

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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CUNY Trustees, NYPD Prove: No Free Speech Under Capitalism

NEW YORK CITY, November 25 — It's official. The City University of New York (CUNY) is a repressive organ of the racist capitalist state. Today over 100 students and faculty protested the Board of Trustees' proposal of the "Policy on Expressive Activity," which exposes "free speech" under capitalism for the myth that it is. Various networks have been building for this rally for weeks. Progressive Labor Party organized friends at a number of local colleges. Newer members are gaining experience in putting our politics forward at these events.

A member of PLP read the SOS letter from Haiti, where fascism translates to tear gas, grenades, and bullets. One student lost a hand after being maimed by a stun grenade from the national police (see page 8). This is what CUNY students and faculty can look forward to from the administration. We need to fight fascism with communist internationalism. "If you want to find out more," the PLP member said, "come grab a CHALLENGE!" Many protesters thanked the PLer who brought the international greeting. They took the paper; they are open to the Party's red ideas.

CHALLENGE has been a crucial part of our struggle at CUNY. We distribute it in a mass way every week to students who otherwise would be unaware of the militarization on our campuses. We use it in our Party clubs to evaluate our work. Our friends read the paper and ask us intriguing questions, like: Why are these attacks happening now? While handing out CHALLENGE at this rally, we reconnected with old friends and exchanged contacts with prospective new ones. We're also struggling with our friends to write for the paper.

Twenty kkkops were present outside to confine the protest to half the street. One higher-ranking cop threatened Taffy, a suspended student leader, to "watch out." Many other cops were guarding entrances inside surrounding buildings. These were not campus cops



but the racist New York Police Department, the biggest police force in the world's most powerful imperialist state. It's not by accident that the NYPD has expanded into a global terror operation. The same force that conducts "special interrogations" (read: torture) in Pakistan, Egypt, and Afghanistan is more than willing to assault protesting college students and faculty. One PLer made the point that militarization is not limited to CUNY — it's an international phenomenon. As the bosses prepare for broader global conflict, we are entering a period of rising fascism. The increased use of city cops to quell on-campus dissent is one reflection of this trend.

The trustees' new policy calls for increased police presence and restrictions on all public activity, from leafleting to congregating in groups. In other words, the CUNY administration and police would determine the limits of a rally against the college president. The campus cops can change the date, time, or location of any demonstration — or shut it down entirely. This repression reflects the CUNY bosses' weakness and their fear of the might of an organized working class.

While those rallying outside were mainly students, twenty-five faculty members in the Professional Staff Congress expressed their dissent inside the trustees' meeting. The Baruch College building was guarded like a criminal court. A squad of cops escorted small groups of five to eight professors and other staff to the elevators. Metal detectors screened everyone who entered the meeting room. Racist board Chairman Benno Schmidt said that anyone who interrupted or disrupted the meeting would be ejected by police and face criminal charges. In a loud voice, a professor asked for one minute to report on how CUNY officials were suppress-

ing student protests with suspensions and arrests. His request was denied.

Liberal and phony-left groups are calling the Policy on Expressive Activity an attack on First Amendment rights. They are leading a campaign to "defend our fight to free expression." This represents the sharpest disagreement between PLers and the fake left. PLP understands that universities are not neutral spaces where ideas can be debated democratically. We live under a capitalist dictatorship where the bosses change or break their own laws as required by their profit system.

One protester led a chant, "Our People, Our Fight, People of the World Unite! We Got One Solution — Bring on the Revolution!" PLP has a different chant: "The Only Solution Is Communist Revolution!" That's the kind of revolution students and workers need. Others provide false hope when they say that our colleges should be "ruled by the people" or that "we need to take back CUNY." The University does not belong to the working class. Like all institutions under capitalism, it belongs to the capitalist rulers. By planning on passing the Policy on Expressive Activity, the Board of Trustees has made this clear.

CUNY is a racist institution where black, Latino, and South Asian students are shuffled into community colleges and ROTC. The senior colleges are increasingly white. This segregation divides students and leads us to blame each other for the failures of capitalism (full analysis next issue). We need to do a better job of organizing across colleges and fighting racism, and also connecting our struggle to the brutal imperialism in places like Haiti.✪



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

Rulers Use JFK Assassination Anniversary to Fuel War Drive

Fifty years after his assassination, John F. Kennedy, a leading instigator of U.S. genocide in Vietnam, still proves useful to war-making U.S. imperialists. As they mobilize for wider wars with their imperialist rivals, U.S. rulers are using the anniversary to revive JFK's militaristic appeals for "sacrifice" and "service."

For the working class, this "sacrifice" means mass racist unemployment and cuts in health care, food stamps and other social services. It means more racist police attacks on black and Latino youth, mass racist incarceration, widespread poverty, the intensified oppression of working-class women, and the mass jailing and deportation of immigrant workers. This is the state of rising fascism in the United States of the 21st century.

The bosses' idea of "service" is to push jobless youth into the military to fight and die in imperialist wars. To groom the officers to help lead this bloody charge, the bosses are resurrecting ROTC on college campuses. Barack Obama's Dream Act would use the promise of citizenship to recruit tens of thousands of immigrant Latino youth into the military. (As Pentagon generals have noted, the capitalists are facing an acute personnel shortage in their military.)

But Obama's ruling-class masters also recognize that oppressing the working class won't solve all their problems. For U.S. capitalism to survive, they know they must discipline their own ranks as well. Witness the recent deal made between the U.S. Justice Department and JPMorgan Chase. The largest bank in the U.S., Chase has \$2.46 trillion in assets. It agreed to fork over \$13 billion (roughly half its annual profits) as an example to the other main finance capitalists. By accepting the government's penalty, Chase was sending a message: The rulers' short-term greed must be subordinated to the long-range greater good of their class.

Capitalists' Splits, Then and Now

The renewed focus on Kennedy's killing sheds light on today's divisions within the U.S. capitalist class and how they weaken its fighting capacity. The current split involves the billionaire Koch brothers and the Tea Party group, which makes most of its profits domestically, versus the internationally oriented finance capitalist wing on Wall Street. The finance wing needs a broader war to protect its control over energy and cheap labor abroad, and to repel challenges to the dominance of U.S. imperialism.

In the 1960s, the rulers were facing a similar split. Domestic oil interests were up in arms against JFK's reported plans to revoke the oil depletion allowance. According to one theory, Kennedy was killed by domestic oil interests who were unwilling to cut their profits for the imperialist cause.

