

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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## MARCH ON MAY DAY

# Fight for Workers' Power



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# OUR FIGHT

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

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

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions all over the world. Capitalism returned to the Soviet Union and China because socialism failed to wipe out many aspects of the profit system, like wages and division of labor.

★Capitalism's relentless drive for profit inevitably leads to wars, fascism, poverty, disease, and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments,armies, police, schools, and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers.

★Communism means working collectively to build a society where sharing is based on need. 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 traditional gender roles created by class society.

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

★Communism means the minds of workers must become free from religion's false promises and unscientific thinking. 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?

CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed. This grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former social-ist 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 collec-tive discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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# Editorial

## Boston Bombers, Texas Massacre

# Capitalists Are the Real Terrorists

Under capitalism, terror is a constant for the internation-al working class. Workers in the U.S. have recently suffered a series of murderous attacks, in line with the global ter-ror launched by U.S. imperialists and their allies on workers worldwide. On April 15, terrorist bombs killed three people and maimed at least 170 more at the Boston Marathon. That same day, thirty people were killed in Iraq and uncounted others from Obama's drone reign of terror in Afghanistan and Pakistan (see box).

Two days later, profit-driven disregard for workers' safety caused an explosion at a fertilizer plant in the town of West, Texas. This crime of capitalism slaughtered 15 people, injured more than 100 others, destroyed three public schools and wrecked hundreds of homes (see page 5).

The official U.S. reactions to these atrocities battered workers even further. Obama's Boston manhunt and lock-down became a not-so-dry run for the bosses' imposition of martial law. House by house, elite squads kicked down doors seeking the bombers. Meanwhile, thousands of cops and troops imprisoned the city and its suburbs for an entire day, robbing many workers of their wages.

But the response in Texas proved no less menacing. The imperialist bosses put out no dragnet for mass-murdering factory owner Donald Adair. Meanwhile, Adair, safe in his mansion, announced an inquisition of the very workers his greed had killed, wounded or rendered homeless (see below).

### Expose Rulers' Fascist Aims

Taken together, these two disasters exposed the U.S. capi-talist rulers' intent. As they plan ever wider wars abroad, they are acclimating the domestic working class to destruction and fascist terror.

U.S. and Russian intelligence agencies first learned of Boston's brother bombers in 2011 when the FBI, at Moscow's insistence, investigated the elder Tsarnaev. It seems possible that the roots of the Boston blasts lie somewhere in the tug-of-war between increasingly hostile imperialist rivals.

Then again, the brothers Tsarnaev may have acted alone. We don't yet know. But whatever motivated the Marathon at-tack, both Russian and U.S. bosses are seeking an advantage in its aftermath. Russian President Vladimir Putin hopes to use Boston to bolster support for his brutal crackdown on Islamic separatists in Chechnya, where the Tsarnaevs were born be-fore being raised in the U.S. (The younger one became a U.S. citizen.)

The opportunistic Barack Obama & Co. pounced as well, quickly deploying the sports-media complex in a nationwide campaign for militaristic patriotism. After April 15, virtually every professional baseball, basketball and hockey game in the U.S. began and ended with a televised, highly orchestrat-ed, flag-waving tribute to Boston that laid the foundation for subsequent storm trooper operations there.

On the night of April 19, when the younger bomber got caught, people actually gathered in the streets to cheer cops passing in armored vehicles. That was a bad sign for the work-ing class. But try as they might, the media could not produce images of black or Latino workers applauding the cops.

### Boston Cops' Racist Rampages

Since 1995, these same Boston police have shot to death 20 innocent victims, all black, Latino or Cape Verdean. There are eight times more black and six times more Latino inmates than whites in Massachusetts prisons, where 76% of the population is “non-Hispanic” white (see “Sentencing Project, 2007”). Black inmates outnumber white inmates in the state's prisons by eight to one; Latino inmates outnumber whites by six to one. . A critical segment of the working class can harbor no illusions about the cops' true role.

In Texas, it wasn't terrorism — just routine capitalism with a distinctly fascist twist, in accord with U.S. capitalists' com-ing war needs. To boost production and revenue, plant boss Adair had been storing “1,350 times the amount of [highly explosive] ammonium nitrate that would normally trigger safety oversight by the U.S. Department of Homeland Secu-rity [DHS]” (Reuters, 4/20/13). This dangerous practice could have originated only with West Fertilizer's owner, not its work-ers. Workers don't buy carloads of chemicals.

Caught disobeying Washington, Adair handed over his workers as the supposed culprits to the police apparatus he loathes, the FBI and DHS. “We are presenting all employees for interviews....with investigating agencies,” he said.

### Bosses' Press for Tighter Gov't Control

The imperialist, war-driven wing of U.S. finance capitalists is using West Fertilizer to press for tighter, centralized govern-ment control of industry, including the dangerous substances needed for war. On April 20, the New York Times ran an op-ed

## Obama's Drones: Murder, Inc.

Following the Boston bombing, hypocrite Obama made much of “the race volunteers, spectators, and ex-hausted runners who rushed to help” (White House, 4/20/13). This readiness to aid the afflicted in the face of danger is a trait common to the working class worldwide. But Obama exploits this trait to deadly effect in the ser-vice of U.S. imperialism.

His drone campaign often employs the “double tap” tactic: one missile strikes; then “pilots” in Nevada or Dji-bouti wait for rescuers to appear on their monitors; then the drone fires again, increasing the body count. “Living Under Drones,” a report written by Stanford and New York University (September 2012) revealed:

There is now significant evidence that the U.S. has re-peatedly engaged in a practice sometimes referred to as “double tap,” in which a targeted strike site is hit multiple times in relatively quick succession. Evidence also indi-cates that such secondary strikes have killed and maimed first responders coming to the rescue of those injured in the first strike. In a February 2012 joint investigative re-port, Chris Woods of The Bureau of Investigative Journal-ism (TBIJ) documented that: “[o]f the 18 attacks on rescu-ers and mourners reported at the time by credible media, twelve cases have been independently confirmed by our researchers. In each case civilians are reported killed, and where possible we have named them.”

Since those findings were released, several more strikes have repeated this pattern, including a strike on July 6, 2012 in which three “local people” and “tribesmen carrying out rescue work” were reportedly killed and two more injured in follow-up strikes.

column by Bill Minutaglio, a liberal professor at the University of Texas in Austin. He declared:

*[I]t is finally time for this pathological avoidance of oversight to end in Texas. To understand how deep the state's regulatory resistance runs, one need only to lis-ten to the state's attorney general, Greg Abbott, who often spearheads the Lone Star state's rebuffs to federal imperatives. Earlier this year he was asked what his job entailed. “I go into the office in the morning,” he replied. “I sue Barack Obama, and then I go home.”*

U.S. imperialists use food as a weapon, in “peacetime” and war. They reward their friends and deny food to their enemies. Predominance in a critical industry like agriculture, in which fertilizers play a big part, was essential to U.S. imperialists' successes in the first two world wars. They foresee a similar equation in the next one. Big finance capitalists mistrust anti-government small-fry like Adair, who once sued U.S. imperi-alist flagship Monsanto. Until April 17, Adair was stockpiling, against DHS orders, the volatile chemical essential to farming, which also powered the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building by domestic terrorist Timothy McVeigh.

