

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

volume 45 no. 14

July 3, 2013

suggested donation \$0.50

One Year Later

Fight Against KKKiller Cops Continues



Above: A militant protest in March 2013, immediately following the murder of Kimani Gray.

Below: A July 2012 march to the 67th precinct with Wanted posters of the killer cops in French, Spanish, and English.



BROOKLYN, NY, June 15 — “If you hate these racist killer cops, put your fist in the air!” Scores of fists were raised in response to this chant from a motorcade led by family members of Shantel Davis and Kimani Grey through the Flatbush neighborhood. It has been one year since racist murderer Detective Philip Atkins shot and killed 23-year-old Shantel Davis in her car. The resolve of her family, the Shantel Davis Committee for Justice and Beyond, and members of Progressive Labor Party to continue the fight is as strong as ever.

Only nine months after Shantel was murdered, police from Atkins’ precinct gunned down a 16-year-old young man, Kimani Gray, less than a mile from where Shantel was murdered. As Shantel’s sister put it again during a Friday night vigil, where Constance Malcolm, the mother of another murder victim, Ramarley Graham, spoke, the NYPD is creating a new family of fighters determined to keep the memory of their loved ones alive and the fight against racist police murder strong.

The women from these families boldly defy the bosses’ laws by taking over the streets in demonstrations to seek justice. They are living proof that through struggle, women can and will break through the passivity that the bosses push on working-class females in particular. The women of the Graham, Davis and Gray families point the way toward a future where the capitalists and their sexist, racist system will be smashed

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Join PL Summer Project

As the bosses’ schools are dismissed in NYC on June 28, PLP will spring into high gear on June 29 with our national youth Summer Project against racist police murders. In subsequent days we will sustain daily picket lines at the offices of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes who refuses to bring criminal charges against the plainclothes officers working the 67th precinct responsible for the Brooklyn murders. We stand in unity with the families and friends of the slain in the fight for justice even as we remain firm in our conviction that victory lies in the advancement toward building for communist revolution. Family and friends who marched on May Day with us and who ensured that our communist message is heard at rallies reflect the very growing unity that rulers fear.

The onslaught of racist kkkop murders of black youth continues unabated worldwide. Progressive Labor Party’s response in NYC has been to dig deeper and fight harder around the killer cop cases of Ramarley Graham, Shantel Davis and Kimani Gray. PLP has been deeply entrenched in these struggles and will continue to intensify the fight.

Communist justice will be swift and lasting. In a communist world our young people will not be herded by police through metal detectors into schoolrooms where teachers and students are set up to fail, and they will not be chased out of the schoolroom by school closures and left to idle on streets in cities with no jobs and killer kkkops on the prowl.

When school lets out this coming week, young people with a growing commitment to the fight for communism will gather under the leadership of the PLP, and give leadership to the PLP — by participating in rallies, study groups, movie reviews, barbeques, antiracist history tours, and reading and writing for CHALLENGE. We will cap off our Summer Project with an intensive communist school from July 7 to July 11 where we will deepen our understanding of dialectical materialism, the universally applicable philosophy of revolutionary communism. Come join us!✪

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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OUR FIGHT

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONTACT US
Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet
www.plp.org
challengenewspaper.wordpress.com

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

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

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

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue \$.50. One Year: \$15. Six months: \$10. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, July 3, 2013. Volume 45, No. 14

Editorial

Rulers’ Spy Uproar Pushes Police State for Waging War

The vast homeland spying schemes by the National Security Agency (NSA) have little or nothing to do with protecting the U.S. against terrorists. Their real purpose is to help U.S. bosses build a domestic police state to wage wider imperialist wars. The idea that spying on telephone calls or e-mails in the U.S. is “for our own good” is linked to the idea of supporting wars and interventions for “humanitarian” reasons. It’s a mask for the imperialist drive for maximum profit, which requires the control of energy supplies and cheap labor.

The primary aim of the bosses’ spying is to get people accustomed to accepting terror in their daily lives, from racist stop-and-frisk policies and murders by the police to the mass incarceration of mostly black and Latino prisoners. The militarization of public schools — in the name of protecting us against another Newtown slaughter — is in the same vein.

Internationally, our class sisters and brothers in the war-torn Middle East and South Asia are subjected to even worse. Every U.S. consulate masks a CIA station agent ready to instigate attacks against any group opposing U.S. imperialist policies.

In fact, the FBI and big-city police forces have made a routine out of the racist surveillance of mosques and people from targeted countries. There is no such thing as privacy under capitalism. The rulers have been spying on workers for 150 years, going back to the Pinkerton strikebreakers of the 19th century. In the 1950s and ‘60s, it was the FBI’s Cointelpro and police force Red Squads. In the current Bush-Obama era, it’s the “war on terror” that has used advanced technology to create a more efficient surveillance state.

This spying signals a decisive move towards fascism. It is designed to scare the masses from fighting back against the rulers’ attacks and fascist conditions. All workers are vulnerable, regardless of whether they are “guilty” of any crime. It’s not much of a leap to foresee protesters or strike organizers arrested for “suspicious” e-mails or phone calls.

Liberals Playing Both Sides
On the surface, it seems that liberals are split into two camps over Edward Snowden’s revelations of the NSA schemes. Al Gore and “grass roots” liberal groups are cheering on the whistleblowing. They claim to challenge Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, who contend that terrorists can be foiled only by monitoring everyone’s electronic communications. But in reality, both camps work toward the same goal: building the domestic police state needed by U.S. bosses to carry out their war plans.

Snowden, Gore & Co. actually help advance the warmakers’ fascist agenda. By apparently exposing the NSA, they enable U.S. rulers to gauge — and respond to — working-class support, acquiescence or opposition to the spying. Immediately after the NSA disclosures, the bosses’ attention focused more on opinion surveys than on Congress. The polls came fast and furious, as CBS, ABC, CNN and Fox rushed to learn just how workers felt about government eavesdropping. But it was the liberal Washington Post, the first U.S. organ to publish the leaks, that hailed a fascist triumph in public opinion, especially among mainly working-class Democrats:

According to a Washington Post-Pew Research poll, 56 percent in the U.S. consider the NSA accessing telephone records of millions of people “acceptable,” while 41 percent call the practice “unacceptable.” What has changed is the partisan makeup of who holds which position. In this poll, 69 percent of Democrats say terrorism investigations, not privacy, should be the government’s main concern, an 18-percentage-point jump from early January 2006, when the NSA’s activity under the George W. Bush administration was first reported. Compared with that time, Republicans’ focus on privacy has increased 22 points (Slate, 6/11/13).