Kennedy's Racist War in Vietnam

In his commemorative November 22 proclamation, Obama said of JFK, "He called a generation to service and summoned a Nation to greatness." He was echoing Kennedy's

Why We Need A Party

The orgy of media nostalgia around John F. Kennedy deliberately omits the mass worker-student resistance to Kennedy's war in Vietnam. Nor does it mention the fact that more than half a million GIs eventually deserted the battlefield or organized underground rebellions within the ranks. Their resistance undermined the U.S. military's ability to field a viable army. Up against a People's War in Vietnam, U.S. rulers were forced to concede defeat.

The liberal and phony-left opposition to that war never exposed U.S. rulers' imperialist motives for the mass slaughter. Instead, these dissenters called upon workers and farmers in Vietnam to "negotiate" with the invading army. Only the Progressive Labor Party advanced the slogan, "U.S. Imperialism Out of Vietnam." Only PLP made it clear that the working class needed a revolutionary communist party to overthrow capitalism, not "negotiate" with it.

Today's liberal forces, represented by New York City mayor-elect Bill DeBlasio and other self-proclaimed "progressives," call for taxing the rich to "share the sacrifice" and keep capitalism going. But their "sacrifice" can't compare to the mass poverty and unemployment capitalism has imposed on the working class in the latest Great Recession. It pales against what bosses steal from workers every day, by paying them less than the value of their labor. This is one more reason our class needs a revolutionary communist party to lead the way in overthrowing this exploitative profit system. Join and build PLP!

inaugural address: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

What Obama left unsaid was how Kennedy's "call" led to the deaths of tens of thousands of GIs for the glory of the U.S. global empire: "The graves of young Americans who answered the call to service surround the globe." U.S. capitalists today have a renewed interest in a compulsory draft, like the one under Kennedy that forced more than 300,000 working-class youth into the U.S. war machine. The recruits were needed for the run-up to the Vietnam War, a racist, imperialist atrocity against workers who were slandered as sub-human.

The imperialist Council on Foreign Relations' Foreign Affairs offered a clearer picture of Kennedy by reprinting a 1957 piece by the future president. JFK praised the U.S. takeover of military operations in Vietnam from the defeated French bosses. He also discussed the tightrope the U.S. needed to walk between a manageable ground war and an unpredictable nuclear clash with the Soviet Union, or "the need to face the prospect of having to wage a limited war while holding the levers of unlimited destruction."

Continued on page 6



Vietnam War march in the U.S. in the 1970s. Most protesters were students.

Worker-Student Solidarity Slams Columbia U's Racist Exploitation

NEW YORK CITY, November 23 — For the second year, Columbia University (CU) students have been organizing a group, Student Worker Solidarity (SWS), to support workers' struggles on campus, and they are now beginning to explore racist and anti-worker aspects of CU's expansion into West Harlem. Last year the students militantly agitated for workers at Barnard (the affiliated women's college) and for employees of the faculty dining room, who were being miserably exploited by their respective administrations. Partial victories were won in both cases.

This year began with a campaign to lower the temperature in the sweltering kitchen of one of the dining halls. The University tried to claim that ventilating the kitchen would force a raise in tuition and that they had ascertained that students were not concerned about the issue. But SWS demonstrated in the dining hall, collected about a thousand signatures on a petition and confronted the administration, together with the workers. Given SWS's history of mobilizing hundreds of students, the administration quickly gave in and took measures to cool off the kitchen.

Now SWS is planning to fight the injustices wrought by Columbia's building a new campus on 33 acres. That land was previously occupied by small businesses and low-income housing for mostly black and Latino residents, all of which have been leveled. The unemploy-

ment rate in Harlem is near 50 percent for young black men. The average income is about \$30,000, making paying unsubsidized rents impossible. Although Columbia promised jobs and monetary benefits to the community in compensation for lost jobs and housing, none of this has happened. The whole surrounding area is also being affected by gentrification, with landlords raising rents and forcing out low-income tenants to offer housing to students, faculty and other wealthier tenants attracted by the lure of Columbia.

Last week about 40 students joined a walking tour of the expansion area, where they heard from local housing organizers and a restaurant owner who was forced to move at great expense. They learned about Columbia's plan to build a biohazard lab right on 125 Street. One older student related how a group of students and community residents had occupied 125 Street for five days in May, 2011, to protest the expansion. On the weekend, three students came to a conference against racist gentrification involving Harlem and Brooklyn tenants (see page 5).

SWS has now built alliances with several other campus groups who came to an expanded meeting to plan how to fight CU's attack on its Harlem neighbors. They will build upon the research and struggles of smaller groups of students over the last several years and are aiming toward developing struggles relevant to jobs

and housing. Some students have also been supporting the City College (CCNY) students who are fighting militarization and fascism on their campus. They attended the court hearing of two CCNY students who were arrested for fighting the closing of the political student organizing center on campus.

Several of the more left-wing students have begun to raise a broader political context in the group. It is important that the mostly well-off CU students do not simply see themselves as fighters against inequality from a moral point of view, but recognize that they are future workers, who will likely have difficulty finding employment and housing themselves. Capitalism is the cause of unemployment and increasing racism, fascism and war. The declining position of the U.S. in relation to China and others is making those problems more acute. It will take unity between low- and high-paid workers, men and women, citizens and non-citizens to have a chance of overthrowing this system and building an egalitarian communist society.

As of now, most students are taking CHALLENGE and some are meeting to discuss the ideas of communism and revolution. With hard work, many more will come to see the need for revolutionary change over the coming period as we engage in struggle together.✊

Education Workers Expose Racist NJ School Boss

NEWARK, NJ — The struggle over education is sharpening in Newark. In a show of resistance to the Superintendent Cami Anderson's rule, more than 1,500 education workers forced Anderson to close school for two days this month so they could attend the New Jersey Education Association's annual convention.

The NJEA is the largest teachers union in the state. Nearly every New Jersey school district closes during the convention — except for Newark. When workers submitted forms to go to the convention, most principals were telling them not to go. Some even told the workers, “I will approve this on paper, but the superintendent told me to discourage workers from going.”

To support workers who have been harassed, more than 1,500 other education workers put in paperwork to go to the convention, forcing the superintendent to shut down Newark schools.

Teacher Action Exposes Racist Anderson

In an attempt to divide teachers and parents, Anderson sent out a letter blaming the teachers for closing school. The letter backfired. Anderson doesn't realize that she won't win parents over by implying

their children are criminals. In an early draft of a letter, Anderson wrote that the workers' action "forced us to once again close our doors, hurting schools and making our city less safe."

Racism at the Heart of Attacks on Students and Teachers

Every now and then the working class gets a glimpse into the minds of the ruling class and its foot soldiers. Anderson rose through the ranks of Teach For America, the New York City Public School System, and the Broad Superintendents Academy. Her allegiance is to the capitalist class. She had already shut down a number of schools and cut \$56 million from the budget last year. She has spent millions more pushing the common core curriculum.