From Boston to Texas, we can see common threads of sharpening domestic fascism and global war preparation. Our class enemies, the capitalists, may seem too powerful to stop. But history shows that class struggle will persist and acceler-ate in reaction to assaults by the ruling class. It shows that the misery created by the rulers' wars can become the crucible for communist revolution — if workers are organized and led by a fighting party of and for the working class. That party is PLP!

May Day symbolizes this struggle. The actions of the Pro-gressive Labor Party against racism in the cops' killing of Shan-tel Davis, Kimani Gray, and Ramarley Graham in New York, and in PLers fighting evictions of workers in Palestine by Israeli rulers; against sellout union leaders of Metro transit workers in Washington, DC; against Mexican rulers flooding workers' homes near Mexico City; against U.S.-UN forces responsible for the spread of cholera in Haiti; against the neglect of work-ers in Pakistan ravaged by earthquakes. All of these struggles are building the force that can counter capitalism's terror and will ultimately destroy the profit system to build a workers' so-ciety: communism.

May Day represents the need to join this movement. Join PLP!🔥



# Reform Bill A Trap

## March vs. Racist Attacks on Immigrants

**WASHINGTON, DC April 10** — Today tens of thousands of workers and students from around the country rallied here to demand immigration reform. Thousands more rallied in 14 other locations in the U.S. Many protesters went far beyond supporting the current plans of bosses for reform, calling for an end to deportations and discrimination against immigrants (undocumented or not).

A dozen PLers from DC and PLers from other cities greeted the DC demonstrators with a revolutionary call to action, urging them to join the upcoming communist May Day demonstrations. The revolutionaries said that only the abolition of all borders through global communist revolution can finally stop the racist and nationalist attacks on immigrants around the world.

Over 500 May Day leaflets along with over 400 copies of CHALLENGE were distributed to marchers and a dozen workers signed up to work with PLP.

Workers want an end to all deportations and detention centers, an open border, and no discrimination against any worker or student based on their official immigration status. But the U.S. bosses are proposing a reform that only helps them and actually intensifies exploitation of workers. It will take communist revolution to abolish borders on the basis of global working-class unity and equality.

The U.S. Senate reform bill calls for more severe border “security,” requiring that 90% of all undocumented immigrants attempting to enter the U.S. be captured and deported before any of the provisions that provide a pathway to citizenship go into effect. The increasingly repressive border patrols and fences have already led to deaths of many workers attempting to cross the border in search of a job.

Imperialism destroys the jobs and economy in their home country, driving them to seek employment anywhere they can — and then represses them for trying to find a job to support their families. Workers will continue to cross borders, “legally” or not, in search of jobs. They will become the next wave of undocumented workers. They will lead increasingly vulnerable lives in the shadows, especially since the Senate bill requires that the E-verify employment surveillance system be beefed up before any path to citizenship is allowed.

The Senate bill requires that current undocumented workers register, pay \$500, undergo a criminal background check right away and again in six years, and ultimately have to wait 13 years before they can achieve citizenship. These workers become vulnerable as soon as they register! Any past, current, or new misstep could prevent them from beginning or finishing the 13-year [probation] period.

If a participant opposed the boss on a job, for ex-

ample, through striking or other action, he/she might easily get arrested on a picket line and then deported. The bosses want to intimidate this section of the working class as much as possible to keep workers divided and scared and reduce class struggle. But workers will fight back!

Despite this grim forecast, the idea of some “path to citizenship,” however difficult, appeals to millions suffering from Immigration Customs Enforcement repression. The misleaders of the movement in the labor bureaucracy are fully supporting the bosses’ immigration reform, delivering workers into the hands of the Democrats and now even some Republican politicians. Their uncritical embrace of the bosses’ proposals fails to address the divisions in the working class and weakens the working classes’ understanding of how capitalism continues to exploit them severely, even with this immigration reform.

Communists, on May Day (and every day!), call for the universal, global solidarity of workers, understanding that workers are all in the same class throughout the world. Distinctions based on “race,” nation, or immigration status are mere bosses’ ploys to make super-profits by keeping us divided and weak. It is time to move forward to building the international PLP to lead global revolution for communism and abolish the bosses’ phony, self-serving borders, forever.✊

## Howard U: Protest Indicts Rand Paul as Racist Liar



**WASHINGTON, DC, April 10** — Today Senator Rand Paul launched a Republican offensive to recruit black students into their ranks at Howard, a historically black university. Paul invited himself to the campus and the administration bent over backwards to get students and faculty to attend this event. No academic department or student organization sponsored it. Paul’s speech was an offensive, lying, and racist rewrite of the history of the U.S. and was opposed by many students.

Students challenged his racist lying of the history of black workers in the United States. Two students raised a banner declaring “Howard University Doesn’t Support White Supremacy,” correctly labeling Paul for what he is — a racist. The audience erupted in applause in support of the students’ bold action.

Belying their pretense of academic freedom, the University administrators had the campus police swarm the two students, roughly shoving them out of the auditorium. The students continued to protest outside the building, declaring that capitalism promoted racism, and that neither the Democratic nor the Republican Party had anything of value for black students.

The racist Republican Party is worried that the Democratic Party is slicker at winning black and Latino votes in overwhelming numbers (although most potential voters don’t bother to even participate in the bosses’ electoral shell game). Since the share of these groups in the population is growing, Republicans realize that they must figure out a way to appeal to them if they are to remain relevant.

Rand Paul also wants to position himself as the bold new Republican leader willing to take on the task of cutting into Democratic support among black students. This is a tough road,

given that for 50 years, Republican leaders have appealed to gutter racists in their campaigns. Richard Nixon launched the famous “Southern Strategy” to get racist white southerners to leave the Democratic Party and join the Republicans. Then, Ronald Reagan used a blatantly racist tale about black welfare Cadillac mothers to help win the election in the 1980s. George H. W. Bush similarly used the Willie Horton racist falsehood in his campaign in the 1990s. And Rand Paul wonders why black people don’t vote Republican, even though it’s the party of Lincoln?

However, the Democrats have historically fostered and continue to breed racism — President Roosevelt’s pact with the Southern Democrats maintained Jim Crow segregation; President Clinton’s welfare reform threw masses of workers onto the streets; Clinton’s sanction against Iraq denying food and medicine killed 500,000 children; President Obama’s record immigration deportation of 1.6 million workers.

