and force for gentrification, and is influential in the financial sector sending more undergraduates to Wall Street than any other American university. A union would make for a more democratically run university, which would be more accountable to, and thus more reflective of, the interests of their workers and the Philadelphia community.

Getting involved

According to Hanley, the best way to get involved would be to follow their social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter (@GETUP-grads) to follow updates and see upcoming events. And if you're interested in directly being a part of the campaign she says organizers from other groups have joined in the canvassing effort. And, *"If you know graduate student workers at Penn, you can direct them our way. Every little bit helps our campaign!"* ✳



PHOTO BY LEXI LEWIS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1

12pm

Un Día Sin Immigrant, Black and Brown Bodies

CITY HALL

11am

May Day Rally for Immigrants

DREXEL UNIVERSITY

May 4

10am

Stand with Araceli

16TH AND CALLOWHILL STREETS

May 13

12pm

Garden Party

CESAR ANDREU IGLESIAS COMMUNITY GARDEN

May 24

7pm

Philadelphia Tenants Union 2nd Annual Convention

ANNUNCIATION CHURCH, 1511 S 10TH ST

Cada lunes

6:30pm

Clases de Ingles GRATIS

CIRCLE THRIFT, 1125 S. BROAD

Cada martes

6:30pm

Clases de Ingles GRATIS

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