

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

volume 43 no. 25

December 14 2011

suggested donation \$.50

## Workers, Students Battle Murderous Regime

# Fighting Fascism in Haiti



**PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, November 19** — Huguens Leroi was a 24-year-old student at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FASCH) campus of the University of Haiti (UEH), and an actor in a university theater group that commemorated the 2010 assassination of his activist mentor, Professor JnAnil Louis-Juste. In October, Huguens was himself killed by two gunshots at a busy intersection near the Port-au-Prince airport. As usual, the police are lying about “an investigation being under way.” Another FASCH activist, Onald Auguste, was “disappeared” from the campus on October 31 (the second recent case), and has not been heard from since. On November 10, students organized a one-day strike to protest his kidnapping, blocking roads with a demonstration at the Ministry of the Interior.

FASCH students regard these assassinations and disappearances as more than just business as usual by Haiti’s ruling class. They see them as part of a new attempt by President Michel Martelly to accelerate the move toward fascist social control. The Martelly regime is organizing vigilante killers known as milis wòz (literally “pink militias,” because Martelly often wears pink) to eliminate “extremists.” A music video on Haitian TV shows macho uniformed officer-thug types rapping and recruiting young men from the United Nations earthquake refugee camps, and lining up young children to salute them.

Martelly recently attempted to reinstate a Duvalier-style Haitian army under his direct control for the stated purpose of eliminating foreign and local “extremists” and “terrorists.” But this plan led Martelly into conflict with the imperialists who really rule Haiti. Although the U.S. embassy maneuvered to get Martelly into power and then supplied him with a prime minister from former U.S. President Bill Clinton’s staff (Gary Conille), they apparently do not trust him with his own army

for now. Martelly was forced to accept instead a beefed-up Haitian National Police. (The disagreement may have prompted Martelly’s attack on the U.S. embargo against Cuba during his visit to Havana this week.)

### UN ‘Peacekeepers’: An Occupying Army

The National Police is no less a fascist force; one unit is now on trial in Les Cayes for the massacre of unarmed prisoners. And behind the police, as always, stand the UN’s “peacekeepers,” the occupying army MINUSTAH, which recently had its mandate renewed with strong backing from U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

FASCH students are fighting this fascist trend, linking up with unionized workers and warning all workers of the need to organize against it. An antifascist resistance cannot rely on liberal bourgeois

### MINUSTAH: Fascism UN-style

MINUSTAH is just another form of fascist, the genocidal imperialist UN-staffed version. The “peacekeepers” have already lost all credibility from their brutal repression, as in the recent rape of a young man by Uruguayan troops, and who brought cholera into Haiti. Students are fighting MINUSTAH, too. They led a big anti-MINUSTAH march in October, featuring traditional Haitian culture as a weapon of contemporary struggle. The students carried a coffin containing the effigy of a MINUSTAH officer, and, with overtones of vaudou (voodoo) symbolism, they set it down at every crossroad, chanting over and around it. The march ended in the cemetery, where the students burned the coffin and its despised contents.

forces. PLP in Haiti is saying that the only way to defeat fascism is to overthrow the capitalist system itself with communist revolution. And the key to launching a revolutionary movement in Haiti is to build the international Party here as a communist fighting force. The struggle against rising fascism today will test and harden communists in Haiti and other students and workers for the even greater battles ahead. PL is in a position to lead this struggle because of our growing roots among workers both organized and unorganized, including the camp residents.

Meanwhile, there is conflict within the Haitian ruling class over Martelly’s fondness for dictatorial power, which strips the “democratic” veil from fascism. Last month, he arrested Deputy Arnel Belizaire in spite of the deputy’s parliamentary immunity. But a general outcry forced Belizaire’s release. The Haitian parliament summoned the Minister of the Interior and National Defense to answer for his boss’s illegal move.

### Fight Privatization of Education

While students are being disappeared and killed, there is an ongoing struggle against the downgrading of UEH, a free public university. Education policy has shifted toward favoring expensive private schools like Quisqueya University, in line with the education plan of Bill Clinton’s Interim Committee for the Reconstruction of Haiti. A policy paper from the University Council noted a deliberate degradation of UEH and its budget going back ten years. (One example of the consequences: Penniless freshmen at the Faculty of Ethnology campus are required to buy and donate one book to the library before being allowed into classes.)

Students from FASCH, the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Teachers’ College), and the Ethnology campus organized mass meetings to denounce the state policy of privatizing higher education, in effect restricting it to those who can pay private fees. Despite threats of expulsion, student leaders called for restoration of funds, courses, faculty salaries and student aid.

One student member of PL, who has been hurt badly by the bosses’ hatred for his activism, said at a meeting — almost through clenched teeth — “Je m’accroche à mon parti communiste.” (“I’m sticking to my communist party.”) We don’t yet see in Haiti the mass upsurge in struggle visible in the Arab Spring, the Occupy movement, the strikes and militant protests in Greece and the U.K. But a group of students and workers in Haiti issued a message of solidarity with OWS, focusing on the fascist character of police repression of protest in both the U.S. and Haiti. The Martellys and Clintons of the world will one day have their turn to ride in that coffin (see box). They will learn the lesson of Mussolini, who killed and killed communists until there were millions of them.☺

## JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM

**Communist Ideas Gaining Ground at Occupy Wall Street**  
page 3

**Workers Need PLP’s Ideas, Strike vs. Racist Transit Bosses**  
page 4

**Mexico: Turn War vs. Youth into Class War vs. Capitalism**  
page 5

**Bronx OWS: ‘Positive Thinking’ Won’t Halt Cops’ and Bosses’ Attacks**  
page 7

# U.S. Rulers Seek to Use 'Occupy Wall Street' to Re-elect Warmaker Obama

Occupy Wall Street has given U.S. capitalists high hopes that clash with the egalitarian goals of the movement's rank and file. The bosses dream most fondly of enlisting OWS in re-electing warmaker Obama, who just upped the likelihood of a new major war by killing twenty-five Pakistani soldiers and opening a U.S. Marine base in Australia, opposite archrival China.

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), U.S. imperialism's top think tank, gushes that the occupiers "could emerge as a battle-hardened cadre of skilled organizers well-positioned to influence the issues at stake in the 2012 elections" (CFR website, 11/11/11). The CFR thinks that OWS can help sell Obama's push to tax the rich to pay for global war readiness, in the guise of "fairness" and job creation: "Increasing taxes on capital gains and closing corporate tax loopholes would allow renewed investments in critical public goods like roads and railways."

This plan dovetails with the U.S. Army War College's calls for renewing "infrastructure required to effectively project our military forces overseas" (USAWC report, 3/15/06). But many in OWS see through the voting booth farce. At the New York City camp near Wall Street, the idea of voting was highly unpopular. Some protesters sat on voter registration tables set up by Democratic Party flunkies and refused to register.

## Bosses Misguide Workers with '99%' Politics

Savvier ruling-class strategists, however, understand that the success of OWS reflects the growing alienation of Obama's base due to widening Middle East wars and a flagging U.S. economy. In the liberal, imperialist, Rockefeller-bankrolled *Nation* magazine (12/12/11), William Greider wrote, "Many of the young people and minorities who campaigned and voted for [Obama] in 2008 might drift away to Occupy's direct action... [and] may just skip voting in 2012."

On the other hand, Greider sees how his imperialist masters could benefit from the lack of revolutionary, communist leadership within OWS: "Yet this new force can ultimately help Obama if he responds to its message. Led by the young, the movement is aligning with the reviving militancy of labor and other progressive constituencies. The spirit is open-armed and patriotic, not negative and divisive.... [T]his movement is not about electoral politics — not yet, anyway. It is about saving the country."

