

# CHALLENGE



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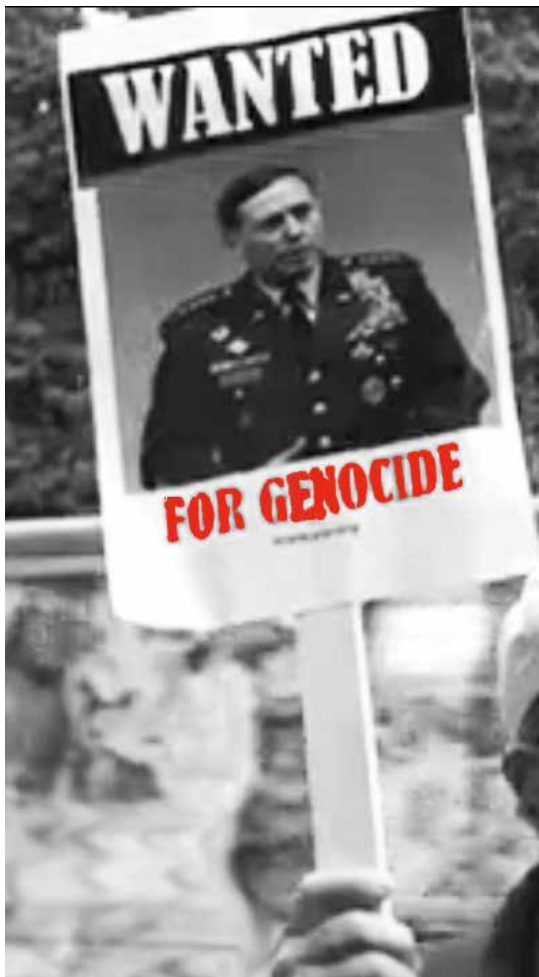
## Slam ROTC, Racist Petraeus

# STUDENTS, PROFS RIP U.S. WAR MACHINE

**NEW YORK CITY, October 16** — Over 80 students and professors rallied in front of John Jay College, demanding that both David “Death Squad” Petraeus and ROTC be kicked out of CUNY, the city public university system. These students and professors are determined to not only throw the military off our campus, but to create an anti-imperialist movement within the CUNY system.

### ROTC + Petraeus = War Preparations

Wanted posters of racist Petraeus were held up by PLers and friends. A PLP flyer was distributed explaining why ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) was being



Some protesters held up PLP’s “Wanted for Genocide” posters of General Petraeus.



In response to the surge of anti-imperialist militancy of students and faculty, bosses shut down Morales-Shakur Center at City College. Hundreds protest. See page 3

brought to CUNY: the military needs to expand and diversify in preparation for future wars in the Middle East and Asia, where the U.S. plans to challenge the growing power of its Chinese rival (see page 2). CHALLENGE featuring numerous articles about the struggles at CUNY was also distributed. Our literature explained that colleges exist to serve the labor and ideological needs of the bosses to build an imperialist empire — through war research, military recruitment, patriotism, and of course, ROTC, which provides 30 percent of the military’s officers.

The ruling class is seeking tighter control of their educational factories and is intensifying their recruitment tactics at universities. Youth are reluctant of joining the imperialist war machine, given what they’ve seen in the last twelve years:

- The slaughter and displacement of millions of our workers in Iraq and Afghanistan;
- One of every three female soldiers targeted of

sexual assault;

- Nearly 8,000 U.S. soldiers killed and tens of thousands seriously wounded;
- Almost 500,000 soldiers — one of four — who served in those wars returning with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental injuries.

General Petraeus is also part of the imperialist chokehold on campus. This mass murderer was the keynote speaker at a gala, where the minimum price for entry was \$500. (Some were willing to pay up to \$50,000 for a plate.) “Drones” Petraeus is heralded as an example for students to follow. A “warrior-scholar,” he embodies the ideal soldier: ruthless in his commitment to imperialism. As a top-ranking general in the U.S. military, Petraeus installed death squads against Shi’a populations in Afghanistan, dropped white phosphorus in Iraq and un-

Continued on page 6

## JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

### ★ EDITORIAL

Imperialist Rivals,  
Domestic Foes Rattle  
Racist U.S. Rulers  
*page 2*

### ★ SAN FRANCISCO

BART Strikers Need  
Red Leadership  
*page 3*

### ★ LOS ANGELES

Workers, Patients  
Rally vs. ‘Assembly  
Line’ Healthcare  
*page 5*

### ★ FRANCE

Hitler Deja Vu? French  
Fascists Growing  
Amid Bosses’ Crisis  
*page 8*

# 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!

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## WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

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

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

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# Editorial

# Imperialist Rivals, Domestic Foes Rattle Racist U.S. Rulers

The U.S. ruling class needs a powerful military to carry out wars for maximum profit and control of resources and cheap labor. To that end it slaughters masses of workers and youth, from the Middle East to Bangladesh to Latin America. In particular, the military is essential to the bosses’ control of energy supplies, shipping routes, and pipelines. At stake is the rulers’ top-dog status over oil-hungry China, among others.

The Pentagon war machine must prepare for broader wars with its imperialist rivals even as it confronts the conflicts now erupting around the world. At the moment, the Middle East and South Asia are in disarray:

- Civil war and growing Russian influence in Syria;
- Warlords battling for control of Libya;
- Military coup in Egypt;
- Al Qaeda bases in Somalia, Mali, Yemen and Syria;
- Sectarian warfare in Iraq that threatens civil war and endangers oil supplies;
- Threat of Taliban control of Afghanistan after billions of dollars and thousands of troops were expended in a 12-year U.S. invasion;
- Jihadists’ challenge in nuclear Pakistan, where U.S. drone bombings are alienating much of the population.

