PERIODIGO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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NYPD: For Racist Murder

BROOKLYN, NY, March 25 — The fight-back against the racist police murder of 16-year-old Kimani "Kiki" Gray sharpened the class struggle here in East Flatbush. Young neighborhood students and workers led a militant anti-racist rebellion on March 11, two nights after Kiki's murder. The youth returned every night for nearly two weeks, joined by protestors to confront the police that occupied seemingly every inch of the neighborhood 24/7 out of fear of another uprising.

The rebellion helped popularize proof that the police are lying about Kiki pointing a gun at them. Witnesses say Kiki tried to walk away from police — who never identified themselves — and begged for his life as he was gunned down. An autopsy revealed that seven out of eleven bullets hit Kiki, three in his back. The officers involved have a history of falsifying evidence. The facts exposing the cops as liars are all similar to nearly every case of police murder, but without the rebellion that followed Kiki's death, the truth would not have been exposed as it has been.

Youth Defy Media Lies

Politicians, preachers, cops and the media all labeled the militant youth everything but what they were. They were rebels that led a small, brief but powerful uprising, not looters, rioters, misguided or committed gangsters. On the whole the youth targeted the racist bosses and their goons.

Young men and women defied police by taking the streets, overturning trashcans, and surrounding two cops. The youth targeted a local Rite Aid convenience store whose manager constantly followed black and immigrant youth while shopping. Not a dime was stolen out of the registers. Dozens of local barbershops, beauty salons and restaurants were untouched.

The rebels broke capitalist laws which protect mass murderers that are responsible for millions of deaths from racist profit wars, global drug cartels, mass poverty and unemployment. These gangsters in suits walk free, run businesses, command armies and hold government power. The ruling class paints entire black, Latino and immigrant working-class neighborhoods as criminals. But in reality, it is bosses who are the enemies, closing hospitals and killing patients, as well as workers and children in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan.

Only a revolutionary communist society where the working class has power can rid the world of racist killer kkkops. The capitalist courts encourage and tolerate cops who murder black, Latino and immigrant workers. Meanwhile, five million black and Latino workers and youth are forced into the criminal injustice system, either imprisoned, on probation or on parole. Seventy percent of the 2.4 million in U.S. prisons are black and Latino. And if cops do get punished it's a slap on the wrist, NYPD Detective Phillip Atkins who in June murdered Shantel Davis, a young unarmed black woman killed a short walk away from where Kiki was killed, was supposedly suspended. But Atkin's wife, a community affairs cop, told a classroom of students that Atkins was never even on desk duty.

Killer KKKops Have Racist Record

As it turns out, Atkins and the cops Mourad and Cardova who killed Kiki are members of the same death squad. Mourad and Cordova have a long history of vicious racist assults. The city has been forced to pay out \$215,000 to victims of five previous attacks.

Our class will need to break many more bosses' laws to smash the bosses' state and take power for the



The struggle continues. Youth break the bosses' laws.



workers. A communist society based on workers' needs, out" of the neighborhood and stop "agitating" youth. not bosses' profits, can enable everyone in society to Actually people came from both inside and outside the make positive contributions. Our neighborhoods need a fighting PLP to grow into a mass party that can win youth away from gangs.

After the East Flatbush rebellion, misleaders came out every night to pacify the neighborhoods's anger and call for police "reform." One night Jumaane Williams, a local city councilman, and a host of preachers and selfappointed community advocates tried to lead marchers into a church to talk instead of to the 67th precinct to protest. PLP and Shantel Committee members blasted Pastor Verald Mathews for kicking the Shantel Committee out of that very church because he couldn't make money off of the struggle. The youth marched to the precinct instead.

After the March 11 rebellion, cops flooded the neighborhood 24 hours a day to intimidate workers. The media in demonizing the rebellion took their cue from the cops and politicians to scare away supporters. Councilman Williams told "outsiders" to "stay the HELL neighborhood, and are still coming.

Kiki's Mother Dimissed Mayor

PL'ers were there the very first night shoulder to shoulder with the youth as we were every night thereafter. We brought out co-workers, friends and students in the ones and twos that decided to take a stand. Our response to the intimidating fascist police occupation of East Flatbush was to fight back, not hide. Kiki's family supported the demonstrations and personally organized the biggest march of all day before Kiki's wake that saw over 1,000 gatherers. And his mother dismissed billionaire Mayor Bloomberg's "offer" of condolence, saying she's not looking for a

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OUR FIGHT



- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★Only the dictatorship of the working class communism can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.
- *Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power governments, armies, police, schools and culture maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.
- *While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.
- ★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. 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

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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.

Workers Have No Stake In: China-U.S. Rulers' War for Global Control



As their competition for global supremacy intensifies, Chinese and U.S. bosses are scrambling for allies in a conflict that looks more likely by the day. Speaking in Moscow on March 23, China's new president, Xi Jinping, "made a case...for closer economic and foreign policy cooperation with Russia" (New York Times, 3/24/13). Xi argued that China and Russia have "converging goals, including an expansion of the oil and gas trade, as they pursue dreams of 'national revival' and seek to offset the influence of the developed West."

A China-Russia axis could be a mortal challenge to U.S. economic power and political influence. China has a huge and rising economy and more people of military age than the total U.S. population. Russia has vast energy supplies and the world's second biggest nuclear arsenal, most of it aimed at the U.S. Well aware of this threat, U.S. rulers have unveiled their own long-term coalition schemes. In February, Chuck Hagel, Barack Obama's new defense secretary and the outgoing head of the Atlantic Council think tank, called for military links with potential anti-China allies: India, Indonesia, Brazil, and Turkey.

Oil Dollars and Workers' Death

Strategic considerations are guiding the resurgence of U.S. oil interests. The biggest bosses are now pushing for intensive drilling and exploration, both within the U.S. and in other areas under the rulers' control (see below). While this expansion serves the bosses' class interests as they prepare for imperialist war, it promises only devastation for the working class, from Baghdad and Kabul and Islamabad to New York and Los Angeles and Chicago. The carnage will be heaviest in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, where workers have long suffered racist super-exploitation by the imperialist powers.

Setting the rosters for a possible World War III underlies a number of seemingly unrelated developments. The financial crisis in Cyprus, which holds newfound gas reserves, has as much to do with war planning and energy imperialism as it does with rotten banks.

In talks last week in Moscow over a possible loan to Cyprus, Russia made clear that it expected a piece of the gas pie for its own companies....In Russia's view, Cyprus, which already has two British military bases,...would also be an ideal place to set up a small naval installation should the Kremlin lose access to Tartus, a Syrian port that risks being swamped by that nation's civil war (NYT, 3/24/13).

It's important to note that Russia has shipped arms through Tartus to the pro-Chinese, pro-Iranian Syrian dictatorship.