Students and faculty were outraged at this administration-sanctioned racist lecture and repressive action against students. We should not be surprised, but instead understand that U.S. universities are not wide-open forums for a free flow of ideas. They are corporations controlled by boards made up of bosses and their politicians. Universities encourage curricula that support the status quo and discredit revolutionary alternatives. The Rand Paul event, as absurd as it was, is simply another rightwing effort to keep students tied to the capitalist system, and may well be followed by further efforts to move the university discussion further to the right. The University is an arena of class struggle. It is up to us to wage the ideological and practical battle to expose and defeat racists and capitalists on the campus.✊

## Attack on Baby Care Unit is Racist Assault on All Workers

**CHICAGO, IL, April 19** — Today, several nurses and doctors from the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Stroger Cook County Hospital showed up at a Governing Board meeting to challenge the administration’s plan to cap admissions and have us turn away transfers of premature babies. One highly respected night-shift nurse expressed the group’s outrage at the plan. She told the board that we do excellent work and bring in \$10-14 million per year to the public system. “How can you justify restricting admissions?” she asked.

Half of the premature babies in the Stroger NICU are born in smaller hospitals and transported in. With rich private hospitals itching to steal our referral hospitals, putting a cap on transfers and admissions could end up closing our doors permanently.

Before the meeting, we linked this latest attack on our unit to the bigger attacks happening today. When we reminded our co-workers that city rulers are doing the same thing to our public schools, many, especially CHALLENGE readers said, “Yeah, it’s the same thing.”

Many workers believe that the real plan is to privatize the public hospital; they are right. This is the latest in a 10-year-long campaign to end the County Health system that serves mostly black and Latino impoverished workers. In fact, if you compare the number of beds and services the County provides today as opposed to a decade ago, they are already more closed than open!

Given the assault by the Democrats and the cooperation of the union leaders, these attacks have met little resistance that wasn’t communist-led, and that hasn’t been enough to stop them. Despite hundreds of layoffs and the loss of even more beds, many workers are still surprised that the assault continues, or that they would threaten NICU. As we challenge these illusions, we create a small opening for real political struggle. To seriously challenge these illusions, we must bring communist ideas into the middle of the fight over the immediate demands.

Our presence at the board meeting, the review of the Stroger NICU’s good statistics compared to other units around the country, the drafting of a petition, the demand for meetings, all put pressure on the administration. As the cluster of NICU nurses and doctors got up to walk out of the board meeting after their public statement, one of the CEO’s staffers ran after them. “Dr. Raju wants to meet with the NICU staff. Please wait.”

We were surprised. Every other time we had publicly protested hospital policies we were ignored, but this time our whole group was ushered into the big boss’s office suite. The head of the health system was defensive, claiming concerns over patient safety caused by short staffing. Eventually the CEO and System nursing chief promised to hire more nurses and raise the temporary census limit from 17 to 25.

Whether they do or not, remains to be seen. The real victory is that there was fight-back and everybody could see the Party’s leadership in making that happen. A bigger victory will be consolidating our political base, with more County health care workers participating in May Day and joining PLP. During the meeting with NICU staff, the CEO said, “Whatever we’ve got to do from our side, we’ll do it...My door is always open to you.” We’ll see.

We will meet and decide what is needed; adequate staffing, accommodations for parents to stay with their infants, free parking and vouchers for the cafeteria for lactating mothers, translator services and more. But our unit is one small front in a racist war against the whole working class. While we fight for our patients’ young lives, we fight for communist revolution and a society where health care will be free and available to all, based solely on need. Stay tuned.✊

# DC Transit Workers Fight vs. Privatization Needs Fight vs. Capitalism

**WASHINGTON, DC, April 13** — Today 30 workers from Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689 gathered at the union hall for a meeting called by the local leadership to organize a campaign against privatization of parts of the city’s transit system. For two decades, several lines in surrounding counties have been separated by local jurisdictions from the unified rail and bus system. This has shrunk workers’ wage and benefit packages in these separate and privatized sectors as well as cut into the ATU membership, weakening the union.

The DC government — run by liberal Democrats, most of whom have been endorsed by the local unions — has decided to investigate the cost savings from further privatization, this time for lines inside Washington, DC itself. This would cost another 175 union jobs and workers hired for those lines would end up worse off. This is just another bosses’ tactic to roll back workers’ standard of living to boost their own profitability.

Two approaches on the issue quickly developed. The union leadership and the organizer from Jobs with Justice advocated educating the membership about the danger of privatization and the possibility of layoffs if this occurred. They advocated that ATU workers and their allies circulate a petition to the Mayor demanding privatization be stopped.

In contrast, PLP’ers and other militant workers advocated a strategy based on political analysis showing how the bosses’ privatization tactic is part of a general

racist attack on unions the bosses are using to solve their current economic problems. A huge majority of the transit workers are black and Latino. These workers felt that we needed to urgently educate workers about how this privatization attack and many more similar assaults on workers’ well-being will continue as long as capitalism continues because of its need to maximize profits. Winning workers to see the need to eliminate capitalism has to be part of any strategy to fight privatization.

On a tactical level, both approaches are similar. Both want to have meetings and rallies against privatization, build a worker-rider alliance and eventually carry out work actions to drive the point home. The difference is in

*We are not going to win every battle, but by fighting together we can build a stronger movement against capitalism.*

the message. Only revolution can win the fight against privatization. Any other “victory” will be short-lived, or the gains we make will be taken from some other workers. Moreover, if workers understand that this attack is just one arrow in the quiver of the capitalists, with more attacks to come, they will become more active and aggressive now in the current fight.

Our approach requires us to fight as hard as we can to preserve jobs, but also to organize for May Day around the goal of destroying capitalism, with its racist practices, and fighting for communism.

At the meeting several workers were skeptical about their co-workers joining in the fight, whether simply for the fight against privatization or the broader fight against capitalism. But blaming the workers won’t get us far at all. An organizer must figure out why our brothers and sisters are not fighting back vigorously and convince them to change. This often requires patience and perseverance, including clear education about the urgency of the need to resist the capitalists’ systematic attack on our well-being. We are not going to win every battle, but by fighting together we can build a stronger movement against capitalism, win workers to PLP, and this will create the basis for our eventual victory.

At the end of the meeting several workers took May Day leaflets and posters, a step in the right direction.✪

## Workers, Patients March; Hospital Closings = Death Rx

**BROOKLYN, NY April 20** — “SAVE LICH, NO MORE CONDOS FOR THE RICH!” That was the chant on April 7, as more than 200 Long Island College Hospital (LICH) workers and residents of the Red Hook housing project, marched together from the project to the hospital. They were demanding the hospital remain open, despite the fact that the Board of Directors voted to close it on June 18. (LICH was recently taken over by SUNY Downstate Medical Center.)

The march united hospital workers and those we serve. The chants were loud and militant as workers and residents made a powerful statement, marching together through a housing project many LICH workers had never been to before, even though many LICH patients live there. Every worker who attended talked about it for days.

