

CHALLENGE



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U.S.-China Dogfight Behind Korea Clash

As North Korea continues to defy the U.S. with the threat of more nuclear weapons tests, it no longer seems impossible that the small country's military rulers might spark a second Korean War (see box). What is certain, however, is that the underlying inter-imperialist struggle is an even graver danger for the world's working class. As China enables North Korea's missile rattling, a widening conflict with the U.S. seems to be growing.

North Korea's latest war-leaning rhetoric was provoked by U.S. rulers, who conducted joint war exercises with South Korea in March. Pyongyang, North Korea is following the pattern set by the U.S. as it moved from World War II into the Cold War against the Soviet Union by way of mass slaughters in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Once the U.S. rulers had the atom bomb, they had to show they could use it — otherwise, they would lose deterrent power against their enemy. But if North Korea's military is attempting to make its meager atomic arsenal a realistic threat,

there could be unintended consequences for both sides.

While Beijing doesn't directly call the shots in Pyongyang, China has propped up North Korea with fuel and cash and reliable support at the United Nations, all for long-term, geo-strategic reasons. A nuclear-armed, super-militarized, virulently anti-U.S. North Korea buffers 880 miles of China's land border, as well as adjacent waters. Its growing potential to nuke South Korea weakens the leverage of the 30,000 U.S. troops who remain in the South.

Currently U.S. war planners are focused firmly on China, the main economic, political, and military challenge to U.S. imperialism. This explains the U.S. rulers' fervent attempts to assemble an alliance of anti-China powers for any future confrontation. It also accounts for their furious anti-communist media blitz against North Korea, which is repeatedly referred to as a "communist state." In fact, a communist state— one where the working class holds state power— exists nowhere in today's world, and certainly not in fascist North Korea.

Unintended Consequences

As shown by the warships and planes stationed off the Korean peninsula, President Barack Obama and the capitalist class he represents are taking North Korea very seriously. As ex-Defense Department hack Patrick Cronin, now senior director at the finance capital- and Pentagon-funded Center for a New American Security think tank, wrote in Foreign Policy (4/5/13):

The Korean Peninsula is on a knife's edge, one fateful step from war....There is no single red line that, when crossed, would trigger war, but the potential for miscalculation and escalation is high....The desire to show strength, the fear of looking weak, and the presence of tons of hardware provides more than enough tinder that a spark could start a peninsula-wide conflagration. An accident — such as a straying missile, an incident at sea or in the air, a shooting near the Northern Limit Line or the Demilitarized Zone — could trigger an action-reaction cycle that could spiral out of control if Pyongyang, running out of threats or low-level provocations, were to gamble on a more daring move. It might calculate that a bold gesture would sow doubt and dissent in South Korea, drive a risk-averse United States to back down and restrain its eager ally, and hand China a fait accompli in which Beijing has no alternative to protecting its upstart neighbor.

From the Council on Foreign Relations, another ultra-imperialist policy factory, comes an even more ominous message. Korea expert Scott Snyder warned that a "miscalculation could have deadly consequences.. [W]e had the Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter passing through South Korea during [North Korea's winter nuclear] exercises and...

continued on page 2

1950 Korean War: Prelude to 2013?

When World War II ended, the Korean peninsula, in the wake of its occupation by the defeated Japanese fascists, was "temporarily" divided into North and South. The South was controlled by former fascist collaborators with the Japanese who were now protected by U.S. rulers. The North was led by anti-fascists who had fought these collaborators.

In June 1950, a war erupted between North and South. The U.S. said the North invaded—a claim open to dispute. On June 25, the early editions of the New York Times ran an Associated Press dispatch reporting that the South's troops had crossed into North Korea. But later editions dropped that story and launched a full-scale media offensive claiming the North had initiated the clash.

Whatever happened, the conflict became a war between the Soviet/China-backed North and the U.S.-backed South. The Cold War became hot. The U.S. drove the North's army toward the border with China. Commanding General Douglas MacArthur wanted to cross that border, but the tide turned when massed Chinese volunteers drove the U.S. forces back into the South. U.S. President Truman fired MacArthur. Eventually the U.S. ruling class decided it had no choice but to settle the conflict at the original North-South dividing line, which has stood to this day, with 30,000 U.S. troops staying in the South. One million Koreans lost their lives in the war.

Unfortunately, the Soviet Union — having kept many capitalist features, including the wage system — failed to develop communism and reverted to a state capitalist regime. The North Korean leadership, caught up in the Cold War against the U.S. and its South Korean puppet, became a Soviet puppet. Following the Soviet example, it developed into its present fascist state.

Workers throughout the Korean peninsula, on both sides of the line, are suffering under the capitalist yoke. Only communism will free them from this exploitation and the constant threat of imperialist war.



**Celebrate the Might of Workers
This May Day. See page 8**

MAY DAY location in the U.S.

Chicago, April 27

Gage Park field house. 55th and Western. At 6 PM.

NYC, April 27

Ocean and Parkside Aves, Brooklyn. At 11 AM.

