

CHALLENGE



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Boston Students Fight Racist Police Brutality

Boston, November 3 — The spontaneous march on October 29th against the vicious police beating of a 16-year-old black youth at Roxbury Community College (RCC) (see CHALLENGE 11/3/10) brought together students and faculty who were committed to advance the struggle against police brutality. Since then, a core group of activists has organized a mass response. A student petition condemning the police attack was circulated throughout the college community, and a letter condemning the college administration's silence was distributed among faculty and staff. A mass meeting was called for November 2 to mobilize a bigger march two days later.

Although the meeting was held on Election Day at an election site (the college), voting was completely ignored. It's no wonder that 60% of eligible voters regularly stay away from the polls. Working-class issues like police brutality, unemployment, foreclosures and cutbacks don't get voted on. Direct action is the only meaningful way for workers to assert our power.

Several Roxbury politicians came to the meeting. (Roxbury is Boston's oldest black neighborhood.) Their main role was confining the scope of the struggle by focusing on pressuring the police chief and the college administration to "apologize."

Then 25 students, led by two politicians, went to confront RCC's President Gomes. Although the meeting gave him the opportunity to repair his damaged reputation for trying to distance the college from the "bad press" the incident would bring to RCC, few if any students left with any illusions about his role as junior partner of the local ruling class.

Cops: Bosses' Tool to Control Workers' Struggle

Two days later, despite the rain, 60 people, mostly students and a few staff, faculty and politicians, gathered at the school to rally before the march to the police station. One speaker condemned the cops who beat the teenager, but was careful not to condemn all police. Another speaker explained that killer cops are protected by the police bureaucracy and the courts because the bosses lose control when the authority of their agents in blue is weakened. "The rulers need to keep us afraid of the police because they are the first line of defense against the working class.

The cops serve and protect the bosses and preserve their unequal and unjust society."

For days afterwards, the activist students wrestled to keep the struggle going. They thought about organizing a bigger march, bringing the petitions to the Mayor's office, confronting the Chief of Police — anything to get the brutal cops fired. They worried about how to maintain the current level of political activity without their academic work suffering.

As newly-engaged activists, they were grappling with profound questions: Does winning mean getting a few cops fired, even when others will be hired to do the same "bad job"? Does "winning" mean raising consciousness? And if so, consciousness about what?

Some of them came to a CHALLENGE Reader's Group and watched a PL video about the 1992 LA rebellions after the four cops who beat Rodney King were exonerated. The video and the discussion that followed provided a communist perspective for them to consider. The students could see the limits of reform. When the LA bosses couldn't control the working class by using the medias' lies, elections and other methods of deception, they brought in the police and armed forces, using the full power of the state to maintain control.

Police brutality will continue to sharpen as U.S. capitalism loses ground to its rivals. Increasingly workers who



'Stop Police Brutality! United We Stand. Divided We Fall!'

fight unemployment, home foreclosures and cutbacks will get the same fascist police treatment presently aimed at black and Latino youth and undocumented immigrants.

Inevitably more young people will be thrust into struggles against the police and other injustices of capitalism. As at RCC, these struggles open the door to revolutionary thinking like nothing else can. Struggle against the bosses' system gives us the opportunity to experience the power workers can have when we organize, as well as our lack of power relative to the bosses who control the police, the media, the politicians and the college bosses. When we fight in our own interests, we can more easily see how the bosses maintain control of society to benefit their class and why it is necessary for our class to win power.

Communist Consciousness Crucial

The instinct of the RCC activists to want to keep fighting is good, but without communist consciousness it will either lead them to burn out or into the arms of politicians. Communist consciousness enables them to stay in the struggle for the long term, despite the ups and downs of the reform movement. Now, when the level of class struggle is relatively low, whenever there's an opportunity for a struggle, PL'ers must pull out all the stops to advance it.

At RCC, the most important development by far to come out of this anti-police brutality struggle is for the young leaders to join PLP. This is the way we can best guarantee more struggles which can become more schools for communism.☺



Boston Workers Gather for Rally

EDITORIAL>>

U.S., China Imperialists Clash Over Korea
page 2

HEALTH CARE>>

Condemn Anti-Immigrant Racism at Public Health Association
page 5

HAITI>>

Expose Imperialism's Rape of Haiti
page 3

Cholera Epidemic: U.S.-UN-NGOs' Chance for 'Humanitarian' Profit
page 8

EDUCATION>>

Confront Bosses' Racist School Plan
page 4

Haiti Schools: Class War Hits Racist Charter Plan
page 4

IMMIGRATION>>

Marchers Unite for Jobs, vs. Anti-Immigrant Racists
page 3

SOCIAL SECURITY>>

Swindle Robs Workers of \$2.5 Trillion
page 8

Holocaust Looming? U.S., China Imperialists Clash Over Korea

China's puppet North Korea's yet unchecked attacks on U.S.-occupied South Korea make direct military conflict among rival global imperialists ever more likely. Flaunting a growing nuclear arsenal, the North's fake "communist" dictatorial monarchy reportedly torpedoed a South Korean warship in March, killing 46 sailors (see box). Late last month, North Korean artillery shells killed two marines and two civilians on one of the South's militarized islands.

Obama responded to the March sinking rather meekly, calling for no more than an "international investigation." This time around, however, Obama has sent a U.S. Navy carrier group into the Yellow Sea, which North Korea threatens to make a "sea of fire," if U.S. vessels violate its waters.

The imperialists' sharpening Korean impasse highlights the interplay between the actual and the potential, a key category in communist analysis. At present, hostilities remain at a relatively low level. But, given the forces the rival bosses can deploy and the peninsula's strategic importance to them, an all-out conflagration threatened by both sides could explode at any time.

Hostile Words, Sporadic Killing Today, Korean Holocaust Tomorrow?

So far, the Washington-Seoul axis has limited itself to rhetoric and mere shows of force. And the phony "People's" Republic of Korea, backed by the phony "People's" Republic of China, while reportedly guilty of 50 murders, doesn't even come close to U.S. killing rates. U.S. rulers have the blood of millions of Iraqis, Afghans, Pakistanis and Yemenis on their hands.

In the increasingly likely case of conflict in the Koreas, however, the body count could skyrocket beyond the U.S.-led Mid-East carnage. The North — per population the most militarized country on earth — has over a million active-duty soldiers. If the U.S. were so mobilized, it proportionately would have 12 million.

The outnumbered South-U.S. alliance, with fewer than 700,000 troops, including 25,000 GIs, could resort to the Pentagon's nuclear trump card. North Korea has a handful of warheads and China a hundred or so, but the U.S. has about 10,000. Along with A-bombs, Obama & Co. also wield the most lethal "conventional" weaponry ever devised, a good deal of it currently afloat on the USS George Washington in the Yellow Sea.

