

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

volume 48 no.3

February 10, 2016

suggested donation \$1

#blackinbrooklyntech means...

SHUT RACIST SCHOOLS DOWN

BROOKLYN, January 21—A small anti-racist student movement has shaken Brooklyn Technical High School. Progressive Labor Party must turn this struggle into a school for communism.

Tech is the tenth-largest high school in the United States. Over the last month, two speak-outs by students and one by angry Black alumni have put the education bosses in New York City on notice that the growing racism in our school system is intolerable. These bosses have held up Tech as a model of excellence as the school's combined Black and Latin student populations have dropped to 15 percent—as compared to 68 percent in city schools overall.

The disgustingly racist message is clear: If more Black and Latin students are admitted, this “elite” school’s quality will diminish.

Safe Space for Racists

Racist messages emanate from New York’s educational system, top to bottom. On Tech’s website, an administration’s report defends the high-stakes exam that systematically excludes Black and Latin students from the specialized high schools. Inside the school, academic tracking has a decidedly racist character (see letter, page 4).

No wonder Tech has become a “safe space” for individuals to express racism. White students have gone so far as to tell a Black teacher rushing down an overcrowded hallway, “Watch it, n-----!” Sources say the dean’s office gave those students a mild talking to and no more.

Such shocking encounters pale beside the vicious racism faced by thousands of Black and Latin high school students in New York, as they are greeted each morning like criminals by police and metal detectors.

After the hallway incident, the teachers’ union chapter committee raised the problem of hate speech with the principal. At a December student speak-out, with teachers and administration in the room, two dozen Black students made their voices heard. A fightback began.

As #blackinbrooklyntech began trending on Facebook, racist assaults were hurled at Black



High school girls lead hundreds down the streets of Brooklyn at May Day March. Gear up for this year’s PLP May Day celebration on April 30!

Contact your local PL’er for more info.

students by their peers: “You are going to end up like Sandra Bland” (the young Black woman found dead in a Texas jail cell last July), and worse. Misguided students urged a return to silence because Black students are “ruining the name of the school.”

On a January weeknight, hundreds of Black alumni descended on Tech to hear the administration’s response—the strongest show of interest by Black alumni here, ever. Recalling a time when many more Black students attended Tech, they demanded that the Department of Education (DOE) confront the systemic racism responsible for the current crisis.

Even if current trends are reversed and Black and Latin enrollments rise in New York’s specialized high schools, they will still be part of a brutally racist terracing of education. The central myth will remain: If you fail under capitalism, it’s your fault.

Whose Schools? Bosses’ Schools!

Historically, the U.S. bosses have used public schools to create a myth of nationalist, all-class unity for imperialist war—and to recruit the cannon fodder they need to protect their profits.

The specialized high schools can’t perpetuate that myth if gutter racism runs rampant in

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OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue \$1. One Year: \$20. Six months: \$15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, February 10, 2016. Volume 48, No. 3

Editorials

Iran Deal Signals War Prep

The recent nuclear deal signed by the rival bosses of Iran, the U.S., Russia, China and others has nothing to do with peace. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) limits Iran's ability to produce nuclear weapons in exchange for an end to sanctions that have punished Iran's economy and workers since 1979. But the agreement's real purpose is to buy these rivals time to build their militaries for the broader imperialist wars to come.

Bosses' 'Peace' = War

When the leaders talk of peace, the people know the war has already begun.

—Bertolt Brecht, communist poet and playwright

In 2011, George Friedman's *The Next Decade* warned that a military conflict between Russian and the U.S. (and its NATO allies) was inevitable. Friedman, founder of the private intelligence firm Stratfor and a former consultant to the U.S. armed forces and the arch-imperialist RAND Corporation, argues for "a temporary understanding with Iran ... that gives the United States room to withdraw... [and] create a new regional balance of power" (Stratfor, 11/24/14).

In the halls of the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency, a "new regional balance of power" is code for propping up and pitting regional rivals against one another. U.S. rulers could then shift their focus to their longer-term plan, a prospective all-out war with Russia and/or China. That's what the capitalists mean by "peace."

JCPOA Spells FASCISM

The dominant U.S. bosses, tied to finance capital and the likes of ExxonMobil and Citigroup, are in disarray. Their invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq were costly failures—not because they killed millions of

workers, but because they failed to bring the bosses decisive victories. As a result, U.S. imperialism was weakened throughout the Middle East and Central Asia, the region that produces most of the world's cheaply extracted oil.

To finance these failures, the rulers have imposed viciously racist budget cuts on the U.S. working class—and a siege of racist state terror to discourage insurrection. Yet despite this escalating repression, Black workers have led heroic rebellions against murderous police from Ferguson to Baltimore.

While a ground invasion of Iran will likely be needed, sooner or later, to consolidate the U.S. bosses' regional control, rebellious Black workers may be more committed to fighting against the government than for it.

JCPOA will give the U.S. bosses a freer hand to impose fascism. Their first step will be to force the Tea Party and other rogue capitalist factions to support Exxon's agenda. Then they'll enlist—or coerce—workers to support the next U.S. imperialist bloodbath. Once again, the working class will be expected to pay, kill and die amid escalating racist police terror, mass unemployment and a sharp decline in living standards.