U.S. military efficiency is undermined by the disunity that paralyzes Congress, hinders Obama’s efforts for U.S. imperialism, and divides the core of its war machine. This is a reflection of the growing division between domestic capitalists like the Koch brothers who do not profit from imperialist spending and the finance capitalists on Wall Street who do. Right-wingers are battling Obama & Co. for the loyalty of rank-and-file troops.

Racism puts U.S. rulers in a bind. On the one hand, the Tea Party forces’ open racism weakens military unity — a big problem for the liberal rulers, who depend on broad and diverse enlistment in their armed forces. On the other hand, the liberals need to infect U.S. troops with racism to motivate them to fight the black and brown populations of the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**Tea Party vs. the Pentagon**  
The anti-Obama Fox News indignantly reported, *Soldiers attending a pre-deployment briefing at Fort Hood say they were told that evangelical Christians and members of the Tea Party were a threat to the nation and that any soldier donating to those groups would be subjected to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice* (10/23/13).

A similar briefing at Mississippi’s Camp Shelby prompted Tea Party caucus member Rep. Doug Lamborn, a Colorado Republican, to pen a protest letter to the Pentagon endorsed by three of his colleagues: “This most recent mislabeling of a Christian organization [the American Family Association] reflects what appears to be a troubling trend of religious intolerance in the military” (Fox, 10/24/13). (An open racist, Lamborn has directed racist slurs against president Obama.)

The liberal forces, wearied by the Republican-led government shutdown, backed off. On October 24, Fox trumpeted, “The Secretary of the Army has ordered military leaders to halt all briefings on extremist organizations that labeled evangelical Christian groups as domestic hate groups.”

Mainstream U.S. imperialists are keeping a wary eye on Lamborn and his conversion from arms industry flunky to tax- and budget-slasher. He once ranked as one of the House’s top two dealmakers for military contracts, serving prominent death merchants like Northrup Grumman. Now, however, Lamborn backs tax cuts that would hobble the arms dealers sorely needed by U.S. imperialism. This may reflect the fight between the imperialist main wing and the domestic-oriented capitalists.

Lamborn and his allies embolden evangelical preachers like Rick Joyner, who urges white officers and troops to forcibly oust Obama. “Our only hope is military takeover,” Joyner said during the shutdown, the latest standoff between the two major capitalist parties (Huffington Post, 10/2/13).

But for the main wing of U.S. imperialism, the most worrisome threat of the Tea Party and evangelical forces is ideological, representing a more openly racist force. Lamborn’s district, one of the most militarized in the nation, houses the U.S. Northern Command, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Schriever Air Force Base, and the Army’s Fort Carson. Right-wing Christian forces reign from top to bottom at the Air Force Academy,

also in Lamborn’s district. As the Huffington Post reported two years ago, a hundred Academy cadets “were actually pretending to be fundamentalist Christians” to “maintain good standing among their peers and superiors at the Academy” (10/12/11).

**ROTC Won’t Overcome Bosses’ Racism**  
But the U.S. bosses’ empire requires troops of all colors. Obama is relocating Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs from the historically racist South to the big cities, hoping to attract black and Latino youth in need of jobs. “The Army chose to close ROTC programs at 13 universities, more than half of them in the South. Tennessee alone will lose ROTC offerings at three of its public universities, the most of any state. The Army Cadet Command, which oversees ROTC and its approximately 33,000 aspiring soldiers, said that by shuttering the 13 lagging programs, it will be able to shift resources to 56 other markets, including Los Angeles, New York and Chicago” (New York Times, 10/22/13).

The Times’ piece also hailed Obama’s integration of the high command: “In 2011, about 28 percent of active duty Army officers were minorities, up from 23 percent a decade earlier.” In the same period, however, more and more black and Latino enlisted personnel shunned “combat arms” duty.

In a similar vein, the liberal rulers are seeking to remilitarize blue-state universities on the East Coast, both elite and working-class, the same institutions that once produced an officer corps in ideological lockstep with U.S. imperialism. ROTC now operates at both Harvard and New York’s City University. Not coincidentally, war criminal General David Petraeus has joined both of their faculties. At Harvard he is a fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs in the Kennedy School of Government. At City College he preaches seemingly harmless doctrines of infrastructure development and energy self-sufficiency. In fact, these are core components of the main U.S. rulers’ global war plans.

Streamlining U.S. domestic infrastructure will enable more rapid troop and arms movement across highways and rail lines nationwide, the main reason President Eisenhower developed the interstate highway system of the 1950s. Energy self-sufficiency is the bosses’ hedge against the threat of oil and gas cut-offs from Middle East sources.

Our Party’s militant actions at New York’s City College exposed Petraeus and his war pulpit. They are helping to mobilize masses of students who are outraged at the ex-general’s presence in the classroom.

Workers (both civilian and military) owe no group of bosses their allegiance, neither the racist Tea Party nor the war-bent Obama wing of U.S. capitalism. Our only loyalty is to our own class. Obama and the rulers he serves cannot hide the rampant racism that permeates the U.S. The stop-and-frisk policies of New York City’s cops, attacking innocent largely black and Latino youth, have spread nationwide. Cops are shooting indiscriminately at black and Latino workers and youth, from California to Florida to the shadow of the White House. And Obama’s agents continue to deport hundreds of thousands of immigrant workers while thousands languish in detention jails.

**Only Communism Can End Centuries of Racism**  
For 400 years, racism has been the foundation of U.S. capitalism. It creates the bosses’ super-profits through lower wages and health benefits, slum housing and under-financed, segregated schools. Racism drags down white workers’ conditions as well, threatening them with the mass unemployment that already afflicts their black and Latino working-class sisters and brothers.