Anderson's policies show that the main contradiction within public education is between the capitalist class and the students. For the last three decades, the ruling class had less of a need for black and Latino workers. As jobs were sent overseas, prisons and schools became the holding cells for many of these young people. Anderson's language exposes the bosses' conversion of schools into warehouses for youth who are marginalized by capitalism. But as the bosses need to win a new generation of students to fight in inter-imperialist wars and to work for low wages, they may need to change their strategy.

It's Not Just Anderson — It's Capitalism

From the rise of industrialization in the nineteenth century until now, schools have been organized to meet the changing economic, political, and social needs of the capitalist class. The current situation in Newark is no different. The Newark Teachers Union and Newark Student Union and a number of community groups are fighting back against Anderson and her boss, Governor Chris Christie. But getting rid of Anderson or Christie won't stop the assault on students and education workers. From the U.S. to Mexico to England, attacks on workers are escalating as bosses prepare for a wider war. As we struggle with students, parents, and teachers to fight for communism, PLP has the opportunity to give the working class the political education it needs to create a communist world.🌐



A Tale of Two Systems

It's important to take note of the increase in class struggle around the world — but it's also important to understand that without communist ideas, it can't lead to the end of capitalism and the racism, sexism and exploitation that feed it. As communists, we must be totally entrenched in the working class and the class struggle, put forward our communist ideas and win workers and students to them.

That's not always easy when bosses, especially the liberals and so-called "progressives" like New York's new mayor, Bill de Blasio, talk as if they want to make life better for the working class. But de Blasio's "reform" agenda with talk about NYC being a "tale of two cities" with a huge "income inequality" between rich and poor may sound appealing, but they are deceptive. They really want to preserve capitalism so the big capitalists can further their economic and military goals in the world. Their "tale of two cities" approach is meant to pacify the working class and freeze it between having false hopes and being hopeless.

For example, low-rent housing in NYC is disappearing rapidly. In working-class neighborhoods such as Clinton Hill, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Bushwick in Brooklyn and others in the South Bronx. Real estate interests and bankers, as well as small, parasitic landlords lurking in their shadows, are kicking out working-class tenants, raising rents and rezoning areas for luxury high-rise housing. They use racist lies and slander to justify this, claiming that too much low-rent housing in an area makes it “undesirable,” or that black and Latino working families are “too noisy,” and more.

So, what is de Blasio's proposal to achieve "housing equality?" Provide 200,000 new low-rent apartments in NYC over the next 10 years. That's not even a drop in the bucket! A few hundred units in working-class neighborhoods every year, in a city of millions! Help for only a handful of workers and forget the rest. Then the politicians and their allies in unions and community nonprofits will proclaim "Victory!"

Why do communists in PLP talk about fighting for “egalitarianism,” rather than reducing the gap between rich and poor? Because reducing the gap means there would still be rich capitalists, and they would still make their money on the backs of the working class. Under communism, we will organize society according to workers’ needs — from each according to commitment, to each according to need. With no bosses to make profits from dividing us, we will also be able to destroy racism and sexism.☸

March Demands Action vs. Racist Killer KKKops

BROOKLYN, NY November 21 — In the bustling center of Church Avenue, as hundreds of working-class people poured out of the subway station on their way home from work, they were greeted by a militant demonstration demanding “Justice for Kyam Livingston, killed in a Brooklyn jail cell.”

The demonstration included a broad spectrum of the working class, up to 130 people assembled in militant unity to demand justice for this kkkop murder. The group was black, Latino, Asian, white, men, women, and children to mark the fourth-month anniversary of the murder of Kyam Livingston.

Kyam was a 37-year-old black single mother and worker who was arrested and was waiting for arraignment in Brooklyn Central Booking. She was complaining of extreme stomach pain and crying out for help. The KKKops callously ignored her cries, saying, “Shut the f*** up or we’ll lose your paperwork.” Kyam died in continued agony to the horror of the other women in the holding cell.

‘You’re Not Gonna Hide This’

Kyam’s mother was the first speaker and cried for justice for her daughter. In her anguish, she proclaimed that there would be justice to the cops standing there, sending chills up the spines of the collected gathering. Her speech was a note for militancy and a promise that justice would be done for her daughter. “Your’e not gonna hide this,” she cried.

A black working-class student spoke of the need for multiracial unity in the

fight against police brutality and racism. A PLP high school teacher and a member of the Justice for Shantel Davis committee made a call to smash this racist, murderous system that will continue to kill our children. “Only we can stop it,” he said. He pointed out how the kkkops are used as a tool for the bosses to separate the working class — black from white, and men from women.

A parent from a faith-based community spoke of his concern for his black children who clearly are not safe under this system. He said, “As long as Kyam’s family needs me, I’ll be here.” A union member and fighter who has lived in the neighborhood for 40 years described how the community should create a wall of unity so that no more murders of our children will take place. He also honored the bravery of the Livingston family, especially of Kyam’s mother. A young man of about 12 took the microphone and said that he knew Kyam. She was a good person. He misses her, and he called for “Justice for Kyam Livingston.”

‘We Want The Names. We Want The Tapes!’

The chanting was militant, vigorous and forceful, “Justice for Kyam Livingston, killed in a Brooklyn cell,” “We want the names. We want the tapes,” and “Kyam Livingston means — fight back!” “Police murders mean — fight back!” “No justice, no peace. No racist police.”

The final speaker called for a march down Church Avenue so that the neigh-



borhood could be as one with the march and the multi-racial nature of the marchers.

Crowds of people stopped and listened to the speeches and chants. Many made comments such as, “You got that right!” and “We’re hearing the truth here!” Kyam’s mother lives in that neighborhood and is well known and well loved. Her neighbors and friends stopped and joined the demonstration. Many people came up to her, greeted and hugged

her. A young woman from a downtown Brooklyn church who participated in the demonstration said, “This is great. This is real unity.”

CHALLENGES and many leaflets were distributed. Many protesters said, “next time I’ll try to bring more of my friends.” The next demonstration will be on the afternoon of Saturday, December 21st. There will be no end to this struggle until we have smashed racism and capitalism.☺

Growing Student Struggle Open to Red Ideas

NEW YORK CITY, November 15 — The fight against militarization and repression at City University of New York (CUNY) is drawing more students and faculty into action. Today a strategy meeting that organizers thought might draw 50, instead brought 120 people to four hours of intense talk about every aspect of the CUNY struggle. There were many new faces: an energetic group of undergrads and grad students along with professors, both veterans and young adjuncts.

Progressive Labor Party members were among the organizers. Participants distributed CHALLENGE and got to know several new fighters. Many are making up their minds about their basic political outlook, including Progressive Labor Party’s revolutionary communist ideas.