Leading U.S. Rockefeller Bloc Deems N. Korea's 'Demise' Worth Workers' Lives

The dominant Rockefeller-led imperialist faction of U.S. capitalists understands that taking out North Korea entails possible global war with China. Last month, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), U.S. rulers' top foreign policy think-tank, issued a report entitled "Military Escalation in Korea." Boasting "generous" bankrolling from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the study said:

"Renewed conflict on the Korean peninsula and potential U.S. and ROK [Republic of (South) Korea] military intervention into North Korea would clearly pose more serious risks to relations with China, including even the possibility of direct clash."

But discounting the cost in workers' lives, the CFR demands North Korea's ultimate annihilation. Amid hollow public diplomacy and the rattling of still unbloodied U.S. sabers, "the United States can privately reiterate to the leadership in Pyongyang and Beijing that any initiation of major hostilities will inevitably bring about the demise of North Korea" — obviously as unconcerned with the mass murder of Asian workers here as in the 1945 A-Bomb racist massacre of 250,000 working-class families in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The CFR, well aware of the bloodshed Obama's Korean war games may trigger, urges U.S. and allied top brass to prepare for Vietnam-style fighting, in addition to nuclear Armageddon: "U.S.-ROK Combined Forces Command must be especially sensitive to potential U.S. and South Korean military operations that may inadvertently goad or intimidate North Korea. Joint planning to manage a range of contingencies besides full-scale war should be upgraded."

Will U.S. Lure North Korea, China to Invade South?

CFR planners suggest a Korean "sucker-punch" strategy like the one Bush, Sr. used in Gulf War I: rather than invade the enemy's territory, lure him into yours. In 1990, U.S. ambassador April Glaspie assured Saddam Hussein that the U.S. would not hinder Iraq's forays into Kuwait, and then launched all-out air and ground war against Saddam's out-manned invading forces.

continued on p. 5

War in Korea A Tragedy for All Workers

The U.S. bosses' media has largely depicted the South Korean island of Yeonpyeong as the home of helpless victims attacked by a terrorist North Korean regime. In reality half the island's population is uniformed soldiers manning an artillery fire-base targeting North Korea.

The latest artillery exchange, the first in over 30 years, is only the latest incident in a series of escalations on the Korean peninsula that has been largely precipitated by U.S. and South Korean aggression and posturing. In November 2009, the South Korean military sunk a North Korean naval vessel. Now the U.S. and South Korea used the sinking of a South Korean warship to again ratchet up tensions on the peninsula.

The U.S. and South Korea have refused to allow independent investigators to examine the wreckage. A group of Russian scientists who were allowed to examine a few small pieces of the wreckage raised serious doubts about the official torpedo story, suggesting that the ship might have been sunk accidentally by a South Korean mine. The report set off a diplomatic firestorm between Russia and South Korea.

Currently the U.S. and South Korea are engaged in massive war-gaming in nearby waters, "games" run regularly designed to purposely antagonize the North. The latter warned that any violation of its waters during the war game would be perceived as an attack on the North. After several shells fell on its side, the North shelled Yeonpyeong.

Imperialism the Real Reason Behind Escalation

The Korean War 1950—53 caused 4,000,000 casualties and reduced North and South Korea to rubble. The Korean peninsula has been and is a vitally important piece in the U.S. imperial strategy that allows for quick-strike capability against China and Russia. A cooling of tensions between North and South Korea is a disaster scenario for the U.S. which needs the imminent threat of war to justify the tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers stationed in a massive complex of bases and airfields all over South Korea.

China has long sought to exert direct influence over the Korean peninsula and eventually evict the U.S. forces there. It has built a puppet "government-in-exile" to be installed should the North collapse as well as building a legal claim that historically Korea is a part of China.

North Korea is Not Iraq

Trapped between two competing imperialist powers, the Korean peninsula is being pushed dangerously towards war. Escalation would be a tragedy for workers everywhere. Rather than a low-intensity conflict killing a million people over a decade of fighting, as in Iraq, such a war would be a genocidal disaster. A 1992 U.S. War Department assessment, re-affirmed in 2003, estimates that one million people would die in the first 24 hours alone in a full-scale war.

Since 1958, it has been official U.S. policy that nuclear weapons would be used in any war between North and South Korea. After the U.S. transferred its nuclear arsenal in 1999 off the Korean peninsula to nuclear submarines off the Korean coast, the South Korean Defense Minister has again asked that these weapons be deployed throughout South Korea.

The increasing tensions in Korea reflect the increasing inter-imperialist rivalries driving the world towards war. ☸

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!**

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Workers can never be illegal Marchers Unite for Jobs, vs. Anti-Immigrant Racists

STATEN ISLAND, NY, November 13 — “Wherever we live no one is illegal because people can never be illegal!” These words echoed across Staten Island, a place that has seen the ugly face of capitalist racism. In response to more than 17 violent attacks against immigrants in the area over the past year, a multi-racial, multi-generational group of church members and peace activists had come together.

In the march, PLP’s vision for the future was clearly present: a society where all labels that are assigned to us by the racist, capitalist system will be eliminated. All of these categories: “Black or white,” “citizen or immigrant,” “legal or illegal,” “employed or unemployed.” will disappear in a society where borders are abolished, racism is outlawed and everyone will contribute to society in some form.

At the first rally a worker from Colombia spoke about the racist media that portrays Colombians as drug pushers and criminals. She said what many workers know to be true: that immigrants are looking for a job, a place to live, and peace. She stood as a figure of strength, not bowed down by the problems she faces.

The next speaker was the daughter of a worker from Mexico who had been severely beaten in a racial attack. She stood with her child in her arms to

speak out against the brutality towards her father and to thank everyone present for standing up and speaking out. She said that all they ever wanted was to work and to live.

The march was called to order and as we marched we passed many signs of how capitalism is failing workers of the world: a huge bus barn that could employ many hundreds more for public transportation; a parking area for school buses that needs drivers and aides to help students to settle down, feel comfortable on their way to and from school; an ambulance company that could train and use more emergency medical technicians to treat sick workers. But capitalists and their government only care about profit, and so there are cut-backs in all of these areas.

The signs bobbed up and down as people marched down the street chanting “Asian, Latin, Black, Red, White — Workers of the World Unite”; “What Do We Want? Jobs! When do we want them? Now!”; “Racism means – fight back!, unemployment means – fight back!” Although this is not a densely populated area people came out to watch us. Some smiled, some waved, some joined us. Workers stood in shop doorways taking literature, happy that people were speaking out.

As the march neared its end between a housing project and an elementary school, our message be-

came clearer. There were demands for more hiring in education and elsewhere and an end to racist discrimination. These people who marched and spoke exposed the boss-inspired theme of separation.

As the march ended one ninth-grader from a high school whose parents are Haitian immigrants, who has had to watch and endure the terrible conditions that have been going on in Haiti since the earthquake, spoke with emotion but without the slick phrases of political leaders. He said we need to be educated; we need jobs and we need to end racist hatred. These oppressions affect us all no matter what our color. Over the course of the day we distributed 200 CHALLENGE newspapers to workers of Staten Island. They opened the paper to read *Our Fight* (see pg. 2); We dedicate our lives to smashing capitalism and all the labels it puts on workers.