The fight against racism is indivisible from the fight against U.S. imperialist war. Building a mass Progressive Labor Party is the key to this fight. Our goal of a communist society — of, by and for the working class — is the only alternative to the profit system’s war, racism, sexism, mass unemployment and poverty. Joining PLP to organize communist revolution is the order of the day!☛



# BART Strikers Need Red Leadership

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA, October 22** — Today, 2,400 Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) train operators and station agents (Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1555) and service workers (SEIU Local 1021), began returning to work, ending their four-day strike. This was the second walkout since June 30 when Governor Jerry Brown ordered a 60-day cooling-off period. The strike focused on wages, safety, seniority scheduling rights and preserving work rules. Union leaders ordered the strikers back to work before the rank-and-file knew what's in the new contract.

Rather than bargain for a new contract and avoid a strike, the bosses used the "cooling off" period to cool off workers' militancy and train managers to run scab trains. On the strike's first full day, two workers who crossed the picket lines to inspect tracks were run over by a manager-operated train. The strikers were outraged that two workers were killed and they wanted to use the incident to spread the strike and made homemade signs, like "RIP Two Workers Murdered by Bosses' Profits," and "GM Grace Crunican Murdered Two Workers!" In the last analysis, the workers sympathized with the two dead workers even though they had scabbed on the strike.

Fearing the strikers would start picketing other area bus depots and train stations, the ATU leadership cancelled picketing for two days. They refused to strike at AC Transit, a sister local with an expired contract that serves the same area. On the third day they had their deal.

The economic crisis of 2008 and the drive to privatize mass transit have intensified the attacks on all transit workers. These are racist attacks, sharpest in the major cities where wages and benefits are better and the workforce and ridership are mainly black, Latino and women. The bankers, bosses and real estate developers make huge profits from mass transit and then want us to pay them via give-back contracts and fare hikes.

Over the last decade, tens of thousands of transit workers have suffered cuts in wages, pensions, health care and working conditions. Thousands more have lost their jobs. In 2010, Washington, DC METRO's new hires lost retirement health insurance. In 2008, BART workers were forced to take a five-year wage freeze. Chicago



Transit Authority workers were forced to substantially increase their contributions to the pension system. In San Francisco, a City Charter amendment cut pay and benefits and wiped out 40 years of vital work rules. In Alameda County, an "impartial" arbitrator imposed wage, benefit and schedule cuts in the 2010 contract. In New York City, transit workers have gone without a contract or pay increase for four years and ATU leaders abandoned striking school bus drivers and matrons last winter.

BART workers were on the cutting edge of the fightback and they're not alone. ATU members in the Bay Area, Chicago, New York and Washington, DC have all distributed a national flyer, urging their locals to do more to support and spread the strike. This same week

there were job actions by bus drivers in Detroit and NYC. Recently school bus drivers had a wildcat strike in Boston and last winter a very militant NYC school bus strike was squashed by the City, contractors and the ATU leadership that left drivers and matrons hanging.

The missing ingredient is an alternative center of leadership to enable workers to counter the pro-capitalist union mis-leaders who are wedded to a profit system that only offers growing wars, poverty and racist terror. Their job is to keep us bound by the bosses' laws. We need anti-racist leadership that is anti-capitalist, with a revolutionary communist outlook and the goal of leading the working class to power through communist revolution. Militant class struggles must be turned into schools for communism.✊

## Battle CUNY Bosses Shut Down Student Center

**NEW YORK CITY, October 30** — The Morales-Shakur Center at City College of New York (CCNY) was where students hung out, studied, and organized. Its door was painted red with a black fist. Above the couches, the words "this space was won thru struggle" was painted in red. On Sunday Oct. 20, the week of midterms, students came to school to find this center closed. Hundreds of students and community members rallied that Monday, followed by another protest on Thursday, leading to the sudden suspension of two student leaders on Oct. 28. PLP and friends participated in this struggle, and are building ties with these protesters.

While PLP forces continue to participate in this struggle at CCNY, we are stepping up our anti-war efforts at other CUNY campuses as well. Today, PLP students and friends occupied the lobby at Hunter college in solidarity with the struggle to seize the Morales-Shakur center. Wanted posters of Petraeus were hung and many were invited to our upcoming college conference. But we must step up our fight.

### Students vs. Campus KKKops

The center was a result of student protests and building occupation over the first rounds of tuition increases in 1989. It is named after the Armed Forces of National Liberation member Guillermo Morales, and Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army member As-sata Shakur. For over two decades, the Morales-Shakur center has been a space for women and gay-lesbian fighters, and community and student organizing.

The administration, under the guise of "expansion," shut down the center, its building, and the library. The campus kkkops also locked down \$1,000 worth of student belongings. At the first protest, Oct. 21, hundreds of students, faculty and the community denounced the administration's fascistic seizure of their center. The fire alarm was pulled. Hundreds more students joined.

We then marched to the building entrance. Although the campus police tried to keep us out, we marched through the corridors, chanting loudly, to a second-floor rotunda, where students confronted cam-

pus cops and administrators, militantly demanding the return of the Morales-Shakur center.

Three days later, Oct. 24, 200 protested at the Administration building. Despite the lineup of cops, students linked arms and sat down, blocking the entrance. We surged onto Convent Ave, attempting to enter the large North Academic Center (NAC) building. Holding our college ID, we went from door-to-door attempting to get in. Campus security scrambled to keep the doors closed. Students were arrested, including an alumnus, and one was pepper sprayed. The cops shut down the entire building, prohibiting anyone from entering or leaving.

On Monday morning, Oct. 28, two of the main student leaders were stopped by security. Their IDs were confiscated; they were given letters of suspension and were immediately kicked off campus. Despite this attack, 60 people rallied at noon and then marched off campus to meet their banned student leaders.

### Velvet Glove of Democracy Comes Off

What we're seeing at CUNY is the removal of the velvet glove of "democracy" to reveal an iron fist of fascism. The administration is retaliating for protests against the ROTC and appointment of CIA and military general David Petraeus as a warrior professor. The bosses are trying to build a base among working-class youth for their future wars in the Middle East.