Powell Doctrine: Blueprint for Fascism and War

One of the top Exxon-backed strategists for U.S. imperialism and its fascist vision is Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the four-star general who oversaw the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 1990.

The Powell Doctrine holds that ready and willing ground troops, along with broad support from the

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Capitalism Toxic for Working Class

The toxic water crisis in Flint, Michigan exemplifies capitalist state terrorism. Not only is the whole working class poisoned by the profit drive, but also the treatment of Black and undocumented workers exposes the bosses' racist essence.

Flint, the birthplace of General Motors, is nearly 60 percent Black, and over 40 percent of its population lives below the official poverty line.

Under the pretense of saving the city money, Flint switched its water source in 2014 from Detroit to the local river. Residents pay \$140 a month for this toxic waste. Nearly 9,000 kids were poisoned. There's a spike in Legionnaires' disease, a severe form of pneumonia. Ten died.

Within weeks of the change, families complained of a foul smell from the pipes. Researchers at Virginia Tech proved that the state government not only ignored complaints but also lied about lead levels and concealed evidence.

Who's to blame? Capitalism, General Motors and its century of exploitation. "After decades of industrial dumping by GM and its suppliers, the Flint river became polluted" (Columbia, 1/26).

Flint is no isolated incident. Every city with a current or former industrial base suffers the consequences of this capitalist waste dumping.

Flint: No Stranger to Struggle

As home to tens of thousands of industrial workers, Flint was the site of one of the most significant labor battles in U.S. history, the Great Flint Sit-Down Strike. In 1936, from December to February, autoworkers occupied their GM factories for 44 days. Through collective action and unshakeable working-class unity, they counterattacked the bosses, took the offensive and

won. It inspired a wave of sit-down strikes nationwide. The working class never forgot.

The bosses didn't either; when GM left, it tried to defeat both workers and their environment. The arsenic, chromium, mercury, lead and other toxins will take centuries to dissolve. The unemployment and crumbling infrastructure in Flint may actually foreshadow more capitalist crises to come.

Embers of that anger against capitalism still burn today. Workers chanted, "Hey hey! Ho ho! Snyder's got to go!"

Many wore t-shirts printed with "Flint Lives Matter."

A retired autoworker said it best, "We are being saddled with this toxic water because we are under a toxic system" (ACLUofMichigan).

Politicians, in an effort to cover their ass, point fingers at Snyder or the emergency manager Darnell Earley when it's capitalism that caused this water crisis. A system based on wage-slavery will always put profit over health and safety of the working class.

Capitalists Respond to Crisis with Fascism

After Snyder and president Obama declared an emergency, workers were greeted with the National Guard.

Many water distribution centers required identification cards, effectively barring up to 1,000 undocumented workers from clean water. Because of the language barrier and fear of the government, they were also the last to find out about the lead (abc12 news, 1/20). In times of crisis, bosses respond with fascist terror and the racist essence of the system exposes itself.

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Maryland: PL Builds Movement vs. Racist Police Terror

ANNAPOLIS, JANUARY 18—“Racism means we got to fight back!” Protesters chanted in front of the Maryland state capitol, where Tawanda Jones spoke at a rally of 200 workers and youth for her brother Tyrone West, a Black worker murdered by the racist police. Progressive Labor Party members participated in this multiracial rally on this night of below-freezing temperatures to add communist heat to the workers’ demands to end the state’s protection of the police from their racist crimes.

At heart-wrenching part of the rally, victims of Maryland racist police terror were called out by name, city or county, and racial background. Most of the dead were Black, but they also included Latin, Asian and white victims. For each, a paper with his or her name was held up, and anyone at the rally, who wished to volunteer, came up to take the paper, thereby representing and honoring that person by lying in the dark on the freezing concrete, and joining the growing die-in (see photo). Lawyers Mall, the open space outside the legislative buildings, ran out of space, with so many bodies—a chilling spectacle.

LEOBOR = Racist Terror Against Workers

The Maryland Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights (LEOBOR) is a law containing



the strongest legal protections for police of any state in the US. The law was passed, years ago, as part of the notorious “War on Drugs.” This phony “war” was a decades-long excuse by U.S. bosses to intensify racist police terror in the U.S., and imperialist terror for workers across Latin America.

In another part of Maryland—Prince George’s County—PLers have done neighborhood canvassing against LEOBOR with the Prince George’s Peoples’ Coalition and the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability. Tonight, we invited our friends to an upcoming Baltimore PLP forum, to discuss and organize for communist revolution

as the way to finally end police brutality.

The protest was one of many high points in the struggle during the past year, a year in which PLP has played a significant role. We distributed leaflets and CHALLENGE newspapers to Black, Latin and white workers and youth. We have consistently participated in the inspiring West Wednesday rallies, held in memory of Tyrone West, every week in Baltimore. These modest-sized but powerful street protests combine profound anger alongside deep, sisterly and brotherly compassion for one another. This combination is the foundation for our growing international communist movement in Maryland.☘

Iran War Deal

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U.S. working class, are essential to the continuing dominance of U.S. imperialism. But it also notes that a large-scale ground invasion will require years and massive investment. U.S. workers’ loyalty to the bosses’ war plans cannot be assumed, Powell says; it must be built.