The racist police presence was heavy. In contrast, the same 76th Precinct assigned just two unarmed Auxiliary officers to a march of 75 mostly white residents two weeks earlier, through the wealthy Brooklyn Heights neighborhood. Uncertainty reigns on all sides as to whether or not the hospital will actually close. But the past month has seen promising activity fighting the closure and building the PLP.

One of the biggest victories has been winning workers and youth from Red Hook and LICH to see this struggle as a fight against racism. On March 13, a community group called the Red Hook Initiative (RHI) hosted a meeting of 35 mostly black and Latino women residents, along with LICH nurses, doctors and paramedics. Militant young volunteers distributed hundreds of flyers for the meeting across the sprawling housing development, the largest project in Brooklyn. We discussed how there are an average 60,000

Emergency Room visits a year and over 100,000 patients receive specialized care at LICH annually.

The proposed closing will mean certain death for Red Hook residents, making the hospital closing a vicious racist attack. The response was overwhelming, but we did not have a clear plan of action that everyone could begin organizing for.

After this meeting, the unions representing LICH workers, the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) and 1199SEIU, held a joint union/physician coalition “leadership” meeting. The union leaders follow the bosses’ playbook that relies on paying for publicity in the bosses’ media and closed-door meetings of hand-picked “leaders.” But a paramedic brought two militant Red Hook youth to speak about the hospital closing as a racist attack. In the end, NYSNA, 1199SEIU and the LICH physicians group scheduled the April 7 march.

The struggle to bring some of these fighters to May Day is afoot, although complicated because CHALLENGE readers are busy working second (even third) jobs as they brace for losing their primary income. More work lies ahead in building PLP in Red Hook, and every experience selling CHALLENGE has been positive. We know that bigger racist attacks are on the horizon as the U.S. gears up for growing imperialist wars.

The children of Red Hook and LICH workers will soon be called on to kill and be killed while our families face poverty, overcrowded hospitals, schools and prisons. The struggles that we have participated in over years here have planted the seeds. This struggle will nourish them. We will greet this May Day a little stronger than last year, and with some momentum.✪

## School Bus Workers Need Red Ideas, Not Bosses’ Union Flunkies

**BROOKLYN, NY April 17** — One of the drivers who had been a rank-and-file leader during the school bus strike called excitedly to say that a NY Post column had exposed the lies of NYC’s Mayor Bloomberg and his schools commissioner, claiming that the “EPP” job security clause in ATU Local 1181’s contract was illegal. The bigger question is why didn’t the union leaders of Local 1181, the Transit Workers International Union and New York City’s Central Labor Council do anything to expose these lies and stop these attacks? Because the labor movement functions as the junior partner of the bosses and their system.

As CHALLENGE has reported, ending EPP was a major part of the bosses’ plan to cut the wages of school bus workers. Workers are both furious at, and resigned to, the 15 percent cut in wages, loss of paid time off during winter and spring break vacations and the increase in their share of the costs of health insurance premiums. Most of all, they see the possibility of mass firings of senior, higher-paid workers when the new school year begins in the fall.

What would have happened if the leadership of 1181 had called on its members to stop scab buses? What if the international union had supported the strike with cash for strike benefits that would have offset the lost wages workers missed for a month? What if the Central Labor Council had called for all its member locals to join mass picketing of bus barns?

Then a real fight would have been made

over the bosses’ plans. This kind of fight will never happen if we look to the enemies in our midst (the union flunkies) for leadership. That’s why we need to build a workers’ movement around the communist ideas of the Progressive Labor Party.

We urge our brothers and sisters who led the strike earlier this year to join us in the streets on May Day, Saturday, April 27. This is the day the working class reviews its forces and celebrates its accomplishments. Strikers, your leadership provided a great inspiration to workers and students worldwide. You will feel the excitement as we march in the streets of Flatbush with workers and students from around the world.

We learned from you how international our struggle is as we met and talked with your members from Haiti, Eastern Europe, Dominican Republic, Italy, Puerto Rico and all over the world and how you united to combat the bosses’ attacks. We were impressed by the commitment and perseverance that we saw in this battle. But this is a lifelong battle and that is what May Day represents — the necessity of workers to fight back and make revolution.

This struggle is international. Workers face the same kind of attacks everywhere. This is a day to make our voices heard and our presence felt. Let’s take the lessons we learned from the strike and go forward. We will win when hundreds, thousands and finally millions of workers embrace these ideas.✪

## Murder by Transit Authority

**New York City, April 24, 3 AM** — NYC Transit bosses’ work-rules killed a track maintenance worker who was victimized by MTA’s unsafe practices. Another worker killed by capitalism. Strike against the MTA!



## Mexico: Education 'Reform' Hits All Workers

**OAXACA, MEXICO** — Capitalism's worldwide crisis pushes reforms that hurt the working class. Some, like in education, are expanding here in Mexico. The relentless class struggle here led mainly by the union's Section 22, is now facing a frontal attack. Educational reforms are being pushed by the capitalists centered around the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. They are promoting nationalist programs: "Mexicans First," Televisa and TV Azteca.

These bosses' main objective is to privatize education, to turn it into a profit-making business. U.S. educational reform has become a business reaping profits in the multimillions.

This privatization directly affects teachers' labor rights, won through decade-long struggles: basic employment, health care, retirement, right to loans and housing and collective bargaining, among others. It also affects other sectors of the working class, leading to massive layoffs. The restrictions on teachers' social security will have an indirect effect on healthcare workers, increasing deficiencies in their social security.

Parents are affected by having to pay for their children's education, eating into families' income. The number of families unable to pay for educa-

tion will grow, increasing the illiteracy of the population. The bosses' fascist plan has already begun, with their repression directed at CETEG (a dissident group within the teachers' union) to be followed by attacks against those in Chiapas, Oaxaca and other states.

We teachers should respond massively and militantly against these bosses' reforms. If we unite with parents as well as other sectors, then an indefinite strike at work sites combined with mass actions against transnational corporations and government offices could fight these attacks.

We must defeat the hopelessness pushed by the ruling class through its mass media which undermine our struggle and divide our class. We must build class consciousness. If teachers remain mired in trade union struggles, any gains will be limited to petty reforms which the bosses can always reverse when it suits their needs.

Teachers must organize and join a real communist party which unites all sectors of the working class, a party that fights for a communist revolution to take power, ushering in the dawn of a new worker-led society.

To organize against these many attacks by this criminal and decadent capitalist system, join Progressive Labor Party!✊

## Peugeot Strikers Invade Socialists' Council, Charge Betrayal

**PARIS, April 13** — Fifty Peugeot strikers invaded a meeting here of 300 top Socialist Party leaders at their national council, charging the Socialist government with betrayal in not fighting the company's plan to lay off 8,000 workers in 2014 and close the Aulnay-sous-Bois plant. Over-running the security guards, the angry workers disrupted the meeting, loudly chanting, "No factory closures, outlaw layoffs!" and "We are workers, not vandals, the bosses are vandals!"

The Socialist Prime Minister, who had just finished a speech defending the government's austerity policies, fled the hall when he saw the workers coming.