The majority are outraged at CUNY’s suppression of resistance on campus and its welcome to General “Drones” Petraeus and ROTC. While jobs evaporate, CUNY continues its racist dumbing down of curriculum combined with rising tuition and student debt. It is a fluid moment when militants are looking for the best path ahead, as capitalism exposes its contradictions and failures.

Petraeus, ROTC = Militarization

The hiring of Petraeus and the return of ROTC have reminded all how the universities are tied to the military and the ruling class. The campus is not exempt from the intensifying racist police oppression, especially in the black and Latino communities from which most of our students come.

In one small breakout group, four grad student adjuncts were there because they thought it was time they got involved. One was angry at the raid by

the City College Administration on the students’ Morales/Shakur Center and the arrest of two protest leaders. One had been excited by the Occupy Wall St. movement and was looking to apply it to CUNY. Two others had been active as undergrads but not yet at CUNY until the issue of militarization brought them to this event. These four show the potential for growth in this movement, and of the communist movement.

The group included union fighters and chapter leaders. One told the newcomers how her campus chapter had just met and agreed on an awareness campaign of union tabling outside the cafeteria about campus worker unity and opposing militarization and repression. Another described the antiwar committee just formed on campus, combining chapter militants and students.

A PL’er stressed that militarization on the campus reflected imperialist war preparations by the ruling class, and that the international working class had to prepare for the next big war on the horizon. He said that the struggle against war and the militarization of society had to be international, and mentioned as examples the letters of solidarity with CUNY students from comrades in Haiti and the students at UNAM in Mexico City.

How To Teach Students the Truth

The small-group discussion then focused on how we could use the classroom to make more students aware of militarization. A math teacher said he couldn’t teach politics in a math class, but a German historian told us how under the Nazis math lessons were politicized, with examples and problems reinforcing fascist propaganda. A biochemist also

couldn’t see how to teach politics in a science class, but someone noted the recruiting of the chemical industry for war and weaponry, the recruitment of health workers for the military’s detention/torture centers, or scientific war research on campus.

A philosophy lecturer said he couldn’t ethically teach students his own politics because it would be taking advantage of his position of authority over them. One response to that common faculty view said students are already bombarded by capitalist ideas from the curriculum and all the bosses’ media.

As a comrade passed the hat for students’ legal costs, the whole group resolved to build for the court appearance of two CCNY students on Nov. 19 (see page 8), and a protest at the CUNY Board of Trustees on Nov. 25 (see front page). While we didn’t agree on all our ideas, we nevertheless agreed to intensify our actions in the face of intimidation by the cops and the Administration.

PLP did disagree with the majority on the reformist demand to abolish the Board of Trustees appointed by the Mayor and Governor and to elect our own Board to run the university in our own interests (the student-power, faculty-power idea). Most unionists know from experience that bosses will never allow workers this kind of control. Only one class at a time can hold state power.

PL believes that the capitalists run every institution including universities (public and private) to serve their class interests for profit and social control. They will never surrender control to students and faculty in a school or college, to health workers and patients in a hospital, to workers in a factory, field, mine, or

office, or to rank-and-file soldiers.

They run a racist, sexist dictatorship of the bourgeoisie over the whole society, while maintaining the illusion of popular democracy through elections (elections like that of their latest darling Bill De Blasio, determined by their money and their media). But you can’t elect the boss of a factory or a mine or a hospital or a college or an army.

PL sees the campus not as a place where students and faculty can wrest power from the bosses, but as a site of class struggle where students and faculty — in a worker-student alliance — can link their own fights to the struggles of the whole working class. We can help build a revolutionary movement for the working class to take state power and construct an alternative, boss-free communist society in which education is ours to remake and wars for profit are history.

International Workers’ Unity Crucial

Want to end militarization? Fight for international communism. Join PLP. CUNY students, faculty and staff active now should join with workers’ strikes and community battles against racist police, with teachers in Mexico, with students in Haiti, miners in South Africa and textile workers in Bangladesh. Our comrades at CUNY have always stood for this view, from the 1930s until now.

Students have often initiated important struggles at CUNY and need to again. But workers led by communists have the numbers and the potential power to finish them — everywhere the war clouds threaten — as a single international class. As critical, radical students and faculty, we must begin to see ourselves as part of that class.☺

Real Estate Gentrification = Homeless Workers

NEW YORK CITY, November 16 — Workers from a community mass organization in Bushwick, Brooklyn had a joint “mini conference” with the congregation of a church in Harlem. This was a follow-up to an October rally held in the working-class neighborhood of Bushwick against the renovation-rent hikes that are driving out mainly Latino and undocumented workers who have lived there for years, near their families and workplaces.

Bushwick, fifteen minutes from Manhattan, has become one of the most desired neighborhoods in New York City. It borders Williamsburg, a neighborhood already redefined by a growing wealthy population and rapid capitalist development of overpriced housing, so it's no surprise that the landowners are now targeting Bushwick. With the recent development of the Barclay Stadium, home to the new Brooklyn Nets, the borough has become even more of a hot spot for the real estate capitalists.

The conference called for multi-racial unity of Latin, Asian, white and black against racist gentrification, since most of the new population moving into these neighborhoods are white. Meanwhile Latino and black families are being pushed out. Most of the latter are feeling hostile against the white workers moving in and landlords, who openly tell them that they want them out so whites will pay their higher rents and buy their new luxury condos.

We have constantly reminded our friends that white workers are not the enemy, that capitalism and its bosses are the true enemy. They use this type of racism to divide the working class and make us fight each other, but it takes a lot of work and convincing when desperation clouds workers' minds. We reminded our friends,

who were pessimistic about winning the fight against the landlords, that back in the 1930s during the Great Depression whole communities would unite and occupy foreclosed houses in order to stop cops from evicting workers out of their homes. One comrade also said, “Don't underestimate the power of the working class.”

At the conference, one new comrade, a victim of Storm Sandy and a homeless parent, spoke eloquently about the racist oppression she and her children have suffered over the past year and how the Progressive Labor Party and friends had given her personal support and political leadership. She demonstrated how victims of the storm and victims of homelessness due to gentrification are being forced to compete in order to receive public assistance and a new home. University expansion is pushing gentrification in both of these communities.

A college student from Venezuela spoke at length about the need for both a worker-student alliance and international solidarity for our struggles to move forward. Three college students participated in the conference, won by three PLP members' weekly participation in their student-worker solidarity group on campus. One of the students emphasized the importance of a worker-student alliance, since one day students will also be joining the workforce.

The conference proposals included building multi-racial actions against racist gentrification in Bushwick. Brooklyn forces will participate in a University/State Office Building rally and march demanding low rents, jobs and expansion of food stamps.