While U.S. imperialism is in an increasingly desperate position, it cannot afford to stop defending its barbarous empire. Millions of workers will continue to be slaughtered as the world’s capitalists divide the planet and compete for profit and control.

Bosses’ Problems = Workers’ Opportunities

Workers worldwide have drawn inspiration from the anti-racist rebellions in Ferguson and Baltimore. For Black and Muslim workers, fascism is already well underway. Latin, immigrant and women workers are also bearing the brunt of U.S. fascist terror. From Iran to Russia, from China to the U.S., our enemies are the bosses who gun down, imprison and deport our class sisters and brothers.

The Progressive Labor Party

fighters to end imperialism once and for all with mass armed revolution for communism. PLP organizes for class war because the working class has no country; only international communism can end this imperialist nightmare. Only a red army can smash this capitalist system.

The JCPOA is a warning shot from the world’s capitalists to the international working class that bigger wars are coming. Join us to build a mass party of millions to destroy these racist borders—and smash the brutal imperialists who drew them!☘

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Flint Water Crisis

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The backdrop of the Flint crisis is rising racism. In addition to the daily murder and terrorization of Black workers and youth, the U.S. has ramped up deportations and turned up the racism against Muslim working-class families. This is an attempt to divide our class so we blame each other instead of bosses for decrepit schools, lack of housing, imperialist wars, and toxic health environments.

Attacking one section of the working class effectively drives down the living conditions of all workers. The Huffington Post’s *Race and Economic Jeopardy for All* report explains how

“politicians’ deliberate use of racism has hurt workers—Black, Latin, women, gay and white—while, simultaneously, advancing the agenda of the 1 percent....[White workers] suffered wage stagnation just like everybody else” (1/18).

While Black, Latin, refugee, and indigenous workers suffer the brunt of racist exploitation, racism hurts white workers, too. The 38,000 white workers in Flint can attest to that.

Communism Antidote for Workers

We can always look to the working class for solidarity. A Muslim community group donated 30,000 bottles of water to the workers in Flint. Multiracial rallies blasted the murderous government. PLP fights to build on this solidarity by organizing a mass party of workers to fight for communism.

There is no safe place for working-class people under capitalism. Whether you are battling toxic working conditions in China, the ISIS and other capitalist thugs in the Middle East, or the Zika virus in Latin America, communism is the antidote for our class.

We must build a world where we run society in our interests. That requires eradicating the toxic system of profit from human history.

We can begin the road to revolution by joining PLP.☘

Build School for Communism

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their halls and classrooms. It's no accident that NBC—owned and operated by U.S. finance capital—seized onto #blackinbrooklyntech and made it national news. The major media outlets are controlled by the capitalist ruling class, the same interests that applauded Barack Obama's plea to Congress to authorize military force against ISIS in his recent State of the Union address.

Unity and Pitfalls

Members of PLP working inside the bosses' schools want to organize a different kind of unity. We need multi-racial unity to fight racism. We need to prepare the working class to turn the next big imperialist war into a class war for communist revolution.

While the movement we are building has much promise, it contains pitfalls as well. The prevalence of "white privilege theory" has hampered white and Asian students from expressing their anti-racist sentiments. Anti-racist energy that should be directed at the DOE has been sidetracked into arguments over who can use the N-word. In a communist future, nobody will use that awful word.

But we are making progress. At a second speak-out in January, the Muslim Students Association and the Gay-Straight Alliance joined members of the Black Student Union to broaden the scope of the struggle. Female students demanded action against sexism, from how the racist "dress code" is enforced to the way they are received by male classmates in math and sci-

ence classes.

All students agreed that the endless stress of competitive, high-stakes testing and excessive homework leaves little room for building unity and compassion among students. They are beginning to hit at the heart of what is wrong with education under capitalism.

Fight Against Racism!

The anti-racist fight at Tech can spread across the entire city school system—but only if student leaders refuse to fall for the elitism fostered at exclusive, specialized high schools. This struggle is about racism in all the schools. Tech students come from every neighborhood in this city. A broad and vigorous organizing effort could demand an end to segregation and to racist policing of our schools. Imagine a day where high school students converge on Times Square instead of reporting to their first class. PLP and friends can have much to do to make this a reality.

The bosses fear the power of working-class, multiracial unity. High officials at the DOE are directing Tech bosses to select a few Black student leaders and make them partners in quieting the struggle. So far, however, this effort has failed.

A strong commitment to push the fight forward persists. The time is now. Students, teachers and alumni, Black, women, Latin, gay, Asian, straight, white, men—turn up the fight against racism!✊

Letter

H.S. Students Build Anti-Racist Fight

Cries against racism have erupted in campuses across America: Missouri, Chicago, Ithaca, Yale, and countless others raising their voice against the complacent threats to keep us silent. The torch has been passed on to Tech, an "elite" school in New York City.

Its student body is determined by the SHSAT, an admissions test designed to favor students who can afford the preparation materials. The education system teaches students to sit up and bark answers rather than think critically. Reason is dangerous to the ruling class. Instead, it instills all the obedient qualities of a good worker, and keeps the working class divided.