While many students expressed anti-imperialist sentiments, pushing out ROTC at CCNY was not mentioned. PLP urged students to fight ROTC in connection with the Morales-Shakur fight. During the Vietnam War, the U.S. military slaughtered three million workers. The majority of the U.S. officers in charge of this genocide were graduates of ROTC training centers.

The anti-Petraeus demonstrations are an embarrassment to the university, which has reacted in fury. Campus and NYPD cops beat and arrested six students at an anti-Petraeus protest on September 17. Now they stole the Morales-Shakur center. On Nov. 25, the Board of Trustees will vote to implement a new policy to re-

### Join the International College Conference on November 8 and 9.

strict campus protests. Anyone who doesn't follow the new restrictions will be punished. Surely, the past few months of protests have scared the CUNY bosses. This counterattack is a sign that we must be hitting them where it hurts. The ruling class understands the potential power of a worker-student alliance very well, perhaps more than the current student and faculty body realizes.

We live in a period in which the U.S. ruling class is fighting to maintain itself as the world's dominant imperialist power. According to the NY Times, the U.S. plans 100 military missions in Africa in the next 12 months. Troops and naval battalions are moving into Asia to confront China. To do so, the rulers need a tight discipline over their institutions. To solve its deep economic crisis, it must implement more laws attacking workers' wages, healthcare, and education. It is preparing the population for permanent war and sacrifice for their imperialist needs. And that is what we are experiencing at CUNY — the fascistization of the university. But workers and students are fed up. We will demonstrate at the November 25 Board of Trustees meeting, continuing our protests at CCNY and building an anti-imperialist movement on college campuses.

Our most immediate task is inviting our new friends to the PLP International College Conference on November 8 and 9 to assess the strengths and weaknesses of our campus struggles, and to build for a communist revolution. The only way to purge war criminals like Petraeus, the racist police who murder our black youth like Ramarley Graham, Shantel Davis, and Kyam Livingston, and the daily exploitation under capitalism, is to fight for a workers' world: communism.✊



# Teachers Unite vs. Attacks on Schools

**LOS ANGELES, October 17** — This week the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) House of Representatives passed a teacher’s motion to support healthcare workers fighting for union recognition at local clinics (see page 4). This effort is part of an ongoing struggle on a local high school campus to mobilize teachers, parents and students to fight against attacks on public education. These attacks represent some of the sharpest attacks on the working class as the ruling class continues to shove the crisis of capitalism onto workers who need education and healthcare.

Responding to these attacks is also an opportunity for our class to learn to fight collectively and to build class consciousness. Seeing how all workers are going through the same struggle is the first step to realizing that it’s the whole system of capitalism that’s the problem. Even though some bosses make things particularly harder for workers, all bosses must exploit us to make profit.

For example, a new principal was recently hired at the local high school campus. Her immediate actions focused on escalating attacks on teachers and students at the behest of the school district. She is forcing the counselors to push students into the classes at exactly the class size limit set by the union contract. This means, when a student wants to change class there are no spots available because they are at their limit. They are eliminating Advance Placement classes or combining classes, effectively making teachers teach an extra class for no

Responding to these attacks is also an opportunity for our class to learn to fight collectively and to build class consciousness.

extra pay. The principal is doing exactly what the district wants because this is the best way to exploit education workers.

On a broader scale, the Los Angeles United School District (LAUSD) has spent an estimated one billion dollars on iPads for every student, which they are now in the process of taking back because students were able to crack their security codes.

Meanwhile, teachers and staff in the district haven’t gotten even a cost-of-living raise for more than six years. Thousands of teachers were laid off and displaced in the last few years, and very few are being hired back. Most

are working as substitutes in the same position they previously filled as a full-time teacher! This is more of the same exploitation for maximum profit. The teachers and staff are fed up. A strike seems very probable this school year, but the district and union hacks are doing everything in their power to stall.

Union leadership has largely cooperated with the school district in facilitating the attacks on teachers and students. PLP is stepping up attempts to mobilize students and teachers to fight back. At the school, a few teachers have begun distributing a newsletter highlighting the attacks and pointing out that all of this is exploitation. In the process, there has also been talk among the faculty about asking all teachers to participate in some form of civil disobedience, such as calling in sick all at once, or refusing to follow a fascistic “no-pass” policy. There are some attempts to get parents and students involved in the fightback, but all of this has been slow going.

Right now, students, faculty and alumni are working together to gather letters of support for a teacher who was unfairly dismissed. These are all just small steps in the process of building class consciousness and leading class struggle. Workers of all types, including healthcare workers, education workers and others, must learn how to work together to build working class power. Only then can we take on our true enemy — capitalism.✊

# Haiti: UN-caused Cholera Epidemic Killing Thousands

The 2010 earthquake in Haiti dealt a devastating blow that the country has not yet recovered from, and most likely never will under this current profit system. Not only did the earthquake destroy tens of thousands of homes, kill hundreds of thousands and displace many hundreds of thousands more, it also intensified another plague already afflicting the Haitian people: foreign “aid.” Hundreds of non-governmental organizations descended on the country, supposedly to help it rebuild, and United Nations “peacekeepers” intensified their deadly attacks on Haitian workers.

Many in Haiti have wondered, “Why do we need peacekeepers when we’re not at war? When there are still tens of thousands living in tents?” The answer is that the imperialist powers need to control Haitian workers and create inroads for international businesses. For example, the U.S. State Department has used \$224 million in earthquake relief funds to subsidize a South Korean clothing manufacturer in the Caracol Industrial Park in northern Haiti (one of the fertile areas in the country), which was unaffected by the earthquake. This project has nothing to do with earthquake-related reconstruction, like clean water and sanitation infrastructure. In fact, the plant presents a further threat to already overburdened water resources in the region and the bosses have already been accused of cheating the workers there out of their meager wages (NYT 10/5/13). In addition, the Red Cross is using money donated for earthquake relief to build a luxury hotel in Port-au-Prince.

