The true rate in the U.S. is unknown as test capacity is limited and suppressed. In fact, the coronavirus crisis in Europe and the U.S. could be surpassed by the health care systems in Cuba, China and now Italy to help save coronavirus patients. The world could learn a lot from those who already have a health care system available. The immune-boosting antiviral drug Interferon alpha-2b developed by Cuba was used in China and now Italy to help save coronavirus patients. Nothing has been done by the U.S. government to work with Cuba to bring this medicine to patients in U.S. hospitals. The trillions spent on the Pentagon war machine could pay for health care for every single person in this country. It’s time to end all sanctions.

If you witness or are a victim of racism, please call or text us at (410) 218-6283.
Never forget Vincent Chin
Trump spurs racist attacks on Asian Americans

By Stephen Millies

“It’s not fair.” Those were the last words of Vincent Chin outside a McDonald’s in Highland Park, Mich., a suburb of Detroit. The 27-year-old was beaten to death by two white racists on June 20, 1982, because he was Asian American.

Chrysler supervisor Ronald Ebens hit Chin with a baseball bat while Ebens’ stepson, Michael Nitz, held Chin down. Vincent Chin’s skull was fractured and he died four days later on June 24, 1982.

The United States was in a deep recession that year and the official unemployment rate reached 10.8 percent. It was worse in Michigan, with weekly jobless claims soaring by 230 percent by the end of 1982.

Banksters and billionaires like the Ford family had already shut down hundreds of factories, warehouses and offices. They wanted people to blame Japan for deindustrialization. Their media and politicians repeated this big lie.

The result was that laid-off Chrysler workers yelled at Vincent Chin, “It’s because of you little m— that we’re out of work!” and killed him. That Vincent Chin was Chinese American was of little difference.

Ebens and Nitz were clearly guilty of premeditated murder but were only convicted of manslaughter. These killers who robbed Lily Chin of her only son were sentenced to a mere three years probation and a $3,000 fine. Their parole was granted.

Thirty-eight years later, Trump wants us to blame the People’s Republic of China for deindustrialization. That’s not fair. Viruses don’t have a nationality. There’s been over 150 attacks on Chinese Americans and other Asian Americans since the pandemic started.

Every one of those attacked could have been another Vincent Chin. Trump’s rhetoric helps fuel this racist violence.

Hate epidemic
Blaming peoples and countries for disease is genocidal. Nazis claimed that Jewish immigrants from Poland were spreading tuberculosis in Germany.

Radio fascist Michael Savage claimed immigrants, particularly those from Mexico and Central America, were spreading tropical diseases in the U.S. That was the subject of his first hate show on March 24, 1994, broadcast from San Francisco.

The same year, California’s Proposition 187 was on the ballot. It would have kicked immigrants out of hospitals and public schools. Savage was put on the radio to promote this segregationist referendum.

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Dockworkers respond to Covid-19

By Lallan Schoenstein

Once again, in a powerful act of solidarity, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) is organizing to protect its members from the coronavirus pandemic. The union has issued a list of demands calling out against unhealthy, unsafe, disease-threatening conditions.

The union members can withhold labor in the shipping ports that control commerce to back up their demands. The ILWU held a press conference along with local leaders from the Bay Area labor movement during the third week in March to demand that contaminated waste from the Grand Princess cruise ship, quarantined in San Francisco Bay, be safely disposed of. Also, they demanded adequate medical treatment for all workers still aboard the vessel and a safe repatriation of the staff.

Port companies had planned to expose both dockworkers and community members to the coronavirus by trucking the waste through the East Bay community. The ILWU demanded that the contaminated waste from the ship be disposed of safely through water-side offloading and barge removal. After the press conference, the port bosses backed down and agreed to union demands.

While the dockworkers on the West Coast continue to fight for sanitation standards, the ILWU is using its power to support the thousands of workers they represent in industries “on the other side of the gate,” referring to workers outside of the port terminals. From the nearly 400 workers laid off at Powell’s Books in Portland, Ore., to the workers at Anchorsteam Brewing in San Francisco, to education, veterinary and warehouse workers, the ILWU is working to ensure that inland workers have safe working conditions and enough cash to survive.