The percentage of Black and Latin students at Tech has plummeted from over 50 percent twenty years ago to 15 percent today (NYT, 8/18/06).

People internalize the divisions with which the bosses indoctrinate them. The Black population has been subject to gross stereotypes in society at large as well as exclusion from higher-tracked classes and majors inside Tech. Many [Black, Latin] students avoid these courses for their reputation of racism. Some non-Black students use racial slurs and de-

meaning stereotypes in conversation. Many Black students feel ostracized, having their existence become a token.

The faculty reportedly allows racist discourse in their classroom. Standing idly by enforces racism. Teachers have a responsibility to protect and encourage their students. The same goes for every person surrounded by injustice.

Even jobs in the school is structured so there's a gradient of color, with the lowest positions exclusively Black, and the high faculty almost exclusively white. Such a system aggravates racial divide. Such problems plague every institution in the country.

The movement behind #blackinbrooklyntech was met with opposition from some students. We also got support from those compassionate enough to listen to their fellow students and think for themselves. Most important, it started a conversation about the assaults Black and Latin students face, and the injustices innate in such a racist system.

Beneath the banner of #blackinbrooklyntech stands a movement united across races. To achieve progress, we must break the boundaries drawn along artificial differences to keep us divided.

Detroit: Students, Teachers Blast Wretched Conditions

CHICAGO, January 27— A mass student walkout and a sick-out by Detroit's public school teachers reveals the racist core of the capitalist bosses' schools and the need for communist organizing.

The teachers forced the bosses to shut down 69 of 100 segregated schools by calling in sick en masse. Teachers are fed up with the disgusting learning and teaching conditions and attacks on wages and benefits. Ninety-five percent of their students are Black or Latin; the under-funding of Detroit's schools, under state control for 12 of the last 15 years, is clearly racist.

The teachers are calling for funding to guarantee clean and safe learning conditions, smaller classes, more workers, and social services for children with special needs. They are also demanding restoration of pay and benefits, including the return of nearly \$10,000 each teacher was forced to "lend" the district under an agreement negotiated by the Detroit Federation of Teachers (DFT) in 2012.

Rank-and-file teachers have organized job actions independently of the DFT. As disillusion with unions grow, so do the red opportunities for mass leadership from students and teachers toward shutting down capitalism. The student walkout from Cass Technical High School is a good example.



Bosses' Emergencies, Workers' Disasters

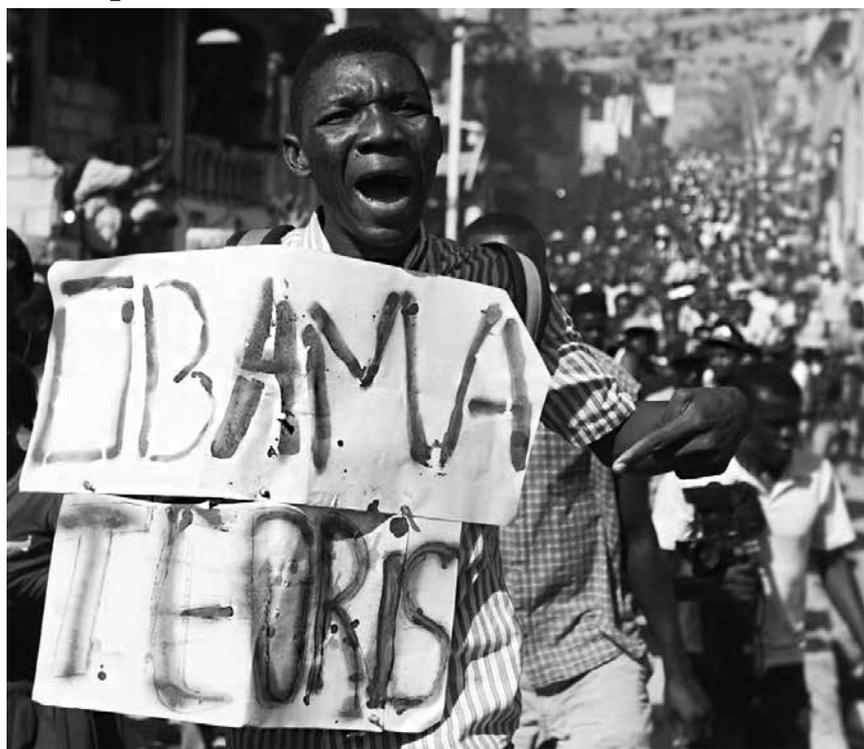
The teachers are also demanding the removal of the bosses' hatchet man, Darnell Earley, the emergency manager appointed by the Michi-

gan Governor Rick Snyder to "save" the bankrupt city. With sole decision-making power, Earley has slashed school and pension budgets while increasing funding for the police department.

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Need Workers' Leadership, Not Politicians

Haiti: Down With Imperialism, Elections



Sign reads, "Obama terrorist"

HAITI, January 26—Thousands of angry workers have taken to the streets throughout the country, burning tires, breaking windows, fighting with the police. PLP has participated in the demonstrations, calling for workers to build revolution, not electoral reforms.