We tried to connect anti-imperialism to university expansion and anti-racism to racist gentrification. The college students we work with are considering this

action as one of their main projects as soon as winter break ends. The college students and workers did come to understand that the problem was the capitalist landlords and the only way workers will ever have safe housing conditions is by destroying capitalism and replacing it with real workers power.✪



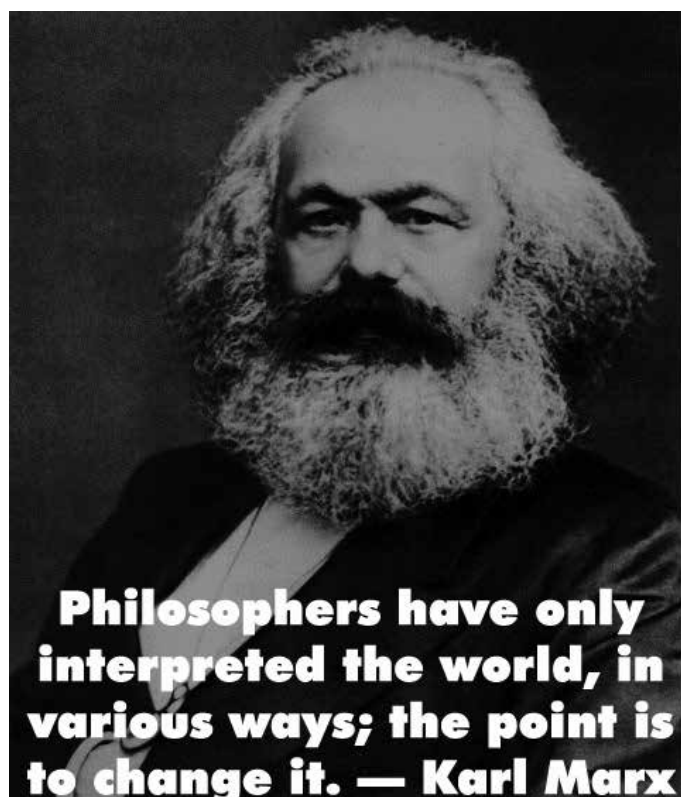
Dialectics Provoke Sharp Discussion on Racism on Campus

Recently I attended a PLP communist school on dialectics with a friend; she's a student and I'm a teacher at Chicago State University. Our opening presentation described how dialectical principles apply to the process of development from a seed to a bean plant and provoked many questions and challenges about precisely how the principles are to be understood.

In our workshop we continued the discussion of dialectics as a general theory of nature, but it was hard to pin down the discussion. Moreover, it tended to exclude people, such as my friend, who were less familiar with communism. I proposed applying the principles to my friend's work with a campus group, the Students for Justice (S4J).

This immediately raised a number of issues. S4J had developed a petition demanding child care on campus which would benefit our many single-parent students, mostly women. It also demanded that the money the bookstore pays to the university should be used to fund childcare. (The bookstore treats students like criminals and overcharges for books).

However, S4J literature did not criticize the bookstore policy of barring students from the textbook aisles of the bookstore. Instead students hand their schedule to a clerk who gets their books for them. Consequently, students must wait for hours for their books. The petition did not say the bookstore policy was racist, nor did it connect the campus treatment of students — a large majority being black — to the racism we experience in Chicago neighborhoods where store owners treat customers disrespectfully.



How could we sharpen the discussion within S4J, raising issues of racism? Why hadn't S4J members said more about racism in its petition and literature? Did students disagree that these practices were racist? Or did they believe they were racist but that saying so would turn people off? Was the petition's purpose to gain the most possible signatures, or was it to raise the understanding of racism on campus and in Chicago and beyond? Was S4J just trying to win a reform or was it trying to empower students to fight in their own interests and to understand the connection between the racism they experience and the capitalist system?

In the workshop we felt that raising these questions would sharpen the contradictions within S4J between communist, anti-racist politics and capitalist-style politics of trying to be popular. I thought that even if, as a result of the discussion, S4J still did not want to call the lack of child care and the bookstore policies racist and sexist, we still would have encouraged students to think more sharply about what they were doing and what they

Was S4J just trying to win a reform or was it trying to empower students to fight in their own interests and to understand the connection between the racism they experience and the capitalist system?

hoped to accomplish, bringing them closer to communism and the Party.

Sometimes our discussions of dialectics are too abstract because we treat it as a philosophy of everything without applying it to analyzing our political work. On the one hand, it's essential to study the laws and categories of dialectics, but if we don't apply them to what we have to do to build the Party and our road to communist revolution, then they do become abstract.

In the above discussion, we attempted to apply dialectics to a real-life experience, showing how various things are not isolated phenomenon but are inter-related, how discussing and sharpening the contradictions — among other principles — help us advance our thinking and therefore our actions.

In effect, both theory and practice are essential and inextricably linked. Combining the two, as we tried to do above, will lead to the most useful discussion in doing the Party's work.

Professor Red

LETTERS

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

The Common Core: Capitalism Blames the Victim

I recently attended a PLP study group of teachers where we talk about U.S. education reform and World War III. Most of our discussion centered on the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS), which reinforces capitalist ideology. When it comes to education under capitalism, ideology is the name of the game. The ruling class needs a working class capable of producing for their needs and fighting their wars. They need us to have enough rudimentary skills to do work that is profitable, they need another smaller group to be more advanced to handle their complex tasks, and then they need a subset of “intellectual” workers to produce the ideology capitalism requires to exist — racism and sexism.

The Common Core reinforces and intensifies racism in the United States. It unilaterally posits a group of standards that are out of reach of the disgusting amount of resources that the bourgeoisie is willing to spend on educating us, and then they blame students for not meeting them and teachers for not getting their students to reach them.

Capitalism lives to blame the victim for their own victimization by obscuring the actual process of that victimization. The intense systemic oppression that the working class is under due to capitalism’s non-stop crisis is not a factor in the assessment of the CCLS. This is primarily an attack on the students and secondarily an attack on the teachers. Black and Latino workers who are hyper-exploited under capitalism are feeling the brunt of the CCLS. Meanwhile, the ruling class and its puppets, including the union leadership, mouth the lie that it is racist to oppose the CCLS. These lying, deceitful parasites and their labor lieutenants, are obscuring that capitalism’s brutal exploitation, where students may not even have food at home, is the real reason why public education isn’t meeting the needs of a declining U.S. imperialism.

The CCLS is being opposed from the right, liberals and the left, but they are not pointing out that it is primarily an ideological weapon that will be used to prepare the workers in the U.S. for the next round of imperialist wars and eventually World War III.