Los Angeles, May 1st

Olympic and Broadway, Downtown. At 12 PM.

OUR FIGHT

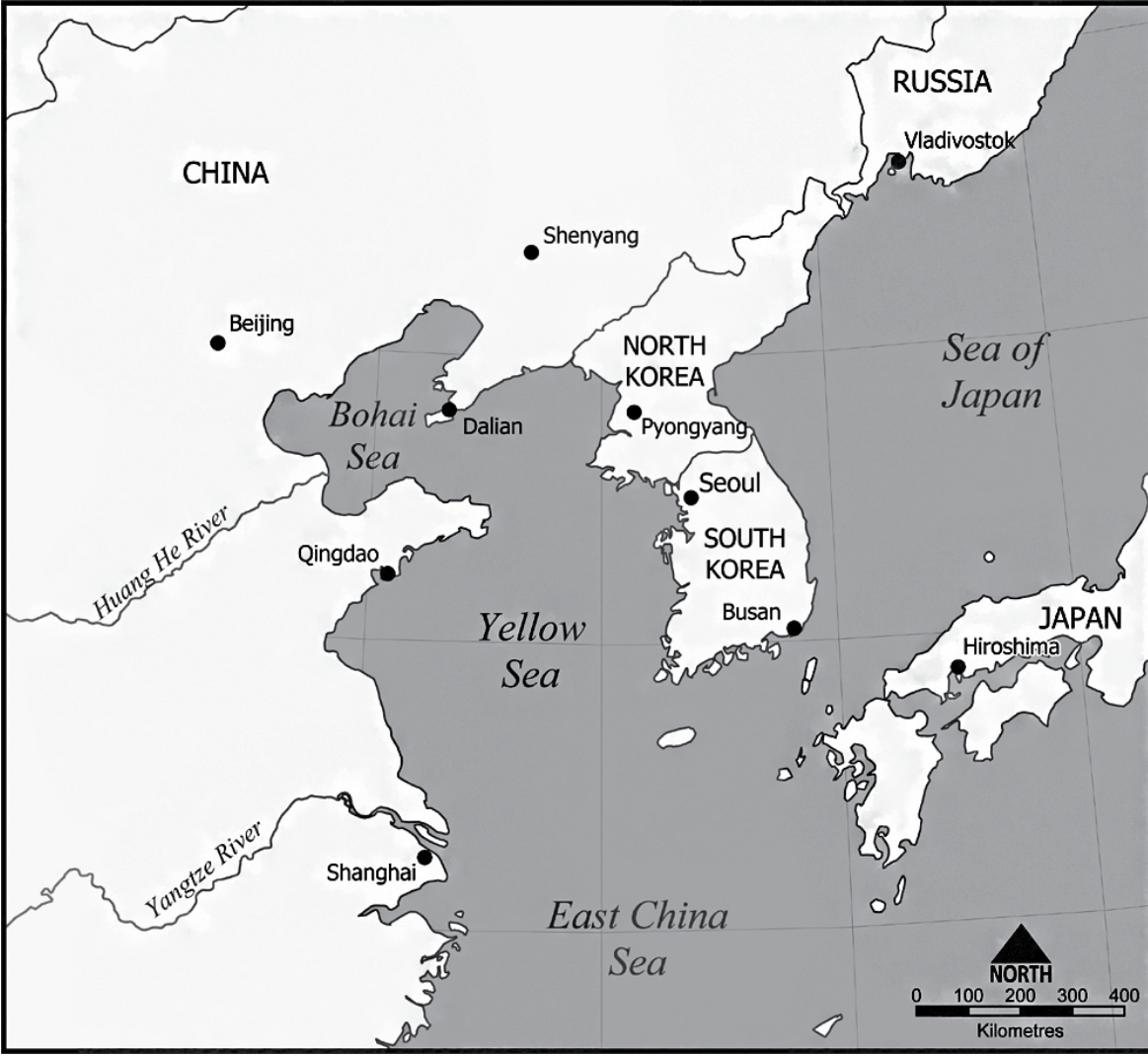


- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today’s world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- ★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world’s workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- ★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim “communism is dead,” capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society’s benefits and burdens.
- ★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.
- ★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.
- ★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.
- ★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion’s false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.
- ★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY
P.O. Box 808 Brooklyn NY 11202
• www.plp.org
• email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com
• blog: challengenewspaper.wordpress.com
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Why Articles Are Not Signed
The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual. While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

Korea: Workers Have No Stake in Bosses’ Wars



continued from front page

signaling to the North Koreans that the U.S. had a nuclear response as an option” (CFR, 4/1/13).

The short-term possibility of war in Korea, or in Iran, could embroil U.S. capitalists in a local or regional conflict. Presently, their longer-term outlook remains fixed on China, which outnumbers the U.S. in population by about four to one. According to Chuck Hagel, Obama’s new defense secretary, U.S. rulers are desperately seeking a war-making coalition to include India, Indonesia, Brazil and Turkey. While India’s population nearly matches China’s (1.27 billion against 1.36 billion), U.S. strategists find it lacking in loyalty and purpose.