To most Haitian workers, UN troops are an occupying army — even before it was discovered that the troops brought cholera to Haiti. Prior to 2010, Haiti had not seen a cholera outbreak for a hundred years! But when UN troops from Nepal were deployed to Haiti in the fall of 2010, they brought cholera with them. Nepal has an active cholera epidemic that was known prior to deployment, but the troops were not tested for it. They turned out to be carriers, if not actually sick. The waste matter from the camp leaked into the Artibonite River, which serves as a source of bathing, cooking and drinking water for the surrounding working class populations. Cholera has now infected more than 600,000 and killed more than 8,000, with the toll rising daily. Although the source of the cholera has been proven beyond a doubt (it is the same strain as the cholera in Nepal) and is even acknowledged by the UN’s own investigators, the organization denies that it owes any compensation for this devastating epidemic. The UN is hiding behind a stand-



At a protest on May 31, 2013, workers in Haiti demand UN troops out. They carried signs reading, “Aba okipasyon” (Down with the occupation”).

ard immunity agreement signed by the Haitian government when the troops first began arriving in 2004.

In the face of the largest cholera outbreak in memory, and despite widespread support by its members, the leadership of the American Public Health Association (APHA) recently rejected a resolution calling upon the UN to take financial responsibility for the epidemic, including vaccinations for the entire population, adequate cholera treatment centers (most were closed after the initial outbreak), and building a modern clean water and sanitation system. The resolution will be revised and resubmitted for next year’s meeting. It will be important to build more support in the membership around this critical issue.

Those of us in Progressive Labor Party, along with other members of APHA, know that getting this resolution passed is not enough. No resolution can save workers’ lives from the death machine of capitalism, or even prevent the next epidemic. We are working in Haiti and elsewhere to raise consciousness about the role of capitalism and imperialism in the destruction of workers’ lives around the world. We say that the only road to public health for all workers is to destroy the rotten profit system and replace it with communism, a society that values the life of every worker and will use resources for the good of all.✊



# Hitler Deja Vu? French Fascists Growing Amid Bosses’ Crisis

**PARIS, OCTOBER 27** — Vicious racism remains the hallmark of the National Front. The party’s candidate for the municipal election in Rethel, in the Ardennes, published a picture on her Facebook page comparing justice minister Christiane Taubira, a black woman, to a monkey, calling her a “savage.”

But this disgusting racism — which has always been used by the bosses to divide the working class — has not turned off many voters from the fascist party. The National Front won a recent by-election in Brignoles, in southern France, confirming the growing strength of the fascist party under Marine Le Pen, who succeeded her father as party leader in 2011.

Le Pen presents herself as the “French Reagan” and attacks “big government.” In 2012, she won 18% of the vote, the party’s best score ever in a presidential election.

It is becoming increasingly possible that the French fascists will be voted into national government legally,

as has happened in governing coalitions since 2000 in Austria, Denmark, Italy and the Netherlands.

### Fascist Party Growing Fastest

Le Pen has continually repeated the slogan “the National Front, the biggest party in France.” It appears to be becoming an electoral reality. In one opinion poll on voter intentions for the May 2014 European Parliament elections, the National Front won 24 percent of the vote. The right-wing UMP won 22 percent and the Socialist Party 19 percent. The Left Front, a coalition of the Party of the Left and the French “Communist” Party, won 10 percent and the Trotskyites 2%.

The National Front is the only party whose projected share of the vote is growing significantly. Support for the governing Socialist Party is collapsing; 50 percent of factory voters say they’ll vote for the National Front.

There is a widespread racist anti-immigrant movement in France, being pushed by the National Front and supported by many leaders of other parties. It blames immigrant workers — not capitalism — for the mass unemployment.

While the National Front is attracting millions of voters (over 6 million in the 2012 presidential elections), its membership remains relatively small, claiming 65,000 in 2013. The National Front is having a hard time finding enough candidates for the municipal elections. In a time of high unemployment (5,473,000 unemployed, a 19.3% unemployment rate in September), the chance of a job as city councillor will attract opportunists who in turn will boost the party’s ranks. The resulting dynamic could make party membership shoot up.

The three right-wing parties that support French “democracy” are credited with 33% of the vote. If nothing changes between now and the 2017 presidential elections, they will need to form a coalition with the National Front in order to form a governing majority — and support for this from right-wing UMP leaders is growing.

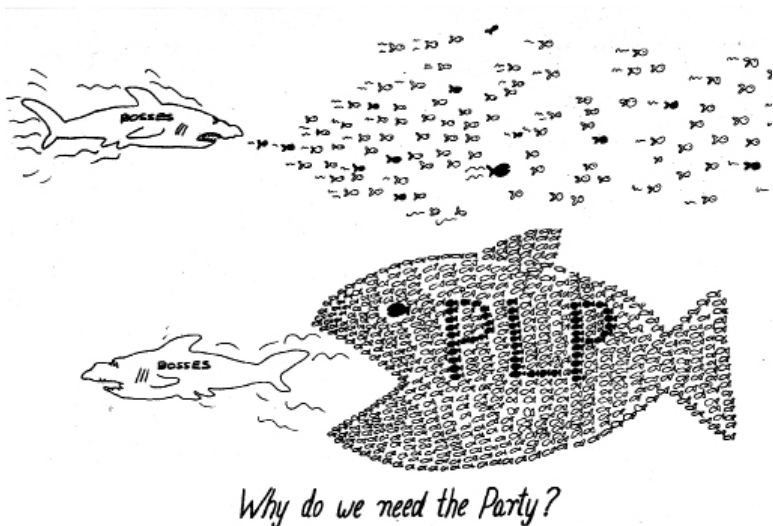
### Fascists on Campus

Fascist organizations are now attempting to penetrate campuses nationwide. In early October, the National Front leafleted the university in Le Mans. Action française universitaire, a fascist youth group, pastes up posters at the University of Bordeaux.