"Country-saving" boils down to promoting workers' patriotic loyalty to "their" nation, which is controlled top to bottom by the bosses. This translates to all-class unity to support the bosses' imperialist oil wars abroad, and domestic fascism to guarantee control of the working class in the U.S. The chief goal of legislation like the Patriot Act is to intimidate the working class and to cut wages, pensions, Social Security, Medicare and other social services without resistance.

Nicolaus Mills, a Sarah Lawrence professor funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, likened OWS activism to the "youth-inspiring" president who helped launch U.S. genocide in Vietnam. She asserted, "In his Inaugural Address, President John F. Kennedy declared that the torch had been passed to a new generation. A year later, in its Port Huron Statement of 1962, the group Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), took Kennedy's generational declaration a step further, insisting that the time had come for America to make a new commitment to social justice. For SDS, an organization dominated by college and graduate students, participatory democracy was a version of Occupy Wall Street's horizontal democracy" (CNN, 10/26/11).

In the 1960s, our Party worked mightily within SDS to expose and attack its class-denying, nationalist politics, and to advance the internationalist idea of anti-racist, anti-imperialist, working-class communist revolution. We forged an anti-racist worker-student caucus that exposed the deadly error of uniting with the liberal Democrats' stand for "negotiations" with the Vietnamese. We stated that there was nothing to negotiate. With U.S. imperialism invading Southeast Asia and slaughtering millions, our demand, in the interest of the international working class, was simple: "Get out!" PLP raised this slogan within the SDS and in the shops and unions until it became a nationwide call.

## Why Articles Are Not Signed

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.

## OWS Funded by One-Percenter?

While the rank and file of the Occupy Wall Street movement sincerely wants to expose the inequalities of U.S. capitalism, CHALLENGE has been reporting that — as the adjoining editorial indicates — the liberal Democrats and some OWS leaders are looking to use the movement's militancy to re-elect Barack Obama. But what is a fairly well-kept secret, the origins of OWS may very well have received its initial funding from one of the world's richest multi-billionaires.

The following is an excerpt from our November 2, 2011 editorial:

"The first call to 'occupy Wall Street' came this past summer from an online magazine called *Adbusters*, a beneficiary of the San Francisco-based Tides Foundation whose biggest sugar daddy is none other than billionaire imperialist George Soros.

"The ruling class media's bizarre treatment of this link suggests just how much they want to conceal it. At 11:09 AM on October 13, mainstream Reuters' coverage led with, 'The group that started it all [OWS] may have benefited indirectly from the largesse of one of the world's richest men.'

"By 5:25 PM, Reuters had changed the same article to begin, 'George Soros isn't a financial backer of the Wall Street protests, despite speculation by critics....'

"At 6:45 PM, Reuters had the original opener followed by a disclaimer from Soros & Co. In the face of the money-trail facts, liberal rulers spin the lie that only right-wing lunatics see an OWS-Soros tie."

Of course, this is the same Soros who poured millions into liberals' election campaigns in the Ukraine, Georgia and other Eastern European countries. Follow the money trail....

Today we must combat OWS's misleading 99% formulation (see article, page 8). It denies the Marxist understanding of a working class in a life-and-death struggle with capitalists, and suggests that a wealthy 1% of an otherwise undifferentiated "us" are bad but reformable.

This disguises the class nature of capitalist society. We can't afford to ignore that the 1%, the wealthy, use their lackeys to enforce their profit system: the cops and the courts, national and local politicians, military officers, foremen and supervisors, principals and school superintendents. If they are part of the 99%, we have traitors in our midst.

## Oakland Union Hacks Stifle Heroic Workers' Rebellion

While the OWS movement has for the most part followed liberal Democratic politics of "tax the rich, tighten financial regulations and reform the system," some exceptions stand out. While New York demonstrators have kept mainly to public places, for example, activists in Oakland shut down its port and several banks for several hours on November 2. In Occupy Los Angeles, PL'ers led an anti-racist, anti-sexist march to the police station, protesting the cops' brutal attacks on black and Latino workers and youth.

But union hacks are effectively pulling the plug on local Occupy activists' demands for a West Coast dock strike on December 12. Disgracing many decades of communist-inspired militancy, which once organized and led the longshoremen's union in a general strike that won a 30-hour week, these class traitors said, "To be clear, the ILWU, the Coast Longshore Division and Local 21 are not coordinating independently or in conjunction with any self-proclaimed organization or group to shut down any port or terminal...." (*Journal of Commerce*, 11/23/11). West Coast ports represent a vital interest for the ruling class because they underpin potential U.S. war efforts against China.

Clinton's Labor Secretary Robert Reich, commenting on the economic causes of OWS, foresees a fascist political outcome, a new millennium of class collaboration:

*Rather than ushering in an era of political paral-*

**continued on page 3**

## 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. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.**

★ **Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, 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!**

### PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

P.O. Box 808 Brooklyn NY 11202

• [www.plp.org](http://www.plp.org)

• email: [desafio.challenge@gmail.com](mailto:desafio.challenge@gmail.com)

• blog: [challengenewspaper.wordpress.com](http://challengenewspaper.wordpress.com)

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. One Year: \$15. Six months: \$10. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, December 14, 2011. Volume 43, No. 25

**'Wow! You guys are serious!...'**

# Communist Ideas Gaining Ground at Occupy Wall Street

**NEW YORK, November 13** — Four student members of PLP from the City University of New York (CUNY) camped at Zuccotti Park this weekend and spread communist ideas among occupiers and supporters. Our multi-racial group stood out in an occupation that was at least two-thirds white. In addition to fighting racism, these young comrades gave the occupiers a glimpse of communism.

It was 47 degrees when we arrived on a late Friday afternoon, though it felt much colder. One student comrade of Nigerian descent and a recent friend we made at OWS last week came to help us settle in. It is encouraging to see how quickly young people can grasp and even defend PL's ideas. We spent three hours circling the park, trying to find a living space. Luckily, we had an old friend and made a new one at the occupation library, and they offered us a living space there for the night.

That night was spent forming relationships and putting forth communist values. We took in as many people into the library as possible, including two young women from Occupy Nova Scotia. Working together, we put up a tarp to block out the wind. We read stories in a circle before going to sleep on the concrete.

## A Glimpse of Communism

We later pointed out how collective values would be the basis of relationships under communism. When asked how the library came about, our friend said, "First there were a couple of books. Then someone brought in a bin. Then people started organizing the books. From just working together, we now have a whole library." This is a glimpse of how society could be run under communism — each according to commitment, without any wages.

At 5:30 AM, one PL'er began helping out in the kitchen. We all began our morning with a CHALLENGE sale. A few passersby said, "I remember you guys from the 60s!" Later we landed at a meeting on Islamophobia in the public-space atrium on Wall Street. One PL'er connected the attack on Muslims to the infiltration of NYPD spies inside Muslim Student Associations at various campuses of CUNY, which gave Muslim students' records to the cops. We also exposed "Islamophobia" for

**The attack on Muslim students and workers is a class issue...Racism hurts all workers, including white workers... it divides the working class and dilutes our unity against capitalist exploitation and the rise of fascism.**

what it really is: racism.

One woman at the meeting raised the idea of white privilege, which proposes that white workers benefit from racism. We explained how the attack on Muslim students and workers is a class issue, and how racism hurts *all* workers, including white workers, because it divides the working class and dilutes our unity against capitalist exploitation and the rise of fascism. Members of the group nodded their heads in agreement. By this time, a comrade from Palestine had come to support us. The PL contingent's internationalism grabbed the attention of a lot of people.