Link Harlem Jobs Fight to Racist Columbia U. Expansion

NEW YORK CITY, November 30 — Two things that capitalism absolutely cannot do without — racism and unemployment — coalesce in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City. There, the official unemployment rate is about 19% (already an underestimate of the number of unemployed workers), but for black youth from 16-19 it’s closer to 50%. It is impossible for these two things to be “reformed” out of capitalism. Only communist revolution can and will consign them to the dustbin of history. Yet it is within reform organizations such as the Coalition to Preserve Community (CPC) that the spark of communist revolution, spread by PLP, will be found.

For many years CPC, which includes residents of Harlem and neighboring communities, and Columbia University students, has been pointing out how the University’s take-over of West Harlem will cause the displacement of thousands of workers. Columbia is as vicious a business as any Haliburton or ExxonMobil and will gladly move black families out of their generational homes in the pursuit of profit. Their disguise as a liberal university masks their capitalist essence.

The tactics of the CPC have largely focused on joining local governmental boards, and engaging in electoral struggles, which limits what any mass organization can do. As an example, the NY Supreme Court has recently ruled that Columbia can take any property in doesn’t already own in the area by eminent domain (a pro-capitalist law that allows a company to seize a property if they can show that it is “underdeveloped” or “blighted”), and construction of the new campus has already begun. Yet the level of militant response to this has been very low.

Seeing the bulldozers at work despite years of effort to prevent this project, reveals the enormity of the task at hand. It is clear that what is lacking is a mass campaign with the potential to involve large numbers of local residents. In such a mass anti-Columbia and anti-gentrification movement, the idea that what workers need is to dismantle all aspects of the capitalist system can find a stronger foothold.

No issue is more pressing in Harlem than jobs, and no issue better points up the racist disregard of Columbia University, indeed of capitalism, for workers. Right at the corner of the expansion zone is a Columbia U. employment office, although no more than a few jobs have ever gone to local residents. The construction workers now so busy in Harlem come from other boroughs. Although Columbia promised that 7,000 jobs would be created in Harlem, there is no evidence they are keeping their word.

As part of our efforts to build class consciousness and militancy in Harlem, a march to this unemployment office is planned for December 7. We are publicizing the march in the street, in the housing projects, and at local meetings. This march will continue reminding workers that we have power as a class and it’s only this power that can truly liberate us. ☪

Expose Imperialism’s Rape of Haiti at Church Forum

BROOKLYN, NY, November 6 — “While demonstrating for education for all Haitians outside the Ministry of Education in Port-Au-Prince, a teacher was killed by the Haitian militia.” There was a gasp from the audience as the details of the assassination were described.

As the speaker made clear, even though it was a cop’s bullet that ended the life of Louis Jean Filbert on October 9, 200 years of racist imperialism are as much to blame. Haitians have never been forgiven by the rapacious capitalists of the world for freeing themselves from the yoke of slavery. As the speaker finished, it was clear that viewing the current catastrophe as simply the result of a geologic event was seriously one-sided.

This speaker and others were part of a forum called “Haitians Abandoned,” attended by 80 people, which was held in the chapel of our congregation. Communist ideas are present in this church through our social justice group, which organize activities such as the forum.

There was an air of expectancy at the beginning of the event. The forum had been collectively organized between the Haitian community and the church community. The event was a success in that there was a great response from the Haitian community. In fact, they outnumbered the church community, clearly pointing out that we have to organize better in our church.

The speakers also made the point that it is not charity the Haitian people seek, but unity with their brothers and sisters in the rest of the world. The willingness of many hundreds of honest working-class people (including many Party members) to go to Haiti should offer us a small reminder of the Spanish Civil War, when thousands of workers from around the world streamed into Spain in an attempt to beat back fascism.

In Haiti, like in every “natural” disaster, the class-consciousness and solidarity of workers pokes its head through the unrelenting individualism and cynicism that capitalism heaps upon us.

After the two-hour presentation and question time, attendees shared a meal together, supplied by both the Haitian and church communities. The multi-racial unity on display in our church spoke well for the future, not only of the church, but of our class. Armed with communist ideas, a future of multi-racial unity is one that the working class can achieve.

In one conversation a church member spoke about the horror of 200 years of imperialism that had made Haiti almost the poorest nation on Earth. The visitor, with boundless positive energy said: “A new day will come. Nobody will put up with this for much longer.”

The Haitian pate, chicken, salad, fruit and cheeses and the coffee brought conversation to an even deeper and friendlier level. We will continue to work with our Haitian brothers and sisters and within our church. There is great desire on both sides to continue the relationship and to stand together against imperialism and its racism. Coming out of the forum we will organize a CHALLENGE readers group in the church to continue this struggle.

In a moment of excitement during the forum, one of the speakers called out a Haitian expression which talked of the freeing of the people. The applause was astounding. The echoes will not be forgotten. Those in power had better tremble. ☪



Parents, Students, Teachers Unite: Confront Bosses' Racist School Plan

BROOKLYN, NY, November 18 — "No matter how much you want to pretty this up, you can't fool us; it's racist!" shouted an angry parent towards one of several cronies the Department of Education (DoE) sent to pacify angry students, parents and teachers at a meeting of parents from two of the building's schools.

As reported in CHALLENGE (10/28), our school campus, which now houses four schools, is slated to house a 5th one next September. This new school is in response to a mostly wealthy, predominantly white neighborhood's desire for a school within the immediate area. The students currently attending all the schools are black, Latino and Asian working-class youth from surrounding neighborhoods.

The new school will only accept students who received the highest marks, 3s and 4s, on their eighth grade exams; require a writing sample; will not have special education students or English Language Learners; and will receive millions of dollars in start-up costs.

At a school leadership team meeting, a DoE representative said the new school will replicate a pre-existing screened high school, a highly sought-after school with a mostly white population. If this new school is as popular as the first one, it's expected our school's current population will be forced out to accommodate such growth and the wealthy white people will get what they've always wanted — black and brown students out of their neighborhood.

A Record of Racism

Racial tension between the school campus and the immediate neighborhood is nothing new. Up until this school year, a pizza shop across the street refused to serve our students, while simultaneously serving white students from the surrounding neighborhoods and schools. Their phony excuse was that students from our campus would crowd the shop, while only one student would purchase something.

Daily at 3:00 PM, the neighborhood turns into a police state. Students are unceremoniously "ushered" to the train station by school safety cops and NYPD and told to go home.

Blogs written by neighborhood residents have labeled students "criminals," "dangerous" and even "animals." The schools have even been asked to stagger dismissal so as "not rattle the nerves" of the pearl-clutching residents.

A History of Struggle

These attacks have not gone unanswered. Students in our campus have walked out over the cell-phone ban, the Sean Bell murder, for immigration rights (on May 1), led budget-cut conferences and rallies and picketed outside the school yelling, "We're students, not criminals! Metal detectors have got to go!" Over 50 students attended PLP's May Day dinner last year.