The strike began at the Aulnay-sous-Bois plant on January 16, with the workers setting up shop inside and outside the factory. The assembly workshop has been renamed "Strike Square."

The three-month strike has paralyzed production which used to turn out 500 cars a day. The company has kept the plant open with the hope of producing 250 cars daily with scabs, but "Today, practically no car leaves the factory," said a 61-year-old worker, Harfaoul, pointing to the immobile assembly line. The workers have chased after anyone who wants to help the company function, throwing bolts and emptying fire extinguishers against office windows.

The CGT union leadership is misleading the workers in appealing to the austerity-scripted government to set up a mediation process as a solution, saying, "You mustn't leave us alone against the bosses," with the threat that betrayed workers will vote for the openly fascist National Front.

This is the result of being trapped in the electoral process, presented with the "choice" of the Socialists, who are following an austerity policy, or the le Pen-led National Front, but with the same result. The latter is talking alliance with the right-wing Sarkozy UMP party — which lost last year's election to the Socialists — and hoping to develop a populist appeal among workers sold out by the Socialists.

Rank-and-file workers' direct strike action, as at Peugeot, needs communist leadership with the goal of overthrowing the job-destroying profit system rather than being diverted into depending on still another bosses' party as the solution to the mass unemployment built into capitalism.✊

## Texas Plant Massacre: Bosses the Real Terrorists

**The following is an excerpt from an article by investigative reporter Dave Lindorff, a columnist for Counterpunch:**

*The bulk of the American people are focusing their fears on terrorists from abroad, or... here [in the U.S.], not on corporate suites where the real evil and the real danger lies....*

*We had two acts of terrorism in the U.S. this week. The first...at the end of the...Boston Marathon.... [and] the second...in the town of West, Texas, where a fertilizer plant blew up, incinerating or otherwise killing at least 15, and injuring at least 150 people, and probably more as the search for the dead and the injured continues....*

*The villains in the West Fertilizer Co. explosion can be...easily identified: the managers and owners of the plant.*

*West Fertilizer was built...in the middle of...West, TX. It makes no sense, of course, to locate such a facility that uses highly toxic anhydrous ammonia as a primary feed stock (a compound that burns the lungs and kills on contact, and that, because it must be stored under pressure, is highly prone to leaks and explosive releases), and one that makes as its main product ammonium nitrate fertilizer, around lots of people. Ammonium nitrate...is the highly explosive compound favored by truck bombers like the Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. It was the fertilizer...which caused the colossal explosion that leveled much of the town of West.*

*Building such a dangerous facility in the midst of a residential...area, and allowing homes, nursing homes, hospitals, schools and playgrounds to be built alongside it, is the result of a corrupt process that is commonplace in towns and cities across America, where business leaders routinely have their way with local planning and zoning commissions, safety inspectors and city councils. Businesses small and large also have their way with state and federal safety and health inspectors too....*

*Back in 2006...the company had assured the EPA...that there was "no risk" of an explosion at the plant! An AP article reports that the company...claimed...[it] "was not handling flammable materials and did not have sprinklers, water-deluge systems, blast walls, fire walls or other safety mechanisms in place at the plant."*

*....Aside from the ridiculousness of West Fertilizer management's reported assertion that the plant wasn't*



*handling flammable materials (a claim that the current deadly catastrophe has demonstrably proved was false), consider the incredible response of the EPA to this incredible assertion: The agency, emasculated by the Bush administration, and still a joke under the Obama administration, levied a pathetically small fine, but did nothing to shut the operation down until it put in place critical safety measures.*

*The other agency that could have acted, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), is even more of a paper tiger than the EPA....In six years, it [West Texas Fertilizer] has not been visited by OSHA inspectors!*

*....The entire health and safety regulatory apparatus of the U.S., from the federal level to the states and right down to local government, has been effectively neutered by corporate interests, who have used everything from threats of relocating to campaign contributions and outright bribes of officials and elected representatives to buy or win the right to basically operate as unsafely as they like....As a result, regulation of dangerous plants and factories in the U.S. these days is essentially nonexistent.*

*That...is a kind of terrorism,...far more dangerous to the health and safety of the American people than any for-*

*eign or domestic terrorist or terrorist organization....*

*The real terrorists in our midst are not men with knapsacks and white baseball caps who plant homemade bombs. They are not...terrorists from the Middle East. Rather, they are the mostly white men (and women) in business suits on Wall Street and Main Street who callously use their wealth to subvert the political system to their short-term advantage....*

*Of course, a classic terrorist is trying to kill while the corporate executive is often "just" putting concerns about profits ahead of concerns about the safety of workers and people who live nearby....The difference is that we won't see the FBI or the local police tracking down and arresting the killers and maimers in the case of a fertilizer plant explosion. The people responsible for that type of outrage typically just hide behind the immunity of their company's corporate "personhood," collect their insurance payments (maybe paying some token fine), rebuild, and go on making their dangerous product as before — usually in the same location.*

**Under capitalism the bosses hold state power and follow the "golden rule": those who have the gold make the rules.✊**



# LETTERS

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

## Christianity and Communism

I’ve had quite a journey, from Christianity to communism. I grew up in the church, sang in the choir, attended Sunday school and bible study weekly, and participated in outreach — what the church calls “soul-winning.” I was taught to be leery of material that contradicted my beliefs, lest they plant seeds of doubt, and so I read books that mostly encouraged my faith and reassured my beliefs, music that gave “glory to God” and surrounded myself with other believers.

However, a few outside messages crept in. I remember a high school teacher lending me a book entitled, “Ain’t I a Woman” by the feminist writer Bell Hooks. It prompted me to question the church’s stance on women.

Years later, in college, the professor of my Africana Studies class shared his radical political ideas about the U.S. and its class system, its treatment of black people and its foreign policies. It opened my eyes to things I had never thought of or heard before.

In another class, “Lies My Teacher Told Me” by James Lowen was required reading. I began to see that the world was a lot more complex than the church had taught me.

Still, I remained devoted to my Christian beliefs. It wasn’t until 2008 when I met someone (who later became my husband, and later on my ex) who confronted my beliefs head on. He challenged me to read books that argued against my beliefs. If after having read them I was still convinced of my beliefs, fine — but no belief should go unquestioned. It was after much study, many questions and many tears that I finally walked away from Christianity. It was the most liberating experience of my life.

I became a military wife. The man I married was a U.S. army officer. More than ever I was able to see how the rich used racism, poverty and the poor to their advantage. It was mostly young black men who served as soldiers; mostly white men who were officers; mostly people from impoverished neighborhoods trying to make something of their lives.

My eyes were opened to military culture: the admiration for the latest weapons, the instilled distrust for the Arab world. I learned of soldiers who had been deployed several times, of families torn apart by war, either through death or because the soldier came home mentally broken. My husband was well aware of these things as well, but said, “It pays the bills.” He also said, all the time, that those who want to see this system fall won’t see it fall unless there is bloodshed.