It is courageous for the ILWU to make these demands while it is under intense union-busting pressure from federal and local governments. In November, a judge awarded the terminal operator ICTS a $96 million settlement against the ILWU for a slowdown action which began in 2012. Although the original award to ICTS was later reduced by $79 million, it is still more than twice the ILWU’s total assets, threatening the dockworkers’ union with bankruptcy.

A union spokesperson says: “The ILWU has been hit with this massive fine that will have a chilling effect not only for the longshoremen’s union, but for workers far beyond the waterfront if we don’t act. Now is the time to organize in the face of this terrifying disease.

“And as the saying goes, an injury to one is an injury to all. That’s never been more true than right now.”


As coronavirus rate spreads

Continued from page 1

3, 2013, Wall Street Journal reported: “U.S. energy output has been surging in recent years, a comeback fueled by shale-rock formations of oil and natural gas that was unimaginable a decade ago. A Wall Street Journal analysis of global data shows that the U.S. is on track to pass Russia as the world’s largest producer of oil and gas combined this year — if it hasn’t already.”

The U.S. produced 18 percent of the world’s oil last year, compared with Saudi Arabia’s 12 percent, Russia’s 11 percent and Canada’s 5 percent.

As far as natural gas alone is concerned, the U.S. and Russia are the dominant producers, with Russia’s flow of natural gas to Europe going through Ukraine. A cutoff of Ukrainian gas would force Europe to depend on oil or U.S.-produced natural gas transported in liquefied form. Some wonder Trump and Biden are contending in Ukraine?

As the U.S. and Canada developed their profitable fossil fuel industries, whether natural gas or shale oil, the U.S. economy has become increasingly dependent on selling carbon-based energy products. Is
People's War against coronavirus: Why Washington fears China's example

By Scott Scheffer

Gleaning the news, anyone can find articles acknowledging that China's "People's War" against the Covid-19 epidemic is on track for total victory. The evidence of the Chinese people and the confidence they have in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have resulted in gaining control over the emerging health crisis.

The Trump administration's miserable profit-before-people response to the arrival of the virus in the U.S. has stripped capitalism naked. Thousands are losing their livelihood, unable to get needed supplies and unable to get medical help. The Democrats' emergency bill provides only some help to a small section of the population.

The contrast between socialist China's great work and the cruelty of U.S. capitalism threatens a sea change in the way workers think about the two social systems.

The Trump administration is trying hard to erase that possibility by slashing social programs. The idea is that China concealed the danger of a pandemic, punished people who sent out early warnings, rejected help from experts who reported a week delay in the response that they claim would certainly have been underway in the U.S. if only they had known.

Yeah, right.

The notion that China had bought time for the rest of the world is often associated with the claim that capitalist nations that had the resources took their cue from China and were prepared when the virus spread internationally.

The blame for the lack of success in much of the world belongs on the doorstep of U.S. imperialism. Vicious U.S. economic sanctions, International Monetary Fund austerity programs and sapping of resources have left countries vulnerable.

The White House tightened sanctions against Venezuela, Iraq and Cuba in recent days. The virus has reached Gaza and countries in Africa where sanctions and imperialist domination have broken the economies. Long ago, Trump cut the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) budget and efforts to prevent outbreaks in China, Pakistan, Haiti, Rwanda and Congo.

U.S. punishes while China helps

China, meanwhile, is sending medicine and all forms of aid that it can to other countries, including France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Iran, Iraq and the Philippines. The Chinese people's humanity and solidarity is on full display today. That is the headline of a March 25 Foreign Policy article cries, "How China is Exploiting the Coronavirus to Weaken the West.

The World Health Organization (WHO) was given reports by China even before the possibility of a pandemic was certain. WHO shared the information with the U.S. CDC and spoke of the danger repeatedly. The U.S. failed to take it seriously.

The U.S. also had a direct line of communication through Dr. Linda Quick, CDC staff person stationed in China until July 2019. According to a March 22 Reuters report, Quick's job was to work with epidemiologists to track the virus, compile and study cases. Cases may have been augmented even by liberal and conservative critics. A Feb. 10 Vox article cites an epidemiologist using newer statistics to contradict the information that was supplied by China before those statistics were available. His deceitful argument is easy to see through. No statistics on an epidemic are accurate until there has been time to compile and study. Cases may have existed earlier, but China reported what it knew and was honest about what it didn't know on Dec. 31.