Teachers, many of whom are CHALLENGE readers, have boycotted the racist pizzeria. They

also confronted school safety cops about their treatment of students and rallied against budget cuts. These teachers correctly called them racist, given the fact that the city's 80% black and Latino school population will be taking the brunt of these cuts.

Fight Back Now!

Disgusted by this blatantly racist attack, teachers from most of the building's schools have been meeting together almost weekly to plan fight-backs. Thus far this has included a debate organized by a PL member and her students (where CHALLENGE was sold), two rallies outside the school's building and a meeting organized to unite with parents.

It was at this meeting where parents directed their anger towards the DoE flunkies present over the treatment of students, charging that, "The bathrooms are disgusting, and there are roaches and mice crawling all over the place. Why is it that the building is 'good enough' for our children, but not for these new kids? It's because our children are black!"

During the meeting a PL member correctly pointed out that teachers, students and parents need to unite together and fight this racist attack, not fall for the DoE's every-school-for-themselves, divide-and-conquer strategy. Turning her back on the DoE's mouthpieces, the PL'er called on parents to kick them out of the meeting and begin making

continued on p. 6

Haiti Schools: Class War Hits Racist New Orleans- Style Charter Plan

PORT-AU-PRINCE, November 15 — Class struggle is heating up in Haiti over the reconstruction of education after the massive destruction of schools by the January 12 earthquake. Many failed to reopen on Oct. 4, the announced date. The official plan of the weak Haitian capitalist ruling class and its powerful imperialist partners is not to rebuild public education, which is the demand of Haitian teachers, parents, and students in a campaign organized by an Education Coalition. They demand the right to free, universal, public education as stated in the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

That document is a monument to racist hypocrisy. Sixty years of imperialism have so far prevented any such right from being realized in many, many places, not only Haiti.

The Haitian education budget is 1.5%, compared with the also too-low 5% standard in the region, one clear reflection of the racism which has systematically "under-developed" the Caribbean since the time of slavery and colonialism.

The bosses' plan is the same as their racist plan in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina: replace public schools with charter schools, a "publicly-funded network of privately-managed schools," breaking the teachers' union in the process. They claim this is the right "pragmatic" choice for Haiti, where between 80% and 90% of all schools are private. This despite the fact that a commission convened by the Haitian President René Préal worked from May to July on a plan that resisted privatization, aiming instead at building a public school system.

But then the top bosses spoke: the Reconstruction Commission (co-chaired by Bill Clinton and the Haitian Prime Minister Max Bellerive) approved in early October a \$500 million education project and

gave it to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to manage. The IDB's education chief, Marcelo Cabrol, promptly "recruited Paul G. Vallas, the Louisiana Recovery School District superintendent who has overseen a proliferation of charter schools after Katrina" (New York Times, 11/15/10, p. 6). Clinton, Vallas, the IDB: who rules Haiti?

This article in the New York Times (11/15/10), "A School Held Together by Hope Fights for Life in Battered Haiti," lays out the plan and the capi-

Even where schools are free and public, the main thing capitalist schools teach is capitalist ideology, the 'human right' to exploit workers, individualism, racism, sexism, and nationalism.

talist forces behind it, like the Haitian phone company DIGICEL. The article's own "human-interest" (bosses' interest) emphasis tends to support privatization. It focuses on one private girls' school whose struggle is indeed genuinely moving. But it never mentions the bitter struggle being waged by teachers and parents united for a public system, even though the demonstrations and the police killing of a teacher demonstrator on Oct. 8 were front-page headlines in Port-au-Prince.

Misleadingly, the planned "public-private partnership" appears to be the only alternative, even though the article mentions that its funding is dubious and it may not save many schools like the one described. It gives a lot of space to the head

of private Quisqueya University, ignoring the appalling state of the public university UEH (Université d'Etat d'Haïti), and its militant student groups who are part of the Education Coalition.

Education For Those Who Can Pay

In Haiti's case there were hardly any public schools to begin with. (A Haitian teacher union leader says that this reflects the injustice and inequality fundamental to Haitian society since independence in 1804.) The international aid is going to NGOs instead of building a public system, accessible to the million or more school-age children who don't attend school, and not affordable even to the more than 70% of Haitian people who are unemployed. The bosses never meant for the workers to have a free public school system.

Such bitter class war on the poorest workers arouses intense anger. It's true that many parents make huge efforts to somehow raise school fees, but many more, unemployed, homeless, simply cannot do so no matter how hard they try. To cut their children off from schooling by a decree of the Reconstruction Commission and the IDB is no "pragmatic" best choice by people of good will; it is a crime committed by the top imperialist rulers against the children of Haiti. Their hypocritical "aid" turns out to be a plan to bar school doors to the poorest children!

Braving the tear gas of MINUSTAH ((UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti) soldiers — those apostles of the UN's human rights — parents, teachers and students have held militant demonstrations at the Ministry of Education, which continue. At one of these, on Oct. 8, Jean Filbert Louis, a math teacher and member of the union UNNOH, was killed by a

continued on p. 6

PLers Challenge Anti-Immigrant Racism at Public Health Association

DENVER, CO, November 10 — Over 10,000 members of the American Public Health Association (APHA) met this year around the theme of "Social Justice." Members and friends of PLP, with support from various groups in APHA, challenged the organization to live up to its theme. Our proposed APHA policy statement, "Opposing the Exclusion of Undocumented Immigrants from Health Reform," hit a raw nerve and triggered a small struggle in the association.

The liberals who run the APHA don't want to take any public position critical of the Obama administration. But rank-and-file members, most of whom work with underserved populations day in and day out, have less interest in currying favor with politicians and more gut-level commitment to justice for the communities they serve. APHA bureaucrats used their control over a key committee to block our anti-racist resolution.

Anticipating resistance from the association full-timers, the APHA members who wrote the resolution ("the troublemakers") started circulating drafts in the weeks leading up to the annual meeting to all APHA sections (Epidemiology, Medical Care, Maternal and Child Health, etc.) The Black Caucus was specifically targeted through the friends we have made there fighting against racism in previous years. They gave their support as soon as they read it.

A key part of our strategy was to oppose Obama's attempt to win African Americans to scapegoat Latinos for the failures of capitalist medicine. After all, it is no small thing that the country's first black president signed a racist health care bill that doesn't let undocumented immigrants even BUY health insurance through the exchanges! In the end the "troublemakers" were also able to join forces with the Latino Caucus to keep the policy statement alive.

This activity, along with open sales of CHALLENGE and raising different anti-racist, anti-imperialist and anti-capitalist ideas in presentations, scientific sessions and one-on-one conversations with our friends, made for a productive five days of meetings. Healthcare social policy clearly has life-and-death implications. The stress of life under an oppressive wage-slavery system leads to high blood pressure, diabetes, premature labor and infant deaths.

For black and Latino workers, who suffer the additional layer of racism-caused stress, this disease burden is higher, for some diseases over twice as high. Capitalist poverty breeds diseases and denying access to life-saving healthcare because a person lacks money or is the "wrong race" compounds this murderous injustice.