Our ideas on racism gained respect among oc-

cupiers and observers. One black worker had previously refused to take CHALLENGE. "I won't read it," he said. But his eyes widened in surprise as a young South Asian comrade explained the intricate relationship between capitalism and racism. After hours of discussion, he let his guard down and took the CHALLENGE. We had built a respectful relationship. He contacted us the next day to continue our political discussions.

We found that many workers and students at OWS are open to communist ideas. But only through our persistent presence can our ideas be put into practice.

## PL'ers Confront Racism

That night we attempted again to participate at the General Assembly (GA), where OWS leaders, or "facilitators," tried to neutralize workers' militancy and steer them away from confronting racism. One example: An OWS solidarity letter, while condemning racist graffiti on Ocean Parkway, stated that OWS had "diversity." One young person noted that OWS was in fact "not diverse yet and minority groups have yet to join the movement." The GA leaders abruptly decided to move on and asked to take suggestions on this question in private, "in the interests of time." They also ignored the immediate concern of every occupier and observer: space and heat during the winter. But they had no problem spending two hours to discuss OWS logos.

While the GA did its best to immobilize workers, PL'ers formed a discussion group of their own. It began with a conversation about racism with one unemployed worker. As the discussion progressed, others came around. As we talked about the Russian Revolution and its fight against racism, even more people joined. Someone yelled, "Louder!" and the PL'er repeated: "Stalin's red army viciously fought the Nazis. Communists gave blood to ensure these fascists died." Two workers with disagreements still encouraged the PL'er to stand up on the marble bench, creating an impromptu soap-box speech.

## Fighting Sexism

Our friends from campus applauded us, saying we were "hardcore." One was there with a socialist group. After the PL'er outlined our Party's political history, this friend invited himself to future events.

At that point, a man came up to the PL'er and said, "I want to apologize. I got a bit heated earlier." This man was referring to a racist comment he'd made: "I'm going to nuke all you Muslims!" When a PL'er tried to say something, he yelled at her and refused to look her way. We stayed disciplined and shooed the man away, calling him out on his racism and sexism. OWS reflects U.S. society, and sexism is clearly present there. After we struggled with some men who had verbally harassed us, our friend said, "Wow, you guys are serious!" He was impressed with both our communist politics and our practice.

This weekend was full of action and productivity. PL'ers struggled with themselves as they pushed their limits of commitment. One comrade said the experience "made me that much more devoted to the Party." We also struggled with a close friend who is hostile to communism but who camped with us in solidarity. After he watched one PL'er fight against individualism in the park by helping an oc-



cupier find a space to sleep, the friend even distributed some CHALLENGES. He likes our politics more than he is willing to admit.

We ended our occupation with one last CHALLENGE sale. Altogether, we distributed more than 200 papers and made a lot of friends. Our next steps are to continue raising communist politics at OWS while attending the working-group meetings, and also to bring the energy of OWS onto our campuses, where we are waging a related struggle against racist tuition hikes. Building young leadership is crucial to waging the fight for communism.☺

*Update: This article was written before the police raid. PL'ers are still involved in the Occupy movement all over New York City and are bringing OWS into their workplaces and campuses.*

## U.S. Rulers, Obama continued from page 2

ysis, the Great Depression of the 1930s changed American politics altogether — realigning the major parties, creating new coalitions, and yielding new solutions. Prolonged economic distress of a decade or more could have the same effect this time around. (NY Times, 11/24/11).

## Reich Omits the Suffering and Struggles of the Working Class

Reich goes on to mention three decades of U.S. prosperity following World War II, though he fails to elaborate on how that war is now the model for the next big "new solution." He conveniently forgets the more than 20 million working-class war dead since World War II. He dismisses the millions more who will be the victims of World War III, the inevitable future of inter-imperialist rivalry.

Likewise, Reich ignores the recurring recessions under capitalism that throw millions of workers on the street; the massive big-city rebellions led by black workers in response to racist unemployment and police brutality; the huge strikes by steel, electrical, auto, postal, transit and shipbuilding workers, all of whom missed out on "decades of U.S. prosperity."

Such are the "shared fruits of growth," in Reich's phrase, that the class-collaborationist misleaders of OWS promise under capitalism.☺

# Haiti: Workers, Students Sound Off on Fascism

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI, November 15** — “Mr. Martelly (the president of Haiti) is a fascist, no doubt about it.”

“Haiti is becoming more and more fascist every day.”

“Look at what happened to G, a small vendor jailed and moved from one prison to another one even worse, just for talking back to the son of a Tonton Macoute [the armed paramilitary organized under the Duvaliers’ dictatorship, 1957-1986]. That’s fascism!”

“Or, comrade C here, head of his union at the General Hospital. He and three other leaders were suspended from work without trial and charged with ‘presumed’ acts of vandalism after a long strike for back pay for nurses. They’re just trying to crush the unions.”

“This is not 1957. If Martelly dreams of being a fascist, we will show that we don’t agree.”

These were some of the comments made by a dozen rank-and-filers, private- and public-sector union leaders, and university students at a chita-pale (literally, “sit down and talk”) in a union confederation office. The subject at hand was whether Haiti was turning fascist and what the workers’ response should be. The consensus was clear about the political situation. A lively debate followed about what to do.

## Today’s Student, Tomorrow’s Worker

One worker, enthusiastic about building a

worker-student alliance, noted that today’s student is tomorrow’s worker. In that spirit, a student suggested that the hospital union leaders now under attack not rely solely on a legal defense. He proposed that workers be mobilized to take many forms of action, from a press conference to a sit-in at the Ministry of Public Health to demand an end to repression at the hospital.

This action could be built not only inside the hospital among workers and doctors, but also among students at nearby campuses of the public university and the patient population. In that spirit, hospital workers have consistently included demands for improved medical care as part of their struggle.

One worker said he thought we should wait until a meeting could be held with the new Minister of Public Health, who was not in office at the time of the strike and original charges. A student responded that if a sit-in were held first, it would increase the pressure on the minister to drop the charges. In any case, it would provide a useful experience in organizing workers in the face of growing fascism.

## Fascism: The Rulers’ Escape Plan

Michel Martelly is certainly a gutter fascist with a long history of supporting his Tonton Macoute friends and currently building George Racine’s MSTK (Mouvman Sosyal Tèt Kale), a group of street thugs at the center of Martelly’s murderous “Pink Militia.” Fascism, however, is more than the

desire of a particular individual to carve a place for himself. Fascism is the rulers’ escape plan, their attempt to contain the periodic crises of capitalism by both intensifying their oppression of the working class and keeping sections of their own class in line. This is not business as usual for the bosses, and so workers must respond in kind.

The chita-pale group also discussed the growth of fascism in the U.S., especially the attacks against Occupy demonstrators in various cities. The workers were stunned to hear about 500 armed cops violently attacking the encampment at Occupy Oakland. They saw immediately the connection between the struggle against finance capital in the U.S. and their own struggle for jobs, housing, and clean water. They know that the same banks that rule the U.S. also rule in Haiti.

More than half the members of Bill Clinton’s Interim Committee for the Reconstruction of Haiti are bankers; Haitian education reconstruction is in the hands of the Inter-American Development Bank. The workers and students quickly drafted a message of support to be read at the Occupy Wall Street demonstration on November 17. ☺

## Workers Need PLP’s Ideas, Strike vs. Racist Transit Bosses

**NEW YORK CITY, November 28** — More than 600 members of Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 demonstrated before the Sheraton Hotel on the first day of official negotiations between city transit workers and the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). Local 100 president John Samuelson said there’s no midnight strike deadline on January 15 when the current contract expires.

City transit workers are directly up against Wall Street’s rulers. Bankers and wealthy investors of

both prepares for a strike while spreading communist ideas as the solution for workers’ problems.