The Rothschilds are pro-U.S. British billionaires who own the influential Economist magazine. They recently ran an editorial (3/30/13) criticizing India for failing to pull its weight against China weight or to proclaim its allegiance to the U.S. war machine:

India is often spoken of in the same breath as China because of its billion-plus population, economic promise, value as a trading partner and growing military capabilities.... But whereas China’s rise is a given, India is still widely seen as a nearly-power that cannot quite get its act together.... India’s huge potential to be a force for stability and an upholder of the rules-based international system is far from being realized. One big reason is that the country lacks the culture to pursue an active security policy.... India should start to shape its own destiny and the fate of its region. It needs to take strategy more seriously.... And it needs a well-funded navy that can become both a provider of maritime security along some of the world’s busiest sea-lanes... to shoulder the responsibilities of a great power. Most of all, though, India needs to give up its outdated philosophy of non-alignment.

U.S. Becoming A Second-Rate Power?
U.S. rulers are haunted by the growing threat that rival imperialists will displace the U.S. as the

world’s top dog. They know if they lose control over the world’s vital resources, especially oil and gas, they will become a second-rate power. They realize they must build for the contingency of an expansive conflict down the road, even as they plan for what may be more imminent combat in Korea or Iran.

These bosses also have an Achilles heel — racism. To motivate the U.S. military, they promote a racist outlook by demonizing the enemy as sub-human, much as they did in Iraq. But workers in the countries which the U.S. seeks as allies have long been victims of the same imperialist, colonial racism. And the Pentagon cannot assume that its own troops will automatically follow its racist lead.

For the working class, the picture is fundamentally different. Wars of all sizes, forced upon us by competing capitalist nation states, may well occur in the short term. Our long-range goal, however, lies in forging a working-class, communist revolution from the crucible of any profit-driven world war.

May Day — The Workers’ Answer
Our class’s necessity, in short, is to turn imperialist war into class war for a worker-run society. We can achieve this only by building a mass, revolutionary communist party of millions, the Progressive Labor Party. To that end, we must win workers and youth in all the rulers’ organizations, including the military, to the necessity of wiping out the capitalist profit system, the root of all evils afflicting our class.

That’s why building PLP is the order of the day, symbolized by the masses of workers and youth who will celebrate and march on May Day, the holiday of the international working class. May Day was born in the 1886 general strike of Chicago’s workers for the eight-hour day. It continues to unite the world’s workers by fighting against capitalism’s exploitation, racism, sexism and war. On May Day, as noted by communism’s founders, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, our class marches under one flag. We hold the red flag high, led by one communist party worldwide for our emancipation from the hell of the bosses’ profit system.

Join us!🇺🇸

Slick Bosses' Scheme Subverts Paid Sick Days

NEW YORK CITY, April 8 — Recently workers in a local community organization participated in a press conference on the steps of City Hall here at which City Council Speaker Christine Quinn was supposed to present a resolution asking the NY State Senate to pass the minimum wage law.

A group of workers in the organization had smuggled in a sign which they held up demanding Quinn pass the paid-sick-days bill. This created a commotion. Several people, including the organizer of the press conference — not expecting such an action — demanded we remove the sign. However, we disobeyed their orders, standing strong and militantly.

Ultimately, Speaker Quinn failed to appear. Although the workers were criticized by the organization's leaders, it was a small victory for those involved.

Two weeks later, because of growing pressure — and as part of her strategy in her run for mayor — Quinn called a City Council vote for paid sick days. However, Quinn and Council members, together with the bosses they represent, had made a number of changes in the bill.

Instead of five paid sick days to workers in businesses with more than five workers, they proposed five days to workers in businesses with

more than 20 workers. Workers in smaller businesses would get five unpaid sick days with no retaliation. So-called oversight and enforcement of the law would be given to the Dept. of Consumer Affairs.

Initially there was euphoria among the workers in the NYC coalition for paid sick days. But later, when workers in the community organization analyzed the proposal in detail, we realized we'd fallen for the bosses' lies. If the proposal is voted into law in July 2013, it won't be effective until April, 2014, and then only if the City's economy doesn't decline as measured by the financial index of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the country's leading capitalist bank.

Once again we see how the biggest capitalists use their tools to serve their class interests. We need mass, international working-class fight-back. Our class will be able to truly organize workers' health and safety only when we overthrow capitalism through revolution and establish communist workers' power.



At the last meeting of the community organization, the directors proposed a party to celebrate the workers' "historic victory." When a comrade explained the truth about the proposed paid-sick-days law, all the workers agreed there was nothing to celebrate yet. For the workers, the best way we can celebrate is to march on May Day, read and distribute CHALLENGE and join the Progressive Labor Party.✊

Assail Racist in the Not-so-friendly Skies

On February 8 on a Delta Airlines flight, racist Joe Rickey Hundley slapped a black 2-year-old. The racist attacked Jonah Bennett while he was in the arms of his adopted white mother, Jennifer Bennett. This animal Hundley called Jonah the n-word because the child was crying over descending cabin pressure.