Behind the scenes in Iraq, meanwhile, ExxonMobil is playing a pair of anti-China hands. U.S. imperialism's flagship company hired Condoleezza Rice and other war criminals to force Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki to reconsider his threat to transfer Exxon's stake in Iraq's biggest oilfield to a Chinese firm. And in northern Iraq, in the rebellious Kurdistan province, Exxon is supplying fuel to Turkey, another prospective Grand War Alliance member:

"Exxon [is] now the largest landholder...after the regional government....The acreage build-up comes as Kurdistan is looking at building oil and gas pipelines straight to Turkey" (Toronto Financial Post, 3/22/13). Secretary of State John Kerry no doubt touched on both issues during his "surprise" March 23 Baghdad visit, which was ostensibly meant to check Iraq's growing coziness with

Iran

U.S. capitalists need to control Middle East resources — and the naval supply routes that govern access to them — to stay a step ahead in their deadly rivalry with other imperialist powers. Washington has sufficient energy supplies outside the region to meet its own needs. But to dominate the world, U.S. rulers must freeze out enemies like China. They cannot protect their empire without controlling the Middle East and its rich reserves of gas and oil.

U.S. Energy Boom Sharpens Imperialist Dogfight

The shale oil and gas boom within the U.S. takes on ominous overtones when viewed through this lens. In gas, U.S. bosses are developing unprecedented export capacity to combat Russia, China and Iran — economically today, militarily tomorrow. On March 19, the Brookings Institute's Charles Ebinger testified before Congress that U.S. gas production helps "loosen the stranglehold of Gazprom, Russia's state gas company, on our east and west European allies."

In addition, Ebinger sees gas exports as a big boost for the U.S. in a possible Middle East conflagration, where "a blockade or military intervention in the Strait of Hormuz or a direct attack on Qatar's liquefaction facilities by Iran would inflict chaos on world energy markets.... Additional volumes of LNG [Liquified Natural Gas] on the world market will benefit all consumers."

U.S. oil's resurgence is flowing from smaller domestic oil bosses who once demanded an end to "dependence on foreign oil." Domestic sources were long ignored by larger companies like Exxon, which were accustomed to peacetime access to cheap and adequate sources around the world. But as U.S. exploration and production fell off, the prospect of global war and shipping route shutoffs made the biggest U.S. capitalists vulnerable. So, they are beefing up their drilling and refining within the U.S.

Warren Buffett's BNSF railroad and Union Tank Car company now transport half a million barrels of North Dakota Bakken crude a day. The arch-imperialist Carlyle Group bought an old Sunoco refinery in Philadelphia, once supplied by Middle East sources, and re-fired it with Pennsylvanian shale oil. Carlyle shares directors with Exxon. Its founder, David Rubenstein, is co-chairman of the finance-capital-driven Council on Foreign Relations. George H.W. Bush cashed Carlyle checks after committing genocide in the service of Exxon in Iraq.

Turn Oil Wars into Class War

As it heads inevitably toward war, inter-imperialist rivalry spells death for millions of workers around the world. Our goal must be to turn the bosses' wars into class war for communism. That means sharpening the class struggle wherever we are building ties: in the shops and unions, the schools and campuses, the churches and neighborhoods, and especially in the military.

These struggles are erupting in the score of countries where the Progressive Labor Party is active. The world capitalist economic crisis falls mainly on the backs of the working class. But it also provides the basis to recruit masses of workers and youth to become organizers for a communist revolution. Only communism can bury all bosses and their exploitative, racist, sexist profit system. Join us this **May Day!** ①

Anti-Racist Fight = Education in Class Strugg

Brooklyn: Expose Billionaire's Wrecking Crew

March 20, BROOKLYN, NY — "When our schools are under attack, what do we do? Stand up, fight back!" Chants, led by angry students, parents and teachers of the Tilden High School Campus, rang out again against the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) meeting today. They arrived at the meeting ready to fight, even though they knew that the panel of bosses' puppets would approve the "proposal" to co-locate a charter elementary school in the Tilden campus, which already houses three district high schools. In fact, the PEP, whom are mostly hand-picked by billionaire Mayor Bloomberg to vote on educational policy and decisions, have always voted in favor of the Department of Education's (DOE) proposals.

Tilden students arrived at the meeting chanting and marching. As school cops tried to push them into a barricade pen, students and teachers formed a picket line along the sidewalk in front of the entrance to the building. They held strong and kept up the loud chanting as cops tried to push them to move from the

They continued chanting as they entered the auditorium where the meeting was held, making it loud and clear that Tilden was there and ready to fight. Throughout the proceedings, as panelists spoke, students and teachers burst into chants to drown out their racist, anti-student statements. As the list of schools on the "chopping block" that night was listed, the group booed and at the end chanted, "whose schools? Our

Students and teachers found every opportunity to shout the panelists down. Several students and some teachers made strong speeches blasting the DOE for their attacks on schools. One teacher made an impassioned speech accusing the DOE of not caring about students, which he ended by announcing a walkout from the meeting. The group of students and teachers stood and chanted as they marched out of the room and spilled out onto the street.

While the PEP did go ahead and vote in favor of the co-location, those at Tilden know that we have won what's important. Over the last two months, since Tilden was informed of the Department of Education's proposal, students have taken this on

and have learned, very quickly, how to fight back, how to lead, and how to organize for unity. Under capitalism, there are always more attacks on youth coming, and these students are ready to fight. Students are seeing these attacks right now, in the kkkop murder of Kiki Gray four blocks from the school. Some of these same students have joined the rebellions against the murder, and have faced constant fascist attacks by the cops.

In the two months since the DOE's co-location proposal, students and teachers have responded by organizing rallies outside the school (see CHALLENGE, 2/28), traveled to the headquarters of the DOE and City Hall to rally there, and have disrupted and walked out of a DOE Public Hearing at Tilden and two PEP meetings.



Everywhere they go, they bring anger, energy and an increasing understanding that the DOE does not make plans in the interest of students. More and more they see the racism of the DOE's actions, as black and Latino schools are shut down, turned around, or colocated without a second thought.

Students in one Tilden school's Student Activism Club are discussing the nature of capitalist schools; that they will never serve the working class and are inherently racist. They have studied what schools could be like under communism, and what the working class needs. There is excitement about marching on PLP's May Day this year, as we continue to tie the fight-back in our school to the need to smash capitalism and fight for a communist world!❖

Chicago: Mass School Closings Fire Up Students, Teachers

CHICAGO, March 28 — Chicago Public Schools (CPS) has announced the closing of 54 schools, plus a turnaround for another six and coshares for 11. This unprecedented attack on students, parents, teachers, and other school workers is racist to the core. Virtually all of those impacted by these actions low-income working-class black students. Many of these students (and teachers) have been shuffled from school to school as CPS goes about the business of destroying public schools. CPS has systematically starved schools in the city's predominately black South and West sides of the resources they need, and now they are shuttering them completely.

The attacks on education are part of the attacks on all the meager services, including health care and housing, for the working class. The capitalists are tightening OUR belts, (not theirs), as they ramp up their competition with capitalists in China and other countries. The U.S. ruling class is preparing for the inevitable war with their rivals and needs public money to pay for that war. They expect the working class to pay, as they always have, in blood and money, for ruling-class wars.