The MTA’s attacks on transit workers and riders are a natural organic part of capitalism. These attacks can’t be fixed by taxing the rich, regulating the banks, improving campaign finance rules or working with a “nice” MTA boss. The entire political system, including the promotion and appointment of the MTA heads, was created by and for the rich.

## Bosses’ Dictatorship Canndddd Be ‘Improved’

Capitalism is not a democratic system that “needs to be improved.” It’s a bosses’ dictatorship that needs to be smashed and replaced with workers’ power. Only in a communist society can workers make transit decisions and work for the world’s working classes’ needs, with no profit, money or bosses.

The 2005 transit walkout, despite being sold out, showed that black, Latino and immigrant-led workers can bring the racist city bosses to their knees. Today hundreds of thousands of workers in city unions are looking to Local 100 to set a pattern of gains in these hard times, particularly the smaller ATU (Amalgamated Transit Union) locals that have stalled negotiations with the MTA.

The “Occupy” movements have targeted attention on Wall Street bankers and politicians that serve the rich. But a transit strike would hit the bosses where it hurts: in their wallets.

Although Samuelson did not rule out a strike — telling the NY Daily News, “I think the public support that the union did enjoy in 2005 will have grown dramatically if we were to strike in 2011” — he has made working with politicians to increase public funds for transit his main strategy for winning a decent contract. Yet for more than 20 years New York State and local lawmakers of both parties starved the MTA of tax dollars, funneled MTA revenues to Wall Street through “debt-service” schemes and continue to make public-sector workers’ strikes illegal.

## Obama Freezes Wages

TWU backed Obama who, a year ago, froze wages for federal workers — the largest em-

ployer of black workers nationally with 21% of all employed black workers. This was months before attacks against public workers in Wisconsin. Samuelson says politicians like Obama, responsible for such attacks on workers, are people we can work with to gain a winning contract!

The Progressive Labor Party advocates rank-and-file strike preparations: start a campaign for personal strike savings; mobilize Local 100 members for demonstrations; and organize safety/work-to-rule slowdowns. Throughout history transit workers made gains with mass militant class struggle, even during rough economic times.

The 1980 transit strike, during a nation-wide economic downturn, lasted 11 days. Transit workers won full amnesty from the fascist no-strike Taylor law before they returned to work.

During the Great Depression and massive racist unemployment, the anti-police brutality rebellion in Harlem in March 1935 pushed city subway bosses to hire civil service titles regardless of color, winning the first mass wave of employment for black transit workers.

During the same Depression, the 1937 Brooklyn sit-down strike saw hundreds of transit workers occupy their job site at the Kent Ave. power station and won legal recognition for the then communist-led TWU in NYC.

Despite the strength of militant class struggle under capitalist rule, gains can be — and are — taken away. We are experiencing that today with attacks on public-sector unions: 1,000 layoffs, delays in our raises and the MTA’s current concession demands. Racist imperialist oil wars that only benefit the capitalist class have killed millions in Iraq and Afghanistan and drained federal transit funding. The bosses’ racist unemployment and anti-immigrant terror laws target employed black, Latino and immigrant workers for cuts and super-exploitation.

To achieve victories that the bosses can’t take away, transit workers must combine militant fight-back with building a powerful, revolutionary communist PLP that can lead the working class to challenge and eventually overthrow the bosses, no matter how difficult this coming contract struggle may become. ☺

**The most important action transit workers can take to fight the racist bosses is to organize a rank-and-file, multi-racial group of women and men that both prepares for a strike while spreading communist ideas as the solution for workers’ problems.**

MTA bonds drain more than \$2 billion a year directly out of the \$11 billion-a-year MTA budget, forcing service cuts, layoffs and fare increases.

All the transit bosses’ attacks hit the majority black, Latino and immigrant workers and riders the hardest. Now the racist bosses want a three-year wage freeze, \$6,000-a-year per worker for health-care, and elimination of the conductor title.

The most important action transit workers can take to fight the racist bosses is to organize a rank-and-file, multi-racial group of women and men that

# Mexico: Turn War vs. Youth into Class War vs. Capitalism

**MEXICO** — The “war on drugs” reveals that capitalism means death, violence and terror for the working class. It has allowed the ruling class to turn most of Mexico into a militarized police state. These attacks are felt most by working-class youth, who also experience huge unemployment. The few jobs that can still be found don’t provide social security and the miserable salaries range from 400 to 600 pesos per week (US \$31 to \$46).

Access to education is constantly shrinking; the government has slashed the budget for education and health and funneled the money to the police and the army. Youth have lost faith and many have been swept up to fight the war, either as hired guns or in the police and military. Thousands have died in this war.

The military and police state terrorizes workers and violently represses any resistance. This is the fascist face of bourgeois democracy. The war on drugs hasn’t reduced the profits of drug cartels, estimated at \$40 billion dollars a year, a good part of which enters the country’s financial system.

This ongoing militarization is also part of a fascist strategy to guarantee control over the natural resources in case of an eventual privatization of oil, gas and water, and the further privatization of the electrical supply. Industries that provide services, such as telecommunications. They are the focus of intense conflict between national and foreign capitalists.

The next national elections will take place in the context of this war and of major conflicts among the capitalists over the control of resour-

es. All the candidates represent one section or another of the wealthy class. As workers we have nothing to gain supporting any of them. Quite the contrary, we must fight against them. U.S. rulers’ support of some of these candidates is still essential to their ability to get elected.

As in previous years, there will be electoral fraud. If that fails, then there will be military and police actions. In addition to official public and private financing of electoral parties, millions of dollars will be contributed as part of a money-laundering scheme. Candidates will have to respond not only to the millionaires who finance them, but also to the interests of the drug lords.

Workers here are angry with the government, but many still believe that elections are the only way to bring about changes. Some are apathetic about the struggle and choose to make individual efforts just to get by; some hold several jobs where they are super-exploited. Ultimately, the electoral farce and individualism are dead-ends.

We workers have an alternative to win our liberation: we must be part of an organized communist party, not a bosses’ electoral party. Capitalism, the system that exploits us and kills our young people, cannot be changed by elections. It must be destroyed by millions of organized, class-conscious workers, ready to build a new communist society.

Join a Progressive Labor Party study-action group. Join the struggle for a communist society, for the emancipation of the working class. Let’s turn the war against working-class youth into a class war against capital.

# France: Bosses’ Austerity Hits Workers; Union Hacks Roll Over

**PARIS, November 23** — The working class here is reeling as one austerity plan after another destroys social gains won through generations of bitter class struggle. But the trade union misleadership, having lost last year’s battle to save retirement pensions, is marching workers straight into another Waterloo (British defeat of the French).

On November 18, five union confederations issued a call for workers nation-wide to rally on December 13 to protest the government’s austerity plans. In the build-up to that demonstration, they’re urging workers to “question the government and elected officials” — a give-away of their election treadmill aims.

With presidential elections five months away, the union misleaders are walking a thin line. They want to organize just enough action to mobilize workers to vote for Socialist Party candidate François Hollande. But they also want to avoid any disruption of French society that might cost the Socialists the elections.

## Sellouts Control Workers’ Anger

This is a mirror image of last year’s losing kid-glove approach, in which 24-hour strikes were held at six-week intervals so that workers’ anger remained controllable.

On September 7, the National Assembly adopted a 12-billion-euro austerity plan (US\$16 billion), followed by a November 16 vote on a new 7-billion-euro austerity plan (US\$9.3 billion), now being debated in the French Senate.

The new plan includes higher taxes for 86% of the population, cutting health and welfare benefits further and forcing people to work one year longer before retiring and until 67 for a full pension. Even subsidies to associations providing services to elementary school children are being axed.