In 2010, I visited the professor from my Africana studies course. I told him that I’d de-converted from Christianity. We talked politics. Obama was now president. This professor used terms like “capitalism” and “ruling class” to show why Obama was no different from the rest, despite his charisma and his liberal stance. He gave me a copy of “Marx for Beginners” by Rius and told me I should check out the Brecht Forum.

I met some wonderful people there, including, years later, the couple who eventually invited me to their study group and introduced me to Progressive Labor Party, a journey of much quantitative change evolving into a qualitative change, from Christianity into PLP.

Whenever I think that change is impossible, I remind myself of my own transformation. A better world is possible!

Daycare Worker

## How to Be Part of the Solution

I remember walking into Hunter College one day to attend a study group, not knowing really what to expect. All I knew is that I had this urgent feeling inside of me for a while that kept saying: “the world needs help. The world needs to change.” So I decided to do something about it, anything about it, and that’s when I reached out to my friend and that’s what brought me to the study group.

The first activity we did was to read and discuss some articles about hot-button issues in CHALLENGE. I noticed that the specific new articles we talked about weren’t really that talked about in the mainstream media, and didn’t get as much recognition as I thought they deserved. Reading and discussing CHALLENGE was really refreshing. I was surrounded by a group of

open-minded people around my age, who all had their own opinions and had a common interest like me in becoming more concerned with the world and its problems instead of turning away from them.

I knew for a while how important the human connection was, but the study group just reinforced my long-held belief. There was a flow of interpretations, a flow of opinions, a way of looking at things you might not have thought of before. I felt like I was a part of something, a small community where I could see myself grow and evolve, and where maybe I could help someone else do the same thing.

I learned more about communism and why people held onto it as much as they did. One of my friends also came along with me, and she began questioning everything that was said. At first that made me uneasy, because I knew that she is naturally very curious, and wants to hear as many sides as possible. But would the others see it that way as well? I was happy she did question many things though. Because she did that, I learned not just how, but why, communism.

I also realized that asking questions also can help bring out the situations that might cause dissent or problems for communism as a way to govern. And through bringing up the possible roadblocks, we also help discover questions other people might have and work towards solutions or answers in preparation.

What brings about changes in society is what is happening at the study group — people coming together, and sharing. By actively thinking and collaborating we are able to come up with solutions together and then expand. Our study groups are definitely something to be proud of, because no matter what happens in the world, at least we tried to be part of the solution instead of letting life pass us by.

CHALLENGE reader

## Building May Day Brings Out Best in Workers

This year, my pre-May-Day organizing has had some modest victories and disappointments. As a young transit worker, with only a couple years on the job, my schedule fluctuates frequently, and it has been difficult to build consistent relationships with coworkers. Still, several of them bought tickets and committed to coming to the May Day dinner.

One of my coworkers lost nearly everything during Hurricane Sandy. I started getting to know her right after the storm, when she was forced to sleep at the job because her home was uninhabitable. With the current schedule, I saw her every day, and we often talk about politics or play board games on break. She was excited to hear about our May Day build-up event a few weeks ago, as the topics included attacks on transit workers and Sandy relief efforts. She even brought soda as a contribution to the potluck. After a lively discussion about communism, she agreed to march with us on May Day.

Unfortunately, I’ve also had some setbacks. One coworker, who I consider a close friend, was forced off the job and onto medical leave (despite his ability to perform many tasks). Instead of wanting to hang out more or get politically active, he got depressed and anxious about mounting bills.

Capitalism wreaks havoc on workers’ lives, kicking us to the curb when it’s sucked all the profits it can from us. This coworker was politically conscious and always made people laugh in the break room. He’d backed me

up during a confrontation with ConEd scabs last summer and joined me in supporting a school bus strike picket. We became close by playing board games and because I visited him in the hospital (when he first got sick). The system’s got him down and scrambling at the moment, and we haven’t been able to link up since he’s been out, so it seems unlikely he’ll come to May Day.

However, my girlfriend and I were able to visit one coworker. This was a great experience since I got to meet some of his family, I was able to hang out with him for the first time since the current schedule began, and my girlfriend got to better understand what the PLP means when we talk about building a base in the working class. We spoke about why May Day is an important day and he bought two tickets.

Finally, there is a group of health care workers who are also passengers I see regularly. When I first showed these workers articles about hospital closings and police brutality in their neighborhood they were interested. After taking CHALLENGE, a few of them gave me large donations for the newspaper. Two workers bought three tickets and gave me their addresses. While my schedule is again changing soon, I will be able to follow up with these workers and mail them the newspaper.

I’m looking forward to a great May Day march and dinner, with coworkers and friends!

Transit Comrade

## ‘Korean War History’ Exposes U.S. Rulers’ Murderous Role

The article on the Korean War (CHALLENGE 4/24/13) was both timely and informative. A recent book, “The Korean War, A History”, by Bruce Cumings, which I got from a comrade, is worth reading for its close examination of primary sources that have come to light over the past 20 years.

Cumings argues convincingly that the Korean War started as a civil war between the U.S.-installed puppet government in South Korea (ROK) and communist-led mass organizations and guerilla groups in the south. The ROK was led by a tiny elite that had supported the 35-year Japanese occupation (1910-1945) and high-ranking Korean military officers who had fought on the side of Japanese imperialists in World War II.

The 38th Parallel, the dividing line between North and South, was set up by John J. McCloy, a top Wall Street lawyer and later chairman of Chase Bank who was a leading postwar planner for U.S. imperialism. Cumings implies that which troops crossed that line first in 1950 was secondary to the civil conflict in South Korea.

After North Korean troops crossed the 38th Parallel, Dean Acheson, Truman’s Secretary of State, pushed through a U.S. strategy of rolling back the advance of post-WWII communist-led revolutions. This strategy was set out in National Security Council (NSC) Document 68, and resulted in quadrupling the U.S. war budget. In Cumings’ view, this shortly led to “hundreds of permanent military bases abroad, a large standing army, and a permanent national security state at home.” This projection of U.S. power abroad represented a sea change from U.S. policy before WWII.

The book also describes the massive destruction suffered by North Korean workers in the air war launched by the U.S. long before Vietnam, U.S. raids were murdering (and dropping napalm on) tens of thousands of Koreans. According to Cumings, “at least 50% of eighteen out of the North’s twenty-two major cities were obliterated.” The book contains graphic photos of this massive destruction. As in Vietnam, disgusting racism was used to convince U.S. troops that their victims did not deserve to live.

Unfortunately, Cumings ends his book by calling for Korean reconciliation and “truth commissions,” as in South Africa. Workers should never forgive the imperialists for the crimes of war, economic crisis and racist genocide that are the inevitable result of their system of capitalism. That is the truth, and communist revolution, not capitalist reconciliation, is our goal.