The head of CPS, Barbara Byrd-Bennett, is trying to sell this attack on the students and educators as the opposite. She promises that students will get a better education in their new "welcoming schools," saying they will all get iPads, air conditioning, and special programs. Yet, out of the other side of her mouth, she talks about the necessity to close schools to save money. The

numbers don't add up and the most likely scenario is that when schools open next August, those impacted by school actions will be in complete

There is a huge rally planned for March 27, called by the Chicago Teachers Union and other union, community, parent, and student groups, in opposition to the school closings. Other militant actions are being planned as well. However, it is unlikely that many, if any, of the school closings will be rescinded. This is an attack we have already seen carried out in a massive way in Detroit, New York City and Philadelphia.

This is just the beginning. The ruling class is going to keep hitting us with attack after attack. The reform struggle, passionate as it often is, will not do the trick. The only way to stop these monsters is to take away their power and replace their racist profit-based system with a workingclass system, communism. Of course that will be a hard fight, but harder still will be life under capitalism if we don't fight to end it.

Progressive Labor Party in Chicago and around the world is working to make that happen. In Chicago, the PLP has stepped up its sales of CHALLENGE newspaper, is winning friends to be part of our May Day event, and making a particular focus among CPS teachers, parents and students. PLP plans to take leadership on March 27 in motivating the fight for communism as the solution to school closings and the other horrors capitalism foists on the working class.

DOE Lesson Plan: Death Sentence for Teacher

of Education (DOE) has sentenced a veteran teacher to death.

The teacher, who has been battling a stage 4 cancer for 18 months, applied for a "Restoration of Health" sabbatical (partly-paid leave) for the Spring 2013 term. Even though the school's principal approved it, giving false hope to the teacher, DOE's medical director turned it down saying she has "no chance for recovery — sabbatical denied." The DOE didn't even consult the teacher's oncologist! Their answer comes down to "you'll die anyway...but we'll get your last drop of blood."

The teacher was told by her United Federation of Teachers district office that she could take her case to "medical arbitration," but the process could take up to a

This teacher taught all last year, during a very grueling course of both chemotherapy and radiation, missing only one period each week to get to the last appointment available each Friday. Colleagues in her department pulled together to make sure classes were covered and the students always had the same continuity in lessons as this teacher's other classes.

This year, when new cancerous lesions were found and it became increasingly difficult to maintain the pace in school, the application for a restoration of health sabbatical was submitted and denied. This 20-year veteran teacher has been literally kicked to the curb.

As bad as this is, it is not an isolated case! Given the fact that

The New York City Department it would take up to a year for a medical arbitrator to hear the case indicates that health sabbaticals are being denied at an alarming rate to those that need them the most. After using accumulated sick time, teachers are being forced to take an unpaid leave of absence. During this type of leave medical benefits are no longer available, and as a result, no treatments for a possible remission of terminal illness.

The DOE bosses have pushed for years to get rid of sabbaticals. They have nearly succeeded in ending study sabbaticals (intended for teachers to increase their knowledge and skills). But, under the June 2011 "agreement" between the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) and DOE, Restoration of Health sabbaticals were supposedly left intact. For the 2012-2013 school year, study sabbaticals were suspended to prevent any teacher layoffs, (according to the UFT).

The system that denies sabbaticals to teachers who have given their lives and health to the students of NYC tells teachers, (and other workers), that once our usefulness has ended, we're disposable. Is it safe to say that the DOE, run exclusively by a profit-seeking billionaire mayor on behalf of his class robber barons, is killing teachers? The answer is a resounding YES!! And is it preparing our students, as well, to be disposable parts for imperialist war? YES! We need a collective effort by teachers, parents and students to expose the crimes of the capitalist system — and to end it by building our Party and preparing for a communist revolution.

Students and Profs Rally Against State University Cuts, Racism

CHICAGO, March 24 — Chicago State University (CSU) President Watson must go, but students and faculty have different reasons from the Board of Trustees who want to fire him. A March 8 rally at the student union building, organized by faculty members who are building unity with students and campus workers, rang with chants of "Watson Must Go." They condemned his disregard of the needs of CSU's mostlyblack student body and its workers and his tight control and clamp-down on all forms of dissent.

Several responded immediately when invited to speak on the open mike at the rally. A few students complained about things like broken classroom computers, parking lot potholes, and high fees in the dorm, but others called for unity and fighting back. A cafeteria worker spoke about their year-long struggle for a union contract. A professor, and PL'er attacked Watson's hiring of his friends to fill teaching positions while ignoring faculty recommendations to hire a better-qualified black adjunct, who is also a CSU alumna.

Following the rally many of us

went to a nearby meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees. Board President Gary Rozier, who is black and was appointed by Governor Quinn, wants to replace Watson, who is also black, for reasons not yet clear. Their battle over Watson's exit has been playing in the press for days and is still undecided.

PLP supported the rally with a leaflet explaining that the Watson-Rozier battle is a racist attack on students, workers, and faculty, and that their fight is not our fight. While they have their squabble, the rest of us are suffering state budget cutbacks. Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants have been cut by 12.5% and Governor Quinn has announced more higher education cutbacks in his new budget proposal. In addition, the state currently owes CSU \$23 million in aid.

But this has not stopped Quinn from awarding tax breaks to his capitalist masters at Sears, Motorola, and The Mercantile Exchange. Our job in PLP is to explain to students, workers and faculty how capitalism inevitably makes these crises, and to win them to fight for communism. On the other hand Watson and Rozier, a senior VP at Ariel Investments, believe in capitalism and in educating students to $\rm \dot{m}eekly$ accept the tyranny of the capitalists.

Under capitalism, education serves the system and its ideology. Students' needs rank far behind the need of U.S. imperialism to control the world's energy resources. Obama and the Congress will pay for a new drone base in Niger, to spy on Chinese uranium mining interests, but not for jobs. Sequestration is expected to eliminate 750,000 jobs nationwide and to cut the U.S. Education Department budget \$70 million, or 4.6 percent.

Progressive Labor Party fights for communism, which will enhance every worker's contribution to society with cradle-to-grave education. Under communism all students and workers will be educated to scientifically analyze society and to exercise leadership in preserving the rule of the working class. We will learn cooperation, working for each other, instead of competing for the few crumbs allowed by capitalism. PLP believes in fighting, for workingclass power through revolution for communism. JOIN US!

Chicago **Schools**

CHICAGO —Capitalism is not interested in creating a society of people who can think critically and work for the well-being of the working class.

Indict Racist

Capitalism wants to create poorly educated wage slaves to accept low-paying jobs with no benefits. It wants to send both men and now even young women to fight and die in imperialist oil wars and that kill our workingclass brothers and sisters and make profits for the bosses.

Capitalist education wants to turn children into test takers and not thinkers because capitalism doesn't need thinkers.

Capitalism simply needs workers to do menial work that requires little thought. As long as the bosses control society the education system, will never be beneficial for the working class. This is capitalism's vision of education working the way it's supposed to work. For the capitalist!

These points along with many others regarding the education system were raised on February 13 during a debate at Chicago State University. The debate was titled "Public Education: The New Battle For Civil Rights." A room was filled with students, teachers, union members, community residents, and members of Progressive Labor Party, two of whom were on the panel.

The debate was supposed to be on whether charter schools or public schools are better options for our children. PLP does not fight for reform but for revolution, so from the beginning the Party members on the panel pointed out that as long as we live under capitalism, education will never serve the working class.