These austerity plans are racist in that they fall most heavily on immigrant workers — most of whom are of North African or sub-Saharan African origin — and are disproportionately among the poorest workers in France

All these measures are being taken to satisfy the finance capitalists, who worry that the gov-

ernment will be unable to pay back the money they’ve lent it. And a third austerity plan may be in the works.

On November 8, the day following the announcement of the second austerity plan, Natixis, the corporate and investment banking arm of the BPCE group (the country’s second-biggest banking corporation) complained that the plan is based on “overly-optimistic” estimates of economic growth and reduction of government spending.

This drive to make the working class pay for the rulers’ economic crisis mirrors world capitalism’s inevitable “solution” to its problems: make the workers take the losses — “inevitable” because all these recurrent crises grow directly from all bosses’ drive for maximum profits to “stay ahead of the competition.”

The inter-imperialist rivalry for control of resources and cheap labor has had a particularly devastating effect on the billions of workers worldwide who are forced to exist on starvation wages of a dollar or two a day. Only communist revolution can end the profit-system’s horrors.

As the tailspin of the world capitalist economy continues, the old recipes of the union misleaders are being revealed for the poison that they are. Now’s the time for new communist leadership to orient workers’ struggle away from reformist electioneering and pro-boss trade unionism and towards anti-capitalist revolution.✪



# Russian, Chinese, U.S. Rulers Vie for Control of Syria

The current struggle in Syria is between a U.S. empire in decline and rapidly rising Russia and China. Inter-imperialist rivalry is being played out as the hypocritical Obama and his Arab League lackeys condemn the “butcher” Al-Assad regime for cracking down on his protestors. The rulers’ press shows how the U.S. empire and allies want to use the Libyan blueprint of a no-fly zone enforced by massive bombing raids to foment regime change in Syria. But what is missing is exactly *why* the U.S. is desperate to place their own puppet on the Syrian throne.

Syria and Libya have parallels in the U.S. desperation to invade and control. In Libya, though, the U.S. mainly is concerned with the threat of Chinese and Russian economic investment in Libyan oil. In Syria the U.S. wants to try to solidify its military and economic control over the entire Middle East by weakening Russia, Iran and China who use the Al-Assad fascists as their proxy. Russia has a fundamental strategic interest to preserve its military base in Syria and is in the process of sending warships to Syria as part of a drive to revive itself as an imperialist empire.

## Iran Emerges Winner of Iraq War

Iran was a real winner of the U.S. war in Iraq. It still maintains its ability to arm and fund its proxy forces like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine, and has now developed the ability to influence Iraq’s government to a great extent. It is Iran, to the U.S.’s chagrin, that has facilitated Iraq making an agreement with pseudo-state “Kurdistan” (see CHALLENGE 11/30/11) that challenged Exxon/Mobil’s outright conquest of an Iraqi oil field. Iran supports Syria against the Free Syrian Army (FSA) — the Sunni-based puppet force of Syrian Army deserters that is seeking protection from Turkey and Saudi Arabia in order to topple the Assad’s primarily Alawite, Christian, and Druze regime.

Sellout remnants of the old communist movement in the Middle East try to play up Assad’s Nasserite roots of a pseudo-socialistic outright fascist state as standing up to imperialism. To them, allying with “lesser-evil” bosses includes getting into bed with dictators who espouse and arm religious fundamentalists to carry out sexist and racist massacres against working class-women, men, and children.

## All Bosses Are Workers’ Enemies

PLP in the Middle East consistently struggles with our friends to understand that while the U.S. continually brutalizes and murders the working class in order to advance U.S. Imperialism (all the while condemning Syria), Russian Imperialism and Iranian hegemony are not alternatives that can serve our needs.

Neither Syria, Russia, China, Hezbollah, Iran, nor the myth of a “Welfare State” is the answer the working class needs in the Middle East. Only a communist revolution to smash Israeli apartheid, Iranian fundamentalism, Syrian dictatorship, as well as Russian, Chinese and U.S. imperialism will end the brutalization of the protestors and the working class as a whole.

Russia will block NATO’s attempt at a no-fly zone because it is in its strategic interest to do so, and China will continue to fund and arm Iranian proxies in order to challenge the U.S.’s favorite thug, Israel, but it will continue to be the children of the working class who are sacrificed to allow the imperialists to pursue their power struggle.✪

# LETTERS



We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

## Fighting for Multi-racial Solidarity

My co-workers and I are cleaners in a public office building. We are workers who are black and Latino. The contractor is Latino and has tried to intimidate both the black and Latino workers. The supervisor is constantly violating the contract. Workers who are Latino are newer and more intimidated by the contractor.

Workers with more seniority speak up and stand up for their rights. When the contractor lies, they tell the boss he is wrong. The workers who are Latino have learned from them to speak up. Most of the workers, Latino and black, are talking to each other more. This makes the bosses very angry. When workers stick together, they are bucking the bosses.

We have been in a study group at lunchtime for three years now. We read CHALLENGE editorials and discuss the world situation. Having discussed the "Smash Racism" pamphlet, we realized that not all Latinos are alike, just like not all blacks are alike. We are workers. Some of us are scared, some not so scared. Some stand up to the boss. Some need a push. One thing we do know is that the company has been trying to divide us racially and we are fighting back. We have been talking to the Latino workers. Three of them get CHALLENGE every issue. We have been inviting co-workers to attend our lunchtime study group. It is necessary for workers to unite in multi-racial solidarity to achieve anything.

*DC Red Workers*

## Israel-Palestine: 55th Anniversary of the Kafr-Qasim Massacre

One of the darkest days in the history of post-1949 Zionism was on October 29th, 1956, with the massacre at Kafr Qasim. Kafr Qasim was a village — now a town — inside the "green line," then the border with Jordan (before the Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967).

At that time (1956), Israel was involved in helping the British and French imperialists attack Egypt after Nasser's regime had nationalized the Suez Canal, a major source of revenue for these European bosses. The I"D"F's (Israeli "Defense" Forces) orders were to maintain a curfew of the entire sector (Kafr Qasim, Taybe, Tyra, Kalansuwe and other nearby Palestinian villages) from 5 PM to 6 AM. When the village head was informed, on the same day, he asked, "but what about the villagers returning from work without knowing about the curfew?" The Israeli brigade commander replied that anyone inside the village is under the village head's responsibility, and anyone outside it — "Allah should have mercy upon him".

The I"D"F blocked all of the villages' entrances, except for the Eastern entrance, in order to encourage the villagers to leave for Jordan. When the peasants working in the fields, both men and women, returned to the village, three soldiers got them off the busses or bicycles, made them stand in line and shot them. Then they asked the residents of nearby villages to collect and bury the bodies; 49 men and women were murdered.

The military administration forced the villages' leaders to organize a "sulha" (peace-making dinner) with the military, but that was a fake "sulha." The spilled blood of innocents was never forgotten. The soldiers responsible for the massacre were sentenced to 14-17 years in prison, but released after only two years. And what about the officer who ordered the massacre? He was fined "symbolically" by 1 grush (less than 1 penny).

Even to this day the Israeli regime does not recognize this as a massacre, claiming that it was "a sorry misunderstanding." Workers were murdered in cold blood. And the working class still remembers.

As long as there are bosses, human life will be cheap, as we, the workers, are nothing but instruments for their profits. The racist Israeli apartheid regime is covered, head to toes with the blood of innocent workers. One day, the working class will rise and put an end to this regime, and to any other capitalist regime, and build a workers' communist future.

*Red Housekeeper from Tel-Aviv-Jaffa*

## PLP Helps Student Leadership Grow in OWS

Our PLP club has continued to build within the OWS movement. The wide-eyed idealism and glimpse of a worker-managed society hinted at by the tent city has inspired and politicized some of my students. I was able to bring several teachers and students over the weeks when OWS was in Zuccotti Park.