When Hundley slapped baby Jonah, an anti-racist passenger helped subdue him. He was arrested upon landing. He was charged with "simple assault."

He should have been charged with a hate crime. Antiracists are trying to get drunkard Hundley's charges upgraded to a hate crime. Capitalist law is racist for not valuing the life of a black child.

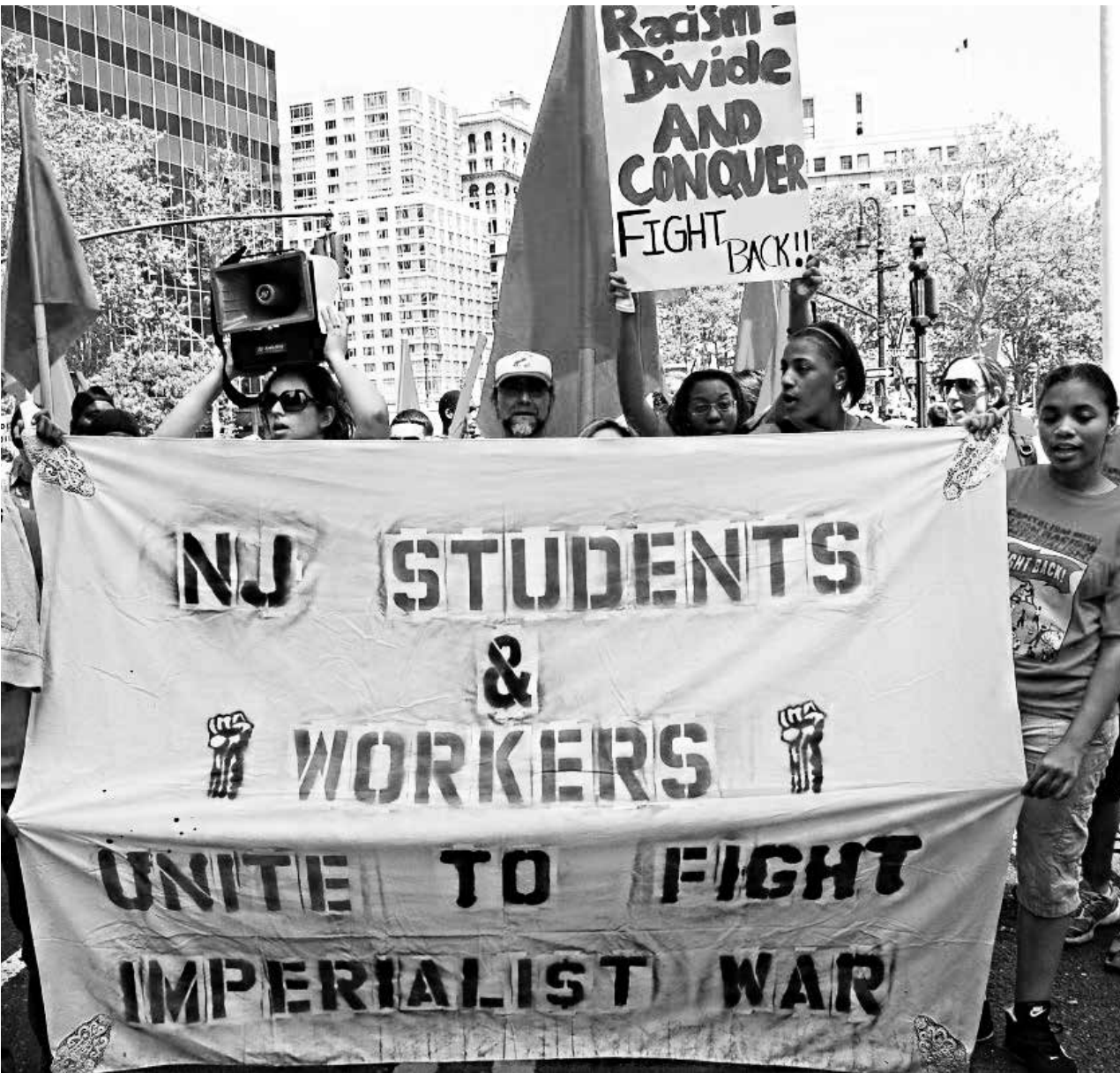
The Bennett family lives in Minneapolis so I had asked my Unitarian Church to show solidarity. I gave the pastor a card that was sent to the Bennett family on behalf of our church members. It was the least we could have done.

Under communism, workers will make examples out of people like Hundley who dare to harm a child based on color. He is infected with capitalism's racist ideology. We will use our state power to protect our most valued asset, our children, in the new communist society.

Moreover, since workers will run the airlines under communism, we won't serve alcohol. Personally, I think alcohol needs to be called into question after the revolution because it is a drug as well. This incident and others like it show the need for communism and revolution as the only way out of capitalism and its inhumanity.