This fight has helped to illuminate the way APHA actually works, especially for our younger

friends who were a little surprised at the dishonesty of the "progressive" professionals who control key positions in the organization. Small struggles like this can provide important lessons in the "school for communism." To be most effective, though, the struggles need the context of on-going personal relationships. One friend who always seemed pretty conservative, a federal employee from a section where we have worked for years, heard about the trick to sideline our version of the resolution. "They are starting to run this association like a dictatorship!" he commented.

At the annual "Troublemaker's Breakfast," a number of new friends in attendance were interested in helping us organize more "trouble" at next year's APHA meeting in Washington, D.C. Several of our new friends live in cities with PLP clubs, giving us a much better opportunity for more conversations with them.

Some are ready to connect health problems to social causes and will be open to revolutionary solutions. A central component of our approach will be developing a multiracial group, including both Black and Latino Caucus members, to manage the resubmission of the resolution for permanent policy-statement status next year. Long-term friendships based on the shared need to fight racism will strengthen this work in the years to come. ☸

PLP on Racist Health Care: 'Service' and NGOs, or Struggle and Revolution?

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 16 — A PL member and two friends made a presentation at the Public Anthropology Conference at American University, attacking racism as a primary cause of public health epidemics and put forward the need for revolution to end capitalism and the disasters it causes.

Our panel discussed racism and public health, focusing on the HIV epidemic in Washington, D.C., where the infection rate is 3%. Study after study shows HIV mostly affects poor people and blacks, Latinos, and Asians, just like other diseases that flourish in a racist, capitalist society.

We discussed health disparities and why these people suffer disproportionately not only from AIDS, but from cancer, diabetes, heart attacks and other ailments. A PL member explained that the field of public health was started in the 19th century by communists who understood that epidemics and famine mostly harmed the poor. She is proud to be a communist physician continuing in this tradition.

We reject the racist and unscientific idea that white people are inherently healthier than blacks, Latinos, and Asians. Health disparities have social causes—racism, sexism, poverty, etc. W.E.B. Du Bois wrote as much in "The Health and Physique of the Negro American" in 1906.

Since Du Bois' study, billions of dollars have gone into research, education, non-profits, and government-sponsored initiatives. Yet health disparities have not dissipated. We challenged the audience to think of the disparities, and the "health disparities industry," in the context of capitalism. We presented the activist Paul Kivel's pyramid-shaped model of the U.S., which shows how a tiny ruling class — just 1% of the population — controls 50% of the wealth in the country ("Social Service or Social Change?" 2006). Eighty percent of the population, by far the majority, has access to only 9% of the wealth.

Some, with more stable employment and greater educational opportunities, are part of a "buffer zone," that police, offer social services, and "keep hope alive" for the people below. The buffer zone is often used to discourage the bottom 80%-income people from organizing to seize power from the ruling class.

Our presentation was to thirty mostly white students pursuing advanced academic work. We asked them to consider how people who want social change might be co-opted by becoming academics and working on non-profit NGOs. Doing research and offering (rationed) social services will not by itself create social change. Another commentator, a life-long D.C. resident, said she had seen many non-profit colleagues become discouraged after years of offering social services and seeing no improvement.

Other audience members asked what we can do about HIV if reformist solutions don't work, and what we meant by "social change." This gave us a chance to explain that we supported the theme of "revolution" by calling for the overthrow of capitalism.

After the formal discussion, some audience members stayed to continue one-on-one conversations. They took literature, including fact sheets about HIV and copies of CHALLENGE. Two students asked to be contacted about study groups. Several signed our petition for housing for HIV victims and joined our mailing list. Follow-up must happen!

Our experience showed that we can reach out to academic audiences and ask them to examine their own position in a capitalist system. Our being openly communist and militant seemed to help audience members clarify questions they were asking, as well as raising some new ones. The contacts we made were receptive when we confirmed what they had already heard or read, or knew from experience: the world is not getting better under capitalism! ☸

U.S., China Clash Over Korea

continued from page 2

"Short of unambiguous indications of the North's preparation for full-scale offensive operations, the United States and ROK could deliberately stand down their forward-deployed forces and desist from activities that might trigger further escalation. However, rear-area defensive preparations could be initiated to hedge against the North's failure to reciprocate." Why on earth, except to ensnare emboldened northern invaders, would the South let down its border guard while beefing up its interior defenses?

Tensions are heightening because China can no more tolerate the prospect of a pro-U.S. reunited Korea than the U.S. can endure a pro-China one. Beijing's bosses will not brook U.S. troops with land-based access to Korea's border with China's mainland, the world's manufacturing center. However, U.S. bosses will do all they can to prevent China from robbing the U.S. Navy of control of East Asia's sea lanes, the increasingly important focus of global trade in goods and energy.

Given all this warmongering on both sides, they undoubtedly would try to avoid destroying all those GM, Nike, Ford and other U.S. factories in an all-out war involving North and South Korea, China and the U.S. But our communist Party cannot predict what will happen there. We can only warn that sharpening competition among beleaguered capitalist nations makes open warfare possible and plausible.

One thing is certain, though. Unlike the Korean War of 1950-53, this is not an ideological struggle between the promise of workers' power versus western capitalism. Grave political errors, including nationalism, retention of the capitalist wage system and elite party-member privilege, restored capitalism in once pro-worker China, North Korea and Russia. In 2010, both belligerents wholeheartedly support and practice the worker-destroying profit system.

Progressive Labor Party's long-term goal is revolution that eliminates the imperialists' profit-driven and racist war-making and establishes true working-class rule. We are attempting to plant the seeds of that future communist society in our Party's struggles in the shops, unions, schools, churches and communities and among GIs, as recorded in the pages of CHALLENGE, as well as in the growth of a new international communist movement spread by our Party on five continents. ☸

LETTERS

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

'Zionism Is a Terrorist Organization!'

These are the final days of the olive harvest in the West Bank. The harvest demonstrated solidarity between Palestinians and Israelis. Jewish activists came to assist in the harvest and prevent the settlers from interfering with it.

But there were some problems: the settlers burned and cut down olive trees, stole the olives and made provocations. Later they called the army, who ordered the Israelis and the Palestinians not to harvest the olives! Israel says that it is the only democracy in the Middle East; shame on that "democracy"!

The Jews came to Israel because of "Zionism." Approximately 25 years ago, the UN voted on a resolution stating that Zionism is racist. The ex-president of Israel, who was then the Israeli ambassador in the UN, tore the resolution's paper to pieces.

But I, an Israeli Jew, say: Zionism is Racism and a Terrorist Organization!

A red reader

Israeli Rulers' Religious Repression Ravages Students

A major portion of the Israeli budget goes to the settlements (most of them ideological, religious and even extremist ones), to the yeshivas (where religious men — and not women — study religious texts) and to fund the yeshiva students (men studying at a Yeshiva will soon receive social security benefits).