PL'ers pointed out the racism behind the school system. A majority of Chicago Public School students are black (43%) or Latinos (44%). Every day these children are crammed into overcrowded rundown schools with hardly any resources. A majority of the schools that are scheduled to close are on the South Side where a majority of black and Latino students live.

In schools marked for closure, a majority of the teachers in these schools are black. The point was also made of other factors that capitalism burdens us with. Many of these students live in poverty, which means poor health care, children going to school hungry, and children bringing problems from home with them into the classroom. The panelists on both sides agreed that these are obstacles which our children face and something should be done about it.

PL'ers described how charter schools make a bad situation even worse. Charter schools are a capitalist's dream. They're schools run by corporations that implement the agenda they choose to implement. These schools can practice selective enrollment, which leaves all the children with problems in public schools.

Charter schools also attack the teachers. They are turning teaching from a career into a temporary job. They are not unionized and hire young teachers for a few years and then toss them out when they're no longer wanted. A few audience members noted their experience in a charter school, its strict discipline and the fascist environment.

The audience approved many of these points made by the PL'ers. Everyone in the audience agreed that something has to be done to change our education system as well as overcome the obstacles people face under capitalism. Everyone in the room got copies of Party flyers and many CHALLENGES were taken by guests. Even after the debate ended, many people stood around for another hour to talk with PL'ers. We are hoping to hold more discussions like this on the Chicago State campus to win students, teachers, and workers to PLP to help build for the fight for communism so workers can one day have the education system that serves them best. Join us on May Day! •

PL'ers Fight Racist Attacks on **Community College**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA March 14 — Days after New York City shuts down 22 schools and Chicago plans to close 54 schools, students and workers fight to keep their community college open here. Two hundred protestors carrying signs lined Ocean Avenue in front of the entrance to San Francisco City College (CCSF) fighting against the attacks on public education. Passing cars and buses honked their horns in support.

After an hour of spirited rallying, we marched to the racist Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting to continue the protest. Despite demands from union leaders (who had called for this protest) and others who spoke, the BOT decided to use Proposition A funds to shore up the reserve funds. The protestors outside and the protestors who packed the meeting room thundered their disapproval.

Meanwhile, 150 members of the CCSF community marched two miles from the Mission District branch to City Hall to join 1,500 protestors. PL'ers and friends distributed 500 leaflets and 100 CHALLENGEs at the demonstration. Several of us played an important part in organizing it.

The marchers entered City Hall, stopped at the security desk, and held a rally making three demands:

- That City Hall politicians ensure that Proposition A funds are used for education (a ballot proposition that passed by 73 percent of SF voters to do just that). Proposition A called for maintaining CCSF's salaries and educational programs, not to shore up
- That City Hall advance money to CCSF to fill any budget gap;
- That City Hall call on the Department of Education to stop the ACCJC's (evaluating committee) unjustified "show cause" sanction against CCSF. Militant speeches and chanting echoed through the building.

This is a multi-lavered attack on students and workers at CCSF. They had threatened to shut it down last year, which would affect its largely Latino, Asian, black and immigrant 90,000 students, and 1,650 faculty. The attacks on us include taking away classes in African American and women's studies. The BOT plan is to cut the number of campuses, cut wages and increase class size. They have just cut 40 part-time teachers, 18 counselors, 30 staff, and forced teachers to take an 8.8 percent pay cut after years of wage freezes!

The attack is broader than CCSF. Statewide, community colleges have lost over \$809 million in cuts since 2008-2009. These racist and sexist cuts should be seen as an attack on the entire working class. The bosses see community colleges like they see elementary and secondary education: a means to churn out low-wage workers and soldiers. The U.S. bosses are preparing for more proxy and larger wars. These cutbacks and shutdowns are for the war.

At these protests, PL'ers made contacts with several fighters, one of who thought PLP only "talked about

One PL'er had a discussion with one of the other organizers who disagreed about the desirability of pushing past the security and storming City Hall. He said that a couple of the cops at the security desk were CCSF graduates and he felt we shouldn't ruin their support for us. The PL'er related her experience when the cops protected a KKK rally. A protestor asked a black cop how he as a black man could protect the KKK. He answered that he wasn't black (the color of his skin), he was blue (the color of his cop's uniform).

The cop had taken sides with the capitalists who run the state — the county, cities and the whole country not with the working class protesting the KKK's racism. This kkkop understood his role in capitalism, and chose the side of the bosses. "It is the same with all police," said the PL'er to the protestor friend, "we should judge people by the content of their character and not the color of their skin, by what they do in society not where school they graduated from. The police are not our friends. We should have stormed City Hall when we had the chance."

The role of the police is to protect capitalist private property, profits, and their ruling-class hegemony. Try calling the police on your boss if you think otherwise.

revolution and communism and didn't have any short-range goals." On the contrary, PLP is deeply involved in the CCSF fight-back. We want to build ties with our friends in this struggle. We will intensify our struggles with our friends to understand that these reforms won't cut it. We can't save CCSF, we can't save public education through the bosses' laws. We enter a contradiction of fighting against capitalists' attack on public education but these schools are owned and run by the bosses.

PL'ers put this struggle in a larger context. The leaflet we distributed outlined CCSF's problems, explaining that this attack was part of the capitalists' plan to privatize public services. It went on to describe a communist world in which education would be free, since money and the wage system would be eliminated. Education would be planned and implemented by those who do the work and receive the benefits and would thus be part of the struggle to eliminate the differences between manual and mental labor.

Education would be international and would benefit the world's workers and teach collectivity and cooperation, rather than the individualism and patriotism taught in capitalist schools. We would teach that all value comes from our labor and that we depend on each other to survive and to thrive. International working-class unity would replace national citizenship and national borders.

We are workers of the world and demand an education, but a communist one. This will not come through the BOT or the ballot box. It requires a mass, militant communist movement. We are meeting people through this fight and will struggle with them about these ideas.

France: Strikers Paralyze Peugeot, Put Brakes on Plant Closure

AULNAY-SOUS-BOIS, FRANCE, March 9 — Over 2,800 striking auto workers have paralyzed the Peugeot plant in this Paris suburb since January 16. They're protesting company plans to close the factory next year, which will eliminate 8,000 jobs. On March 8, nearly 200 strikers occupied the Paris offices of the bosses' metal trades association.

"We are workers, we aren't vandals, the bosses are the vandals," chanted the workers in the hall of the seat of the metal trades bosses.

"We're not coming out until our demands have been heard," one union steward told Reuters. "We want a permanent job for everyone and early retirement for those 55 and over."

An agreement signed by several union officials was rejected by the rank and file. "We are determined," declared Mohammed Diver, a worker at the plant. "We want a guarantee of employment."

The bosses have hired two rent-a-cop strike-breaking outfits to intimidate the workers. They have also threatened to fire some of the strike leaders. Meanwhile,the Peugeot bosses who claim they must close the plant and wipe out 8,000 jobs because they can't make a profit from this plant are paying themselves handsomely. Peugeot's CEO tripled his salary in 2010 to to \$4.2 million; two directors doubled their's to \$1.62 million; and a director stationed in Asia raked in \$1.75 million — altogether a total of nearly \$10 million a a year for just four bosses!