Communists in the PLP stress the ideological aspects of the CCLS and that the liberal wing of the ruling class is the real danger to the working class and the development of fascism. We must oppose the CCLS and counterpoise a clear vision of an education system that actually meets the needs of workers. That education system is only possible under Communism.

Red Teacher

Shining A Light on A Public Hell

My visit to the American Public Health Association’s annual meeting was the best in years because of the energy and good politics of a group of young professionals. They established a campus organization called Radical Public Health at my university to bring active anti-racist politics into that otherwise buttoned-down academic setting. They raised issues that almost none of the faculty was mentioning in their courses, issues that have a huge impact on people’s health. Over the past year, their meetings, forums, speaker panels and film screenings have raised issues like mass incarceration, war and homelessness. These events shined a light on what they call “neoliberalism” causing a “public hell” for most people. I would simply call these things the hell of capitalism.

I teamed up with a few of my young colleagues, along with friends in the Black Caucus of Health Workers and with some PLP health fighters to produce a session at the annual meeting showing the devastating impact on health caused by mass incarceration. It is no surprise that locking up millions of working-class people for minor non-violent offenses, the vast majority of them black or Latino, would widen the already big gap in mortality between whites and these groups.

While preparing for and presenting our talks at this national meeting, these young people honed their skills at introducing complex, politically-charged material to an audience of health professionals. More important, doing this project over several months together enabled us to strengthen our ties and have more in-depth conversations about capitalism and how to eliminate it.

I wish I could say that my young friends are ready to talk about revolution. Part of the “dark night” we talk about in PLP is the illusion among most of our dedicated, principled anti-racist

friends that revolutionary social change is no longer a possibility. A longer-range political outlook, measured in decades, not months or years, can make talk of revolution into more of a plausible theory and less of a pipe-dream.

But many friends cling to the hope that some sort of gradual, peaceful process can get us to a future society without racism, sexism and exploitation. History shows clearly that this is the pipedream. Our job is convincing our friends to look historical reality in the face and accept the need for a disciplined revolutionary party. Nothing else has ever successfully taken power from the vicious overlords of public hell.

Doc Com

Why Workers Can Never ‘Buy Back’ What They Produce

I liked the New York City election article in CHALLENGE (11/13) that explained why DeBlasio, like Obama, can never serve workers’ needs over the profit needs of their capitalist employers.

However, the article contained a false theory about the cause of capitalist crises. It stated, “Communists know that capitalism contains a basic contradiction: Workers don’t earn enough in wages to afford the products they produce.”

First, union “leaders” and liberal politicians have put forward this anti-communist “buy-back” theory to support their position that through higher wages capitalism can be reformed to benefit the working class.

Second, besides commodities, a big chunk of what workers produce is the means of production (factories) and the largest portion is the military (50 percent of the present budget) which is used to oppress them. No amount of wage increases could ever allow workers to “buy back” these products.

Third, production for markets and profits rather



than for society’s needs (called the anarchy of capitalist production) is what creates regularly occurring crises of overproduction in the midst of scarcity and falling rates of profit.

In the 1930s, every capitalist country in the world was ravaged by deep cuts in production and massive unemployment. But in the Soviet Union, production increased and unemployment was almost non-existent. Under the then-communist Bolshevik Party, production was planned to meet the needs of the working class (including preparing to meet the Nazi invasion), not to maximize profits.

The anarchy of capitalist production and bosses’ rivalries produce unemployment, crises and wars which also serve them by wiping out decades of workers’ gains. Only when communist revolution overthrows this murderous profit system and the means of production is based on workers’ power will our needs be met.

A Comrade

Rulers Use JFK to Fuel War

continued from page 2

Once in office, JFK approved the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and increased the number of U.S. military “advisers” in Vietnam, notably Green Beret assassins. His war council included arch-imperialists like Robert McNamara and McGeorge and William Bundy, who remained in office after the Dallas shooting. Under Kennedy’s successor, Lyndon Johnson, these officials directed a failed campaign that slaughtered more than three million Vietnamese workers and 58,000 GIs.

Like Kennedy, Obama Needs \$\$\$ from the Ruling Class

Along with working-class “service,” Kennedy demanded wartime “sacrifice” from the entire capitalist class in the form of higher taxes and tighter government control. On April 11, 1962, JFK lashed out at Big Steel after it rejected his war-minded demand to freeze prices:

“It [will] make it more difficult for American goods to compete in foreign markets, more difficult to withstand competition from foreign imports, and thus more difficult to improve our balance of payments position, and stem the flow of gold [which French capitalists demanded at the time]. And it is necessary to stem it for our national security, if we’re going to pay for our security commitments abroad.” JFK explicitly challenged U.S. Steel’s patriotism: “Some time ago I asked each American to consider what he would do for his country and I asked the steel companies. In the last 24 hours we had their answer.”

Kennedy had similar problems reining in the domestic oil bosses. He ran into bitter opposition when he threatened to end their oil depletion allowance, a tax break worth hundreds of millions a year to Texas oilmen. (The first 27.5 per cent of oil revenues were tax

exempt.) But for the main financial capitalists, the tax break was a problem because it depleted the Pentagon’s war chest.

Given the stakes, there was any number of domestic-oriented capitalists who wished Kennedy dead. But the dominant wing of U.S. bosses desperately wants to portray JFK’s murder as something other than a fight within the ruling class. Leading Wall Street banker and Warren Commission member John J. McCloy argued that it was beneficial for domestic tranquility to conclude that Oswald acted alone (New York Times, 8/20/97).

Imperialists vs. Isolationists

For Obama and the U.S. imperialists he serves, isolationist Tea Partiers and small-government advocates like David and Charles Koch constitute major obstacles to their war aims. Where the Rockefeller-ExxonMobil-JPMorgan Chase-run Foreign Affairs extolled Kennedy’s war planning, the Koch-funded Cato Foundation marked his passing with scorn. It wrote,

JFK and LBJ set out to prove how much the U.S. government could accomplish at home and abroad, a mission that endeared them to those who believe in the promiscuous use of power. They ended up proving how much it could not accomplish, and how little extravagance can buy (11/21/13).

Differences among U.S. capitalists over the need for imperialist war are as sharp now as they were in the 1960s. We can’t predict how or when that war will begin, or who the main combatants will be. But as the main wing of U.S. finance capitalism moves to discipline the internal opposition, it may only be a matter of time before the two sides resume killing one another.☛



Philippines — Key U.S. Imperialist Base

The dispatch of a U.S. aircraft carrier and 14,300 troops to the Philippines after typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda has nothing to do with humanitarian interests and everything to do with securing an imperialist base to counter China.

In the 19th century, U.S. capitalists, in their rush to acquire colonies and build an empire, invaded the Philippines for a base to control the Pacific and the Far East. Racism, waterboarding torture and genocide were used against Filipinos who fought the U.S. occupation from 1899 to 1905. Thousands of the 70,000 U.S. troops and millions of Filipinos were killed in that war.