These results were just what the imperialist-backed, “anti-war” outfits expected, even as they feigned dismay. National Public Radio (6/11/1-3) quoted Steven Aftergood, director of the Project on Government Secrecy at the anti-nuke Federation of American Scientists, which is funded by multi-billionaire George Soros and the Carnegie Foundation: “Snowden’s efforts to alert the public to the dangers of such wide surveillance could ultimately backfire. The intelligence community can say we didn’t want this to be made public, but it was, and people shrugged, and now we take it as an explicit endorsement. That would be an ironic outcome.”

Who’s Behind It All?
Other liberal U.S. imperialists played a big role in engineering the NSA exposé. Consider Laura Poitras, whom the New York Times calls “the pivotal connection between the former government contractor Edward J. Snowden and writers

for The Guardian and The Washington Post which published his leaked documents” (6/15/13). Last year, “independent” documentary filmmaker Poitras received a half-million dollar “genius grant” from the MacArthur Foundation while working for the Times on a video about another NSA whistleblower. MacArthur’s president, Robert Gallucci, is a lifelong servant of U.S. imperialism. He taught at the National War College and most recently served as Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs. In addition to the fat check from war planner Gallucci, Poitras appears to have gotten essential spycraft training: “[S]he had the technical ability to hold an encrypted online conversation with Mr. Snowden ... which he insisted on” (Times article).

Another fake “voice of the people,” this one calling itself the “Government Accountability Project” (GAP), ardently defends Snowden. In line with its motto, “Protecting Corporate, Government, & International Whistleblowers Since 1977,” the organization says, “Snowden disclosed information about a secret program that he reasonably believed to be illegal. Consequently, he meets the legal definition of a whistleblower” (GAP website, 6/14/13). Among the sources of “the vast majority of our funds,” according to the GAP site, is the ultra-imperialist Rockefeller Family Fund.

Hypocrisy, Inc.
“Outraged” ex-Clinton Vice President Al Gore added his voice to the chorus of hypocrites denouncing the NSA program: “This in my view violates the constitution. The fourth amendment and the first amendment — and the fourth amendment language is crystal clear” (Guardian, 8/14/13). Never mind that the U.S. Constitution guaranteed slavery. Gore is a board member for Apple and senior adviser at Google, two firms that willingly funnel their customers’ messages and information to the NSA.

Gore is also a partner at Kleiner Perkins, a venture capital firm that boasts Colin Powell, Iraq genocide war criminal and advocate of massive force warfare, as a strategic partner. In the same spirit as the NSA, Kleiner proposes buying into “internet, wireless, and media” for use against a potential World War III foe China.

Liberals’ phony soul-searching over the limits of home-front spying mirrors the new fake debate over New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s stop-and-frisk policy. If either Obama or Bloomberg wanted to, they could end such racist searches with the stroke of a pen. But deliberately feeble federal and state litigation allows Bloomberg to lecture, “It’s for your own good” to an increasingly accepting audience. These capitalist liberals are fundamentally imperialist. They mislead people by seeming to critique injustice while they pave U.S. imperialism’s path to war — and to the domestic crackdowns that war requires.

What Is To Be Done?
But the working class, led by communists in the Progressive Labor Party, cannot take these attacks lying down. We must step up our efforts on the job, in the military and in the schools, communities and churches to organize against fascist terror. We must point out that capitalism cannot be reformed. Under the laws of imperialism, rival national groups of capitalist bosses will inevitably escalate their oppression of the working class worldwide.

Only a communist revolution — eliminating the bosses and the racism, sexism, mass unemployment and poverty that flow from their profit system — can solve workers’ problems. A mass PLP is needed to achieve that goal. Join us!🔥



PL Transit Workers Ally with Riders, Lead Fight vs. Racist Bosses

WASHINGTON, DC, June 17 — The DC Metro transit bosses continue their racist attacks on the working class, both in the community and on the job. They continue to push for service cuts and for privatization, which will hurt both the Metro workforce and workers throughout the region.

The Progressive Labor Party's immediate strategy is to hit back on two fronts. In the short term, we are building an alliance among the riding public, Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689, and other unions for jobs, lower fares, better service, and a single wage-and-benefit package for all transit workers. We are also fighting against DC Metro's racist background checks. This alliance has the potential to push back these attacks and shut the region down. Our longer-term strategy is to win workers to a communist understanding of the need for revolution to destroy the entire capitalist system.

Some progress has been made on both fronts. Six people attended May Day from the committee that is organizing against the background checks. Seven workers have joined a Party study group to learn more about communism. Several of them distribute CHALLENGE and advocate communist ideas with their friends.

DC Metro policies on criminal background checks

for new hires and current workers have come under renewed attack from both community organizations and rank-and-file workers. Community groups in southeast Washington and active public health workers are circulating petitions to demand an end to these racist policies. Even the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is entering the fray by suing BMW and the Dollar Store for using background checks to discriminate against black workers. After much prodding by PLP members and other workers, Local 689 is coming around to engage in this fight.

The DC government continues to advance its plans for privatizing parts of the city's Metrobus system. In response, the union turned out at a budget hearing on expansion of the DC Circulator, the public-private service being used to replace Metrobus. After our opposition was ignored by the DC City Council, union members went to a meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Privatization, which was cancelled before we got there. Instead of marching to a nearby transit hub and talking to the riding public about the threats of privatization, the union leadership dispersed the group over PL members' objections.

The union leadership continues to operate without

a strategy to fight privatization. PLP's approach is to build towards militant action and shut down the city. But the union leadership fears that our plan would jeopardize their cozy relationship with the city's bosses and politicians.

On the collective bargaining front, DC Metro continues to demand contract concessions from the union, using threats of further privatization and the loss of jobs. The union leadership's stance is either to cave in to these concessions or to let the bosses' arbitrator decide.

All of these attacks are an opportunity to intensify the class struggle. For the first time in many years, workers see the seriousness of the rulers' attacks. They understand that the union leadership has a losing strategy.

How can the Party come out ahead in this situation? When we sharpen the struggle, workers see how racism divides us. They see that the bosses have the power to beat us down in any reform struggle. Only by building our Party with the outlook of ending racism and seizing state power from the bosses can we really win. Our victory comes with building the revolutionary Party. If we can beat back the bosses' immediate attacks in the process, so much the better!✪

LA May Day Inspires Youth to Join PL

LOS ANGELES, June 12 — The PLP high school club here has been very active recently, both before and after May Day. One student declared: "As a high-school senior, I was willing to engage more in my school. When my teacher asked me to be a part of the May Day dinner, I was willing to experience something new. I knew it was about communism but had no idea what that was. Being there helped me to understand that communism means joining people as one and providing equality and fairness among all the people. I developed a new outlook.

"I recently graduated from high school and am about to go to work. My eyes are now open to how we are being controlled and are manipulated. A revolution will help us gain authority and a voice to eliminate this corrupt government."