A Comrade



# U.S Rulers’ War Policy in Vietnam and Now: ‘Kill Anything that Moves’

Over 30,000 books on Vietnam are in print. Why is one more, *Kill Anything that Moves* by Nick Turse, of unique value? The short answer is that it can be used as educational material. It provides 262 pages of historical facts gained from interviews and ten years of research, which prove that relentless massacres of workers and peasants on the ground and from the air were a core element of U.S. policy 40-50 years ago just as they are today.

Studying this evidence can help readers think more deeply about the causes of U.S. racism, militarism and fascism. It fortifies our argument that U.S. capitalism and its advanced form, imperialism on a global scale, must be destroyed and that only a communist revolution can achieve it. We should make every effort to have everyone we know read the book’s fully documented exposures of the atrocities and unending mass killings that took place in Vietnam for over a decade.

How many of us have heard of “Speedy Express”? Turse describes this six-month operation across the Mekong Delta (Dec. 68 - May 69) led by the army’s 9th Division as “industrial-scale slaughter.” Led by Gen. Julian Ewell, the operation was planned against a background of an attempt to jump-start peace talks in Paris before President Lyndon Johnson left office. The U.S. sought to bring the rice-rich region and its huge population under Saigon’s control before any peace agreement.

### Body Counts Measure Pentagon ‘Success’

Ewell was given a free hand and resources that included “helicopter gunships firing hundreds of rounds per minute, B-52s shaking the earth . . . F-4 Phantoms dropping canisters of napalm by the ton, navy ships off the coast that could hurl Volkswagen-sized shells at targets miles inland, and Swift Boats patrolling the delta’s waterways with machine guns . . .” The results were a “kill ratio” (enemy to U.S. dead) of 134:1 in April 1969. Ewell’s goal was to kill 6,000 or more a month. Body counts were the most important measure of success. Who were these “enemies”?

The Viet Cong generally avoided combat when faced with the full might of the U.S. military, and the army’s own estimates showed that enemy forces in the region never declined and may have increased slightly. “Night search hunter-killer missions” were introduced. Primitive night-vision devices were used to identify tar-

gets, and accompanying helicopter gunships raked the area with machine guns. Top adviser John Paul Vann reported that troops simply targeted any and all people, homes and water buffalo. U.S. forces shot anyone who tried to run from the helicopters. The act of running made them enemies that could be added to sought-after body counts.

### Genocide via Napalm

Speedy Express terrorized civilians with 6,500 tactical air strikes and the dropping of 5,078 tons of bombs and 1,784 tons of napalm. It is beyond the scope of this report to discuss the genocidal effects of the herbicide that was extensively used along river banks.

In 1971, a former aid worker, A. Shimkin, served as a Newsweek reporter. A master statistician, Shimkin crunched the numbers reported at the “Five O’Clock Follies,” the military’s nightly press briefings in Saigon. He studied the ratio of “enemy kills” to weapons recovered. The 9th Infantry reported killing 10,899 enemy troops in Speedy Express and recovering only 748 weapons. During the week of April 19, the reported ratio was 699 to 9. The army responded to charges of murdering civilians by explaining that the victims were “unarmed Viet Cong.”

Turse details how Newsweek and other media refused to publish Shimkin’s and other reports of atrocities and how the military covered up war crimes. One account exposes how a young officer named Colin Powell had nothing but praise for officers accused in the My Lai and other massacres. The book’s detailed history shows how the racism used to dehumanize victims was promoted from the top down. Enlisted men did commit crimes due to ignorance and racist thinking, but *Kill Anything that Moves* shows that the worst racists were the officers and fascist CIA and State Department planners who relied on anti-communism to justify genocide.

U.S. racist massacres did not begin or end with Vietnam. They continue in Afghanistan. In earlier wars, North Korea was “cratered” and millions of Korean civilians were slaughtered. Napalm was used in needless fire-bombing of Japanese cities other than Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which were saved for the greatest terror spectacle of all: nuclear bombs.

Massacres have been part of human history since the beginning of exploitative societies, but what it is important for us to point out that capitalist “progress”

has never been able to fulfill humanity’s hope for peace. The technology controlled by imperialists has led to mass slaughter of workers on an unprecedented scale. Capitalist control of education, culture and the media has resulted in too many people in the U.S. becoming complacent about the use of advanced technology to slaughter non-combatants. They are taught that their military is a “force for good,” as the latest U.S. Navy commercial tells us.

PLP struggled, often successfully, to raise the level of understanding of U.S. imperialism among the hundreds of thousands who participated in the antiwar movement in which our Party played a key role, starting in the early 1960s. Shaken by the mass character of that movement, the U.S. retreat from Vietnam was followed by a powerful ideological counterattack and intensified glorification of militarism.

### Anti-Asian Racism Wins Award

Hollywood’s *Rambo* series was a crude example of the stepped-up propaganda used to support aggression in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. The intense anti-Asian racism of the Academy Award winning movie, *The Deer Hunter*, attempted to justify the atrocities of U.S. imperialism’s war-making.

The move to a better-paid volunteer army replacing an army of draftees, the promotion of patriotism and revenge for 9/11, and the demonization of “rogue states that hate democracy” make our job as anti-imperialists more challenging. With “embedded” reporters, media coverage of wars is better managed. We have to fight harder on all ideological fronts. Nick Turse’s book can be used to help win people to our Party. It should be used energetically — by students, GIs, study groups, high school and college teachers, and parents trying to bring political understanding to their children.

Close to a year ago, CHALLENGE carried a front page story on Staff Sgt. Robert Bales’ midnight murders of 16 women and children in Afghanistan. We have to continue this type of exposure that pinpoints how racism leads to war crimes and how military technology is used to massacre millions, all to further the aim of U.S. imperialists to dominate the world.☸

## RED 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

### Bug shows cops seek male black youth

NYT, 3/22 — For years, the debate over the New York Police Department’s use of stop-and-frisk tactics has centered on whether officers engage in racial profiling. Now, a recording suggests that...a person’s skin color can be a deciding factor in who is stopped.

The recording...was of a...commanding officer... Deputy Inspector Christopher McCormack....[who] said the way to suppress violent crime...was for officers to stop, question and, if necessary, frisk “the right people, at the right time, the right location.”

Civil rights lawyers have long maintained that the term “right people” is police code for young black and Hispanic men, who make up an overwhelming share of those stopped....

The officer who surreptitiously recorded the conversation...began pressing Inspector McCormack about who he meant by the “right people.” The conversation grew heated.

“The problem was...male blacks,” Inspector McCormack said. “And I told you at roll call, and I have no problem telling you this, male blacks 14 to 21.”

### Rosa Parks fought alongside reds

NYT, 3/31 — “People always say that I [refused to] give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn’t true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a day.”

...Parks was politically active before and long af-

ter the Montgomery bus boycott, and her family was equally engaged. Her... husband, Raymond, participated in the communist-led movement defending the Scottsboro boys....Parks also met the veteran organizer Ella Baker, who mentored her. Throughout her career, she never shied way from progressives, even those labeled communist.

