

PEOPLE'S WORLD

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“People’s World” names new top editors

By Teresa Albano



If cable TV had a show called “Top Talent: Editors Edition,” John Wojcik and Mariya Strauss would be among the finalists. Wojcik, former labor and co-editor of People’s World, was named editor-in-chief of the daily news website earlier this year and Strauss as managing editor.

Wojcik brings a storehouse of political and journalistic knowledge and experience to his new position: he worked for the Daily World in the 1970s and 80s, and served as the editor-in-chief of The Downtowner, his college newspaper at St. John’s University in Brooklyn, N.Y. Wojcik was elected to his second term as a vice president of the International Labor Communications Association at the organization’s convention last year.

Wojcik said labor and social justice activists appreciate People’s World’s “unique coverage” of their struggles and issues.

“We build unity and have the long term outlook that we have to include everybody in order for movements to succeed,” he said. As an example, Wojcik said that he brought together People’s World contacts in labor and the Black Lives Matter movements to share the platform for the first time at ILCA’s 2015 gathering.

“To survive and thrive in a crowded media

field, the route to take is not one of dog-eat-dog competition but to join with others. The labor movement is under attack and we joined with ILCA and other labor publications in common cause, to put labor media as part of the alternative media landscape,” he said.

People’s World welcomed independent journalist Mariya Strauss to its managing editor position in January. Strauss, a former ILCA media coordinator and veteran of the labor

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movement. In partnership with the Nation Institute, Strauss conducted a nine-month investigation on the job hazards adolescent farmworkers face and wrote, “Regulations are Killed, and Kids Die,” winning the 2013 Clarion Award. In 2014, that article became a Texas

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Observer MOLLY Award finalist.

At present, Strauss pens regular columns on new labor and community organizing efforts for The New Labor Forum, the academic journal of the Murphy Labor Studies Institute of the City University of New York.

One of her first assignments was editing PW's coverage coming out of Flint, Mich. Strauss' first PW tweet was "proud to work at PW where we've got 2 reporters in Flint talking to folks and sending dispatches."

In addition to Strauss, three new names have been added to the editorial masthead: C.J. Atkins as opinion editor, Chauncey K. Robinson as social media editor and Larry Rubin as Washington Bureau chief.

Atkins, who got his doctorate in 2015 in political science from Toronto's York University, is deputy executive director of ProudPolitics, a multi-partisan organization based in Canada which is dedicated to increasing the number of LGBTQ officials in public service. For 3 years, he taught public policy at York.

Robinson, a recent theater/drama graduate

from San Francisco State University, is a writer and podcaster for The Black Geeks, a "community of people who share a love of geek culture, be it tech, movies, video games or comics," it says on the group's website. She is an occasional playwright and theatre director, along with being a member of the National Board of the CPUSA.

Rubin, a veteran of the legendary Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, has worked as a journalist and labor communicator for years in the Washington, DC-area, he says, "from about the time Gutenberg invented the printing press."

Susan Webb, a former co-editor, retired at the end of February but plans to write occasionally and is helping to curate PW's socialism series.

Joe Sims, a former co-editor, will remain active with the editorial collective but will focus full-time as coordinator of the Communist Party's digital work. Sims announced the launch of the CPUSA's new website on May 1.



T. Albano is Associate Editor with Peoplesworld

Low-ball to snowball: Underestimating poverty among older Americans

By Donald Donato

Last week, as President Obama signed the Older Americans Act reauthorization (OAA), people of all ages were volunteering hundreds of hours of their time to provide low-income older adults with simple but lifesaving services that go unfunded or underfunded by both state and federal programs.

Adding to the insult of meager funding, most seniors find the injury of a byzantine patchwork of federal and state services and benefits to be overwhelming and sometimes outright impossible to navigate alone.

Instead of a life lived in dignity, many senior citizens are having to scrimp, accept charitable hand-outs, and are often forced to decide whether to pay for much-needed medicine, or go hungry.

As the need increases, it should not be surprising that we are seeing a dramatic increase in older people participating in the labor force and living in poverty. But according to a recent study--ironically funded by a private health care and insurance company's foundation--these same federal

statistics on poverty may be severely underestimating the underlying crisis.

Incredibly, the official poverty measure does not factor cost-of-living disparities throughout the U.S., and instead focuses on age-based tiers.

Without proper advocacy at both the state and federal level, this low-balling could snowball into one of the worst human disasters in U.S. history. As the World War II generation knows from personal experience, confronting national and international challenges such as these requires unity, education, analysis, and skillful leadership, as well as determination. Knowing these factors is an important starting place for analyzing the demographic, economic, and political terrain.

Working people and working class older adults will need to come together to build a viable, symbiotic, and politically cohesive force for claiming and enshrining economic, social, and cultural rights, just as previous generations led the way in championing our civil and political rights.

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Verizon strike attracts support in Southern California



By Eric A. Gordon

From Massachusetts to Virginia, nearly 40,000 strikers are standing up against Verizon Wireless. Members of several unions as well as Bernie Sanders supporters (the CWA has officially endorsed him) and other pro-union activists, showed up in front of a Verizon store in a vast shopping mall.

Verizon workers taking on corporate greed have pledged to strike for as long as it takes. The largest such labor action in the U.S. in many years, the strike is now in its fourth week.

The corporate Goliath refused to negotiate a fair and mutually beneficial agreement with workers and is eager to move jobs overseas and undo decades of collective bargaining progress.

Frontier bought out most of Verizon's operations in the state. There are only 186 employees left in California. He summed up his union's position on the t-shirt: "United, we bargain," Divided, we beg."