Another student said about May Day: "Fresh out of high school, attending events like the May Day dinner and a meeting on sexism helped me find out what's going on, not just in my community but in the world beyond. The May Day dinner was a preview for the May Day march, including speeches about various political situations. A few of my school mates and I performed a poem, [Good Morning Revolution] by Langston Hughes. The dinner enabled people to come together and prepare for the march as one."

All this is increasing our potential for youth-based leadership in the region in the coming years. We are also working closely with six high school students, highlighting the garment factory collapse in Bangladesh. One has been in-

involved for a while and the others have come around our May Day events.

After May Day, we had two rallies in the downtown garment area revealing the similarities between workers in LA and Bangladesh. We also had a study group about sexism, relating it to the class struggle among garment workers. Afterwards we distributed CHALLENGES to workers at a garment factory.

In the study group, we learned about sexist oppression in other parts of the world as well as what we see in our personal lives — how women workers are paid less than men, and what jobs people think fit a certain gender, affecting how much a worker gets paid.

Sexist ideology says women are inferior to men, leading to intense exploitation of women. In Bangladesh, a garment factory collapse killed more than 1,100 workers, mostly all women. The workers didn't want to go to work because of cracks in the walls, but the manager warned them if they didn't show up that day that they wouldn't get paid. Those who did go to work were among the many who died.

After these months of activities, we now have a solid base for youth leadership and an active campaign around the Bangladesh factory murders that has tied us to garment workers and others throughout the city. We still have a long way to go, but this is a good start. We plan to relate this and other issues next fall to ones on the college campuses where these students will be enrolled, as well as continuing to work with garment workers in the city.✪

Union Hacks say 'Vote' — Workers Need Mass Struggle

NEW YORK CITY, June 12 — Thousands of angry teachers, transit, fire, sanitation and other workers rallied today demanding new contracts. All city unions have been without new contracts, some for over two years. But instead of staging a city-wide general strike, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) and the NY Central Labor Council used this as a Democratic Party election rally for the upcoming mayoral election. Some went so far as to say they had come to City Hall to "evict" billionaire Bloomberg, even though he is leaving on his own, term-limited out, after 12 devastating years. The UFT gave out a sea of blue t-shirts that read, "Workers Count and Workers Vote." That was also one of the main chants from the stage.

At the same time, based on our efforts to bring small blocks of workers and youth from our jobs and schools and the response of workers to CHALLENGE, the rally also showed the potential for building a base for communist revolution.

This demonstration was not the beginning of a real fight to restore needed services in hospitals, schools, and other vital areas. Rather, it was the first of a series of election rallies, winning workers to the idea that if you want a decent contract you better vote for the Democrats. This message was first delivered a few months ago on this very spot when a rally in support of striking school bus drivers and matrons ended after all the Democratic candidates signed a letter urging them to return to work with no contract. Many had no jobs to return to. Sadly, a number of school buses drove past this rally, with no blowing horns and no recognition from the traitors on stage. With hundreds of thousands of workers angry and without a contract, the union bosses were doing their best to keep the workers passive and dependent on this capitalist state. Whoever occupies City Hall, no closed hospitals or schools will be reopened. No racist cutbacks will be restored.

PLP is locked in a fight with the union leaders for the political leadership of workers and youth. When they say "politics is primary," they mean that you have to vote for Democrats to get a contract with fewer give-backs and concessions. When the PLP says, "politics is primary," we mean that workers must be armed politically to understand how the racist profit system works, how it is on a collision course for another world war, and how only communist revolution can provide a secure future for the international working class. To defeat the bosses, workers, soldiers and youth need to build a mass PLP.✪



Black Women Lead Fight vs. Hospital Closings

BROOKLYN, NY, June 16 — “Healthcare Yes! Wall Street No! Racist [governor] Cuomo’s got to go!” This chant, started by members and friends of Progressive Labor Party and taken up eagerly by hundreds of mainly women hospital workers, rang out for the entire march fighting against closing of Downstate Hospital. Many union leaders and politicians looked decidedly uncomfortable. The speeches were more militant in response to the mood of the workers.

For a year, hospital workers and residents of the neighborhoods served by us have been fighting against the downsizing and/or closings of both Downstate Hospital and Long Island College Hospital (LICH). Downstate, comprising 8,000 workers and nearly 2,000 medical students, is the fourth largest business in Brooklyn.

The hospital and NY State bosses have been waffling on their plans, partly in response to this fightback. In the current economic environment, Governor Cuomo and Sate University chancellors want to cut our wages and benefits; their plan has no good solutions for hospitals that serve a large percentage of Medicaid and uninsured patients. The Public Benefit Corporation experiment proposed in Downstate bosses’ “Sustainability Plan,” will referee the imposition of more and deeper cutbacks.

This is a despicable sexist, racist attack on the working class here. Both politicians and union leaders fear that our struggles will progress into more militant actions than just petitions. Hundreds of CHALLENGEs sold at the hospital were welcomed by workers.

At the frontline of this fight are women workers, most of whom are black and immigrant. Considering the sexist fact women bear most of, if not the sole, responsibility of raising children and taking care of their parents, we are at the forefront of the struggle for healthcare for our families. Those of us who may lose jobs at these



Brookdale Hospital workers and Occupy rally to oust the racist administration Mdysis and fight their healthcare cuts in November 2011.

hospitals are major, if not primary, wage-earners for our households. In spite of the unpaid labor in the house and the exploited wage labor in the hospitals, women workers are getting involved and taking leadership, often for the first time.

PLP has been deeply involved in organizing these hospital struggles. We were there when Brookdale Hospital workers took on the criminal hospital administration, Medisys. We were part of organizing the first demonstration last June at Downstate with Occupy Wall Street. We have tried to help mobilize the neighborhood Red Hook residents (survivors of Superstorm Sandy) to fight for workers and patients at LICH. Throughout we

have warned that this crisis in healthcare is caused by the capitalist need to move resources out of social services into its efforts to maintain control over its world empire.

Workers in all hospitals must stick together and enlist the support of our patients. We cannot rely on voting and politicians. Mass, rank-and-file, militant struggle is our only chance to push back these attacks. Finally we have always said that a system based on profits can never provide decent health care for the working class. That is why we fight to build a mass communist movement in this antisexist struggle.✊

Expose Fascist ‘Deporter in Chief’

LOS ANGELES, June 7 — When President Obama showed up here today to give a fund-raising speech to the people he really represents — the wealthy of this city and the fat-cat donors of the Democratic Party — he was met by 150-200 protesters, mostly young Latino college students. Many came to the U.S. with parents and relatives in search of a way out of the desperate poverty in Central America and Mexico. A group of us PLP members joined our friends from immigrant rights groups at the rally, to protest an administration that is working 24/7 to detain (jail) and deport an all time high number of immigrants, 1.7 million, in the last four years.

