



Speak Out Now

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Summer Has Arrived — But Where's the Time Off?

The summer months should be a time to spend with our families, visit relatives in other cities, see new places, and simply hang out and get some rest. But for many workers, any extra time for family or relaxation has to be squeezed into our schedules before we have to clock back in to work.

The U.S. is the only wealthy nation in the world that doesn't guarantee workers annual time off. In the U.S., workers take less time off than workers in any other wealthy country, taking an average of 11 vacation days per year compared to 20 days taken by workers in other wealthy countries. At the same time, the number of U.S. workers who take a full week off has decreased by 50% since 1980. And for low-wage workers (those in the bottom 25% of the workforce in

terms of pay), over 50% of them receive no paid time off, not even sick days.

If our job even offers vacation time, we often have to work there for many years before we might be able to get multiple days off in a row. And if we do get time off, we rarely get the days we want since we have to request them so far in advance. So, we're usually stuck with taking a day or two here or there at best. Some workers might use their sick days, but for many of us that could mean risking our jobs. Often, it ends up meaning we get no real time off at all.

And with any time off that we can get, it's harder to spend it doing what we actually want. Everything has become more expensive, and our wages aren't keeping up. If we were thinking about going on a road trip, gas prices make us think twice whenever we fill up our tanks. The same is true for traveling by air. Airline prices have gone up 16% since 2019. Interested in going camping? Years of budget cuts have not only closed down many state parks, but also raised fees to visit them — if you are lucky to even get a spot. So even if we get time off, it's more difficult to spend it on a vacation.

The bosses just want to squeeze as much work out of us as possible. But we do the work to make this society run, and we should have the good things in life as well, especially the most valuable thing in the world — time.

NEW MESSAGING WHEN WORKERS
REQUEST TIME OFF:

"WE ALREADY OFFER 104
VACATION DAYS ...
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
'WEEKENDS.'"



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UPS Workers Vote to Authorize a Strike

UPS workers recently voted to authorize their union leaders to call a strike if a contract agreement isn't reached by July 31. According to their union (The Teamsters Union), the strike vote was approved by 97% of those who voted. And last week, the union leadership walked out of a negotiating meeting because they said the company ignored the demands of workers, who have many grievances, including about forced overtime, low wages for part-timers and new hires, unsafe working conditions, unreasonable workloads, and more.

UPS is a massive company, with \$100 billion in revenue and \$11.3 billion in profits for 2022. There is no doubt that UPS has enough money to make concessions to its over 340,000 workers. If UPS workers do go out on strike in big numbers, their struggle can be an example for workers all over, who are experiencing similar conditions of exploitation.

Media Ignores the Death of 700 Migrants

Last week, the news wouldn't stop about the five super-wealthy passengers of the *Titan* — the underwater sea vessel built by a billionaire to travel down to the wreckage of the Titanic. It is now believed the *Titan* quickly imploded from the pressure of the deep waters, killing the five on board.

Also last week, about 700 migrants died after a fishing vessel capsized off the coast of Greece, in one of the deadliest migrant shipwrecks ever recorded. Most of the migrants were women and children from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt, Syria and Palestine.

The five on the *Titan*, two of whom were billionaires, died on a reckless adventure they chose to pay enormous sums of money to go on, while the hundreds of migrants died fleeing their countries in a desperate act of survival. But the news media chose to cover the tragedy of the five rich people, and practically ignored the tragedy of the 700 migrants. In this society, apparently the lives of the rich are more valuable than lives of migrants trying to survive.

It is our labor that creates all of the wealth of this world. But we aren't the ones who benefit from this. The super rich – the bosses of the big corporations and banks – keep the wealth and make all the decisions. But working people do the work that makes society run, and so we have enormous power to change things and make a better world if we decide to unite our forces.

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A's Fans Rally to Keep Team in Oakland

For a long time now, the billionaire owner of the Oakland A's baseball team has been trying to move the team to Las Vegas, where he can get the city to pay more for a new stadium. And recently, new agreements were signed for the A's to eventually leave Oakland.

This has hit the dedicated fans of the Oakland A's very hard. This team has been in the city since 1968, and working class families have been connected to it for generations. And in response to the threatened move, some fans have begun to organize against it. On Tuesday, June 13th, tens of thousands of fans organized a "reverse boycott," packing the stadium with the largest home crowd of the season, chanting for the owner to "sell the team!" so the A's can stay. It was an inspiring sight of thousands of fans organized together and standing up for their hometown team.

Whatever happens, passionate fans like the ones that organized and participated in the "reverse boycott" should have a say on what happens to our teams, not the billionaire owners, who treat our teams like their little toys!

Climate Crisis is Threatening Hot Sauce!

The hot sauce that everyone loves, Sriracha, is disappearing off the shelves and at restaurants, and is even being stolen from the few stores that still have some bottles left. What's goin on?



Temperatures have been soaring because of the climate crisis, with each new decade shattering the temperature records of the previous one. This year or next is likely to be the hottest year ever recorded on Earth. These temperatures along with severe drought conditions have hit chile-growing farmers in Mexico very hard. And this is where the company Huy Fong Foods, which makes Sriracha, gets its chiles from. The drought is so severe the company says it has no idea when supplies will increase again.

Of course, it's more than just hot sauce that is being threatened by the climate crisis. All life on the planet, including humans, is threatened by this climate emergency brought on by corporations and their burning of fossil fuels as they destroy the environment in pursuit of profits.

So, if you can't live without that rooster sauce, just remember that the greed of corporations and their destruction of the planet is to blame for this shortage.