Action française universitaire proclaims on the front page of its newspaper that “the leftists now know that it’s a life-and-death fight if we catch them.” On June 5, Clément Méric, a member of Action antifasciste, was beaten to death in a clash with fascist youth in Paris. In one week in October, two Paris members of UNEF (a student union aligned with the Socialist Party) were assaulted and threatened with rape by a fascist. In World War II, France succumbed to Hitler in six weeks, especially due to support for Nazi racist policies.

While there have been many militant actions and strikes by workers in France, including anti-fascist demonstrations, the absence of a real communist party pointing the way to smashing the fascists is evident. In World War II, communists led the Resistance movement against the Nazis. But since then the betrayal of the old communist movement, which collaborated with capitalists, has been devastating for workers here.

Only a revolutionary communist party can lead workers away from fascism. Until that happens, workers will continue to suffer the evils of capitalism. Fascism is the tool that the bosses turn to when they can’t solve their capitalist crisis. This underscores the need for a communist solution.☸



## Students, Profs Rip U.S. War Machine

Continued from front page

leashed drone strikes in Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, and more. Now Petraeus is spreading patriotism at CUNY. The Administration, in cahoots with the bosses’ need to feed its military machine with student bodies, happily supplies him with all the resources he needs to preach the ruling class’s murderous ideology.

But things haven’t worked out quite as planned. Since the semester began, racist Petraeus was driven from location to location by masses of angry students. In September, a video was released of Petraeus surrounded by protesters demanding his resignation, chanting “murderer!” to his face. The following week, six students from CUNY were brutally assaulted and arrested by the kkkops. They now face trial in the bosses’ courts, prosecuted by the system of capitalism for daring to speak out.

The bosses’ attacks only emboldened the students.

Instead of just targeting Petraeus, protesters demanded an end to imperialist war and to the militarization of CUNY. One student declared, “Militarization is when a child grows up idolizing the army and the police. It’s when that same child goes to school to be harassed by the police in their own school, which is a jail. It’s when recruiters come on to their campus and try to make them join the other side.” CUNY intends to increase its tuition yet again while forcing students into the military to cover the costs of their education. This vicious trap is being employed in one of the few colleges that working-class black and Latino students can afford.

### Up the Anti-Imperialist Ante

We are building for our college conference on November 8 and 9. We need to organize against ROTC and Petraeus on every campus:

- Forums with anti-war veterans who expose how soldiers are used as cannon fodder in wars;
- Movies like “Dirty Wars” that expose the terror the U.S. military has brought to workers;

- Organize students to demand that ROTC and war criminals like Petraeus be thrown off campus;
- Win students to join the Progressive Labor Party and build a movement to end the root cause of war — capitalism.

While the demonstration was overwhelmingly positive, there are missing aspects. Some spoke about revolution but avoided the word communism. PLP believes we need to be open in our struggle for communism.

The struggle for communism represents the hope for the working class to build a world free from exploitation, police terror and war! Communism means an end to the capitalist profit system, to all forms of class exploitation and inequality: racism, sexism, and nationalism.

Communism means giving birth to an egalitarian society, uniting mental and manual labor, where our books and education won’t be stamped with a price, our classroom will be the whole world and every worker a lifelong student, and every student furthers the development of our communist society. Come to the PLP College Conference to find out why we need, and how we can build, a communist revolution!

As communists, we are not pacifists. We do not argue against war. We wage war for our class. Our enemies — David Petraeus, the CUNY Administration, the bosses’ courts and police — are waging war for their class. It’s about time we fight back. We must build for revolution on every campus, workplace and military base. To build for revolution, we must attack our enemies, strengthen our base, and recruit people to PLP. Fight the bosses wherever they are!☸



# Big U.S. Bosses Backed Nazi Blitzkrieg and Holocaust

In a short 2009 book titled *Nazi Nexus: America's Corporate Connections to Hitler's Holocaust*, author Edwin Black describes how a number of bosses of major U.S. corporations, and their companies, collaborated with Hitler's plans to conquer Europe and the Soviet Union in World War II (1936-1945). Indeed, Hitler himself admitted that without GM's provision of trucks, the German army would never have been able to inflict the blitzkrieg (literally lightning war) against Czechoslovakia, Poland, and all the other countries in Europe that came under the thumb of the Nazi war machine.

The bosses Black names include GM's Alfred Sloan, IBM's Thomas Watson, Henry Ford, and the foundations created by Andrew Carnegie, the Harriman family, and John D. Rockefeller, and more. This is a veritable list of the founders of modern U.S. capitalism. At that time Sloan and Ford headed the auto industry, and Carnegie had created the industry-dominating U.S. Steel Corp. Rockefeller and his family not only dominated the oil industry but also major banks. Harriman built one of the largest rail empires. Watson's IBM practically created the modern office machine industry.

The first two-thirds of Black's book deals with the U.S. eugenics movement (a fake science calling for "purification" of the "white race" by various means) in the early 20th century. The Nazi Holocaust killed millions of Jewish, and Roma peoples and others. Not only did the Nazis racist ideology support this "cleansing," but the Nazi war machine used them as forced labor to build their weapons. The Holocaust had another purpose as well: by imprisoning and killing communists and other working-class leaders, they aimed to keep workers from rebelling and overthrowing them. This unmitigated horror rested firmly on the U.S. eugenics movement that large numbers of intellectuals and major capitalists promoted and that Hitler so admired. Ford, Carnegie, Harriman, and Rockefeller were major funders of this movement.