These anti-immigrant policies and actions have prompted anger and demonstrations around the country against the “Deporter-in-Chief” as rally organizers labeled him. But it’s important for workers in these groups, and all workers, to understand that it isn’t just about Obama’s policies or his friends — it’s built into the bosses’ system.

The hangover from the recent capitalist crisis of 2007-2008 has left the U.S. with several million new U.S.-born jobless piled atop the mountain of workers who were already unemployed before the crash. These workers roam the streets and “job fairs” looking for work. By the tens of thousands they enroll in schools hoping to upgrade the sales value of their labor power. Often the only result is debt from student loans.

Yet capitalists, from the biggest corporate manufacturing bosses to the smallest subcontractors, will not and cannot put them to work. The law of maximum profits leads the bosses to look for the lowest costs and wages, and these young workers are unwillingly competing with workers in China, Brazil or Bangladesh for the lowest costs and most dangerous working conditions.

The real purpose for borders is to divide the working class and build racism. All bosses and their capitalist governments are free to export capital the world over wherever and whenever it buys the cheapest labor and resources. They are free to exploit the workers in any area of the world, any time, free to murder innocent people in imperialist wars, free to poison the earth, to lie, spread famine, disease, poverty, push sexism, patriotism, and nationalism.

And that’s why Progressive Labor Party turned out for this protest, because we reject this idea, and believe our young friends can be won, through our communist ideas, to see that capitalism has never, and can never, work for the great majority of us that sell our brains and strength for a wage.

Join us in Progressive Labor Party to put an end to the plague of capitalism. Fight for a communist world without borders.✊

Combat Sexist Attacks on Workers

The company I work for is located in the northern part of the State of Mexico, one of the poorest areas of the state. The company pays \$600 MXN a week to women and \$650 MXN to men (one U.S. dollar is equivalent to 12.78 Mexican pesos); these are starvation wages, miserable and also humiliating. This company is one of many that exploit workers, taking advantage of conditions in the area, because this is one of the most deprived regions. The majority here doesn’t own the lots where they reside, living precariously in brick and mud houses covered by cardboard or aluminum roofs, and out of necessity are forced to accept dangerous jobs for very low wages. Most never even finished elementary school.

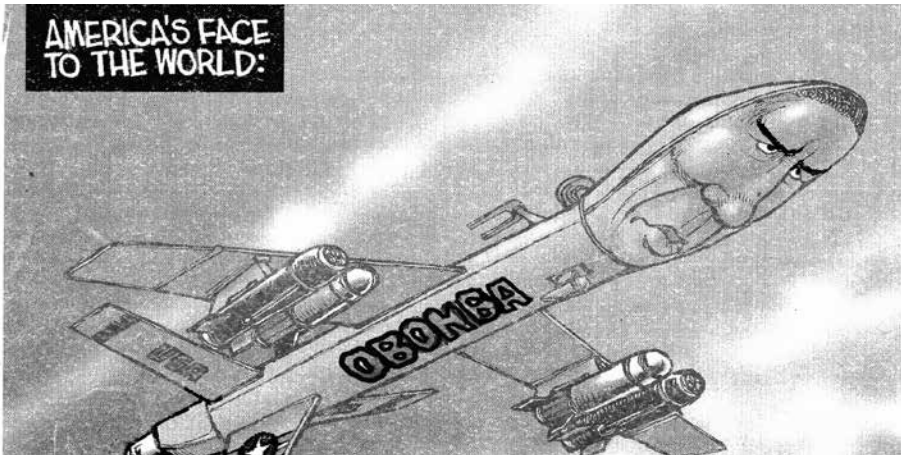
The majority of workers in this company are women and many are under age; there are only three men in the production line. Women do all the heavy work, risking injuries, without safety equipment or social security benefits. Because of the scarcity of jobs, compounded by the low educational level in which this accursed system has kept them, many women have to tolerate abusive bosses who humiliate them, scream obscenities at them and try to destroy their dignity and make them feel like trash.

When I realized a young woman was crying because our boss had insulted her for something insignificant, I loudly challenged the boss, denouncing him in front of our co-workers, telling him he couldn’t talk like that to a person, a woman, and even more so, to a young person; I was so angry that I struck him.

When the contractor learned of this situation, he demanded to know why I had struck the boss, saying that he couldn’t tolerate that type of violence in his company, even though the bosses’ violence is much more serious, because humiliating and degrading words can cause injuries that often never heal.

In the end, I was fired, and the supervisor threatened me with court charges. But what’s good about this situation is that it allowed me to discuss the Party’s politics with some of my co-workers, who are now receiving CHALLENGE. We workers have the possibility of freedom in our hands; we must fight for dignity, eliminating racism, individualism and sexism that destroy us while the capitalists enjoy the wealth that we produce. We must fight for our children to save them from this suffering, for the dignity of our lives, for our freedom, for a communist revolution. Workers of the world unite!

Communist Fighter



Fight Against KKKiller Cops Continues

continued from frontpage

once and for all.

After one year, there has been no movement by District Attorney Charles Hynes to indict Atkins. His promises to the family to investigate thoroughly were a blatant lie. To continue our fightback, the Shantel Davis committee organized a vigil on the one-year memorial, followed by a motorcade through the neighborhood and a barbecue the following day.

The vigil was an important memorial on the one-year anniversary of Shantel's killing. Several of her friends not seen at the many marches over the past twelve months made a point of coming out and speaking. Traffic was blocked. Some spoke of reform and voting "wisely" and PLP advocated the need to continue the struggle against this racist system until a communist world is ours. Once the bosses' system of capital-

ism is smashed, the need to divide the working class and super-exploit some will no longer exist. Only then will we be able to smash racism, sexism and all other anti-working class ideas. CHALLENGE remains the paper of record in this struggle and was enthusiastically received by passersby from our motorcade.

Over the past year, members of PLP have struggled with committee members over what *fighting for justice* means. If Atkins was indicted, would that be justice? Through the class struggle, committee members are beginning to see that the working class cannot rely on preachers and politicians who serve to pacify the movement or courts that serve the ruling class. While we still have a long way to go to show that only communism will bring about the justice we seek, the working class is teaching members what it means to be fearless fighters against this system.☺



July 2012 — The struggle for Ramarley and Shantel unite as one as hundreds of black, Latino, Asian, and white workers rally in front of the Bronx Precinct. Many raise the frontpage of CHALLENGE as a flag of protest.



September 2012 — Family, friends, and PLP take over the streets yet again. Cars honk in support, as passersby take CHALLENGE, which has become *the* newspaper of Flatbush.

Boston Bombing Prompts Racist Terror

In response to the CHALLENGE article on the Boston Marathon bombings 4/21), about the tragedy that killed three people, it has been useful for Boston comrades in discussing and agreeing with our friends that capitalism is at the root of terrorism (explained well in the article). The bosses' pursuit of creating a police state is currently strong evidence of an increasing fascist hold over the masses. Some of us have gathered reactions of students and workers at one urban community college here.