The demonstrations have been in response to the widespread election fraud and incompetence in the presidential elections held in October with 54 candidates and the run-off scheduled between Jovenel Moïse, hand-picked front-man of the current president, Martelly, and Jude Celestin, protégé of previous president Préval. The government and its senior partners in the U.S. Embassy were forced to cancel the run-off because their complicity was exposed.

The United States has spent \$33 million on these elections (The Nation, 1/27).

The first wave of protests was peaceful; no one paid attention. U.S. ambassador Peter Mulrean advised they be ignored.

Then the protest turned violent. Many chanted, "Down with Obama"; "we are rebels. We will not obey." The workers in Haiti are exposing the hand of U.S. imperialism and its long history of occupying the country. The United Nations occupying force, an arm of U.S. imperialism, brought cholera to Haiti and killed over 9,000 people.

But the election debacle is

neither fraud nor incompetence on the part of the ruling class. It is, in fact, part of an ongoing plan to suck workers into getting behind a capitalist system of mass exploitation and oppression. Democracy and elections are nothing but a cover to build popular support for a system that offers nothing to the working class but suffering: unemployment, hunger, toxic water (like Flint, Michigan), illiteracy and illness.

It matters little to the masses here which section of the ruling class wins the election: Jovenel the banana exporter or Jude the fake-left construction boss. Nor does it matter if Martelly stays beyond his Feb. 7 term end, as demanded by Guy Philippe, a known drug dealer and former army leader behind the ouster of Jean Bertrand Aristide in 2004. Philippe has threatened an armed insurrection by former army members to support Martelly.

Only by organizing the masses into a revolutionary communist party that fights to end capitalism and its imperialist masters, can workers build a society that responds to its own interests.

In the anti-imperialist Haitian song "Y'a Danger," Jean Jean Roosevelt warns the bosses of the coming dangers. Indeed, the ruling class should be shaking; once armed with communist consciousness, the might of the working class will move mountains.✪

Israel: No Capitalist Rule Without Racism



Black workers in Israel erupt in rebellion against apartheid last May

ISRAEL-PALESTINE, January 27—What's the reward for a politician who takes \$155,000 in bribes and spends two years in prison? A promotion! Aryeh Deri has been appointed as the interior ministry for the Negev and Galilee regions. He is the leader of the Shas party, known for its fundamentalist nationalism. Deri's main task will be to prevent undocumented immigrants from crossing the border, increasing deportations, and redefining city boundaries for property taxes. The Shas party is important to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing coalition.

Similar to the U.S., racist violence and deportation of undocumented immigrants and refugees will increase. Whereas in the U.S., they are mainly from Latin America, these refugees are mainly from war-ravaged regions like Eritrea, Sudan, and Egypt. Deri's predecessor, Eliyahu Yishai, was also virulently racist and led brutal attacks on asylum seekers from eastern Africa and deported many of them to the Holot concentration camp in the Negev (southern desert). In 2014, Holot was an international focal point for racist Israel's treat-

ment of the 50,000 African refugees.

Deri, who tries to paint himself as a "social" candidate, remained in the government when it sold off Israel's massive natural gas deposits to local and foreign tycoons. Combining religion, racism, and graft, he is a loyal servant for the billionaires.

Israel does not have a separation of religion from the state. To the contrary, the government cynically uses religion as an excuse for its racist policies of segregating Black migrants, Palestinians, and white Jewish workers. Candidates like Deri leverage religion and racism to get re-elected as the faithful servants of big financial capital. Capitalist rule cannot exist without racism and fraud.

There is no such thing as a "clean," "fair," or "tolerant" capitalist government. Deri and the whole capitalist system has got to go. The international working class must build a society without politicians and capitalists. We need the leadership of those locked in Holot, brutalized in the West Bank, and exploited in Israel to fight back!✪

MLA

Resolve to Fight Anti-Muslim Racism

NEW JERSEY, January 21—Members and friends of Progressive Labor Party recently won a victory against anti-Muslim racism. For years, we have been part of the Radical Caucus (RC) of the Modern Language Association (MLA), an organization of primarily language and literature professors, scholars, and graduate students. Through this caucus, members and friends of PLP worked together to pass an emergency resolution condemning anti-Muslim racism and supporting Muslim students and professors.

This action is a victory against the MLA misleadership. Although the MLA had issued a statement in late December defending the academic freedom of professors who teach about Islam, the statement failed to take an anti-racist position. To put forward the sharpest possible anti-racist, anti-imperialist resolution, we had a vigorous discussion within our PLP concentration. Then we struggled with others who directly affected by anti-Muslim racism to support the resolution. They responded with enthusiastic support and gathered dozens of signatures. Within 24 hours, the resolution was widely circulated in sessions at the MLA convention. By the time it came to the floor for debate the next day, many delegates were eager to speak in favor. But we didn't stop there.

PLers reached out to local activist groups, like Jewish Voice for Peace, some of whose members joined us in leafleting and picket-

ing the Delegate Assembly before its meeting. Although the resolution still needs to be ratified by the MLA membership, its passage through the Delegate Assembly by a two-to-one margin is a clear indicator that professors and graduate students want to fight anti-Muslim racism and the drumbeats of war.