Eugenics was a racist attempt to either exclude im-

migrants from a number of countries or sterilize or kill those deemed unfit, such as those who were forced to commit petty crimes to survive or those with mental illnesses. The premise was that by selective marriage and breeding — backed by laws passed in many states — a master race could be developed that would rid the country of the elderly, weak and disempowered, and particularly the black, brown, and Jewish working class. In addition, immigrants from many countries were deemed inferior by this movement, including Irish, Italian, and Eastern European workers. Hitler's Holocaust was patterned on the eugenics movement, to which



The Partisans, Italian Resistance movement, played a significant role in defeating Hitler's forces in Italy. These are partisans patrolling in Milan, 1945.

many German bosses and intellectuals contributed and for which Hitler gave high praise.

Early in his career in the 1930s, Hitler awarded the Grand Cross of the German Eagle prize to racist Henry Ford, multibillionaire industrialist, particularly for his contributions to the fascist vilification of Jewish people. Ford published *The International Jew: The World's Foremost Problem*. World War II saw the killings of tens of millions of workers and others. The Nazis' ability to pull this off was due in no small part to the build-up of racism in mid-20th century U.S. and Europe. Through the eugenics movement, racism helped to disarm, divide, and weaken the working class, world over, except in the Soviet Union.

The last portion of the book describes the material support to the Nazi's war machine by GM, through its German subsidiary Opel. When GM was accused of aiding the enemy, Sloan hid behind the claim that it was a German company that provided the blitzkrieg trucks, yet Opel was wholly owned and operated by GM.

Black's final chapter features the story of IBM's development of the recording system that the Nazis used to keep track of whom they had killed and whom they had yet to kill in the death camps at Auschwitz, Treblinka, and scores of others. They admitted that without IBM's help they could not have carried out such a systematic and monumental plan of gruesome and horrendous murder and genocide. Black earlier wrote a much longer book about this episode, titled *IBM and the Holocaust: The Strategic Alliance Between Nazi Germany and America's Most Powerful Corporation* (2001).

None of the capitalists involved in aiding the enemy in this fashion ever paid for their crimes. And their present-day counterparts continue the same racist and fascist actions today, only without openly supporting Nazi-like ideology. Now, as then, only a communist revolution can bring the working class to power and end this horror once and for all.✪

## 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

### Africa rising? No trickle down

GW, 10/11 — The idea that Africans have never had it so good is rapidly becoming economic orthodoxy. Foreign investors, media and politicians from Europe to Africa itself have championed a narrative usually summed up in two words: "Africa rising."

But most Africans feel the picture is far less rosy, complaining that the continent's economic growth is failing to trickle down to their daily lives, according to the biggest survey of its kind.

"After a decade of growth in Africa, little change in poverty at the grassroots," is the title of a report by the Afrobarometer research project, which questioned 51,605 respondents in 34 countries from October 2011 to June this year.

About one in five Africans say they still often lack food, clean water or medical care. And in 16 countries where data is available over the past decade, the experience of "lived poverty" has hardly changed.

### U.S. tramples on South Americans

GW, 10/11 — To the editor:

Despite [the] fine account of recent disputes between the U.S. and South American countries, [you are] altogether more sanguine about the possibility of good relations between the U.S. and South America than any rational person ought to be....

Since the Spanish-American war and the birth of American imperialism, the U.S. has always treated South Americans with contempt and brutality. Obama's support for U.S. "vulture capitalists" vis-à-vis Argentina is not some aberration; it is a reversion to the norm. Think United Fruit. It is remarkably easy to uncover examples of vicious U.S. behavior towards South America. Think Arbbenz, think Allende, think Goulart.

### In U.S., sky-high asthma costs

NYT, 10/13 — Oakland, Calif. — The kitchen counter in the home of the Hayes family is scattered with inhalers, sprays and bottles of pills that have allowed Hannah, 13, and her sister, Abby, 10, to excel at dance and gymnastics despite a horrific pollen season that has set off



asthma attacks, leaving the girls struggling to breathe.

Asthma — the most common chronic disease that affects Americans of all ages, about 40 million people — can usually be well controlled with drugs. But being able to afford prescription medications in the United States often requires top-notch insurance or plenty of disposable income....

...Pulmicort, a steroid inhaler, generally retails for over \$175 in the United States, while pharmacists in Britain buy the identical product for about \$20 and dispense it free of charge to asthma patients....

...Rhinocort Aqua, a prescription drug...was selling for more than \$250 a month in Oakland pharmacies last year but costs under \$7 in Europe....

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention puts the annual cost of asthma in the United States at more than \$56 billion, including millions of potentially avoidable hospital visits and more than 3,300 deaths, many involving patients who [were poor and] skimped on medicines or did without.

"The thing is that asthma is so fixable," said Dr. Elaine Davenport, who works in Oakland's Breathmobile, a mobile asthma clinic whose patients cannot afford high prescription costs....

With its high prescription prices, the United States

spends far more per capita on medicines than other developed countries....

### Afghan kidnappers have cops' help

NYT, 10/18 — Kidnappings have become endemic in many parts of Afghanistan...and even in Helmand Province...they are a bigger threat than attacks by insurgents. All too often, the police end up being involved, as confederates of the kidnappers....

Dr. Barak [a victim] paid the ransom, but agents tracked the kidnappers from the pickup point and later arrested nine confederates. Three of them were policemen — including the Afghan Local Police commander....

Then came another blow. The authorities said they found \$175,000 of the ransom money — seemingly good news, but months later Dr. Barak is still trying in vain to get it back....

They're all thieves," Dr. Barak said. "Maybe they're keeping the money for themselves. They said they were waiting for the court to decide, but what's to decide? They all confessed."