One student — a regular CHALLENGE reader who had been to a few meetings — asked me if he could distribute CHALLENGE. I reminded him that one of a communist's greatest weapons is to be anonymous to the bosses and open to the workers. He understood and now regularly gives out ten papers. His CHALLENGE network has greatly increased the work PL is able to do in the school.

This student helps build our politics and mobilized ten students to go to the massive day of action two days after the kkkops raided OWS. Altogether, close to thirty students under student-leadership went from my high school to the National Day of Action that took over the streets and defied the police. Student leadership is continuing to grow in the space that OWS is providing. We need to continue to take advantage of this upsurge in the class struggle to build the Party.

*Red Teacher*

## Boston OWS'ers Grab CHALLENGE

I've really been inspired by all the articles about the Occupy movements around the country. Recent issues have been snatched up by people (including the volunteer librarians) at the Occupy Boston site (and during marches). This is a good opportunity for us to meet new people who are open to our goals — before those with electoral and reformist politics try to dominate the movements — and get them involved.

*Boston Red*

## OWS Needs 'Big Picture' Strategy: Destroy Capitalism

Although I didn't bring anyone to Occupy Wall Street today, I did distribute 325 CHALLENGEs. There were many sympathetic observers who picked up on the Oakland General Strike and the article on page two about "withdrawal" from Iraq.

The Latino table always takes our literature in Spanish as well as in English. The man at the table considered himself a Trotskyite, saying he was for internationalism. I showed him our section on what we fight for and said that Trotsky should have organized for the Bolshevik party to be one party in other countries instead of factionalizing against the party leadership. The man invited me to a Guillermo Moreno rally in Washington Heights, and we exchanged emails. We discussed the differences between socialism and communism.

Mainly I asked people about their strategy. This first fellow said, "Socialism." A young lady outside his tent said she was more committed to the ideas of Ayn Rand. I said her philosophy was bent on freedom for the individual, at whatever cost to the 99%. The fellow in the tent who hailed from Texas said it sounded like the unfairness of competition in capitalism.

One fellow was glad for the police presence pro-

tecting everyone while David Crosby and Graham Nash would be singing. I said that the police had to do their job, ultimately, to protect private property for the system of capitalism, even if it meant destroying the occupation in other cities. He felt there were mostly good cops and a few bad apples, like in any movement. This man had been committed to the occupation the whole time.

The last person I spoke with was a fitness instructor who was there supporting his friends. He said he couldn't spend the night but came only occasionally because he had to "pay the bills." His girlfriend never bought name-brand clothing.

We discussed that it was important to have the big picture in mind, like fitness not being the end-all, but needed to include a healthy life style and good nutrition. He agreed that the occupation needed a big picture strategy of getting rid of the capitalist system because the occupation would ultimately be destroyed. People would probably not be able to learn what had gone wrong. We exchanged phone numbers and he said I could call him any time.

*A red observer*

## Talking Communism At OWS

In Zuccotti Park in Manhattan I showed CHALLENGE to a couple who asked some questions (below) and about my sign that read, "If You See That Capitalism Kills — Say Something!" When I described the horrors committed by the racist profit system around the world and explained how a communist system could provide for workers' needs like full employment, they asked how that could be possible.

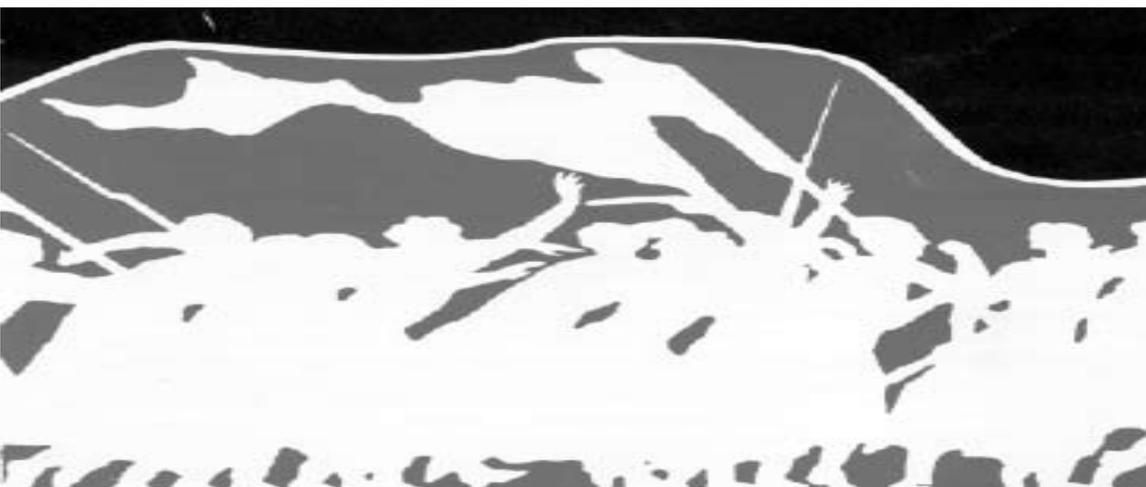
I described how the Soviet Union in the 1930s had full employment and a booming economy while the rest of the capitalist world was crippled by bankruptcy and depression with millions on breadlines in the U.S.

"But how could communism pay for full employment?" I explained that communism would abolish money, wages and profits. The needs of the estimated 25 million unemployed would more than be provided for by the goods and services they could produce with jobs that capitalists cannot provide because of the profit system. In addition, I said the communist system could restore to all employed and unemployed workers the largest share of value they create — the profits which are now stolen from their labor by the capitalist employers.

"Why would workers work without pay?" I said that for millions of unemployed it means a place in society, food, housing, healthcare, education — a life. For the employed it would offer the opportunity to work for the needs of workers who produce everything, instead of providing profits for the capitalist 1%. Workers would have the chance to be part of a community that needs and values their input and gives them a say in how the products of their labor are distributed to the community.

The above discussion dealt mostly with unemployment but the OWS movement offers our Party unlimited opportunities to contrast capitalism's profit needs like racism, sexism, poverty, starvation, and wars with a communist system based on workers' needs and the destruction of capitalism. Self-critically, I need to listen more to the protesters' criticisms which can help in presenting communist ideas more effectively.

*A Comrade*



## Bronx OWS: 'Positive Thinking' Won't Halt Cops' and Bosses' Attacks

BRONX, NEW YORK, November 28 — For the past month, Occupy the Bronx, one of the offshoots of the main Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement, has met every Saturday morning, providing further evidence that the anti-Wall Street sentiment is shared by large sections of the working class. The largely black and Latino group here expresses the same outrage and anger at bankers and bosses that is found on Wall Street. PL has been participating in the group's activities, attempting to bring communist analysis and leadership into the darkness of reform and pacifism that limits this movement.

Perhaps the primary weakness in OWS is its lack of understanding of how racism is essential to capitalist inequality. In the Bronx, the links between racism and unemployment, poor education, and inadequate health care are more obvious. But even here, the task of bringing communist or even anti-racist ideas to the forefront is not necessarily any easier. For one thing, the leadership of the Bronx group is straight from OWS, and they've brought the same organizational style with them. Called "direct democracy," it is actually a strategy to block radical motions and stifle revolutionary ideas. Also prominent is vague, idealistic thinking, typified by slogans like "the power of the people" and "This is what democracy looks like." While they sound good, these slogans leave the working class unprepared to confront our class enemy.

### Idealism versus Materialism

Idealism says that thoughts and ideas are the most important things, and that they determine our material reality, the way we live. The opposite of idealism is materialism, which says that the way we live (including social relationships between workers and bosses or protesters and cops) determine the ideas that we have. To put it simply: Positive thinking, by itself, will never stop the police from attacking us. It will never stop capitalists from exploiting us. Materialist philosophy calls for a deep understanding of the role played by the police and politicians in maintaining capitalism — and the extent to which the ruling class will go to maintain its class rule.