On January 9, 1900, racist Senator Albert Beveridge said:

Mr. President...the Philippines are ours forever...and just beyond the Philippines are China's unlimited markets....The Pacific is our ocean.... The Philippines give us a base at the door of all the East....It has been charged that our conduct of the war has been cruel....Senators, we must remember that we are not dealing with Americans or Europeans; we are dealing with [Asians].

Willard Gatewood's book, *Smoked Yankees and the Struggle for Empire*, revealed that an "unusually large number of black troops deserted during the Philippine campaign over anger at the term 'n*****' used by white troops to describe Filipinos and themselves. Some deserters joined the Filipino rebels like David Fagan of the 24th Infantry, who accepted a commission in the insurgent army and for two years wreaked havoc upon the American forces."

After World War II, the Hukbalahap communist movement, which had fought a guerrilla war against the Japanese, began a war against U.S. occupation but by 1953 was temporarily defeated. A new communist insurrection in the 1970s, along with a mass uprising, forced the U.S. to abandon its military control and giant naval base at Subic Bay.

With the loss in Vietnam and the rise of China's competing economy, the U.S. has been financing corrupt Philippine governments to accept its military pres-



ence. In 2001, 4,000 U.S. troops landed in Mindanao to train Filipino soldiers against Muslim and communist insurgents. Three thousand more U.S. troops have been added and the Philippine government agreed to send its troops to fight in Iraq. Recently the U.S. has been conducting air and sea war maneuvers with the Philippine military to counter China's attempts to drill for oil in the adjacent seas.

Before the recent typhoon hit, the country's homes, roads and airports were among the worst in Southeast Asia. The storm displaced 4.4 million people and affected 13.2 million in 44 provinces. With millions homeless, facing blocked roads, without food, water or power, and no aid in sight, people began liberating products their

labor produced from the rich hoarders in order to survive. There were reports of government troops in gun battles with communists in some villages and civilian complaints that the military is not helping them and only protecting the rich while preventing people from organizing for their needs.

The U.S. military response can only lead to occupation and more neglect like in New Orleans after Katrina and Haiti after the earthquake. The Philippine government bosses and their U.S. imperialist masters fear that present conditions expose their corrupt profit system's failure and become fertile ground for communist ideas to spark a revolution for a system that serves people's needs.☺



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

Join the navy and loot the world!

NYT, 11-8 — After a ship servicing contractor promised to arrange prostitutes for a Navy commander and his buddies in Malaysia and Singapore in 2009,...the officer, Jose Luis Sanchez, shot back a Facebook message saying, "Yummy,...daddy like."

The federal authorities say that was not all that Commander Sanchez, 41, liked about the contractor. Over the past five years, the company showered Mr. Sanchez and other Navy officials with lavish trips, nights with prostitutes and tickets to "The Lion King" and a Lady Gaga concert in exchange for help on a scheme to overbill the Navy by millions of dollars....

Mr. Sanchez was...charged with...accepting \$100,000 in cash bribes....He is the third Navy official implicated since mid-September in a widening investigation....

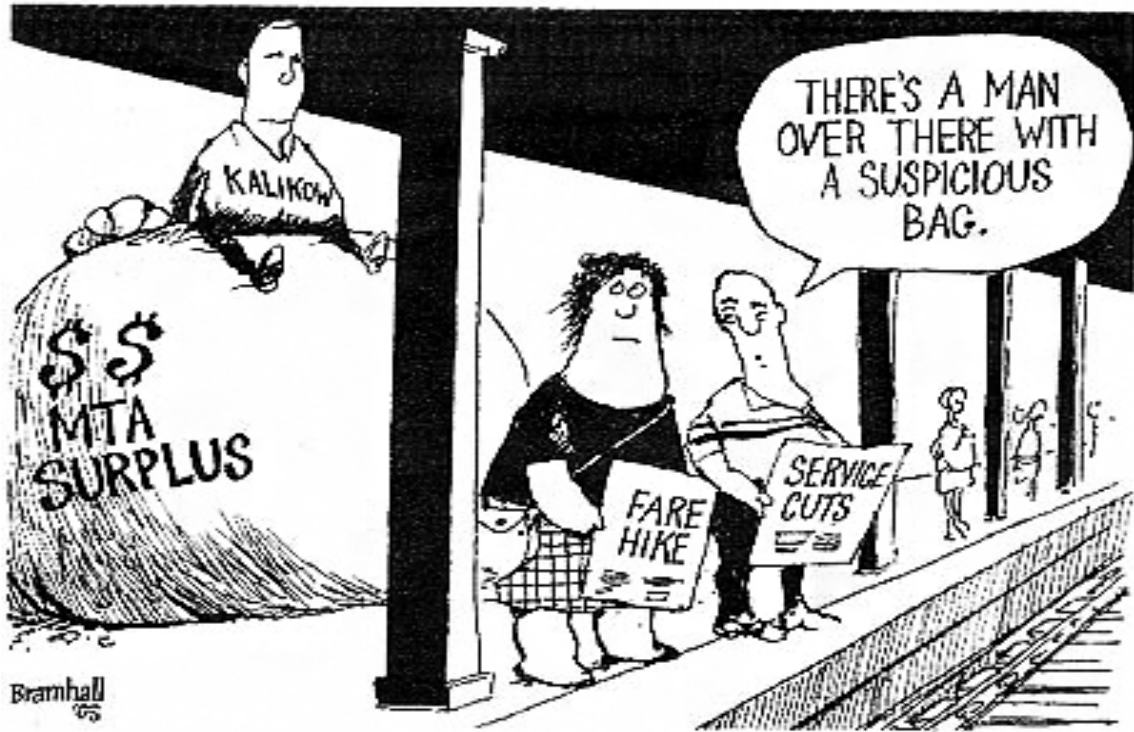
The seamy nature of the charges has embarrassed top Navy officials and raised questions about lax oversight....

Prosecutors contend that Mr. Francis [the contractor] bribed the officers to divert aircraft carriers and other ships to port calls in Malaysia and Thailand, where Mr. Francis would charge exorbitant prices for supplying and servicing the warships....He also had hired at least one former American navy officer to help expand his business....

...Commander Sanchez began sending Mr. Francis...classified ship schedules...and alerted him...that the Navy was worried about overcharges at Port Klang, Malaysia, where Mr. Francis owned the terminal....

On Oct. 16, 2009, Mr. Francis also promised that he would hire prostitutes for Mr. Sanchez and several Navy colleagues, who were referred to in the messages as the commander's "wolf pack...."