Minnesota Red

SMASH Fascist Terror with Communist Revolution



May Day in the U.S.

PLP School: 'It has changed me, and I like it...'

Before I was introduced to PLP, I was clueless to know that students, teachers and parents were fighting for this victory against the bosses. Throughout this weekend I learned a lot about this struggle that PLP is working to accomplish, and it inspired me to be part of this struggle. I feel like way too many people are being lied to; more people need to be exposed to PLP and unite to overcome the bosses. Thank you, PLP, for introducing these everyday problems. It has also changed me, and I like it.

For these few days, I enjoyed this communist school trip with my eight classmates and my teachers. It gave me a great simple idea about communism. Before I attended this trip, I really didn't understand the meaning of capitalism and communism. I used to think capitalism was cool because it was all about making money. Then when I realized that it's a certain number of people, not all, who make the money, it gave me a different point of view.

This trip showed me that with communism more people can be satisfied and equal because everybody is sharing and working together such as cleaning, cooking and sharing our knowledge. But with capitalism it's all about the paper money that changes you and affects many people by their "race" and gender. A lot of people think it's cool to be a part of the middle class and not worry about the lower-income class because it seems such people supposedly choose to put themselves in that category, but that's not true. They can't choose the dreams they want because they can't afford them, such as colleges and other programs. But imagine if the society was all about sharing — it would help everything become better than it is now.

They say honesty is the best policy, so I will be honest by stating that I really didn't have any idea what the outcome of this PLP camp was going to be, and I had no idea we were going to be sharing our thoughts about how the world is run under capitalism and what it'd be like under communism. From the main idea of how everyone can understand the way the world works and can figure out how to change it, I have learned that a lot of stereotyping is what segregates us human beings from interacting and stops us from creating a great force which can stabilize us.

Apart from racism, the way we are set up by class structure under

capitalism is pitiful and just brutish. The government just wants us to compete with each other, which is ugly like a dark, evil force that stops us from progressing. Under communism, none of these rivalries would occur. Instead, humans will help lift each other to greater heights instead of knocking them down. All these cases made me think of one of my favorite philosophies: "Man is born free and everywhere he's in shackles." All these attacks by the upper class need to be eliminated.

I came here at first not knowing much about this group and the reason it wanted to get justice from the government. Being here made me realize how much people wanted to fight back and not be treated like they were not part of this world and had no say. It also made me see how a group of people could feel so strongly towards something and work hard to try to achieve something they believed in. Being here opened my eyes to see that you shouldn't just sit and watch something happen that you know is wrong. You should say something and fight for what you think is right.

My experience here has been a great opportunity. I got the chance to learn about the ideas that other people have of the system. These ideas have led me to realize how the government really works and how much of a change is needed. I have learned more about the capitalist ideas and how wrong they are. They want to have full control over everything and everyone, which only helps them and no one else. With the ideas I've learned here, people would be equal and the world would be a better place.

When I first got to this communist school, I thought it was a retreat. not a mini-school. I made new friends and learned new things. One thing I've learned was that stereotypes are not true, because the media can always twist up things. You should meet people before you believe those stereotypes. We also learned about contradictions and that you always pick a side that you want to work on to do better. Another thing we learned was dialectical materialism, the study of how things change. This helps us understand our experiences, giving us a deeper knowledge of the world. I would like to join PLP.

Celebrate the Might of Workers with PLP This May Day. See page 8



LETTERS

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

Can Class Struggle Use the Bosses' Courts?

"This society is structured in inequality in all its aspects. The simplest formula for this is the 1% vs. the 99%. So why would we expect the 1% not to control and use the courts, government, education and the media in their interests? Why would we expect that the 99% could break down that structure of inequality by using those same courts, government, education or media controlled by the 1%?"

This question was posed to a law professor who had just given an expert account to a group of retired teacher unionists about the Supreme Court's racist legal history: the 1857 Dred Scott decision declaring that slaves or their descendents have no rights; its negation of the antiracist statutes legislated by the post-Civil War Radical Reconstruction Congress, to *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896 legalizing segregated schools.

The Reconstruction statutes—interpreting the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution allowing use of the courts to oppose racist acts — were then left unused for fifty years. Official racism prevailed in the U.S. until the 1960's Civil Rights Movement in the streets forced them back into use. The liberal Warren Court (1953-1969) restored their use, starting with the unanimous 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education*, reversing *Plessy v. Ferguson* by ruling against racist "separate but equal" public schools.

The professor said that during the Cold War period, after 1954, the Court and Congress responded to the movement in the streets. Also the "business class" realized it needed to lighten up their official racism in order not to look so bad to the world's black and brown majority during U.S. rulers' rivalry with antiracist communism.

Good question: Can the working class use the courts in our class struggle with the bosses who control those courts? The rhetorical question expected the answer "no." It was clear the speaker agreed that the courts served the 1%, saying the courts and police had smashed the very Occupy Wall Street group which coined the 1%-99% slogan, and that to this day *Brown v. Board* had not ended de facto school segregation. But he asserted that the courts were also arenas of struggle, that the 1% control of them could be fought in a movement-building way. Ruling-class structure could be opposed by working-class action.