It is unclear how the recent attack by Mayor Bloomberg and the cops to clear OWS from Zuccotti Park will affect Occupy the Bronx and other offshoots in New York. Whatever happens, we will continue to participate in the group. Our first goal is to correct our major weakness: to begin to distribute CHALLENGE to the Occupiers.

We are involved in various "working groups," including one on education and another called the "think tank," where we try to bring communist ideas into the group. We are meeting people who are completely fed up. They are looking for answers and finding reformist, dead-end, idealist solutions. CHALLENGE will help us transform the idealistic struggle against Wall Street and corporate greed and into the materialist struggle against the profit system and for communism.✪

## 'Attack the Block'

### Sci-fi Film Depicts Heroism of Working-Class Youth

Our PLP club has monthly movie nights. We recently watched *Attack the Block* and we recommend it to CHALLENGE readers. It is an action-packed, sci-fi comedy about a group of young teens fighting an alien invasion in the housing projects of South London.

*Attack the Block* is very class conscious. It promotes the working-class youth as the heroes of the movie and shows the police to be racist monsters. This film was released around the same time as *Transformers*, *Cowboys vs. Aliens* and *Super 8*, yet it wasn't shown in any local theater. Even with its flaws, we think it wasn't widely distributed among the masses because of its politics.

Throughout the first half of the film, the young, multi-racial teens are portrayed as stereotypical thugs. They mug people and write graffiti. Moses, the leader of the group, instigates the mugging of a young white woman named Sam. We later find out that she is a struggling nurse who also lives in the projects. During the mugging, a projectile falls from the sky and destroys a car. This is the first alien.

Sam refers to the kids as monsters but the kids have a different idea of who the monsters are. The cops arrest Moses for the mugging, while the alien attacks increase. Sam and Moses are trapped in the police van until another friend comes and helps them escape. As the aliens follow them into the projects,

Sam and the kids must team up to fight back.

At first Sam wants to call the police but the kids convince her that they would be arrested instead. Moses says, "First they sent in drugs, then they sent guns and now they're sending monsters in to kill us. They don't care, man. We ain't killing each other fast enough so they decided to speed up the process." As Sam and the kids battle the aliens in unity, she grows to trust them. By working together, they destroyed the aliens.

Throughout the film, we see the community coming together, except for the local drug dealer who thinks Moses is trying to take over his territory. In the end, as Moses is taken away by the cops, Sam sticks up for him, saying he is her neighbor and a hero who saved the block. The film ends with the crowd chanting his name and Moses in the back of the police van.

*Attack the Block* provides a good basis for discussion on (a) how capitalism tries to alienate us from our neighbors; (b) can we trust the police; and (c) who do you turn to in a time of crisis. When we watched this movie with a young friend, it was clear to her that the police were not there to protect the working class. The ruling class doesn't want us to see movies where workers unite to improve conditions.✪

## 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

### Latinos rage at Obama sellout

Tribune Media, 11/1 — As a candidate, Obama promised to fix the nation's immigration system with comprehensive reform — a mixture of, say, secure borders and employer sanctions with a pathway to citizenship for [undocumented] immigrants who properly earn it.

However, as president...he has contented himself with a numbers game, racking up record numbers of detentions and deportations....

With that increase...there has also been an increase in forced family separations, a rise in complaints of sexual assault and other brutality in detention centers, a sharp uptick of outrage from [Latino] voters, including supporters who wanted to believe Obama's promises....

The deportation policy over the past two years has succeeded in criminalizing hard-working people....

### The bad side of Steve Jobs

NYT, 11/14 — To the editor:

Your reporter unequivocally celebrates Steve Jobs for his innovative brilliance in designing and marketing tools such as iPads. Isn't it truer to say that Jobs manipulated us into craving toys that didn't even exist five years ago, regardless of their dire consequences for the health of the biosphere....

The manufacture of electronic goods is largely outsourced; as China chokes on our industrial effluent, cancer rates and birth defects soar; in the Philippines, computer assemblers are going blind;

working conditions in Apple factories in Taiwan and China are driving employees to suicide....

E-goods are made of plastic...E-waste is lucratively traded by criminal gangs and dumped on the poor. A speaker on ABC radio recently described mobile phones as the asbestos and tobacco of the 21st century.

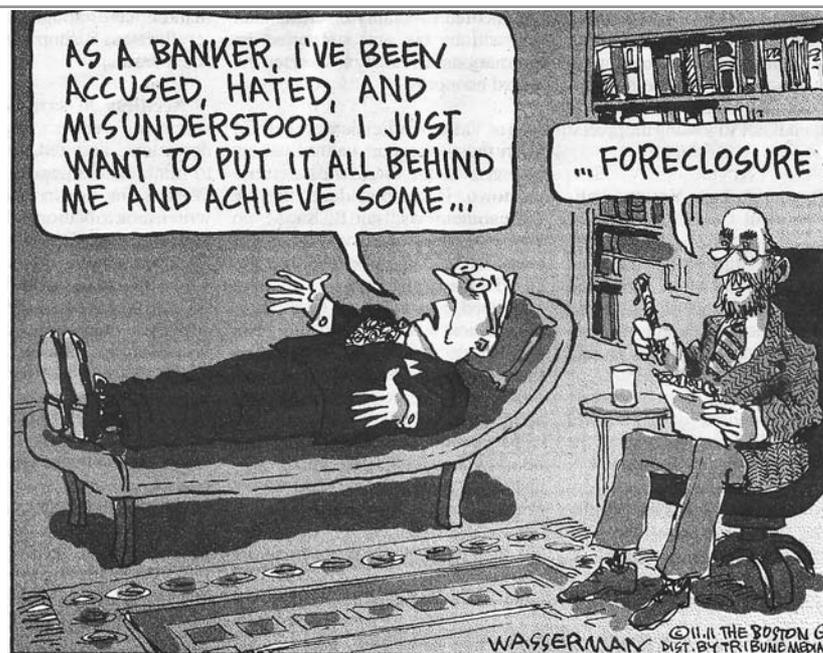
### Big colleges abuse big-draw athletes

NYT, 11/12 — How could [coach] Paterno, upon learning that one of his graduate assistants allegedly had seen [assistant coach] Sandusky [raping]...a preteen boy, content himself with mentioning it to a superior and looking the other way?....

Big-time college football requires grown men to avert their eyes from the essential hypocrisy of the enterprise. Coaches take home multimillion-dollar salaries, while the players who make them rich don't even get "scholarships" that cover the full cost of attending college. They push their "student-athletes" to take silly courses that won't get in the way of football. When players are seriously injured and can no longer play, their coaches often yank their scholarships, forcing them to drop out of school....

In 2009, Penn State football generated a staggering \$50 million in profit of \$70 million in revenue....Protecting those profits is the real core value of college football — DS at Penn State and everywhere else.

What goes on in the typical big-time college football program constitutes abuse of the athletes who play the game. It's not sexual abuse, to be sure, but it's wrong just the same....When Paterno



averted his eyes from Jerry Sandusky, he was just doing what comes naturally as a college football coach.

### Costly, lethal nukes: more coming

GW, 11/4 — The world's nuclear plan to spend hundreds of billions of dollars modernizing and upgrading weapons, warheads and delivery systems over the next decade, according to an authoritative report.