The Peugot workers are also supporting the struggles of other workers, including those at Renault

who are experiencing the same problems. On january 28, they stood in soldiairty in front of the French Natonal Assembly in a united demonstration with workers from Goodyear, Air France, Virgin and Sanofi.

However, the CGT union has undercut the workers' position by accusing the government of "mak[ing] itself management's accomplice" for refusing to name a mediator. No doubt the government is in bed with the bosses, but mediators will not win the workers' demands. Only the power of the rank and file to shut off the bosses' profits can have any chance of achieving that objective. Instead of depending on mediation, the workers must try to spread the strike across the metal trades industry since all workers will be suffering under the austerity program being promoted by the Socialist government.

The Peugeot bosses claim they must dump the workforce because they can't make a profit from this plant. But this just exposes the need for the working class to exterminate capitalism, a system based on exploitation for the profit of the few sucked out of the labor of the masses that produce everything of value. Only a revolutionary party composed of millions of workers can accomplish that goal.

The Peugeot strikers are asking for financial support, donations to be sent to:

> Association de soutien aux salaries de l'automobile du 93

19-21 rue Jacques Duclos

93600 Aulnay-sous-Bois, France

Fight for Working-Class Culture

NEW YORK CITY — In early February, while the sky was bleak and the air cold, some 60 workers and youth assembled to participate in the development of working-class culture. The work of the last three years culminated in the gathering of six seminal groups to explore creating different forms of working-class art — video, script writing, acting, music, poster design and poetry.

An initial plenary session discussed basic ideas over breakfast after which people moved to their chosen areas of interest. Expectations pervaded. Most of the six leaders wondered if this first exploratory session could create groups from which some working-class communist forms could be developed.

Of course, working-class art in its many forms have already been produced during the period when working-class influence was ascending and when our class was under threat. Communists have always fought to try to galvanize art, much as sometimes they're galvanized by the singing of the working-class communist anthem, "The Internationale."

Both the leaders and the groups' members had undergone uneven development in their cultural interests and experiences, leading to some struggle for basic understanding. Actually, the video that was made during the day of the different sessions seemed to draw all the groups together. The video group interviewed individuals about what they were creating.

There were people from many different working-

class backgrounds. Multi-racial interaction and work led to growing relationships and a very professional attitude for what was being created that day. In one class, a baby sat on her mother's lap, seeming to take part in the workshop with mama. This was fun for the group and helped create a family feeling. Several workshop participants now want to organize others to produce communist culture.

Poetry and Hip-Hop plumbed political commitment and revolutionary culture in the life of working people. As one young man said, "Working-class culture is powerful."

The poster art session compared a poster for a capitalist product and one for Bolshevik ideas with their own creation depicting demonstrations and life. The layout was produced collectively which excited the participants

One question asked by the creators of the video was, "What music or culture inspired you?" In the music session, a large group worked on old songs and a new song which is currently evolving.

At the end of the afternoon all groups gathered together with each one performing or displaying a small piece of what they had been creating and learning. It was a wonderful kaleidoscope of words, songs, pictures and acting. The result almost left one breathless. Creating working-class art always has a future, but now we're part of that. See working-class culture this **May Day!**



Fight Racist Attacks on Community College. See Page 4

Bosses' Law Ransacks Workers' Pension

OAKLAND, CA — The ruling class, through its politicians and the collaboration of union leaders in California, has moved to steal billions from the working class by decimating the future of retired workers. Governor Jerry Brown, with the assistance of Democrats who control both houses of the legislature, has passed the Public Employees Pension Reform Act (PEPRA). It could go into effect at AC Transit as early as July 1, when our contract expires.

This "reform" hurts new hires immediately. While current workers don't face changes yet, after 2018 all of our pensions will be affected. First, PEPRA mandates that all new workers pay a minimum of half their pension costs or 6.75% of wages. That's a wage cut of \$3,000 to \$5,000 a year. AC Transit workers took lower wages in the past to maintain their benefits.

Second, it bases pensions on 40 hours per week, while the average work-week of a bus driver is actually closer to 50 hours, due to split shifts and long hours in the seat. Lastly, it reduces the compensation schedule at the end by as much as 35 percent. At 55 years old, a current pension is 2 percent per year of the average of your top three years times years worked. Under PEPRA, it's 1.3 percent. With all the changes, the pension could be reduced by almost half. Since AC has no cost-of-living allowance in its pension it means a meager pension, will be worth even less in years to come.

While Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 192 called a special meeting of over 300 members to "fight" this attack, its strategy mainly revolves around relying on lawyers to argue that PEPRA violates federal law, or on legislation from the same state Democratic politicians to exempt transit workers. It refused to organize any mass protest at a recent Board of Directors' meeting, which voted to adopt PEPRA.

Further, there has been no coordination among other transit unions — especially at BART, the regional subway system — whose contract also expires July 1. At the same time, AC Transit bosses plan to raise fares again on July 1st, as much as 33 percent for monthly passes for youth, seniors and disabled riders.

PLP has put out the only information about the attack. Our Transit CHALLENGE focused on the message "It's up to us, the working class!" No law, no savior politicians and no "special exemptions" will rescue us! Unity across the whole Bay Area and a fight for the whole working class is our strategy. We have engaged transit workers to join with community groups to reach out to youth to fight these outrageous higher fares and service cuts.

The membership of ATU Local 192 also passed a resolution to demand Justice for Alan Blueford, an 18-year-old high school student murdered by Oakland cops last May. The resolution flies in the face of a mass media campaign to make youth violence and crime in Oakland a "State of Emergency" with the implication that "effective community police" is the solution. The media campaign does not address continual racist police actions (four officers were involved in the shooting on the weekend of 03\01\13 in the Bay area) and massive racist unemployment among black and Latin youth.

This resolution is a small step to making a fight for the whole working class, tied to immediate issues that face our membership. Transit workers attended the March 5 rally to stop racist police terror and demand prosecution of cop Masso who shot the unarmed Blueford. The Governor, the Legislature, the cops, and the media are all part of the bosses' system of capitalism and its state apparatus whose laws enforce profit-making by exploiting the working class. The months ahead will offer us many opportunities to struggle over the need for a communist society without exploitation and racist terror.



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

PLP Communist School Spreads Internationalism

This letter is a product of a collective effort of our youth club that participated in a communist school and with its collective values.

In Colombia we worked in a very formative and instructive school with a group of comrades from different parts of Latin America and the United States, it was an enriching experience. In the political school, with a good number of participating workers of women and men and youth, we shared opinions and knowledge and realized that the problems of our class have a global level. The same needs and scarcity that we have are not foreign to the workers of different parts of the world.

Good discussions in the group expanded our knowledge that this system of war and robbery is the only one to blame for the division among us, the producers of the existing wealth. Drug addiction, racism, nationalism, sexism, wage slavery are the promoters of violence and misery of the world's proletariat.

This is why one of the biggest drug-dealing facilities in the world is found in Bogota, situated two blocks away from the center of logistics and intelligence of the national police, behind the army battalion of the Presidential Guards. This shows it as a very profitable business for the bosses. They want the youth pacified about their future. Meanwhile this murderous system promotes crime with drug trafficking and the prison industry.