While the resolution is a long way from a call for revolution, it enabled us to sharpen our political discussions with our friends. We stressed that anti-Muslim racism comes from U.S. imperialism and benefits the bosses by dividing workers worldwide. We also linked anti-Muslim racism to anti-Black racism. Both serve the same purpose: winning workers to wars that devastate workers while benefiting only the ruling class.

Rooted in System, Not Psyche

The resolution read: *Be it resolved that the MLA support professors and students opposing the militaristic, xenophobic, and racist effects of Islamophobia.*

Liberal language like "Islamophobia," meaning the fear of Muslim people, is more than just inaccurate language. It muddles the class nature of racism! It is not an individual mental condition that causes people to be afraid of Muslim workers and children; it is the systematic oppression and scapegoating of the Muslim working class, fueled by imperialist propaganda. "Anti-Muslim racism" gets at the class nature of the oppression and

reminds us that to destroy it, we must fight back. The ruling class generates racism. "Anti-Muslim racism" also suggests that fighting racism can be a uniting factor for Muslim, Black, Latin, Asian, white, and all workers worldwide.

Self-critically, PL members in the MLA should have fought against the liberal term "islamophobia."

This resolution is just the start. As ideological battlegrounds, classrooms and campuses are places where the fight against anti-Muslim racism must intensify. It is essential that we win education workers to anti-racist ideas and practice, in the MLA and elsewhere, and then to a communist outlook.

This experience reminds us of the vital role played by communist leadership in the class struggle. PLP members moved the resolution to the left and built the necessary support to get it passed. Passing the resolution was a significant step, but more important gain were the many connections we made with local activists and other groups in the MLA.

This struggle will continue to expand our limits, encouraging campus activism and creating an opportunity for alliances with students and other organizations. The sharper the fight against U.S. imperialism abroad and racism at home, the more powerful our Party will grow. ☪

Detroit: Students, Teachers Blast Wretched Conditions

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This is the same Darnell Earley who'd recently served as emergency manager of Flint, Michigan, where he played an instrumental role in switching the water supply in the majority Black city from Lake Huron to the toxic Flint River, leading to widespread lead poisoning (see page 2).

This is What Capitalism Looks Like

After decades of budget cuts and the layoffs of thousands of teachers, engineers, janitors and other support staff, many schools are in a state of acute physical decay, making it impossible for students to learn (see sidebar).

The school district has 200 teaching vacancies yet to be filled. One DPS high school now has only one certified math teacher. One student said she's had a substitute teacher in her Spanish class since the beginning of the school year—and the sub speaks no Spanish.

Under capitalism, only a certain percentage of the population needs higher education. And only a certain percentage gets jobs. The rest are set up to be unemployed or join the military. These cuts in the education factories—and in other social services—are designed to conserve the bosses' resources as they prepare for war with their imperialist rivals. Under communism, all students will develop to their greatest potential and contribute to society.

Union Play their Racist Part

On Jan. 12, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, accompanied by state union chief David Hecker, toured several schools and feigned shock over finding rodents and other unsanitary conditions.

In fact, city and union officials have disregarded complaints by teachers, parents and students for years!

On Jan. 15, the DFT, whose interim president has opposed the sick-outs, held a meeting that drew more than one thousand teachers. AFT President Randi Weingarten was flown in from Washington to break the rank-and-file's resistance. She exposed the unions' true role: subduing militant fightback while distracting workers to work within the capitalist system.

Only a communist revolution can enable workers to build a world where students can learn under safe and dignified conditions and give collective leadership. Detroit teachers and students are heading in the left direction. They have refused to heed the union's call to calm down. Many feel a strike is the next step.

Public Enemy #1: Capitalism

Cities like Flint and Detroit have been decimated because of capitalism's drive for maximum profit. Many higher-paying union jobs have been moved to non-union states where workers—weakened by racist divisions that prevent fightback—are paid poverty wages. Outside the U.S., workers are paid even less. This super-exploitation drives wages down for the entire working class. Millions are left unemployed.

Capitalism is so saturated with racism it can never meet the needs of the working class. The Progressive Labor Party stands with the students and teachers of Detroit and their fight. An attack on one student or teacher is an attack on the international working class. The bosses use their state power to breed racist working and learning conditions. PLP fights for state power by building

Here is a list—from Detroit teachers—of racist learning conditions at their schools:

Spain Elementary Middle School: Black mold; buckling gym floor; broken swimming pool; defective boiler.

Thirkell Elementary-Middle School: So few teachers that eighth graders are housed in the gym and pulled out for instruction in core subjects for only an hour or so each day; rain and snow pour through the ceiling; teachers get one prep period a month.

Moses Field School (for students with severe cognitive impairment): Broken boiler; infestations of rodents, roaches and bedbugs.

Palmer Park Preparatory Academy: Pieces of the ceiling falling on students' heads; infestation of rats.

Bates Academy: Security issues; heating issues; mice; broken computers.

Dossin Elementary-Middle School: Standing water in classrooms; holes in the ceiling; classroom without power due to black mold in the wiring.

Ronald Brown Academy: Special education class with no textbooks; slimy growth on the walls; crumbling ceilings.