### ‘Cops in schools don’t help safety’

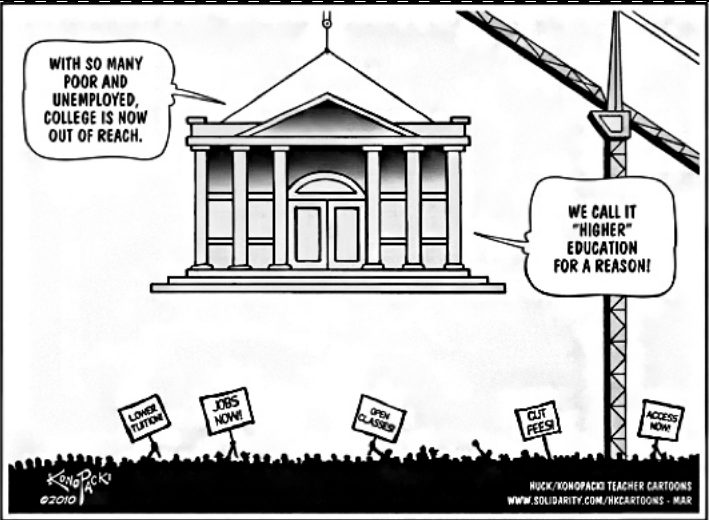
NYT, 4/12 — HOUSTON — As school districts across the country consider placing more police officers in schools, youth advocates...are raising alarm about what they have seen in the schools where officers are already stationed: a surge in criminal charges against children for misbehavior that many people believe is better handled in the principal’s office.

Since the early 1990s, thousands of districts, often with federal subsidies, have paid local police agencies to provide armed “school resource officers” for high school, middle schools and sometimes even elementary schools....

The White House has proposed an increase in police officers based in schools....

Yet the most striking impact of school police officers so far, critics say, has been a surge in arrests of misdemeanor charges for essentially nonviolent behavior... that sends children into the criminal courts.

“There is no evidence that placing officers in the schools improves safety,” aid Denise C. Gottfredson, a criminologist at the University of Maryland, who is an expert in school violence.



### U.S. deportations often unconscionable

NYT, 4/8 — To the Editor:

“Immigrant Detainees and the Right to Counsel”... rightly highlights the injustice of not providing those detained in civil immigrant proceedings with access to counsel. This particularly affects the most vulnerable, including sex trafficking victims....

Victims of domestic violence, sex trafficking and female genital mutilation face the possibility of severe harm and possible murder upon return to their home countries, whether or not they are detained while awaiting a hearing.

It is unconscionable that the United State deports 400,000 noncitizens a year without any guarantee of access to counsel and any way of knowing what harm awaits these noncitizens once they leave the United States.



# MAY DAY: International Solidarity for A Communist World



May Day in Berlin, Germany

At its core May Day means revolution, not reform. The future communist society which May Day embodies has been the aspiration of hundreds of millions — in truth billions — of working people in the past. This aspiration, distant though its fulfillment may be, nonetheless persists. The specter of communism Karl Marx wrote of in 1848 still haunts the capitalists and their rule.

May Day 2013, commemorated under the banners of the Progressive Labor Party for the 43rd consecutive year, does more than embody the aspirations, the dreams even, of the world's working people.

May Day means we have more than a dream. We have a plan, one that has proven itself and emerged victorious in the face of the most vicious assaults the world's ruling classes have been able to launch. Twice in the twentieth century communists have turned world war and fascist invasion into their opposite, and at the height of their influence have managed to spread workers' power over vast portions of the globe.

PLP's May Day events unite workers and youth worldwide under the call:

**Forward to Communism!**

Workers today don't want a world that teeters on the brink of nuclear war at flashpoints from Korea to Kashmir to Syria and beyond, but that's what we have. Workers have a sense that there is a way — within all the excess paraded in front of us on computer and TV screens — that the grinding poverty that imperialism generates need not be.

Yet we live in a world in which our brothers and sisters in eastern Nigeria are driven to pulverize lead-infested ore with hand tools to extract gold bits, producing a dust that goes airborne and poisons their children. Working people and their allies know that we must find a way to develop the planet to meet human needs without tipping it into climate disaster, and we see that the world's imperialists are incapable of the reorganization necessary to make this possible — nor do they want to.

As we gather under PLP's red flag in cities across the globe, we preserve and deepen our commitment to a movement that belongs to the international working class. On May Day, shoulder to shoulder with our comrades old and new, we draw strength for the task of advancing the fight for communism in the coming year. PLP's May Day events will cover the Americas, Asia and Africa.

**May Day:  
One Class, One World, One Party**

Our movement knows no borders. The bosses can't live without borders and the butchery and mayhem it enforces to establish and maintain them. U.S. imperialism rubs up against Chinese imperialism at the Korean border, with consequences we can't predict. In Syria U.S. bosses confront Russian interests. Iranian power and influence has flowed across its border with Iraq in ways

U.S. rulers cannot and will not take lying down. Despite Obama's rhetoric of withdrawal, U.S. bases dot the Middle East in preparation for regional wars to come. To the extent that bosses worldwide can force, or worse, win workers inside their borders to spill their blood in wars for or against U.S. imperialism they are increasingly dangerous.

Meanwhile, fascism grows at the border between the U.S. and Mexico. When it comes to the flow of capital seeking maximum profit, the Mexico-U.S. border is no hindrance. But for workers, the border has become a pretext for the rulers' drone surveillance, racist vigilante shootings and a "guest worker" program that will only institutionalize and legitimize the fascist terror of Obama's deportation regime. Obama, serving the needs of U.S. capitalists, has deported far more Latin American workers than any president in history.

On the streets of Brooklyn, NY, our slogan resounds:

**Stop Racist  
Deportations;  
Working People  
Have No Nations!**

Borders, nationalism and racism are natural and necessary under capitalism. Illusions of European "unity"

are being dashed on the rocks of competing bosses' national interests in the European Union's oppressive austerity and rising anti-immigrant racism. In the U.S., residential and educational segregation has spawned a situation where, according to recent polls, more U.S. citizens admit to holding racist anti-black views than just a few years ago.

Sexist attacks on women are on the rise worldwide, from the garment sweatshops in Bangladesh and Cambodia to the streets of India to the U.S. military. However this has sparked a mass fightback of women and men against this profit-driven assault.

Working-class internationalism is the only antidote to this poison. Progressive Labor Party's May Day sends a clear message:

**'Smash All Borders,  
Power to the Workers!'**

Communism is the only force that can guide workers to turn the guns of the bosses' armies back on the bosses themselves, not on workers from another country. So we chant:

**'Turn the Guns Around,  
Shoot the Bosses Down!'**

May Day is an exercise in this internationalism. In our anti-racist solidarity around campaigns against cholera in Haiti or in support of young rebels against NYPD murder in Brooklyn, NY, we are building a fighting foundation for the communist world workers want, deserve and will win.☺



May Day in the United States

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