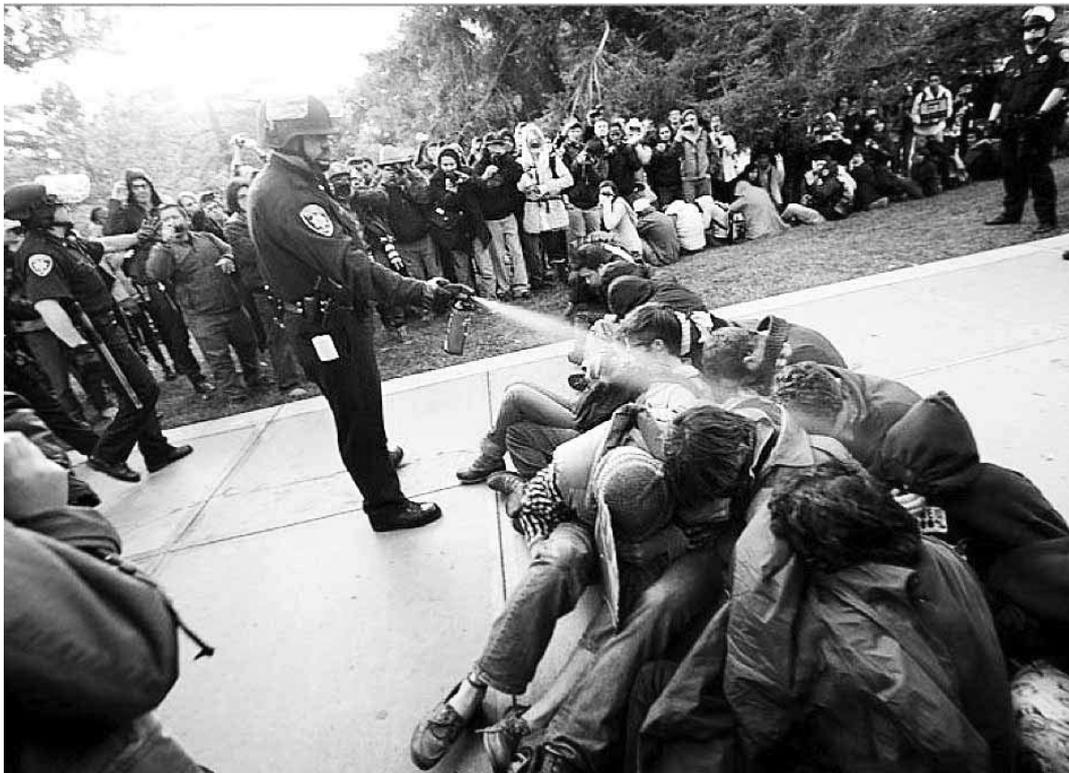
Despite government budget pressure and international rhetoric about disarmament, evidence points to a new and dangerous "era of nuclear weapons"....The U.S. will spend \$700bn on the nuclear weapons industry over the next decade, while Russia will spend at least \$70bn....Other countries, including China, India, Israel, France and Pakistan, are expected to devote formidable sums....

Several countries, including Russia, Pakistan, Israel and France assigned roles to nuclear weapons that go well beyond deterrence.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

# OWS Slogan Hides Class Nature of Profit System



This is what a fascist state looks like.

The main weakness of Occupy Wall Street is its implication that only a tiny minority, mainly bank presidents and Fortune 500 CEOs, benefit from the gross inequalities of capitalism, and the rest of us need to unite to make things fairer. This idea hides the class nature of the capitalist profit system and all the agents it uses to enforce the exploitation of the working class. The Occupy slogan, We Are the 99%, distorts people's understanding of the ranks of our class enemies.

Have you ever been directly supervised by Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, David Koch, or any other billionaire? Hardly. In fact, many corporate vice presidents, human resources directors, managers, administrators and supervisors are links in the chain that binds us to the capitalist system.

### Bosses' Flunkies Not On Our Side

For example, an assembly-line worker has a foreman, the foreman's supervisor, a plant manager, and so on up the line. All of these people are responsible for extracting surplus value (the source of all profits) from our labor. None of them are on our side. Similarly, a schoolteacher must answer to various assistant principals, a principal, a district superintendent, and the people elected or appointed to the board of education. All of these flunkies are on the bosses' side, unless and until they demonstrate otherwise by such actions as supporting a strike or joining Progressive Labor Party.

### One Percenters Have Millions of Agents

Other tools of the capitalist class include politicians (Democratic and Republican); political appointees (judges, district attorneys, commissioners, regulators); high-paid lawyers, money managers and other professionals; media hacks; entertainment performers and executives; religious leaders; and professors and think tank fellows, both liberal and conservative, who are charged with churning out capitalist ideology and strategy. And don't forget highly paid national and local union leaders, whose job is to work together with the bosses to get workers to submit to layoffs and cuts in wages, working conditions, health benefits and pensions.

Then there are those charged with violently maintaining capitalist power in the U.S. and internationally the armed forces officer corps, the police, the prison guards. The cops and prison guards have proven time and again that they are corrupt, racist and sexist. They will follow any orders to attack workers, and dream up more on their own.

The same is true, with few exceptions, of the officer corps of the armed forces. Rank-and-file

soldiers and sailors, however, are workers in uniform. They can be, have been, and will continue

to be won to defy the brass and turn imperialist wars into a communist revolution against the ruling class.

In short, We Are the 99%, underestimates the number of people whose job it is to maintain inequality and who are committed to doing so. As our Party develops deeper roots in the working class, a segment of lower-level supervisors undoubtedly will join us. Nevertheless, that leaves a lot of people who are paid to support and fight for the capitalist class. At the same time, the 99% equation unites us with many bosses and their agents, in one great progressive, American mass including the cops who beat up Occupy Wall Streeters. The bosses plan for that movement is to march together, under the U.S. flag, in support of imperialist war.

"We Are the 99%," however, contains one important aspect of truth. Whatever the actual percentages, the working class is immensely larger than the capitalist class and all its flunkies put together. We need real class consciousness based on the understanding that workers produce all value, most of which is stolen by the bosses. We need to build anti-racist, anti-sexist, international unity of all workers against all bosses and their servants. This will enable us to overthrow them and build a society based on equality and collectivity — communism.☺

### A FEW OF "THE 1%" THAT YOU DON'T HEAR ABOUT OR ARE REGARDED AS PART OF THE 99%

Name	Position	Recent accomplishment	Annual salary
Ricardo Icaza	President, United Food & Commercial Workers Local 770.	Helped sell out Southern California supermarket workers who were ready to strike against cuts in health benefits and other attacks.	\$287,131
Robert Reich	Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley, Secretary of Labor in Clinton Administration.	Spoke at Occupy LA about how to make capitalism "fairer" through changes in tax policy and government spending and regulations.	\$209,900 salary from U. Cal + income from investments, speaking engagements, and 13 books
Michael Moore	Director of documentary films on how to fix U.S. capitalism.	Spoke at Occupy Wall St. Sep. 26, said the problem was the 400 richest people had turned "our democracy" in to a "kleptocracy."	Is estimated to have net worth of over \$50 million in revenue from films and books, through deals with Warner Brothers, Miramax, and other major capitalist corporations
Brice Harris	Chancellor of Los Rios, CA, Community College District	Helped implement statewide tuition increase of 125% in two years. Member of task force to plan how funds for community colleges will be partially based on "performance," not enrollment.	\$390,035 per year
Rachel Maddow	CNBC News anchor	Bashes conservative politicians 5 days a week (and Dems who are not liberal enough), implying that really liberal Dems will solve our problems.	Annual salary, not public, estimated to be at least \$3 million. Her employer, NBC, is 80% owned by major war contractor General Electric.

## SUBSCRIBE or RENEW!

All the communist politics, news, and struggle from around the world!

- \$15 individual 1 year
- \$35 for institution 1 year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order to: Challenge Periodicals, PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