Students studying at the universities or colleges have to pay a lot of money for tuition and dorms, and thus must work while studying (while the yeshiva students don't have to). Also, non-Jewish religious institutions don't get this kind of financial support from the state. Netanyahu — the Israeli prime minister — represents the capitalist pigs and privatizes everything, even the university dorms! So, what's next, Netanyahu, privatize the yeshivas? And the settlements? And the chief rabbinate of Israel? Probably not.

Tel-Aviv reader

'Free Tuition' Rally Clashes with Cops

On November 22, students and faculty from around the City University of New York (CUNY) organized a rally at Baruch College to protest tuition hikes and the continuous budget cuts. Chants of "What do we want?!", "Free CUNY!"; "When do we want it?!"; "Now!" rang out as the crowd grew.

The students and faculty were hoping that their demands were being heard by the CUNY Board of Trustees, who would later that afternoon vote on a proposal to raise tuition 5% for the Spring semester and 2% more for Fall 2011. CUNY has raised the tuition over 44% since 2003. When unemployment soars, more working-class people seek an education as a way out. They are

being forced out because of increased tuition.

CUNY, founded in 1847, served as a beacon of hope for New York's working class. Until 1975, it was tuition-free. This generation of students is going back to the history books and demanding CUNY do for them what it did for the likes of Chancellor Goldstein, which is to provide a free education of quality.

After the rally the students marched to the Board meeting. As the meeting started, students and faculty sat quietly waiting for the proposal of tuition hikes. Once it was heard, students began chanting and holding up signs showing their dissent. More and more students joined in the chanting, showing they have had enough.

Undercover cops rushed to expel the students from the meeting, forcing some students back and even arresting two of us. The Board then carried on with their voting, passing the tuition increase. The crowd kept protesting while the cops pushed them into the street. On November 22nd, the students and faculty of CUNY rose together and said "NO." The fight for a free CUNY has begun.

A student

'We won't be led astray'

In the name of Papa Boukman
Boukman O O O
In the woods of Caïman
I call your name we won't be led astray
In the woods of Caïman
Papa Boukman O O O we've had enough
Papa Boukman O O O
We've come to the end here
Our country divided our families
Turning their backs on one another
We didn't make the woods of Caïman
To serve foreigners!
Didn't make the woods of Caïman
For the soldiers of MINUSTAH
Who are killing us

(Ed. note: This poem refers to the legendary meeting of the revolutionary slaves of Saint Domingue at Bois Caïman in 1791, under the leadership of Boukman, and is a kind of variation on the famous "Prayer of Boukman" uttered there. CHALLENGE doesn't normally print hymns to the ancestors and we don't believe in the cult of any personality...yet as communist readers of this poem we know we too stand on the shoulders of the giants of our revolutionary past. We hope this comrade poet will join us not only to get rid of MINUSTAH as the slave soldiers got rid of slave-owning colonialists — but also to get rid of all the oppressors of the working class of the whole world and, with the dictatorship of the proletariat, to make sure that this time around their system stays dead forever.)

Social Security Swindle Robs Workers of \$2.5 Trillion

continued from p. 8

expense, both on the battlefield where working-class troops bear the brunt of the fighting and dying — while killing masses of other workers — and in the U.S. as the rulers steal from the workers to fund their imperialist wars. (See box, P. 8)

THE RACIST FACTOR

This highway robbery has fallen even more heavily on black and Latino workers. Because of centuries of inherited racist discrimination, their net worth (accumulated assets) was reported recently at one-tenth of the rest of the U.S. population. Therefore, they're even more heavily dependent on Social Security pensions to survive any retirement years.

And all the racist attacks accusing undocumented immigrants of "stealing from the economy" ignore the fact that while paying SS taxes they get exactly zero SS pensions. They contribute hugely to a "Unified Federal Budget" which is then used to raid, jail and deport them while trying to cajole their youth into the military to fight and die in U.S. imperialist wars.

Historically, it was a communist-led, fiercely militant working-class movement that won Social Security for our class during the Great Depression. But the communists made the fatal error of not tying this fight to the one for revolution while the ruling class used its state power to whittle away and reverse hard-won reforms — the story of capitalism

The past and pending Social Security swindle is nothing new for U.S. rulers. The bosses rob us every day of our lives, exploiting us at work while laying us off for long periods of unemployment. There's only one way to end these horrors: building the PLP leading to a workers' revolution for communism, a society run by the working class that, once and for all, would smash capitalism's exploitation, poverty, racism and wars for profit. ☸

Haiti Schools

continued from p. 4

policewoman in the riot squad. In his memory and to strengthen the campaign, his union and the Education Coalition are holding an international conference in Port-au-Prince, Dec. 8-10, on the theme of "The Right to an Education."

December 10 is the anniversary of the 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights. But world capitalism, mired in a deep structural crisis and roiled by the inter-imperialist rivalry which shows up in trade and currency disputes and shooting wars over oil, can never fulfill this promise to workers' children. Nor can any schools under capitalism.

Capitalist Education is Bosses' Ideology

Even where schools are free and public, the main thing capitalist schools teach is capitalist ideology, the "human right" to exploit workers, individualism, racism, sexism, and nationalism. Workers have to send their children there, if they can. However, we hope that in their campaign for public schools, Haitian workers learn that only schools built and staffed by workers for workers in a state run by workers for workers — communism — will realize the kind of education we need for workers' freedom in an egalitarian world.

We in PLP stand by their side in "the struggles of the present" and are contributing to the conference. But as was written in the Communist Manifesto a whole century before the bosses got around to preaching their hypocritical sermons on human rights: "in the struggles of the present, communists are distinguished by taking care of the struggles of the future."

Haitian revolutionaries will be in the front ranks of those future struggles. Let's stand together in our place now to build for the "final conflict," when the schools of the international working class will teach the human race. ☸

Confront Bosses' Racist Schools Plan

continued from p. 4

our own fight-back plans. Applause and agreement greeted this call. The group then passed around a fight-back sign-up sheet and has been in touch ever since. A second parent meeting has been scheduled.

Student Unity is Crucial

In discussing this issue with students the following Monday, a PL teacher asked them to read and respond to the article in last issue's CHALLENGE. Students were outraged to discover the blatant racist plans to fund a new school while neglecting the already-existing ones.

Some students' first reaction was to threaten to beat up the new entering students. But the teacher warned students not to let the DoE's racism segregate us even further. She reasoned that the new students were not the real enemy, that it was the DoE and all it encompasses, saying they should unite with the new students (if they come) and petition and rally for equal funding.

Even if we win this struggle, we know that ultimately only the bosses win under capitalism. Like everything else, this struggle is a contradiction: while trying to win teachers, students and parents to join this struggle, we also know that the bosses' schools can never serve our students. Their main goal is to sift out a few students to become the next Oprahs or Obamas, while steering the remaining students to end up stuck in poverty-wage jobs, or as prison labor or to die in imperialist wars.