After the bombing some students without "legal" immigrant status feared coming to school. There was a heightened awareness at the college of the police "out there looking for the perpetrators" endangering many students who immigrated here. They were wary of appearing publically. This fear is legitimate and those comrades who were born here must become sensitive to, and respectful of, such reactions. We must find ways to work with them and enable them to trust us and feel safe to express themselves about PLP's politics.

With the media praising the police and "first responders," and using this tragedy to build U.S. patriotism, the general public appears very tolerant of this new police state. As anti-Muslim terrorism runs rampant in Boston, a Muslim woman from Malden was beaten and a woman from Newton, a wealthy Boston suburb was forced out of her car by the police while they searched her vehicle and questioned her. One Muslim professor who works at the college lives in an apartment complex in Newton among a small community of Muslims described their fear of leaving the house. Since the Marathon, some of her non-Muslim neighbors have snubbed her, which shocked and hurt her and her husband. There's a police car parked outside the complex which was never there before during the day.

However, many working-class students, staff and instructors at the college have cautiously voiced ideas close to those of PL's. In one class, the professor encouraged an open discussion about the events.

A Latino student said the lockdown in Boston the Friday after the shooting was even worse than her experience several years ago in a police crackdown in a Los Angeles working-class neighborhood. She reported that curfews were set and Latino male youth were pulled off the street into police cars at gunpoint and interrogated while cops looked for suspects described as young Latinos. Others said they'd heard similar stories from family and friends.

In addition to the state-sponsored terrorism described in the CHALLENGE article, the state's bullying tactics seen after the 9/11 attacks and in the days following the Boston bombing become the new form of terrorism imposed on working people. All students who participated in these discussions agreed that the police had too much power. Only a few thought the complete lockdown was necessary to apprehend the two young bombing suspects.

Several scholars at the college (Honor Society students) are starting an "underground" magazine in response to these discussions, enabling students to submit ideas and poems anonymously, to get them out to the general public without feeling threatened. A student who emigrated from South America will be the editor. She explained that the work of poets like Pablo Neruda of Chile, Nicolas Guillen of Cuba and Ernesto Cardenal of Nicaragua — although advocating reform politics — described excellent tactics of how to mobilize the masses for a cause. She explained we could use them as models to promote revolutionary ideas and educate everyone in the college community about communism.

At the same time, contributors would have anonymity and therefore at least temporarily feel somewhat safe from persecution. In this way many more students could be drawn in and eventually become advanced enough to fight openly for communism.

In the weeks following the marathon tragedy, a U.S. citizen employed at the college working with PL received more inquiries about PL, May Day and CHALLENGE than in any previous years. However none were confident enough to join us openly or to march on May Day this year.

This shows the need to become sensitive to workers and students who support our ideas and to find ways to work with them until these potential comrades develop enough to fight alongside us for communism to smash this fast-developing fascist police state.

Let's fight to keep revolutionary communist ideas expressed and circulating to the masses as widely as possible and urge workers and students to fight for these principles. Truly, the only solution is communist revolution!

Boston Comrade

LETTERS

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

Immigration Court: Naked Fascism

Outrage and impotence — that’s what my friends and I felt when we went to an immigration court to the hearing of Shyanne, a restaurant worker detained by the police after she withheld the cell phone of a client who refused to pay his bill, and gave the phone to her supervisor. The boss called the police, which arrested the undocumented worker, without allowing her to explain the situation or defend herself. She was taken to jail and after a hearing at a criminal court, Shyanne was sent to an immigration detention center. This situation demonstrates yet again the racist and sexist nature of capitalism in this chain of the cops, courts, and immigration.

When I saw Shyanne at the hearing before the immigration judge, I felt the deepest hatred and anger; this oppressive and racist system criminalizes a humble worker, mother of three children, whose only “crime” was to cross the border looking for work to support her children and her family. She was brought in wearing an orange uniform, handcuffed and chained as a dangerous criminal, and the only thing she could do was to cry because she wasn’t allowed to say or do anything.

Later, she was allowed to talk to her lawyer, whose only contribution to the case has been to pocket the \$4,000 her family managed to put together with great difficulty. The lawyer took the money knowing full well that Shyanne couldn’t be bailed out due to her previous deportation order.

There are also community organizations whose “leaders,” because of fear of losing the money they pocket, refuse to help, arguing that member didn’t participate in their activities. Shyanne was in fact a member and was studying English in the mornings. Thanks to her teacher’s solidarity and that of a few militant members, she received support and her case will be handled by the community organization’s lawyer.

During the visiting hour, we talked to her through a glass partition. We were inside a small enclosure while she was on the other side, as we tried to somehow give her hope. But seeing her crying because of her inability to see her children, jailed like the worst criminal, we couldn’t help ourselves and cried with her. The racist nature of this rotten capitalist system only knows how to inflict suffering on workers, who because of the color of their skin or place of origin are criminalized.

The slogan, “Workers’ struggles have no borders” and “We are not immigrants, we are workers” will become a reality when the international working class unites to fight against this system through a communist revolution. Workers like this sister won’t be treated like criminals because they don’t have a piece of paper legitimizing their existence.

That’s why, brother and sister workers, we must unite to fight to destroy capitalism, not with reforms but with fighting for communism.

Another Red

Church Group Unites with Workers in Haiti

About two years ago I joined a church’s peace and justice group whose goal is to fight racism and poverty. The group has been involved in several community events like the Race Against Hate (5K/10K run or walk) and the YWCA’s Racism Hurts Everyone events.

In the Fall, a group from a nearby church came to talk to us about racism and poverty in Haiti. A couple of Haitian organizers were at the meeting and it was decided that the church would organize a lunch after the service and donate proceeds to a Haitian cholera relief fund being organized by a local Haitian group. Over 80 people ate a lunch of pumpkin soup, corn bread, rice and beans. People from the church were generous, many times donating and not eating lunch. A spirit of cooperation and generosity was everywhere.

A Haitian Task Force was formed and the first meeting’s opening words were: “Haiti was founded by a revolution in 1804 and became the first black republic. It was the first country to break the chains of slavery, the first to force Emperor Napoleon to retreat, and the only one to aid Simon Bolivar in his struggle to liberate the indigenous people and slaves of Latin America from the colonial oppressor. Tragically, the history of liberty and self-determination has drawn two centuries of political and economic ire from powerful countries resulting in the impoverishment of the people of Haiti.”

We discussed Hurricane Sandy, the cholera epidemic and the role of the UN and MINUSTAH; Haiti’s history and the role Haiti has been assigned in the world by U.S. imperialism. We advocated the need to bring awareness

about its racism and inequalities and that we must stand with the working class of Haiti, a working class whose spirit will never be broken. We called for working in solidarity (not charity) towards a future that the working class in Haiti and workers worldwide deserve.