On Dec. 30, Dr. Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital, had become aware of a number of pneumonia cases in Wuhan. He assessed it to be a coronavirus. He was then summoned to a hospital in Wuhan. He was then sent out early warnings, rejected help from the United States and other countries. The Chinese government shared the information with the rest of the world. The WHO shared it with the world. The Chinese government supplied what it knew. The U.S. did not share information.

The contrast between a socialist system whose goal is humanity and a decrepit, violent capitalist system whose goal is humanity and the profit of a few is so threatening to the U.S. that the Trump administration has seized on this incident and has used it as another battering ram against China. Howls of condemnation from media outlets have bolstered the China-bashing, Cold War attacks.

Even as the possibility of the U.S. becoming the global epicenter of the pandemic was certain, the White House is hinting at the U.S. becoming the global epicenter of the pandemic. European countries had rejected Serbia's appeals for help.

Stop U.S. attacks on Venezuela and President Maduro!

By Brandon Harris

The recent accusations of drug trafficking against President Nicolás Maduro and other top Venezuelan officials are utterly false.

Donald Trump and Attorney General William Barr reportedly plan to add Venezuela to the list of "state sponsors of international terrorism." Many media reported March 26 that the United States also plans on filing drug trafficking charges against President Maduro and issuing a $15 million bounty for his arrest. The taxpayer is not being helped by these lies and fabrications. There is no evidence that Venezuela supports international terrorism or is involved with drug trafficking.

On the contrary, it is the U.S. that has carried out terrorist attacks against Venezuela by supporting coup attempts, attacking their electrical power grid, and through the inhumane sanctions that have prevented the people of Venezuela from getting lifesaving medications for Covid-19, diabetes, heart disease and other illnesses.

Sanctions are a form of economic warfare and economic terrorism against the Venezuelan people. No one has ever been a threat to the U.S. nor has ever done anything to harm people here. All progressive groups and people in the U.S. should stand with Venezuela against the threat of imperialist war and all sanctions aimed against that country.

U.S. imperialism, hands off Venezuela!
Por qué el sistema de ganancias está entrando en crisis

Por Gary Wilson

Wall Street ha estado en una montaña rusa sin precedentes, con grandes oscilaciones diarias. En las últimas dos semanas, las vivencias de Wall Street han demostrado su fragilidad, más allá de los despidos durante un los Los Angeles Times del 17 de marzo.

Los precios del petróleo cayeron a casi $20 por barril el 18 de marzo, pero han vuelto a subir desde entonces, y desde el 16 de marzo de 2020 — casi un 13 por ciento — algo histórico. La caída no solo afecta a los grandes inversionistas — bancos grandes, corporaciones y fondos de cobertura— sino también a los planes de retiro de millones y ahorros ligados al mercado.

Los negocios ya empezaron a despedir trabajadores y reducir horas. "Alrededor del 18 por ciento de los adultos informados que han sido despedidos o que sus horas de trabajo han sido reducidas en los últimos tres meses. Están culpando a la pandemia del Covid-19. Miles de personas han perdido su trabajo y cientos de miles de familias se han visto afectadas.

Pero la pandemia es un evento que ha revelado la crisis del sistema capitalista. Desde el punto de vista económico, el virus lo que hizo fue exponer la subyacente inestabilidad de la economía. Los paquetes de estímulo que ofrecen casi a diario el presidente Donald Trump y el Congreso, así como el Banco de la Reserva Federal, están destinados a mantener a flote la economía. Pero los efectos de estas medidas serán limitados sin una respuesta de salud pública que pueda contener el virus.

Gran parte de los sectores de servicio —restaurantes, bares, teatros, clubes nocturnos y aeropuertos— se ven gravemente afectados ya que las personas se mantienen alejadas de los lugares de reunión pública y dejan de viajar. La vida normal se está deteniendo al cerrar escuelas y lugares de culto, con la cancelación de eventos deportivos, conciertos y la suspensión de las temporadas de las ligas deportivas.

La llamada fuerza de trabajo informal, trabajadores de servicios y la fuerza laboral por encargo [gig workers] se ven gravemente afectados ya que las personas se mantienen alejadas de los lugares de reunión pública y dejan de viajar. La vida normal se está deteniendo al cerrar escuelas y lugares de culto, con la cancelación de eventos deportivos, conciertos y la suspensión de las temporadas de las ligas deportivas.

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