Our goal is to introduce parents, students and teachers to the Party around this struggle, and then to consolidate and recruit them. We will lead with CHALLENGE and fight alongside our class brothers and sisters. We have much work to do and many lessons to learn. ☸

Bill Buchanan: A Fighter to the End

CHICAGO, November 20 — Hundreds of co-workers, family, neighbors, comrades and life-long friends memorialized Bill Buchanan, who died at the age of 51 after a 6-year fight with intestinal cancer. Speakers highlighted various aspects of Bill's life; below are remarks on "Bill the revolutionary and activist":

I first met Bill more than 25 years ago, through the Progressive Labor Party. Bill was a college student at the time, at Northwestern, home of the infamous holocaust denier Arthur Butz. Bill and other Progressive Labor Party students — some of whom are here today — plotted ways to discredit Butz and get him fired. They leafleted, wore buttons, held rallies and disrupted his classes. Bill had another idea: how about peeing into Butz's swimming pool? Bill's great sense of humor, as well as his calmness, stood him in good stead over the years.

In the mid-80's, Bill went to Delano, California, to organize farm workers. These workers, many of whom were immigrants from Mexico, worked in excruciating conditions, doing back-breaking work 12 hours a day in the hot sun for very little pay. Bill was helping to organize them into a union and also into PLP, the idea being that in the long run capitalism would have to be put to rest for the workers' conditions to change significantly. He stayed there a whole year, never complaining, always doing what needed doing and looking for ways to connect with people.



Back in Chicago, Bill got a job teaching at Farragut High School in Little Village, using his strong command of Spanish to organize students and parents in the area. We did some crazy things back then. One time we organized high school students to go to a youth convention in New York. We had a bus, but more students showed up than the bus could hold. So we loaded up a couple of cars and

drove the rest of the students. Bill was my driving partner. Neither of us got much sleep that weekend. As I recall, we drove all Friday night, "conventioned" all day Saturday and into the night and then got up early Sunday to drive back. I was exhausted and irritable. Bill was unflappable, steady and good-natured the whole time.

He cared so much about his students. Even though he was a great teacher, he wanted to be even better. He pioneered a new curriculum at Foreman High School, where he went after leaving Farragut, and later achieved National Board Certification. Teaching math is challenging and sometimes discouraging work, but Bill did not give up.

Bill always retained the soul of a communist. He did what he thought was right, he fought hard and he was always aware of the needs of others. I have crossed paths with many who knew Bill and every one of them says the same thing: what a sincere, hard-working, stand-up guy.

This past June, when Chicago Public Schools fired everyone they thought they could get away with firing, including Bill, he stood up for his fellow teachers and instructional coaches, as you will see in the video clip on YouTube. (*Search RIP William Buchanan.*) News of his death sent a shock throughout the Chicago Teachers Union, and many felt the school system hastened his death with their unjust and stress-inducing firing.

Bill was a fighter to the end — for justice, for his students, and for his life. We will all miss him dearly. ☺

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

Racism in the emergency room

Cardiology Today, November — [Hospital] triage units are less likely to prioritize black and Hispanic patients with chest pain when compared to white patients with similar symptoms, according to a study.

"In this first nationally representative sample of emergency room patients, we found persistent racial, gender and insurance-coverage-based differences in categorization and cardiac testing. Emergency room triage [judgment] is the critical step that determines the whole cascade of clinical decisions and testing that happens next, so if patients are misclassified on arrival, they won't receive the care they need when they need it."

Free choice? Hospitals hide danger

NYT, 11/25 — ...Dr. Landrigan's study reviewed the records of 2,341 patients admitted to 10 hospitals.

The researchers found 588 instances in which a patient was harmed by medical care, or 25.1 injuries per 100 admissions....For the most part, the reporting of medical errors or harm to patients is voluntary, and that "vastly underestimates the frequency of errors and injuries that occur," Dr. Landrigan said....

A patient safety organization...said it was essential that hospitals be more open about reporting problems.... "Right now you ought to be able to know the infection rate of every hospital in your community."

For hospitals with poor scores, there should be consequences.

No job lift, but profits soar

NYT, 11/14 — The nation's workers may be struggling, but American companies just had their best quarter ever.

American businesses earned profits at...the highest figure recorded since the government began keeping track over 60 years ago....

This breakneck pace can be partly attributed to

strong productivity growth — which means companies have been able to make more with less...Still, more economists say... "The economy is not growing fast enough to reduce significantly the unemployment rate or to prevent a slide into deflation... This is unlikely to change in 2011 or 2012."

Her role: block any Burma revolt

NYT, 11/24 — Myanmar's leading dissident, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi...said she intends to lead what she calls a nonviolent revolution....The change she had in mind, she said, was "a change for the better from the point of view of human rights and democratic institutions."

But she said that unlike some of her supporters in the West, she did not see regime change as a goal. "What we want is value change," she said...

"I don't think there is any solid reason for generals to fear for their safety. We are not after them personally. I certainly do not wish them ill."

Public TV: big biz shapes the line

Otherwords.org, 11/2 — Asked by a reporter what he thought of Western civilization, Mahatma Gandhi supposedly replied, "I think it would be a good idea." The same could be said about U.S. public television.

Public TV was created 40 years ago....

Unfortunately, public TV's independence was compromised early on. The system requires most shows to get corporate funding to get on the air, giving big business just about the same gatekeeper role it plays in for-profit media....What kind of an alternative is presented by public TV's top public affairs shows? Looking at the guest list across several weeks of this year's Need to Know and the system's flagship new show, the PBS NewsHour, as well as public TV warhorses Washington Week and Charlie Rose, the answer appears to be: not much....

In two months of stories about the Afghanistan War, not a single NewsHour guest represented a group opposed to the war or expressed antiwar views.

Put older workers on the shelf?

NYT, 9/20 — A growing number of people in their 50s and 60s...desperately want or need to work to pay for retirement and...are starting to worry that they may be discarded from the work force — forever.



Since the economic collapse, there are not enough jobs being created for the population as a whole, much less for those in the twilight of their careers....

At this year's pace of an average 82,000 new jobs a month, it will take at least eight more years to create the 8 million positions lost during the recession. And that does not even allow for population growth.

Workers rebel at paying for crisis

NYT, 11/12 — A day after central London was shaken by violent protests against government-decreed increases in college tuition, Prime Minister David Cameron's administration...unveiled details of the biggest shake-up in Britain's sprawling welfare system since the years immediately after World War II.

...Curbs were announced on a range of benefits...that have proliferated since the late 1940s, when a Labour government set out to build a welfare state...aimed at protecting and uplifting Britain's working class....

The welfare reforms are at the center of a harsh austerity program hailed by influential economic bodies like the International Monetary Fund as a pacesetter for cutting growing government deficits across the industrialized world.