As Party members, this is an opportunity to build ties with those who are angry and upset about the poverty suffered by our class brothers and sisters. With these ties, we must advance the conversation to whether the ills of Haiti can be solved by capitalist reform, a discussion which can lead to the alternative, an egalitarian society based on the needs of the working class.

We must raise revolutionary communism and the Progressive Labor Party as the alternative that will liberate the people in Haiti, a revolution led by workers from Haiti, Bangladesh, Pakistan, El Salvador, Los Angeles, Chicago and so on. This is our future, the red star that burns bright for the workers of Haiti.

A Comrade

The Rosenbergs: Working-Class Heroes



Sixty years ago, on June 19, 1953, the U.S. government murdered Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. The Rosenbergs, who were members of the Communist Party, were accused of passing “atomic bomb information” to the then-socialist Soviet Union. The “Rosenberg Case” was an important part of building anti-communism in the U.S. after World War II.

During the war, U.S. bosses had been forced to give some support to the Soviet Union, which did the lion’s share of the struggle to defeat Hitler. Now it was time for the bosses to turn the working class against them again, and try to make U.S. workers support the Cold War. They created the Rosenberg case as a dramatic event to help persuade the majority of people that the Soviet Union was an enemy. The accusations were meant as one way to “galvanize the nation” by whipping up a frenzy of anti-Soviet feeling. It came during the same era in which the bosses passed laws and whipped up hysteria to drive communists out of union leadership and out of schools.

The idea behind the charges was that the Soviets were “too stupid” to develop nuclear weapons by themselves; they had to “steal” the know-how from the U.S. through connections with wartime research. Well, it’s obvious that even if some “secrets” were passed, the Soviet Union wasn’t “too stupid” for technology: four years after the Rosenbergs were executed, the Soviets launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite into space, and in 1961, sent Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin on the first manned orbit of the earth in a space capsule.

It is extremely unlikely that the Rosenbergs stole anything of scientific value regarding how to build a nuclear weapon, which is very complex, nothing like following directions in a school science experiment! But if the Rosenbergs were able to do something to assist the Soviet Union, they would have done it based on their loyalty to the working class. As communists, they were well aware of the vicious, anti-working-class nature of the U.S. government — which had recently dropped TWO atomic bombs on Japan — killing 250,000 civilians — as a clear warning to the Soviet Union that it could be next.

The government hoped the Rosenbergs would plead guilty to avoid the death penalty. That would have given the bosses a bigger propaganda blast if they had admitted guilt. But the Rosenbergs refused to say that they were guilty of anything! The case helped the bosses scare many people away from revolutionary activity, but it also angered many others, and helped turn them into lifelong fighters for a communist revolution. For their courageous stand against the entire U.S. ruling class, the Rosenbergs deserve our admiration, just as we commemorate the original May Day martyrs in Chicago.

A Comrade Who Remembers

Unintentional Sexism and Racism

In the June 5 issue of CHALLENGE, letters sent in by Red Rabbi and Red Preacher, while correctly pointing out that white workers are not the cause of racism, unintentionally and carelessly contained both sexist and racist aspects that we must avoid.

In the second paragraph, where the letter listed four fake leftists, it named three of them — Dohrn, Ayers, and Mahdibuti. But then described the fourth merely as “his (Mahdibuti’s) wife” rather than giving her name. It is sexist to describe a woman in terms of whom she is married to and unwittingly (in this case) reduces her to second-class “citizenship.” It would have been no better to give her name and then describe him as “her husband.” However, that’s a mistake many would fall into, given the sexist nature of U.S. capitalist culture. Such ideas divide the working class every bit as much as the false ideas that white workers are responsible for racism. Therefore, such ideas must be defeated in order to unite the entire working class of the world under one party for world-wide revolution.

In the third paragraph a reference to Obama described him as “an African-American [who is] ‘emperor’ of the U.S. Empire.” Any time a person who has one white parent and one black parent is described as “African-American” rather than as half white and half black, it reflects the one-drop attitude of U.S. southern slavery, in which if any ancestor was African (referred to inaccurately as having one drop of “black blood”) the person was regarded as all black and therefore eligible to be enslaved.

These secondary defects were not the main focus of the otherwise excellent letter, which was that racism is a necessary product of capitalism, without which capitalism could not exist. Nevertheless we must be aware at all times that we can repeat poisonous capitalist ideas without meaning to do so. (I won’t comment here on the contradiction between “Red” and the religious clerical designations in the signatures of the letter writers, as that topic has been well handled at much greater length in articles in the PLP magazine, THE COMMUNIST.)

Saguaro Rojo



Communists in New York protest the legal murder of the Rosenbergs in 1953.

Legal Action Can Spark Class Struggle

Part One of this response to the letter, "Can Class Struggle Use the Bosses' Courts?" (CHALLENGE, 4/26/13), discussed the appearance of the courts as a means to seek justice versus the essence of the courts as a tool of the U.S. ruling class in the previous issue (6/19/13). Part Two discusses why we advocate recruiting lawyers and legal workers to the Party and the use of the courts as one avenue of struggle against the bosses.

First, PLers work amongst all sectors of the population to organize communist revolution. The current strike in New York City of attorneys and legal workers, members of Legal Services Staff Association UAW Local 2320 (LSSA), is a clear example of this position. The strike involves a staff that serves the needs of the poorest workers (see CHALLENGE, 6/19/13).

Many well-meaning people become lawyers because they believe the illusion that justice can be served through the bosses' courts. Yet many become disillusioned. These lawyers feel trapped by the constraints of their job — enormous caseloads, insufficient time and resources to prepare cases, and racist courts. Many welcome our Party's ideas, relieved to find an ideology that makes sense of the nightmare world in which they work. Of course we want such fighters in PLP.

Second, we use all avenues of class struggle, including lawsuits and criminal defense, when our comrades and friends in the working class are under attack. We must, however, approach the legal work from a revolutionary outlook. We seize the opportunity to expose how the institutions of bourgeois democracy, including its laws, serve to maintain the capitalist system of wage slavery. We want to eliminate the deadly illusions in ourselves and our friends that reforms of any kind, legal or

otherwise, can ever lead to revolutionary change.

The Scottsboro case, organized by the U.S. Communist Party, is an inspiring example of how a bold legal strategy in the context of a massive, international political campaign can recruit to the Party. The Scottsboro Boys were nine black teenagers accused of rape in Alabama in 1931. At that time, thousands of unemployed workers seeking work — black, white, male and female — rode illegally on the top of train cars.

The Scottsboro incident grew from a fight between black and white homeless workers who rode the trains. The black workers tossed the white workers off the train. The latter raced to the nearest town, Scottsboro, Alabama, and reported to the local sheriff. The train was stopped and all the workers were pulled off. Two were white girls. Terrified that they would be arrested themselves they promptly claimed they were raped. A random group of nine black teens were arrested and charged with rape.