Mann Elementary School: Untrained teacher forced to administer medication to student suffering severe seizures.

an army for communist revolution—student by student, worker by worker.

Use CHALLENGE to expose the racist conditions of Detroit schools. Demonstrate working-class solidarity—fight back where you are! ☪

Workers Protest LAPD Racism

continued from page 8

under capitalism. In the midst of these rallies and marches, we are building PLP to build a mass party to lead a revolution and build a communist society. Under communism there will no such thing as kkkops or racist police terror.

Capitalism: Bosses' Dictatorship

Capitalism is based on the injustice of exploiting all workers, and was founded on the enslavement of Africans. Capitalism's development depended, and its survival depends, on the racist super-exploitation of some workers over others. The bosses developed and refined their racist state apparatus like their prisons, cops, and political system over centuries to defend murderers like Proctor and Beck.

Even if Proctor is charged, history has shown that cops tend to be acquitted or, less often, found guilty of relatively low-level crimes with light sentences. According to the LA Times (1/12/16), "prosecutors have not charged a law enforcement officer in an on-duty shooting in 15 years."

Top kkkop Beck served in the same elite, fascist LAPD "CRASH" unit whose goal was to arrest gang members "by any means necessary" (PBS 8/14/12). This meant carrying a supply of illegal weapons to plant on Black and Latin workers, with plaques and honors awarded for shootings that killed their victims. Much of the LAPD's internal investigation into CRASH is still suppressed,



Protest following the murder of Brendon Glenn

including a 40-page report on three officers investigated for the murder of rapper "Notorious B.I.G."

This is a taste of the bosses' dictatorship that only a mass communist PLP can destroy, when millions of workers are organized and fighting for armed revolution. Our movement is growing—one of the marchers just agreed to be on the Party committee that is organizing our April 30, PLP May Day dinner.

May Day is the only international working class

holiday. It's a day we celebrate our class' history of fightback all over the world, and gather our forces to look forward to smashing the bosses' capitalist dictatorship, its imperialist wars, killer kkkops like Clifford, and the bosses they serve.

We will continue the immediate struggle with a rally at the District Attorney's office. We join the workers demanding that Proctor be indicted for murder, and continue fighting and organizing for a communist society where our class rules the earth.☺



RED EYE ON THE NEWS ...

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Obama to expand war

NYT, 12/28 — They are taking on a larger combat role in Afghanistan where the war was supposed to be over. They are headed to Syria....And President Obama recently ordered nearly 300 of them to Cameroon....

...The White House has steadily expanded the global missions of American Special Operations troops.

Even as Mr. Obama has repeatedly said that he opposes American "boots on the ground" in far-flung parts of the world, his administration continues to carve out exceptions for Special Operations forces....

The White House is now considering a Pentagon proposal to maintain at least one base in Afghanistan for years to come....

This plan would run counter to Mr. Obama's original pledge to remove all troops from Afghanistan....saying that about 5,500 troops would remain in the country through the end of his term in early 2017.

The proposal would use that Afghanistan base as a hub for Special Operations troops and intelligence operatives throughout Central and South Asia, part of a larger network of bases the Pentagon is envisioning... in countries like Libya, Egypt and Yemen....

Now, roughly half of the 7,500 elite troops overseas are posted outside the Middle East or South Asia, operating in 85 countries....About half of the 3,500 American forces in Afghanistan are special operators and have recently fought pitched battles in Helmand Province...

Richest 62 people as wealthy as half of world's population

Guardian, 1/18—The vast and growing gap between rich and poor has been laid bare in a new Oxfam report showing that the 62 richest billionaires own as much wealth as the poorer half of the world's population.

...the report calls for urgent action to deal with a trend showing that 1% of people own more wealth than the other 99% combined.

Oxfam said that the wealth of the poorest 50% dropped by 41% between 2010 and 2015, despite an increase in the global population of 400m. In the same period, the wealth of the richest 62 people increased by \$500bn to \$1.76tn.

...in 2010, the 388 richest people owned the same wealth as the poorest 50%. This dropped to 80 in 2014

before falling again in 2015.

Arab Spring turns to winter

NYT, 1/20 — Tunisia...declared a curfew in the city of Kasserine after clashes between the police and more than 1,000 young protesters demonstrating for jobs....20 protesters and three police officers had been injured in the clashes. Tensions have risen...when an unemployed youth killed himself to protest his rejection for a government job. Five years ago, another unemployed youth...set himself on fire, arousing a popular uprising....The protests eventually gave rise to the Arab Spring uprisings across North Africa.

U.S. war in Iraq kills, torments thousands, displaces millions

NYT, 1/20 — The United Nations...released one accounting of Iraq's suffering: nearly 19,000 people killed, close to 40,000 wounded and more than three million displaced from their homes over a 22-month period that was marked...by a "staggering level of violence...."

...[While] most of the casualties had been at the hands of...ISIS....there are myriad other ways an Iraqi can die: sectarian violence by militias, untreated illnesses and malnutrition, a wayward air strike, abuse by government forces...."Even the obscene casualty figures fail to accurately reflect exactly how terrible civilians are suffering in Iraq....countless others" had died from a lack of access to food, water and medical care....