....After [Navy] Commander [Michael] Misiewicz began to supply Mr. Francis with confidential information



on ship plans, the records show, one of Mr. Francis' employees wrote, "We got him!"

Mr. Misiewicz, who...had commanded a destroyer, had been seen as a rising star in the Navy. He has been charged with...efforts to overbill the Navy....

Food-stamp cuts: ghastly for workers

NYT, 11/8 — For many, a \$10 or \$20 cut in the monthly food budget would be absorbed with little notice.

But for millions...who rely on food stamps, reductions that began this month present awful choices. One gallon of milk for the kids instead of two. No fresh broccoli for dinner or snacks to take to school. Weeks of grits and margarine for breakfast.

And for many, it will mean turning to a food pantry

or a soup kitchen by the middle of the month.

"I don't need a whole lot to eat," said Leon Simmons, 63....But this month I know I'm not going to buy any meats."

Mr. Simmons's allotment from the federal...food stamps [Program] has dropped \$9. He has already spent the \$33 he received for November.

The reduction in benefits has affected more than 47 million people like Mr. Simmons...and touches about one in every seven Americans.

From the country kitchens of the South to the bodegas of New York, the pain is already being felt.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Students, Faculty Back Leaders Attacked by Rulers, Cops



NEW YORK CITY, November 23 — On Tuesday, November 19, more than 120 students and faculty packed the courtroom or waited outside during the arraignment of two anti-fascist City College students. The two are leaders of a movement to oppose the teaching appointment of war criminal David Petraeus, the restoration of ROTC, and the police seizure of a student/community organizing space, the Morales/Shakur Center. They are being charged with disorderly conduct, riot, resisting arrest and obstruction of governmental administration.

The two students, previously suspended by the college bosses, have demonstrated tremendous courage and determination in the face of serious criminal charges. Our presence showed the court they do not stand alone.

Three days after the arraignment, nearly 50 students and faculty packed a hearing on the college's disciplinary charges. Before it began, lawyers reached an agreement to reinstate the students for the spring semester but maintain their ban from the current semester's classes. Their tuition will be refunded.

The pressure to criminally charge students who have done nothing wrong appears to come from the New York Police Department, which works closely with higher-ups at the City University of New York. Press reports indicate that people in high circles were furious with the militant demonstrations against Petraeus, who's been mentioned as a possible Republican presidential candidate for 2020. (Before last year's exposure of his long-running extramarital affair, he had been touted as a possible candidate in 2016.) The rulers consider him the model "warrior-scholar," the type of leader needed to encourage military service among youth and to mobilize support for U.S. interventions abroad. Republican Senator John McCain called Petraeus one of "America's greatest military heroes." In 2010, Time Magazine ranked him among the top fifty "People Who Matter."

Petraeus and his powerful supporters never dreamed that CUNY students and faculty would expose the former general as a war criminal. They never imagined he'd be forced to go to and from class in a tinted-windowed SUV via an underground garage, and then escorted by security to the deserted 16th floor of an office building. They certainly didn't foresee that angry students would pursue Petraeus on the street after his class.

Under pressure from several members of Congress, the NYPD and an embarrassed CUNY administration — two parts of the capitalist state apparatus — mounted a counterattack on radical students. First they closed the Morales/Shakur Center, used for decades to organize against higher tuition and the militarization of their university. After the closure sparked large demonstrations, CUNY suspended the two students while the cops arrested them.

The point of this repression was twofold: to intimidate students and to distract them. Instead of demonstrating against Petraeus and ROTC, we were now attending suspension hearings and criminal arraignments. But this heavy-handed attack is also a positive thing. It shows that ruling-class forces are worried. They need to restore ROTC to urban campuses to integrate their officer corps. Militant opposition to this strategy is a big problem for them.

Young people at CUNY are not rushing to enlist in the U.S. military. The failed wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were not morale-builders. Thousands of soldiers died, hundreds of thousands returned home seriously impaired (including half a million with mental problems), and one of three female soldiers was sexually assaulted. The military is struggling to meet recruitment goals. Without enough soldiers, the bosses will be unable to project U.S. power abroad in the current period of global instability and inter-imperialist conflict.

U.S. wars of occupation — from Korea to Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan — have killed millions and damaged tens of millions. While imperialism protects the profits of the very wealthy, it gravely harms the working class — both the workers forced to fight and those losing social services at home. With nearly a trillion dollars a year spent to maintain a thousand military bases and a global U.S. empire, there is little left over for health care, education, or adequate nutrition.

Members of Progressive Labor Party at CUNY are committed to use every class and gathering, every forum and film event, to win students to rebel against the agents of U.S. imperialism on campus: Petraeus, ROTC, recruiters, and military researchers. Join the communist PLP and end this murderous capitalist system!✊

SOS! From Haiti to CUNY

An appeal from students of the State University of Haiti to CUNY students for your help against the cruel and criminal Michel Martelly regime:

Since this neo-Duvalierist dictatorial régime came to power, students here, like so many other working-class people, have suffered under the jackboots of all sorts of government repression. Arrests, assassinations, beatings, and other contemptuous criminal acts unworthy of human beings are the deliberate policies of the police and of MINUSTAH, the United Nations "peacekeeper" force.

In February 2012, President Martelly himself arrived at the School of Ethnology campus with an armed group firing guns, beating students, and looting offices. Well before this, however, the repressive machine had cracked down on us. This year the violence and arbitrary arrests are more and more frequent. We hate this! It fills us with rage!

Early one morning last week, the entire School of Ethnology was blanketed with tear gas. No one could breathe. People were traumatized — fainting, crying, calling for help — all over the campus. That afternoon, the gangsters in the Haitian National Police struck our comrade, a third-year student at the Teachers College. He was maimed by a stun grenade that hit him directly on the right hand. Three surgeries later, in spite of our aid and the doctors' efforts, it became clear there was no chance of saving the hand.

How many more hateful crimes like this must we endure before we understand the criminal mentality and boundless perversity of this régime, this eater of the men and women of our class?

That's why we are asking for a whole-souled solidarity from you, our comrades. At CUNY, the militarization of your university exposes the administration's opposition to your struggle for a good education and a more egalitarian society. In Haiti, we have joined the same struggle to counter this worldwide system of injustice that knows no limits.

We commit ourselves to this struggle knowing its risks and dangers. We ask you for your support, for this is one struggle! Your struggle is ours! Let us fight together to denounce and combat these inhuman policies, until we put an end to the capitalist system that has so injured our class.

We fighters in Haiti are of one mind with you, in an international solidarity that can only grow stronger. In admiration we send you our warmest greetings. We hope with you to lead a common struggle for the betterment of the working class. Marx said, after all, that the interests of the proletariat are the interests of humanity itself.✊



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