Communist Party (CP) members happened to be in the area organizing farmworkers when the news broke. They immediately contacted Party headquarters in New York and a campaign was launched. The first defendant was convicted in a day and a half and sentenced to death. The remaining eight were all convicted the following day.

At that point, the CP found a lawyer in New York willing to take on the appeal. The case was taken to the U.S. Supreme Court three times while a mass campaign began involving protests, fund-raising and publicity in all areas where the Party existed. It organized a speaking tour for several mothers of the defendants who spoke across the U.S., and in London, Paris and Moscow. One

of the two female accusers even joined the Party and testified at the second trial, admitting that she had lied. It developed into an international movement that put U.S. racism on trial. The struggle lasted throughout the 1930s.

Eventually all nine were released from jail although some spent many years in prison before the state of Alabama finally decided to give up on the case. Out of that and other political/legal battles of the 1930s and 1940s came the enormous experience in the class struggle from which PLP draws many lessons. It is significant that the best book on the philosophy of dialectics, *Dialectical Materialism*, was written by a communist lawyer active in the fight against the anti-communist attacks of the U.S. government in the 1950s and inspired by the Scottsboro case.

"Standing on the shoulders of giants," PLP continues to develop campaigns in many cases where comrades and friends who fought racist and fascist forces have been arrested and prosecuted in the bosses' courts. PLP has learned from these struggles that a strategy of developing a team of legal fighters who act boldly in the courtroom, combined with political organizing to go on the offensive outside the court; mass actions on the courtroom steps; packing the courtroom with supporters; mass fund-raising for the legal defense, and especially raising the issue in other struggles we are waging; can bring workers and youth closer and into the PLP while fighting attacks by the bosses.

We hope this article stimulates further discussion amongst members and friends that helps to advance our ideological clarity about when and how to fight in the courts.✪



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

Immigrants super-exploited

NYT, 2/21 — In all the talk of providing a path to citizenship for millions of undocumented workers while tightening border security, one important issue, so far, received only passing mention: stronger protection for immigrant workers against exploitation and abuse.... Bottom-feeding employers...hire and underpay and otherwise exploit cheap immigrant labor, dragging down wages and workplace standards for everyone.

Such abuses are easily visited on immigrant workers by unscrupulous employers who use the threat of deportation to force their victims into silence....

The abuses begin overseas, where workers pay recruiters steep fees and start their new lives in deep debt. Unable to leave abusive employers and with little access to the legal system they suffer in silence. Those who do speak out are threatened, fired, deported, [and/or] blacklisted. They have little opportunity to complain about unsafe working conditions, to sue for stolen wages or to assert their rights to overtime and time off.

Accidents mix profits and racism

NYT, 6/2 — The casualties in Texas — 14 killed and nearly 200 injured — were shocking but the fact is that chemical disasters imperil millions of Americans who live and work close to industrial plants in dense cities and sprawling suburbs. Last November, the Congressional Research Service identified 2,500 facilities that could each put more than 10,000 people at risk in the event of an accident. Last year 1,270 people died in more than 30,000 chemical spills and accidents....Federal regulators have been far too lax in their oversight....

More broadly, the [Texas] explosion is a reminder that the Obama administration has failed to uphold a promise the president made as a candidate in 2008 to require the industry to switch to safer chemicals and processes wherever feasible....

But the [Environmental Protection] Agency has not required the switch to safer technology under pressure from the industry, which argues that such a mandate would be costly....

The health risk is particularly great for the poor and racial minorities, who are more likely to live in communities near facilities using hazardous materials. Much

of this is the result of racial politics that put dangerous plants in segregated and poor neighborhoods where land is cheap....

U.S. border agents shoot and kill

NYT, 6/11 — As rocks hurled from Mexico rained down on United States Border Patrol agents one night last October, at least one of the agents drew his gun and fired across the border, striking a teenager 11 times, 7 times in the back....

The shooting was not an isolated case. He was one of at least 15 people killed by border agents in the Southwest since January 2010....

Civil rights advocates and victims' families in both countries...have made angry demands for answers. Of the 15 victims, Jose Antonio was one of 10 who were Mexican citizens, 6 of whom died in Mexico, felled by bullets fired by agents in the United States. Since January 2010, not a single agent has been criminally charged in cases of lethal use of force....

In San Diego,...a man in their custody died in 2010 after being stunned by a Taser several times, his hands restrained behind his back.

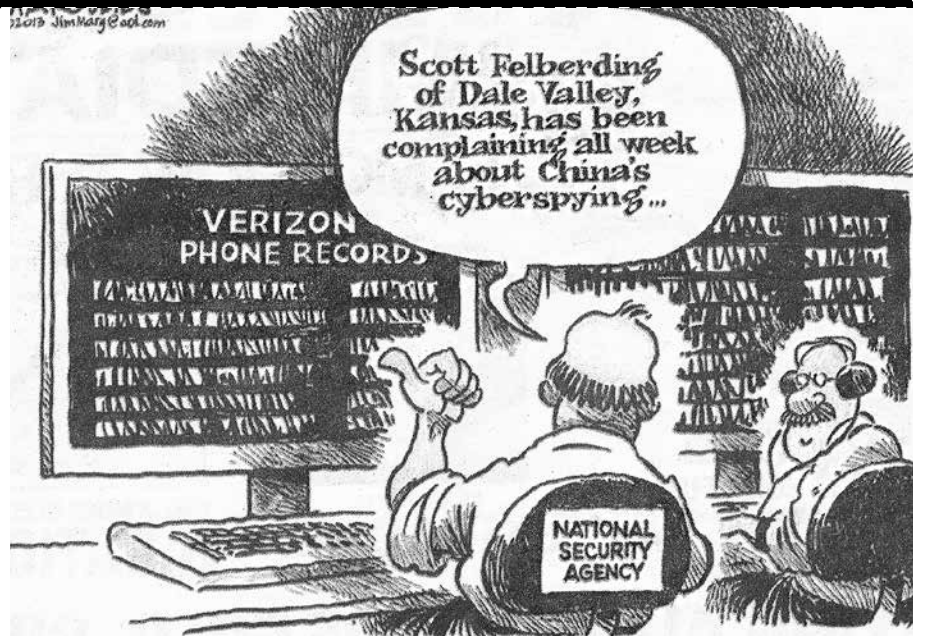
Gov't snooping just the first step

NYT, 6/8 — To the Editor....

The road to totalitarian hell is paved with gross pretensions. Two of the worst are the beliefs that software can do no harm and that only the guilty have a reason to worry if the government is spying on them.

A founding principle...is that you're innocent until proven guilty; data mining is based on the opposite principle.

....Apparently the only thing you can keep secret is the fact that you own a gun.