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG



## New York City Election

# DeBlasio’s Job: Keep Workers in Check for the Bosses

Elections under capitalism are a hoax to keep workers worldwide dreaming of a change of conditions in their lives and New Yorkers are no different. The city’s municipal workers are without contracts and haven’t had raises in years. Hospitals are closing, leaving millions of workers without access to accessible healthcare. The NYPD continues to shoot black and Latin youth at will. Schools function as prisons for our mostly black and Latino student population. With more militaristic charter schools opening and so-called failing schools closing, students and staff are displaced. More and more workers are homeless. As the NY Times recently pointed out, many workers must work two or three jobs and still can’t afford the exorbitant rents. Many have no jobs at all.

Due to the racist nature of capitalism, black and Latino workers bear the brunt of these racist attacks. The gap between the super-rich and the working class, employed and unemployed, grows wider all the time. In New York, the racist inequalities of capitalism are on full and brutal display.

Meanwhile, many workers in the city are eagerly awaiting the November 5 mayoral election. Why? Because the Democratic candidate and probable winner, Bill DeBlasio, talks about racism and proudly shows off his interracial family. He talks about taxing the rich to provide prekindergarten for all. Because he got arrested at a demonstration to keep one of Brooklyn’s largest hospitals open. Because he says he wants to end the racist stop-and-frisk policies of the New York Police Department.

But no matter how worker-friendly a picture he paints, DeBlasio has a job to do for the bosses who control city government. Like all politicians, his assignment is to keep their capitalist system running as smoothly as possible.

In the current economic crisis, with the U.S. on a permanent war footing against its imperialist rivals, belts are being tightened at every level of government. It is the mayor’s job to keep New York and its workers in check for the bosses. That means city worker salaries must be kept within the limits of the budget. It means schools must teach students capitalist propaganda more efficiently. It means the NYPD must maintain its role as a cutting-edge force in security and surveillance, along with shooting black and Latino youth. It means that real estate profits and Wall Street interests must come first to keep the billionaires’ investments flowing into the city.

Since winning the Democratic Party primary in September, DeBlasio’s campaign fundraising events read like a who’s who of the U.S. ruling class, from \$25,000-a-plate breakfasts brokered by Hillary Clinton to pow-wows with the top brass of Citigroup, Viacom, Goldman Sachs, and the law firms that serve them. He met with BlackRock, the world’s largest investment manager and a major shareholder in Massey Energy, the capitalists whose criminal negligence and greed killed 29 West Virginia miners in 2010. He’s been hard at work to set these bosses’ minds at ease that his pro-worker public

statements were nothing more than campaign rhetoric.

The main danger of liberals like DeBlasio is that they put a friendly face on the rulers’ racist, anti-working class policies. They play a critical role in building fascism and sending unemployed students off to fight and die for U.S. imperialism. DeBlasio has already lulled many workers into believing they don’t have to organize or fight back. Once their “friend” is inaugurated, this thinking goes, he will keep the hospitals open, end the test-based evaluation of teachers, sign contracts granting raises, and put a stop to racist police brutality.

### Obama, DeBlasio: Capitalist Stooges

But workers have been on this roller coaster before. Not so long ago, Party members and friends wore buttons saying, “It’s not just Bush, it’s capitalism.” We worked hard to convince workers that Obama could never solve our problems because he was bought and paid for by the ruling class. The five years since then have proved us right, as Obama has plunged the country more deeply into war and economic crisis, bailing out GM and the banks while tens of millions remain jobless.

We can’t let slick liberal politicians like Obama and DeBlasio win our friends, classmates and coworkers to believe that elections can save them from the disasters of the profit system. As communists, we know that capitalism contains a basic contradiction: Workers don’t earn enough in wages to afford the products they produce. We know that capitalism relies on racism and sexism to keep workers divided. We know that no capitalist politician — Asian, Latino, black, or white — can change those hard realities. We know that any small concession they make will be taken away in a heartbeat, whenever the bosses feel the need to increase their profits to compete with China, Russia, and other imperialist powers.

Even after DeBlasio is elected, we must continue to share this message with other workers and students. We must expose the politicians’ hoax everywhere we encounter them. As our friends become disillusioned by the liberal misleaders’ results, we must help them to see that the only alternative to the capitalist trap is to unite and build a whole new system — to fight for a communist revolution.✊

## From Brooklyn to Providence

# Fight Racist KKKops



**BROOKLYN, NY, October 21** —“Justice for Kyam Livingston — killed in a Brooklyn cell” echoed outside the courthouse that holds the local Central Booking where Kyam Livingston was left to die in a jail cell. The crowd filled with anger demonstrated here, demanding justice and the names of the killer cops on duty who refused to help Kyam as she and other inmates cried for help.

The Justice for Kyam Livingston Committee will continue to be active and hold demonstrations on the 21st of each month — the day of the anniversary of her death. (More next issue.)✊



**PROVIDENCE, RI, October 29** — A multiracial crowd of anti-racist demonstrators booed the NYPD racist Police Commissioner Ray Kelly off the stage at Brown University here today, forcing the cancellation of his lecture on “Proactive Policing in America’s Biggest City.” Before his scheduled appearance, students and others marched outside the hall carrying signs that said “Stop police brutality” and “RAY [CIST] KELLY.” Inside the hall chants arose to “Stop stop-and-frisk,” alluding to the Mayor Bloomberg-Kelly racist policy of annually harassing hundreds of thousands black and Latino youth completely innocent of any wrongdoing.

“Residents of East Flatbush, Brownsville and East New York don’t feel safer than they did in 2001,” said Danny Echevarria, a Brown student from Brooklyn. “Instituting systematic racism in New York City is a disgrace,” another student chimed in. Another student rose to slam the NYPD and accused Kelly of discriminating against blacks and Muslims.”

Choi, a history major from the Maryland suburbs of Washington declared, “We do not at all support Ray Kelly’s stop-and-frisk policies and...want to stand in solidarity with communities the police have targeted.” Kelly had barely started speaking when chants filled the hall drowning him out. The protest continued for more than 20 minutes until Kelly fled the stage.✊

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