While working as a litigator in civil rights cases, the professor said, "the revolutionaries, the activists, the militants in the community who brought us these unwinnable cases valued the court battles because in them oppressed people could have their stories heard." Even today, tweets from the Floyd case vs. stop-and-frisk in New York, he said, were spreading to thousands of people the powerful stories young people were telling in court. (Testimony in this case revealed that NYC Police Commissioner Ray Kelly told state legislators privately that stop-and-frisk was meant to keep black and Latino men fearful of the police whenever they left their homes.)

The professor concluded by saying we needed masses of people in the streets again if we wanted to influence the Roberts Court dominated by four reactionary judges who often win over a fifth for their many 5-4 decisions.

Pondering this question and answer, I was thinking that the concept of fascism was needed to understand the Supreme Court's move to the right. Did the answer reinforce my colleagues' illusions in the fascist direction of the Court —

their vain hopes that with enough organizing within the Democratic Party, backed by popular action in the streets, could make the Court liberal again? And even if that happened, was the Warren Court such a boon to the black rebels and Vietnamese fighters of the '60s? What was true here?

PLP often says that we can't rely on the courts (agreeing with the questioner who said the ruling class controls them). But what about the speaker's point that court battles galvanize public opinion and allow people's voices to be heard? That certainly seems to be happening today in

front of the Court as it hears the cases concerning homophobia — the Defense of Marriage Act and the California law recognizing gay marriage. And what about the point that social media is spreading antiracist awareness through the stop-and-frisk case? That appears on Facebook.

Do we write off legal struggle, for example, when backers of Ramarley Graham, Shantel Davis or Kimani Gray want to pursue it, or do we incorporate their court cases into movement-building? Do we defend in court Brooklyn's East Flatbush rebels arrested for breaking the bosses' laws in their mass protest against police murder?

Do we consider the liberal lawsuit against the UN demanding justice for the victims of the Haiti cholera epidemic to be just a waste of time, because the UN declared they had no such liability under their charter, or do we use it to expose the UN and build that movement?

I pose this question to CHALLENGE readers: Even if we don't rely on the courts to give us what we want, can we use the courts in our struggles? How can we analyze the role of the courts dialectically, not in a one-sided manner? Can the working class act politically in the injustice system (as in the schools) even though the ruling class controls the structure of schools and courts? Should communist revolutionaries have a legal strategy and be training communist lawyers? Did they, in the past? What about the Scottsboro Boys case? How would this work in the struggles we wage today? What does the 50-year practice of PLP suggest?

A Questioner

Workers Need Communism, Not Heroes

When I heard of Hugo Chavez's death and the plans to entomb him in a glass mausoleum, I thought about the legacy of leaders like Mao and Stalin who had mausoleums and statues dedicated to them. They never achieved their goal of communism which would end their workers' suffering from capitalist exploitation and inequality.

Seeing the grief of people in Venezuela on TV, I mentioned to a comrade that I heard Chavez gave free heating oil, food subsidies and housing to many poor people. My comrade reminded me that during the Great Depression Roosevelt provided similar programs for the poor to prevent the working class from taking over and running society without capitalist profits and inequality like the communists in Russia had done.

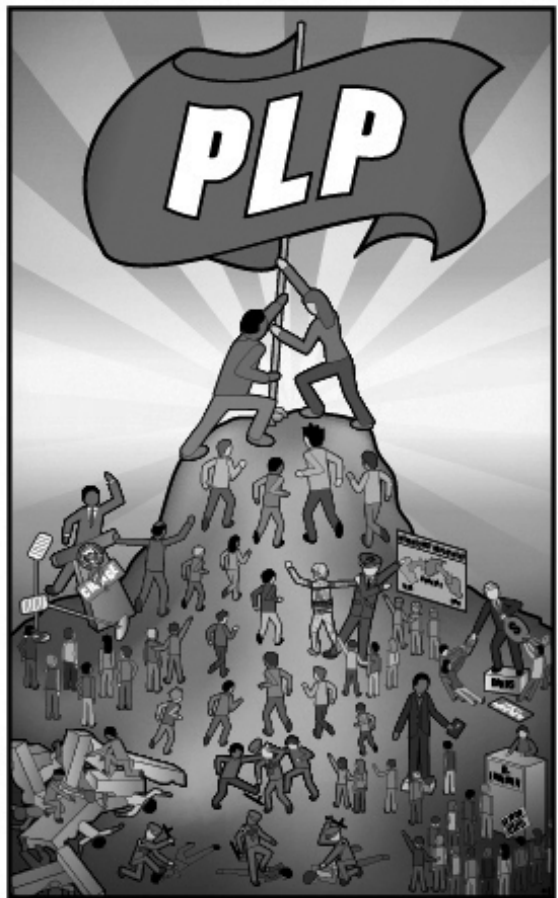
I began to wonder if people in Venezuela would lose whatever gains they had made like the Russians and Chinese people did when their leaders died. Then I recalled some words that had stuck in my mind of the Mexican revolutionary Zapata who said, "A weak people needs a strong leader, but a strong people need only themselves." That thought put the idea of leadership into perspective.