We showed all of our comrades that we are firmly committed to the class struggle to destroy capitalism and build a new society. We believe in our international unity, around our communist program, in the growth of new communist leaders. We realize that the youth of the world are very important and are the future in strengthening our Party. We also want to extend an invitation to everyone to participate in our massive and revolutionary **May Day** so that this important day doesn't serve bourgeois interests and their political parties, but instead is a commemoration of the battle for communist ideas.

We want to thank the Party for all the efforts and examples given and thank the comrades that participated in this school for offering us their knowledge. It makes us happy to know that this is not of just a struggle of few but it is part of a mass struggle and that the PLP is a communist international party.

Youth of the world: study, read and spread our paper, CHALLENGE.

International Comrades

Fascist, Anti-Communist Popes

Pope Francis (Jorge Bergoglio) from Argentina, the new advocate for billions of poor people ((he gave up his chauffeured limousine) comes with a long, bloody history of supporting fascist, anti-communist governments that committed genocide to support capitalist rulers.

After World War II, many Nazi backers of Hitler were given sanctuary in Argentina, disguised as priests after being processed through the Vatican in Italy. In the 1970's "Dirty War" in Argentina, 30,000 labor activists, communists and their families simply "disappeared" and were never seen again. Communist women in concentration camps had their children taken away for adoption by wealthy families. Priests who supported impoverished workers were imprisoned and tortured but church superior Jorge Bergoglio refused to help them and years later hid priests in his home who were being investigated for supporting the military responsible for the "Dirty War."

Pope Benedict who just resigned under a cloud of financial and sexual corruption within the Vatican also supported fascism, racism and war. When Hitler was jailing German priests who criticized fascism, he joined the Hitler Youth Movement that was attacking Jews and communists. Years later Benedict aided U.S. imperialist war in the Middle East and almost started a religious war by attacking the prophet Mohammed and Muslims.

The Catholic Church is in crisis and facing billions in lawsuits for hiding child-abusing priests. For centuries, the Church has earned protection for its vast real estate and financial holdings from European powers by providing millions of religious, obedient, non-revolutionary peasants and workers willing to fight for the rulers' kingdoms, colonial crusades and empires.

Today workers in most developed nations, including Europe, are deserting the Church because they want answers to their daily, worldly problems instead of an infallible, closed male society that bans women's participation, gays, abortions and contraception.

With the selection of Francis from Argentina, the Church is shifting its emphasis from Europe to Latin America to embrace a more supportive base among 46 percent of the 1.2 billion Catholics. If the Church can mobilize and indoctrinate this vast pool of low-wage peasants and workers with anti-communist ideology, imperialist powers fighting over the Continent's rich resources would gladly support a Church that would deliver a submissive labor force.

The only way workers can prevent being used as pawns in the Church-ruling-class chess game is to reject their religious, anti-communist ideology. Communism is the ideology of working-class society. We will triumph when we learn to analyze, understand and change the world to meet our needs.

Excommunicated

CHALLENGE comment: A statement by Argentine historian Federico Finchelstein (New School for Social Research in New York) supports the above letter: "The combination of action and inaction by the church was instrumental in enabling the mass atrocities permitted by the junta. Those like Francis that remained in silence during the repression also played by default a central role. It was this combination of endorsement and either strategic or willful indifference that created the proper conditions for the state killings." (New York Times, 3/18)

The Times also reported that Francis was "the most prominent leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Argentina, an institution that remains under withering criticism for its role in failing to publicly resist — and in various instances actively supporting — the military dictatorship during a period when as many 30,000 people are thought to have been killed or disappeared."

Chemistry 101 Does Not Teach This

Several issues ago, lithium (atomic number 3) was described in CHALLENGE as a "rare earth" element. This is incorrect. In fact, under "ordinary" conditions, lithium is the "first metal" in the Periodic Table in the sense that it is the metal with the lowest atomic number (as long as metallic hydrogen is excluded — metallic hydrogen exists only under extremely high pressure, if it exists at all, while lithium is "readily available on Earth).

Lithium is an alkali metal in Period 2, Group 1 of the Periodic Table. The rare earth elements are a set of 17 chemical elements, specifically the 15 lanthanides (with much higher atomic numbers) plus scandium and yttrium.

The rare elements have become a point of contention between the U.S. and China because China has the greatest amount of good quality, rare earth ores and China is announcing restrictions on how much of its rare earth ores other countries can acquire. These elements are used extensively in modern electronic "gadgets," such as computers and fighter jets.

This is one more reason why the U.S. and China could go to war to "settle" the issue. The recent increase in China-bashing articles and reports in the news media is a good indication that an inter-imperialist world war might not be far off.

Of course, this is not what one usually learns in Chemistry 101.

CHALLENGE comrade

Letters from a PLP School: Microcosm of Communism

The cooperation we have experienced all weekend is seldom seen within the current capitalist world. It was refreshing to see that all are expected to contribute to the cause and no one was above responsibility. While the bosses continue to oppress the working class, building our own little community and discussing the root of our world's corruption was inspiring. Thanks to this excursion, my life is improved by gaining more of the knowledge and experience necessary to advance the fight for communism.

New Comrade

This weekend, I attended my second communist school, my first as a Party member and newly hired teacher. Last year as a student, I was impelled by the Party's line to stand up and join the struggle to build a better, communist world. This year, my commitment was not only renewed, but strengthened by witnessing so many young people standing up and offering their dedication to building our Party. The eloquence and clarity of our comrades is what stood out to me the most. A sample: "I don't want to be the bosses' puppet anymore." If this is just a small sample of what our youth is capable of, I am sure we will not have to be puppets much longer.

Red Teacher

Initially, I came to the communist school to go camping, play games and have fun with my friends. Camping with PLP members and student activists was indeed fun while we played board games and sports that helped us get to know each other better and make new friendships. But I've also realized that there is more to the world than fun and games. All throughout the world, workers are getting less recognition and fewer rights than they deserve.

Even rights we've already fought for and won are being taken away from us underhandedly and unfairly. I've come to find out that rulers take more "recognition" than they are due. Hearing all of the

different opinions broadened my mind and although I like going with the flow, I believe I would most definitely stay and join PLP. Not for myself but for other people who have jobs and are being mistreated in any way or people who don't have jobs because the bosses "don't have room" for them. I feel I can make a difference and therefore I will, even if it is only a little bit.

My time at the communist school has been ideal. The mutual leadership practiced by everyone here has solidified my world views. We were able to visualize the future as a communist world through our practice of comradeship here at the school. By learning more about the practice and theory of communism, my decision was finalized. The choice to join PLP has been one of the few decisions I've made where I have felt completely confident and prepared to carry out.

Student

I have been going to PL communist schools for years, first as a young student and now as a teacher. Every communist school always inspires me, as I get to participate in a collective that cooks, cleans, works and learns together. We see a true example of "to each according to need, from each according to commitment." There's no need to worry about commitment level though, because everyone always gives their all to the work that needs to be done, showing true commitment to the group, and to building a "micro"-communist world. This year was especially inspiring, having students from my school attend. They are new to the ideas of the Party but it was amazing to see them bring their own sharp analyses to the discussions and be so open to

communist ideas.