He cited obscene corporate salaries at the top as one reason the workers are now being denied their opportunity for a little dignity and respect. Aside from his corporate jet, Lowell McAdams, Verizon's CEO, alone makes \$18 million a year - 300 times what Verizon Wireless retail workers make. Verizon banks \$1.5 billion a month in profits, thanks to its employees.

Recalling the famous date of Cinco de Mayo as the day on which this nationwide demonstration of support was called, Frost said it was "the appropriate day to take action."

One young man headed into the Verizon store to make a purchase asked about demonstration, and when he found out, he turned 180 degrees, walked back to his car and left.

Last August, Verizon workers began renegotiating a contract with the corporation that would protect their right to a union, push back on the outsourcing of jobs, and prevent the company from relocating workers away from home. The negotiations have lasted over ten months, with Verizon refusing to budge on some parts of the contract that would benefit and protect workers.

Nearly 40,000 Verizon employees finally went on a strike last month. Up and down the eastern seaboard, workers have left their posts to stand up for their colleagues, families, and friends. According to the CWA, Verizon insists that layoff protections for employees hired after 2003 be removed from the contract. Verizon also wants to force technicians to work for up to two months away from home.

The CWA informational flyer said, "Verizon represents everything that's gone wrong with the American dream: the rich get richer, while the hard-working employees can't even get a raise."

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LOCAL NEWS

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Socialism: Fight for something or you'll lose everything

By Don Washington

So, what is socialism in America to me? I take it from the root of the word *sociare*, to share. And by share, I mean that we all share a collective fate in how society works or doesn't work. I take it from its more concrete meaning - *societas*.

The concept is that there exists a bond between people who stand as equals before and under the laws of society - laws that they both create and consent to live by. That there is between all of us a common public good which we contribute to and benefit from that defines society. So socialism is the notion that we share a common destiny, whether we know it or not.

Socialism is the idea that all are equal, and that we participate in the creation, maintenance, and understanding of the common public good. It is the recognition that, without the common public good, society goes to hell in a flaming handbasket. And at the heart of that common public good we find a civil society, criminal justice system, and social service system that are always on guard against racism, militarism, and materialism.

Socialism is working to create and maintain a society that lets people pursue their aspirations and not be preyed upon by the greedy, opportunistic, and amoral among us.

So, socialism is about creating a society where our default mode is not to reward those who find the best way to game the system, but to create a system that is responsive to the common public good.

It's like my grandfather said: Democracy is the battle that never ends. You are either fighting for something or losing everything.

Invalidan proceso de impeachment contra Dilma Rousseff

Prensa Latina

El presidente de la Cámara de Diputados de Brasil, Waldir Maranhao, invalidó en 8 de Mayo el proceso de juicio político contra la jefa de Estado Dilma Rousseff, reportó el diario *Folha de Sao Paulo*.

La mandataria brasileña, Dilma Rousseff, pidió calma y cautela, tras conocerse que el presidente en funciones de la Cámara de Diputados, Waldir Maranhao, anuló la sesión en la cual se admitió el pedido de impeachment.

Al hablar en la ceremonia de creación de cinco nuevas universidades, Rousseff dijo desconocer las consecuencias de la decisión adoptada por Maranhao y recordó que el país está viviendo una coyuntura de "mañas y artimañas".

Con esa decisión, la votación sobre el impeachment, prevista para el 11 de Mayo en el Senado, será retomada por los legisladores de la Cámara baja en un plazo de cinco sesiones, agregó el medio.

La apertura del juicio político por manipulación de las cuentas públicas contra la Presidenta fue aprobada por dicho organismo el pasado 17 de abril, con el voto a favor de 367 de los 513 diputados.

Sobre la anulación, el comunicado oficial señaló vicios y fallas en el procedimiento que volvieron nula la petición del impeachment.

En el texto, Maranhao alegó que la votación se centró en temas ajenos a los denominados "crímenes de responsabilidad" que son la base del proceso legal.

La mandataria recibió la noticia durante una ceremonia en el Palacio del

Planalto, con motivo de la creación de nuevas universidades.

En el momento, entre aplausos, cantos y vítores, Rousseff pidió tranquilidad a los simpatizantes presentes. "Por favor, tengan cautela, vivimos una coyuntura de mañas y artimañas", expresó.

El presidente del Parlamento del Mercado Común del Sur (Parlasur), el argentino Jorge Taiana; y el diputado uruguayo Daniel Caggiani se reunirán con la presidenta brasileña, Dilma Rousseff, en el Palacio de Planalto en 9 de Mayo.

Los legisladores viajaron al vecino país para manifestar la solidaridad de los parlamentarios del mecanismo subregional con la mandataria, sometida a un juicio político, considerado golpe de Estado, al carecer de argumentos jurídicos y probatorios de culpabilidad.

Señaló el diario que la Presidencia del Senado se negó a recibir al Parlasur, así como a cualquier otra organización internacional.

Caggiani, también vicepresidente del Parlamento del Mercosur, cuestionó a lo que "le dicen democracia" cuando el 60 por ciento de los 342 diputados brasileños son investigados por corrupción, e intentan sacar del poder a una jefa de Estado elegida por 54 millones de votos, apuntó el medio periodístico.

El Parlasur lo integran parlamentarios de Argentina, Brasil, Paraguay, Uruguay y Venezuela, miembros plenos del Mercado Común del Sur, además de Bolivia que se encuentra en proceso de adhesión al bloque de integración suramericano.

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