I think the true test of leadership today is how well comrades are helping workers feel that their own power is strong and important. How well are they being prepared to understand communist ideas and the concept of production for their needs without a profit system. Once the working class grasps and can fight for those ideas, we will become a material force that capitalists can never defeat.

Then instead of shouts of "Viva Chavez!" we will hear "Viva Comunismo! Vivan los trabajadores!" and "Muerte al Capitalismo!" (Death to capitalism).

A Comrade

**CAPITALISM
BREEDS SEXISM
RACISM
& IMPERIALISM!**



**FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST
WORLD
BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL
PLP!
PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY**

**Celebrate the
Might of Workers
This May Day.
See page 8**

Youth Rebel vs. High-Tech Tyranny

The March 13 CHALLENGE article, “War on Terror: Mass Red Movement Can Defeat Rulers’ High-Tech Tyranny”, was a wake-up call for many of us. The article discussed the various technologies that have emerged at an accelerated rate for surveillance and spying since the Arab Spring. There are conferences all over the world debating and attacking the growth of fascist technology to monitor and control citizens.

The bosses are using terrorist attacks since 9/11 as an excuse to tighten the screws on all workers and monitor them more closely as a means of social control. In addition to monitoring cell phones to track workers’ location and activities, the internet increasingly cannot be accessed without proper institutional affiliation (or money). The bosses

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control workers’ access to information to make it harder for workers to educate themselves.

Many progressive workers have tried to fight back against the establishment by promoting free access to educational materials on the internet. Those who have rebelled have been punished severely. Aaron Swartz, a talented programmer social/activist, committed suicide at the age of 26 last January 1. He had been arrested two years earlier for allegedly hacking the servers at the Massachusetts Institution of Technology (MIT) to download millions of on-line library files of academic journals.

In the case *United States v. Aaron Swartz*, he was facing up to 35 years of jail time and was overwhelmed by despair. He had the education to understand the need to fight back and revolt against the status quo, but he lacked the discipline and support of a collective so he gave in to the intimidation and bullying of the (il)legal system that serves the capitalist system.

Although his death was actually a suicide, and Aaron’s family acknowledged that he was a troubled person, his father released a statement saying, “Aaron’s death is not simply a personal tragedy. It is the product of a criminal-justice system rife with intimidation and prosecutorial overreach. Decisions made by officials in the Massachusetts US Attorney’s Office and at MIT contributed to his death.”

Although we cannot consider Aaron to be a member of the working class, as he was a millionaire by 19 and came from a liberal and elite

family. However, he had a very close friendship with Quinn Norton, a tech journalist with working-class roots. Today, Aaron, Quinn and many other young people understand that corporations and the government pervert and distort technology and the internet to serve their own profit-making interests. We in PL need to work harder to seek out and engage rebellious youth, to expose them to our ideas and struggle with them to see that only with the destruction of capitalism can information be made “free” for workers and youth.

Although Swartz was right to fight against the bosses, many like him are isolated and acting alone, making it much easier for the rulers to destroy Swartz and others who act without a collective like PLP.

What can we learn from this tragedy? If we could have more PLers in technology to bring our revolutionary ideas — with the focus on the fight for a new egalitarian communist society — Aaron might not have succumbed to extreme individualism and taken his own life in one destructive self-centered act. Communism could have given him the discipline, focus, and mission to continue on in his work to fight for a better world.

Red hacker

RED EYE ON THE NEWS

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Immigrants facing mental harm

NYT, 4/2 — On any given day, about 300 immigrants are held in solitary confinement at the 50 largest detention facilities that make up the sprawling patchwork of holding centers

Nearly half are isolated for 15 days or more, the point at which psychiatric experts say they are at risk for severe mental harm, with about 35 detainees kept for more than 75 days....

Two-thirds of the cases involve [minor] disciplinary infractions like...talking back to guards or getting into fights.

Unemployment a heart-attack risk

CardioSource: Journal Scan — The associations between...unemployment and the risks for [heart attacks] in U.S. adults were assessed in a...study of adults....

The median age of the study...was 62 years;...69.7% had one or more cumulative job losses, and 35.1% had spent time unemployed....

The authors concluded that unemployment status, multiple job losses and short periods without work are all significant factors for heart attacks....

Psychosocial stress has been...a risk factor for heart attacks, but it is difficult to separate stress/anxiety/depression from poor diet, smoking, hypertension, diabetes and a lack of exercise. This very large study demonstrated that single and cumulative job loss is [indeed] a factor for attacks.

Companies take revenge on docs’ exposés

NYT, 2/17 — The note sent by a doctor to several executives at Johnson & Johnson was blunt: an artificial hip sold by the company was so poorly designed that the company should slow its marketing until it understood why patients were getting hurt.