Red Teacher

email: desafio.challenge@gmail.com www.plp.org PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

Rulers' Reform Dooms Immigrants to Bosses' Whims, Cannon Fodder

U.S. ruling-class politicians, both Republican and Democrats, seem now to have decided to work together to implement the immigration reform initially proposed by President Obama. They've given few details, and perhaps never will, but the proposals under consideration are well known and predictable. One must just read between the lines of the statements by those driving the reform.

(1) Seal and militarize the border. "Immediately reform border security with new technology," i.e. drones; ramp up both military and border agents' presence on the border; increase the legal processes which control border exits and entrances.

(2) Legalize and contain immigrant workers as a segregated sub-class in slave-like working conditions. "At the same time as we reform the border security, those immigrants here 'illegally' must register with the government." They must pass background checks and pay back taxes and fines. Immigrants will then receive a "period of legal probation" during which they can live and work legally in the U.S. but will be ineligible to receive Federal benefits. This is a rehash of the "guest worker" program under which immigrants remain in the U.S. at the whim of their bosses.

(3) A path to citizenship? Some Senators are demanding a mandatory program to check the legal status of all new employees throughout the U.S. (Expansion of E-Verify). These "reformers" also insist that immigrants who get "legal status" under this legislation and pass their period of probation must then "go to the back of the line" behind those who have come through legal channels and are seeking citizenship. This could take decades. It also leaves these "guest workers" subject to the manipulation of visa and citizenship quotas due to country of origin or education and job skills. So-called "permanent

residency" and "citizenship" are at the end of a long tunnel. Many will never find their way out.

(4) Arrange for a large number of young people to join the military. While many politicians and government think tanks know this could provide a path to citizenship for many younger workers, those who hold power in the U.S. understand the need for a bigger war machine to defend their empire in a period of continuous wars. What better way to get "willing" recruits than to dangle the potential for citizenship before many young immigrants? The so-called Dream Act incorporates this process.

The rampant segregation of immigrant workers concerning their work location, residence site and their cultural and political life, leaves many immigrants vulnerable to the false promises in this movement for immigration reform.

But there's another side: Workers worldwide have always fought back and continue to fight for a better life. However, if we just see ourselves as immigrants, we lose. If we just see ourselves as citizens, we lose. The bosses win when immigrants and their supporters organize to fight back on "their issues." Immigrants and citizens belong to only one class — we are the producers of all the world's riches. When we unite as one class, which does not recognize the rulers' borders or ethnic\heritage\"racial"\gender differences, this unity immediately puts us on the offensive against the attacks by the capitalist class.

March on **May Day**, May 1, for the unity of the international working class.**⊙**

Smash All Borders

What's the nature of "borders" and "the promise of citizenship?" Competing groups of rich capitalists draw and redraw borders, mostly through bloody wars. Immigrant rights groups in California speak to this with the slogan, "We didn't cross the border, the border crossed us." This indicates how immigrants are divided from citizens when it comes to "rights" but does not explain the underlying economic basis for capitalists' borders.

Currently, capitalists worldwide manipulate borders and "the rights of citizens" to justify and regulate "a race to the bottom" in working conditions and living standards. Workers are forced to compete in this "race" because they can survive only by selling their labor. Migration, immigration and borders are part of the capitalists' labor policy to secure increasingly cheaper production and ever greater profits for themselves.

In the U.S., the bosses are attacking public sector and unionized workers as well as "traditional" good jobs as greater numbers of the "citizen" workforce are subcontracted, two-tiered, supplied by temporary agencies, driven down to minimum wages and into unemployment. This exploitation is usually worse for immigrant workers. Progressive Labor Party analyzes immigration reform in this light.

Immigrants function as a vast pool of "ready-reserve" workers who can be plugged in and then thrown away along with the unemployed citizen workers, who, in the U.S., are overwhelmingly black and Latino youth. As Marx wrote about slavery in the 1860s, "In the United States of North America, every independent movement of the workers was paralyzed so long as slavery disfigured a part of the Republic. Labour cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded."

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

Haiti cholera worse, aid drying up

NYT, 3/18 — Doctors Without Borders said...that the cholera crisis in Haiti was getting worse, for the most unnecessary and appalling of reasons: a lack of money and basic medical supplies.

The disease has killed 8,000 people and sickened 649,000 since October 2010....Doctors Without Borders says people are dying now, needlessly, because attention and money are running out. Aid groups are leaving. Staff members at some treatment centers haven't been paid for months, equipment is wearing out and sanitary precautions are being abandoned. The death rate has reached an intolerable high 4 percent in some places....And the rainy season is about to make things much more difficult.

The dreadful backdrop to this emergency is an abdication of responsibility by... particularly the United Nations. The U.N. said last month that it would not pay financial compensation for the epidemic's victims, claiming immunity. This is despite the overwhelming evidence that the U.N. introduced the disease, which was unknown in Haiti until is suddenly appeared near a base where U.N. peacekeepers had let sewage spill into a river....

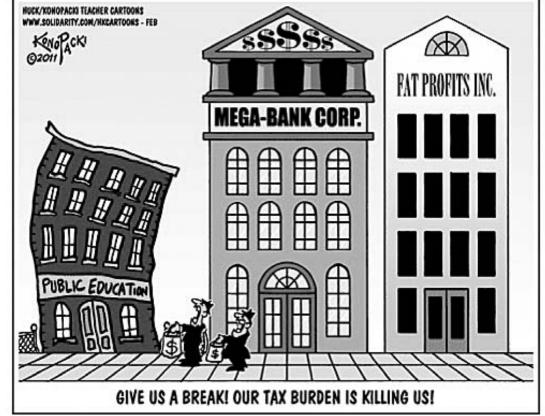
 \dots [The U.N.'s] handling of cholera is looking like a fiasco....

In December, the U.N. said it would contribute \$23.5 million to the new 10-year plan — about 1 percent of what is needed.

US 'land of opportunity'? A myth

NYT, 3/17 — Study after study has exposed the myth that America is a land of opportunity. This is especially tragic; while Americans may differ on the desirability of equality of incomes, there is near-universal consensus that inequality of opportunity is indefensible....

...The upwardly mobile American is becoming a statistical oddity...



How do we explain this? Some of it has to do with persistent discrimination. Latinos and African-Americans still get paid less than whites, and women still get paid less than men, even though they recently surpassed men in the number of advanced degrees they obtain....

...[Note that] the achievement gap between rich and poor kids born in 2001 was 30 to 40 percent larger than it was for those born 25 years earlier....

Soon drones will control their own killing

NYT, 3/17 — If you find the use of remotely piloted warrior drones troubling, imagine that the decision to kill a ["]suspected ["] enemy is...made by a machine itself. Imagine that an aerial robot studies the landscape below, recognizes ["]hostile["] activity...and then with no human in the loop, pulls the trigger.

Welcome to the future of warfare. While Americans are debating the president's power to order assassination by drone, powerful momentum — scientific, military and commercial — us propelling...forward the day when...the same lethal authority [is ceded] to software.

Pain 'unreal' docs often tell women

(NYT, 3/17) — An estimated 25 percent of Americans experience chronic pain, and a disproportionate number of them are women....