....A government that thinks you have no privacy rights has taken a dangerous step to believing you have no other rights either....

(The writer was chairman of the Federal Communications Commission from 1993 to 1997.)

Sexual assaults hushed in military

NYT, 6/3 — Last Friday allegations surfaced that three members of the United States Naval Academy football team had sexually assaulted a female midship[person] in April 2012. When she reported the attack, her lawyer said, she was disciplined for drinking but the academy did not bring charges against the three and allowed them to keep playing football.

A Pentagon report released in early May estimated that as many as 26,000 people in the military were sexually assaulted in 2012....Only a small fraction of victims — 3,374 in all — reported their attacks,...fearing harm to their careers and that their complaints would not be taken seriously anyway.

Unitarians Need Communism

PLers in the mass orgaization Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations are attending the UU General Assembly in Louisville, KY. At last June's General Assembly, in Phoenix, 3,000 UUs demonstrated outside racist Sheriff Joe Arpaio's immigrant detention center, chanting "Tear it down!"

The progressive aspirations of Unitarian Universalists are codified in seven principles. They are achievable — but not under capitalism. Take these four principles as an example.

The inherent worth and dignity of every person. Despite endless heroic struggles to reform it, capitalism has been destroying the lives of working people for five centuries. Often this takes the form of mass murder, as it did this spring in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In their relentless push for profit, garment factory owners forced employees, mainly women, to work in a dangerous building by threatening to withhold their (\$37 a month!) paychecks. The building collapsed, killing 1,127 workers.

Capitalists use both racism and sexism to divide workers and reap even higher profits. The same sexism used to sell women's fashions abetted the mass murder of women in Bangladesh. For the European and U.S. corporations that were the ultimate employers of these women, racism also played a role in justifying below-poverty wages and deadly working conditions.

To stay competitive, the capitalists impose wage, pension, and health benefit cuts. They resort to layoffs, speedups, unpaid overtime, unsafe working conditions, and outsourcing — whatever it takes to keep them profitable. Democrats are no better than Republicans in this regard. When the Obama administration took over General Motors, it slashed the base pay of new hires in half, from \$28 to \$14 per hour.

UUs often attribute low wages and unhealthy or unsafe working conditions to the greed of individual bosses. But it's the laws of capitalist development that undermine the worth and dignity of working people. Companies that maximize profits can expand their operations and gain more access to capital from banks. As a result, they capture market share from less profitable companies, which eventually get taken over or run out of business.

Justice, equity and compassion in human relations. In the 17th Century, John Locke claimed that society was the product of a "social contract" among isolated individuals. This incorrect idea is implicit in the UU principles. In fact, human beings evolved through cooperation in production, beginning with hunting and gathering. In today's capitalist society, every individual is a member of one of two classes: the small group of people who own and control the means of production (factories, mines, oil fields, transport), and the much larger group who creates value through their work.

For capitalists, "justice" means the right to exploit workers and profit from their labor. It's the right to benefit from racist and sexist wage differentials. It's the right to stay in power by dividing workers with racist, sexist, and nationalist ideas — and through religion. Capitalist justice is enforced by the apparatus of the state: armies, cops, courts, laws, and prisons. Government may take the form of electoral democracy (the U.S. or Bangladesh), or monarchy (Saudi Arabia), or rule by a single party (the state capitalist rulers of China). But the content in each case is the dictatorship of the ruling class.

As for "equity," capitalists believe it is equitable for the richest 1 percent of the world's population to own 40 percent of the wealth, while the bottom 50 percent owns 1 percent. They believe it is equitable for hundreds of millions to suffer from unemployment, despite the desperate need for education, health care, home construction, infrastructure repair, and pollution abatement.

Do capitalists feel "compassion" for workers? Even as they announce layoffs or pay cuts, they are busy importing cheap products from starvation-wage countries and exporting capital to exploit workers in those countries. Their exploitation forces workers to emigrate to the U.S. and Europe, where they are both criminalized and forced to accept substandard pay and working conditions. "Justice, equity and compassion" are under siege by capitalist social relations.



For hundreds of thousands of years, humans worked together to produce food and shelter for all. No one tried to "get ahead." This was primitive communism. PLP's goal is to nurture humans' nature to work collectively and build communism based on a scientific understanding and practice.

The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. No matter your age, you have not lived one day of your life in a world without war. Since around 1900, the beginning of the era of monopoly capitalism, the imperialist powers have fought endless wars to seize territory, markets, resources and access to labor. At least 160 million people have been killed in these conflicts. (For death tolls, see www.war-memorial.net.) From the 1860s to 1975, peasants and workers in one small country, Vietnam, fought against imperialist occupiers — first France, then the Japanese, then the French again, then the U.S. and its puppet regimes. In the war against U.S. imperialism alone, three million Vietnamese were killed. A recent book about U.S. military policy in Vietnam takes its title from what many soldiers were ordered to do: *Kill Anything That Moves*.

The murderous tradition of U.S. imperialism is alive and well today. With the U.S. wars in Iraq and in Afghanistan maintaining smaller numbers of troops, the Obama administration is presiding over a "pivot to Asia," a move to line up allies and prepare for conflict with their main imperialist rival, China. Cyberwarfare between the two rivals is already underway. If an all-out war erupted between the U.S. and China, it would undoubtedly involve nuclear weapons and result in tens of millions — perhaps hundreds of millions — of fatalities.

War is the ultimate expression of capitalist competition. It's also the ultimate solution to capitalist crises of overproduction, known as depressions. Through war, capitalist governments destroy excess productive capacity — including "excess" workers — and rebuild.

To achieve "world community with peace," we must fight to end capitalist rule.

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Most UUs try to some extent to "live green." Meanwhile, the world's capitalists pour over a million pounds of carbon per second into the atmosphere, mainly through unnecessarily dirty power plants, factories, cement production, and ships. The stated goal of the 2012 UN Climate Change Conference was not to reverse global warming, but merely to slow it down — and it failed to reach agreement even on that. Why? Because the attendees all represented a capitalist class that places profits over the health of the atmosphere, water, or forests — or of people like us.

We live in a capitalist world. The only cars, bicycles, or walking shoes we can buy are products of capitalism. So are church pews, and the paper in hymnals. Most of us must work for capitalist institutions. We cannot achieve dignity, justice, or peace on UU islands in a sea of capitalism.

But we have an alternative. We must work together to fight for a world based on production for use, not for profit; on equality, not privilege; on cooperation, not "getting ahead." In other words, we must fight for communism. "What we fight for" on page 2 of CHALLENGE, outlines the goals of the Progressive Labor Party and the need for mass, armed revolution to achieve them. Road to Revolution IV, available at www.plp.org, explains why the working class has to fight directly for communism rather than socialism, which inevitably leads back to capitalism. Join us to turn the aspirations in the UU Principles into reality.☺

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