The doctor, who also worked as a consultant to email: desafo.challenge@gmail.com

Johnson & Johnson, wrote the note nearly two years before the company recalled the device in 2010. And it was far from the only early warning those executives got from doctors who were paid consultants. Still the company...plowed ahead, and those consultants never sounded a public alarm to other doctors who kept implanting the device....

...Lawyers have offered a portrait of executives who put profits ahead of patients, even scuttling a plan to fix the implants because it cost too much.... ...While experts say that doctors have an ethical obligation to warn their peers about bad drugs or medical devices, they often do not do so.

“Questioning the status quo in medicine is not easy....The standard in the medical community is not to report,” said...a cardiologist who, along with a colleague, warned other doctors in 2005 about a defective heart transplant.

There is a...reason doctors may choose to remain silent, experts say: their financial ties to a drug or device maker.

For years, such consulting payments have raised concerns about the impact of money on a doctor’s decision about which drugs to prescribe or how to interpret research findings....

“If someone is paying you or employing you, it is very difficult to blow the whistle....”

For a consultant, breaking those ties can carry a cost. For example, when Dr. Lawrence D. Dorr, an orthopedic specialist, warned fellow surgeons in an open letter in 2008 that a hip implant made by Zimmer Holdings was flawed, he became the subject of a whisper campaign that questioned his skills as a surgeon.

“The first thing that a company does [when accused] is put out a campaign that a surgeon does not know how to operate....”

Eurozone unemployment spreading

GW, 3/29 — Last Sunday...the terms of a bailout for Cyprus — the fifth in the Eurozone in less than three years — were finally agreed. Those who say the monetary union has been a success must have an interesting definition of failure....

The threat to the ...crisis was clearly not over for those eurozone citizens affected by slow growth, rising



unemployment and austerity programs. This meant most of them....

U.S. ‘right to counsel’ is a lie, puts kids in jail

NYT, 3/31 — A...landmark Supreme Court decision...gave poor defendants the right to counsel. It would be nice to celebrate....

Two recent books put a damper on the celebration, revealing just how random and impoverished justice can be, and how flimsy the right to counsel. In “Kids for Cash,” the investigative reporter William Ecenbarger tells the story behind a corruption scandal so brazen and cruel it defies imagination. Between 2003 and 2008, two Pennsylvania judges accepted millions of dollars in kickbacks from a private juvenile detention facility in exchange for sending children — girls and boys, some as young as 11 — to jail....

After the briefest of hearings — the average length was four minutes — kids were dispatched to detention centers in which the judges had a financial interest....

It was not a case of rogue judges acting alone. In a “festival of injustice,” prosecutors, public defenders, teachers and court employees saw it and did nothing....

“Kids for Cash” and “The Injustice System” reveal the deep gap between cherished ideals and harsh reality in a country addicted to incarceration....

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Celebrate the Might of Workers This May Day

Why does Progressive Labor Party fight for communism?

Because capitalism doesn't work for our class. It doesn't work when racist kkkops murder hundreds of black and Latino youth in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York City. It doesn't work when U.S. drones kill over a thousand civilians in Pakistan. It doesn't work when the capitalists' austerity in Europe throws millions of workers onto the streets. It doesn't work when Obama deports 1.6 million immigrant workers. It doesn't work when mainly women workers in Bangladesh are burned alive in textile factories with locked exit doors. It doesn't work when schools and hospitals all over the country are shut down. It doesn't work when hundreds of thousands of families near Mexico City are threatened with being flooded out of their homes because of the government's hydro project. And it doesn't work when the South African government massacres striking miners.

Truth is, capitalism has never worked for the working class. It is a system built on robbing, lynching, and terrorizing us. It breeds divisive racist and sexist ideologies that prevent us from seeing each other as part of one struggle, one class, one fight. The bosses engage in cutthroat competition on a world scale, leading to wars — wars paid in workers' blood.

If blood must be shed, let it be the bosses'. Workers, students, and soldiers — turn the guns around.

We have a vision for communism, a system where there is no exploitation, no wages, no racism, no sexism, and no borders. What we would have is a society run by workers, where each person works according to their commitment, and each receives according to their need. Communism is an egalitarian society.

How can such a world be possible? We need revolution! It can only be won by organizing to overthrow these bosses and their state under the revolutionary force of a mass party of millions, PLP. Together, we can conquer the world. Every action we take counts in building for revolution.

So, join Progressive Labor Party as we march in Mexico, Pakistan, Palestine, Haiti, United States, El Salvador, Colombia, and more! From the beginning, May Day stood for working-class internationalism. Workers have been fighting against exploitation since capitalism's birth. Let us honor our class, from the 1886 Chicago General Strike from which May Day was born, to the first successful workers' state in the Soviet Union, to the great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China, to each and every one of our current battles.

Workers, we have a world to win. Together, we can create a system that works and rules society for us who do all the work and produce everything of value. Join us this May Day! ☘



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