In 2011, the Institute of Medicine published a report on the public health impact of chronic pain, called "Reliving Pain in America." It found that not only did women appear to suffer more from pain, but that women's report of pain were more likely to be dismissed.

This is a serious problem, because pain is subjective and self-reported, and diagnosis and treatment depend on the assumption that the person reporting symptoms is beyond doubt.

The oft-cited study, "The Girl Who Cried Pain: A Bias Against Women in the Treatment of Pain in America" found that women were less likely to receive aggressive treatment when diagnosed, and were more likely to have their pain characterized as "emotional," "psychogenic" and therefore "not real...."

...This can lead to treatment for mental health issues that might not even exist....

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

MAY DAY: Symbol of History's Long March to Communist Revolution

As the May Day organizing heads into its final month, we should take a moment to think about the future. On April 27 in New York City, hundreds and hundreds of workers, students and soldiers will march for communist revolution, workers' dictatorship and a world free of the profit system's horrors.

In Chicago and Los Angeles, many will celebrate at dinners around the same theme, as well as marching on May 1 in the Immigrant Rights May Day.

In order to win these goals, our Party must grow until its members number in the millions. To win a communist world, we must become billions. Is this possible, or as some believe, are we merely a bunch of well-motivated people who are spitting into a hurricane?

On the face of it, the bosses would appear all-powerful. The old communist movement, which had once led great revolutions and anti-imperialist struggles throughout the world, died from its own political weaknesses. Capitalists hold power everywhere. U.S. imperialism, which years ago could claim more victims among the world's workers than even Nazi Germany, still rules the roost. So today, communist revolution would seem to be a noble but unattainable dream.

However, communists have a weapon which teaches us how to look deeper than appearances and see the possibilities that lie beyond the actual. It's called dialectical materialism. It's our philosophical tool for understanding everything in the natural world, in society, even in our own minds. Dialectics enables us to see that everything changes, that things turn into their opposite, and that a small Party can grow until it eventually becomes capable of seizing power.

Many people believe social classes have always existed and that the few have always oppressed the many. But the truth is that social classes came into existence only about 15,000 years ago, after human beings had been a biological species for hundreds of thousands of years.

What's this got to do with May Day? Plenty! Fifteen thousand years may seem like an eternity when compared to an individual life span, but relative to human history, it's a very short time. The bosses would love us to believe that the present rotten order of things will last forever. They talk endlessly about the "end of history."

But we see that history's pages are filled with tales of class struggle, revolution and change. We see the hundreds of years the capitalist class needed in order to make their own revolution, which overthrew feudalism. Feudalism itself had needed centuries of struggle to dump slavery as the dominant form of class society. And almost at the very moment when the capitalists were taking hold of state power barely 200 years ago, working-class revolutionaries were rising up to challenge them.

Eighty-two years after the first capitalist revolution, in France, the Paris Commune of 1871 tried to overthrow it. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 was the most profound event of the last millennium. The Chinese Revolution of 1949 and Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of the 1960s again shook the world. These great movements defeated themselves. Our Party is still trying to absorb the lessons of these defeats. But we should learn from the victories as well.

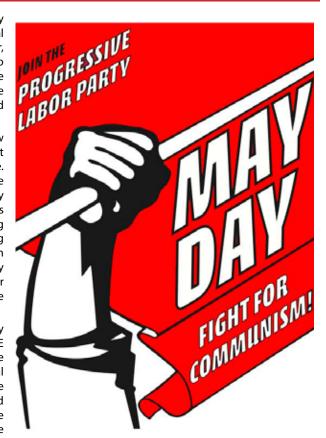
Each of the parties that led these revolutions began as a small, weak organization facing apparently overwhelming odds. Despite their many errors, the great leaders of these movements learned through dialectics how to build the possible from the actual. This lesson is crucial for PLP's leaders and members to absorb now, as we enter the last few weeks before May Day.

This year's May Day organizing is characterized by a spurt of Party activity against racist police terror. This is good! It means that we are acting and fighting as well as talking. It gives us an opportunity to expose the liberal rulers' deadly war schemes as well as to struggle against the more obvious fascist measures. It creates the possibility of bringing more May Day marchers. But each new May Day marcher is also something more than a May Day marcher.

Each new May Day marcher is also a potential Party member. And each new Party member is a potential mass leader. Everything we do to ensure a larger, more militant May Day creates the opportunity to build a bigger, more militant Party. A bigger, more militant Party can take bolder, sharper action in the mass movements and win still more members and leaders.

So far, we've mentioned dialectics only to show our Party's potential for growth despite its present apparent weakness. That coin has another side. The rulers appear strong, and we shouldn't delude ourselves about the enormous advantages they hold over us. But they have many weaknesses as well. They can't hold power without oppressing us. They can't rule the world without driving their rivals to unite against them. Capitalism is an unstable system. It will always lead to war. History shows that communist revolutions can seize power in the turmoil of imperialist war. Our Party is on the right side of history. Our class is bound to win.

We need to build the Party, day-by-day, May Day marcher by May Day marcher, CHALLENGE sub by CHALLENGE sub, recruit by recruit, struggle by struggle. Mastering the science of dialectical materialism will enable our class to achieve eventual victory, however long and hard the road ahead may be. Whatever we do now and for the rest of our lives to build the Party can help change the face of the world.



NYPD: Wanted for Genocide of the Working Class

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At one point councilman Williams gave up trying to keep people out and got on the radio to invite the whole city to demonstrate in East Flatbush. Unlike his call for people to stay out, the media did not publicize that invitation. The recent struggle in Flatbush shows us that everything PLP does to build a revolutionary communist movement counts. PLP's involvement in the campaign against the June police murder of Shantel Davis, a young unarmed black woman killed a short walk away from where Kiki was killed, directly influenced the young East Flatbush rebels. Most, if not all, of the rebels watched months of weekly protests by the Shantel Committee, PLP and others in front of the 67th precinct. But the passive anger became raw and personal at the first vigil for Kiki when Shantel's family and Committee members spoke about marching down Church Ave. Memories of years of racist police harassment, racist mis-education in schools and now a second police murder by the same death squad that killed Shantel, exploded.

When the youth marched, they took the same route of the Shantel marches. One of Kiki's cousins turned out to be a friend and co-worker of a Shantel Committee member. The cousin attended an August BBQ for Shantel. When he decided to take action for

Kiki he drew on the Shantel Committee and PLP to help lead the fight-back.

During the night of the biggest demonstration, one of Shantel's sisters told Kiki's cousin that fighting back was difficult but that "you have to fight" because that was the only way to make things better. Weeks before the police killed Kiki, PLP and other Shantel Committee members convinced Shantel's sisters to keep active despite low morale, partly to help lead the struggle when the next police murder occurred in Flatbush.

We will not be able to prevent the next police murder in East Flatbush. Already the same cops that killed Kiki and Shantel shot a young man in Brownsville, Brooklyn who police claim had a gun. Even rebellions and the civil rights movement that fought Jim Crow segregation left behind capitalism which must maintain racism, both for its superprofits and to divide the working class. PLP should make a fight on every campus and job and in mass organizations to support the rebellion and defend the youth who were arrested. Workers' power lies in building a revolutionary communist movement to one day smash the cops and the bosses' whole state apparatus. The time to join is now.

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