...Apprehension has spread as the full impact of the cuts begins to be felt. Labor unions have threatened coordinated strikes...The welfare changes, affecting hundreds of thousands of recipients, could stir more unrest.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Haiti's Cholera Epidemic: U.S.-UN-NGOs' Chance for 'Humanitarian' Profit

(By a woman student militant in Haiti)

PORT-AU-PRINCE, November 18 — "Humanitarian business opportunities..." Formerly it was the trade in black slaves, today it's exploitation in other forms. With over 1,000 cholera deaths of 17,000 declared cases, and more than 270,000 cases predicted in coming months, what explains the NGOs' silence about the cholera, compared to all their talk about the earthquake? Where are the thousands of doctors and emergency workers now, while the corpses pile up in hospitals, in the streets, pretty much everywhere?

For some time Haiti has become the crossroads or commercial center of inter-governmental or non-governmental organizations: USAID, OXFAM, etc. It's become worse since the January 12 earthquake: this "market" has become so big and so profitable that even unknown NGOs are coming to make their name here, killing the people and profiting from their misfortune.

The UN — resenting U.S. troops' (about 20,000) shutting them out just after the quake, and not sharing this potential market — has lashed out violently at the population, victimizing women, children, youth, trade unionists, peasants, students. Every sector has felt the United Nations troops' barbarity. How dare the civilian head of MINUSTAH, (UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti) Edmond Mulet, assert that elections must be held November 28, amid the reality of a million Haitians crammed into tents in appalling misery?

Now, after the UN disappointment at missing out on more profits from that natural disaster, and after letting their troops loose on the people, MINUSTAH today is creating its own disaster, its own "business opportunity": the cholera epidemic. The

UN is enlisting international organizations, the government and much of the media to support its response to the epidemic, demanding the tidy sum of \$163.8 million.

It's incredible to hear Gonaïves's mayor defending MINUSTAH when the epidemic has hit his own district the hardest. Where are the "investigative" journalists? Some went to Mirebalais, but they barely mention it now that they're all "embedded" in the "cholera awareness committees" of the government and the NGOs.

The CDC (Center for Disease Control) in Atlanta established that the cholera strain in Haiti is from South Asia, and that the first cases were near MINUSTAH's Mirebalais base of UN soldiers.

Some journalists and human rights groups reported these UN soldiers had discharged human waste into tributaries of the Artibonite River, possibly causing its contamination downstream from that site. But the rulers of both the public and the private sectors, and the election candidates, have hardly anything to say about the source of the epidemic nor to demand that the UN pay damages to its Haitian victims.

It's a gross insult to Haitians here and abroad, especially the exploited masses who are overwhelmingly cholera's victims, to see government bigwigs siding with MINUSTAH. The Prime Minister said his government was 'not interested' in the outbreak's origin. Alex Larsen, Minister of Health, said even if the source was discovered to have been imported, cholera "moves around anyway" in the "normal course" of travel and trade. (This neatly ignores the presence of those UN soldiers.)

Michèle Montas, spokesperson for the UN head Ban Ki-Moon, said critics of the UN "are just

foreigners trying to discourage them from battling the illness," that we should recognize what MINUSTAH has done nation-wide. How then would Madame Montas justify all MINUSTAH's disgusting crimes of violence in years past? "Self-defense"?

And now MINUSTAH, after poisoning us with cholera, is killing our brothers and sisters in the streets of Cap-Haïtien, Port-au-Prince and maybe soon the whole country. On October 15, after 200 cholera deaths in their city, thousands of angry protesters took the streets away from the occupation forces responsible for the epidemic. The day's toll: two killed, 16 protesters wounded by gunfire, six UN soldiers hurt by rocks.

To justify its crime, the MINUSTAH spokesperson said an armed protester fired at a soldier who returned fire in self-defense. Again, always, "self-defense"! When the victim got a bullet in the back! Always these lies. We dream of the day when the truth erupts here, about all the evils and fears which ravage us: colonialism, slavery, U.S. occupation, neo-liberalism, neo-colonialism...

No one knows the future, but still today, on November 18, despite their appalling wretchedness, we can still hear people singing in the streets behind a brass band:

When our ancestors broke their shackles

It was not to fold their arms...

Freedom is fleeting without

An equal right to walk the earth in happiness;

We know that revolution is possible again. We are sure that we can do it again! In the name of our ancestors, let them get out of here, these UN death squads and assassins! ☺

Social Security Swindle Robs Workers of \$2.5 Trillion

In one of the U.S. ruling class's biggest swindles ever on the backs of the working class, the rulers have plundered Social Security (SS) surpluses of \$2.5 TRILLION and used the swag to finance every U.S. imperialist war from Vietnam to Afghanistan. Now Obama's special commission on deficit reduction wants to plunder it still more, even as they enact a trillion-dollar bailout of the banks.

Johnson's Scam Bails Out the Vietnam War's Budget Deficit

In 1968, SS was running a surplus: income from workers' payroll taxes was exceeding the amount paid out to retirees. With expenditures for the U.S. imperialist invasion of Vietnam spinning the Federal budget into bottomless debt, the Johnson administration shrewdly "balanced the budget" by "folding" the SS surplus into what became the Unified Federal Budget. Until then all SS payroll taxes were set aside by law into the SS Trust Fund — separate from the general government treasury — to pay benefits to future retirees.

This sleight-of-hand enabled Johnson to mask any war-caused federal deficit. In "exchange" for stealing the SS surplus, the government essentially gave the Trust Fund paper "I-O-U's," Treasury bonds equal to what it "loaned" from the Fund. These notes became the Fund's "assets," laying the basis for what is now \$2.5 TRILLION the Treasury owes to SS. (NYT, 3/24)

Greenspan-Reagan Plan to 'Save' Baby Boomers' Pensions Leads to Their Demise

By the early 1980s, the Reagan administration's military budget was running wild. The federal deficit was skyrocketing. So any SS surplus — part of the Unified Federal

The War on Social Security

Max Boot, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, U.S. rulers' leading foreign policy think-tank, warns his ruling-class masters that before they can wage the larger regional and global wars they need, they must first slash Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. "[I]f we are looking at major threats to our global standing, we should not look at China, Iran or Russia. We have met the enemy and he is us — specifically, our 'insatiable' demand for entitlement spending." (Wall Street Journal, 3/25/10) Look out Social Security!

Budget — could now be used to pay for general operating expenses, "everything from jet fighters to thumb tacks." (NY Times, 1/21/1990) Reagan's

Greenspan Commission's "solution"? Save future pensions by jacking up workers' SS taxes.

The SS surplus was reaching \$200 billion annually, from "workers...paying more into Social Security than it...paid out in benefits....So what has happened to [those trillions]? The payments have all been spent." (NYT, 2/20/2004)

So Greenspan's tax hike simply became part of the Unified "federal budget...., nothing more than a way to increase the share of the burden borne by working people." ("Social Security's Future," NY Times, 1/31/1995) The \$2.5 trillion stolen from the SS surpluses has been helping pay for the "general operating expense" of every U.S. imperialist invasion since Vietnam — Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Yugoslavia, Gulf War I, Iraq, Haiti and Afghanistan/Pakistan.

So this isn't an "SS crisis." It's a crisis of capitalism which the rulers try to "solve" at the workers'

continued on p. 6

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