Beyond the dead, there are the displaced people who are unable to find a place in their own country... In Kirkuk...where the Kurds took control...Arabs...have faced police raids and arbitrary arrests....

The Kurds, an ally of the United States....in northern Iraq had destroyed thousands of Arab homes....

The report tracked casualties through October, but violence has continued....The study does not take into account intense fighting in recent months around Baiji, Sinjar or Ramadi....nor...a surge in guerrilla-style attacks in Baghdad and Divala Province....At the camp...near a military base where American soldiers are training Iraqi forces, one of the men in charge...said that after so much suffering, the people there were "psychologically broken."

"This year we have suffered a lot more than any other year....we have lost everything....our lives have become hell."



KKK seizes on Trump's appeal

Wash Post 12/21--Making friends is no easy task for modern white nationalists...(but) the national organizer for the Knights Party (of) the Ku Klux Klan told The Washington Post that the KKK has a new conversation starter at its disposal...Donald Trump... "has become a great outreach tool, providing separatists with an easy way to start a conversation about issues...(we want our members)...to be able to learn how to open up a conversation with other people..."

"We are living in very exciting times," (neo-nazi blogger Kevin) MacDonald wrote... "It's okay to oppose the idea that every last human has the moral right to immigrate to a Western country, or that all peoples and cultures are equally acceptable as immigrants. And it's safe to say that millions of White people are changing what they think."

...Jared Taylor, the editor of American Renaissance, a white-nationalist magazine and website (said)...that Trump[s] "his support comes from people who are more like me than he might like to admit."

... "These groups are constantly trying to reach whites that they think would be attracted if they were just inspired enough," (Marilyn Mayo of the Anti-Defamation League) told The Post... "They're using Trump and his message to bring more people and more money into their fold..."

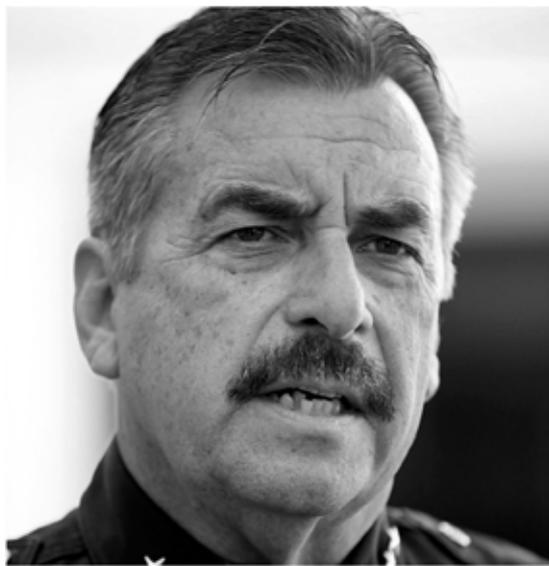
MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

LA Workers Turn Up for Brendon Glenn

WANTED

All Cops Are Killer Cops

When Black workers are shot by police in Ferguson, Staten Island, Chicago, Cleveland, or elsewhere, the bosses' media almost always described the killers as white police officers. While true, these facts support the liberal view that the problem is individual racist white cops, and that part of the solution is more Black and Latin cops. But when the shooter is Latin or Black, like Proctor or the cop who shot "Africa" on LA's Skid Row, the media generally identifies the shooter only as "a police officer." CHALLENGE exposes the truth that the bosses' media avoids: there's no such thing as a good cop, Black or white. All cops are racist, and it's the capitalist system these cops defend that must be smashed!



Chief KKKop Charlie Beck
Oversaw murder of Brendon Glenn
Los Angeles, CA
May 5, 2015



Los Angeles Police Department
continues to protect and serve the
bosses, and terrorize the working
class

Ocean Front Walk. One of our chants at these marches was, "No justice, no peace—no racist police!" One of our demands was that Proctor be indicted. We also raised that demand November 29 at a march in Koreatown against racist police killings, organized by anti-racists from another church in that area we've been working with. During that march, as we wound through the streets, we called out the names of many of those mowed down by police in LA and throughout the U.S., and chanted, "The whole damn system's got to go."

Another demand of our marches—and of hundreds of angry Venice residents at a town hall meeting two days after the May 5 shooting—was that the video be released to the public. According to their attorney, Glenn's family will demand release of the video.

While an indictment is welcomed for Brendon Glenn's murderer, true justice for Glenn or anyone in the working class will never be found

Continued on page 7

FOR RACIST MURDER

LOS ANGELES, January 16— While criminal charges are being recommended for the racist cop who killed Brendon Glenn, an unarmed, homeless Black worker last May, workers and members of the Progressive Labor Party fighting for justice are not holding their breath.

LAPD Chief Charlie Beck's recom-

mendation was made on January 11, and can only be carried out by a District Attorney or grand jury.

As of January 15, hypocrite Beck had not done what is within his power: initiate disciplinary proceedings against cop Clifford Proctor, who has been on paid leave since he

killed Glenn.

Antiracist Workers in Churches Take Lead

During the summer, workers and PLers in our local church's social justice committee took the lead in organizing three marches on Venice's

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