

CHALLENGE



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Hospital Workers' Class Hatred Rages vs. Racist, Sexist Cuts

NEW CITY, NY, June 26 — "What do we want?! BENEFITS! If we don't get it? SHUT'EM DOWN!"

Hundreds of black and Latino hospital workers militantly chanted, sang and danced in a picket line surrounding Brookdale Hospital CEO Bruce Flanz's house in this rich, mostly white town, about an hour north of the hospital's site in the Bronx. The picket was organized by Local 1199 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), a local representing over 260,000 mostly black and Latino hospital and home healthcare workers in New York City. The workers were responding to Brookdale's violation of its labor contract, which has forced the 3,500 hospital workers onto a more expensive health insurance plan in a racist, sexist campaign to break worker militancy and, ultimately, decertify 1199.

When Progressive Labor Party members spoke with Brookdale workers as they arrived to board the buses that morning, we met with very positive reactions. Almost every worker took a CHALLENGE, and we came away with more than a half dozen contacts. Since then we have followed up with them to plan meetings. As some of our new friends later told us, several Brookdale workers took stacks of papers on the buses with them, distributed them all, and held discussions about the Brookdale article (CHALLENGE 6/6) on the bus trip there and back.

The picket around the CEO's house was highly militant. At the sight of the CEO's sprawling house, the racist contrast between the living conditions of Brookdale workers and the bosses was blatantly obvious. One disgusted worker, her young daughter with her, yelled, "We're fighting just for this [contract] when these people live like this?" Another woman worker began spreading a chant to burn down the boss's house, before being discouraged by union marshals. The loudest and most popular chant, quoted at the top, was a call-and-response for the hospital to shut down.

Scabs Watch Out!

Class hatred for the bosses was stoked even further at the discovery of a scab standing in the CEO's driveway, a man known only as "Martinez." The workers crowded the edge of the property, taunting Martinez to step closer "so we can get a piece of you," but the police and union marshals got the pickets moving again as the scab Martinez smugly raised his middle finger. A hospital worker from Jamaica warned: "Don't you dare step back into Brookdale! I'll be waiting for you!"

Over the past six months, Brookdale workers have shown a lot of bravery in the face of the bosses' attacks. According to our friends inside the hospital, supervisors have been spying on workers who are organizing fight-backs. We've learned of two instances of spontaneous work stoppages across many hospital departments. Three weeks ago, according to several EMT and paramedic friends, the New York City Fire Department issued some unusual orders: no patients were to be brought to Brookdale. Last week, bosses at the cash-starved hospital suggested that another round of layoffs is imminent, a move that would criminally worsen an understaffing crisis.

While Brookdale workers have amply demonstrated their class hatred, the struggle's outcome will be determined by the political line of their leadership. This is where Local 1199 represents a dead end. The sellout essence of the 1199 misleaders, from President George Gresham on down, betrays



their militant appearance. Workers frankly admitted that while they want to strike, they don't trust 1199 to support them. Some said defiantly that they should strike, "union or no union." But apart from their spontaneous work stoppages, they have yet to follow the example of the Stella D'Oro workers, who took the lead in 2008 and spearheaded an 11-month, anti-sexist strike.

Brookdale's workers need a mass base of support to battle their racist, sexist bosses. While 1199 talks tough and bills itself as the "largest local in the world," it refuses to mobilize its quarter-million members in New York City in these workers' defense. Recently the union leadership began talking about the need to get rid of Flanz and his entourage, to pave the way for a takeover of Brookdale by state officials. But these officials are the same "saviors" who have cut billions of dollars from health care and closed eight hospitals in New York City alone!

Boss-Union Hack Gang-Up

In reality, boss Flanz and hack Gresham are on the same side. Although they haggle over contract details in a show of collective bargaining, their argument is confined to how much can be taken from the workers in the current economic crisis, and how fast. Under capitalism, both bosses and unions serve one overriding goal: the exploitation of workers to generate maximum profits. The brutal workings of this system are most obvious when it targets black, Latino, and women workers, as at Brookdale. Through this super-exploitation, the capitalist ruling class pushes down wage and benefit levels for all.

PLP's message of fighting back is spreading, evidenced by the enthusiastic response to CHALLENGE and the many contacts we've made. These embryonic leadership collectives will serve the interests of the working class instead of playing off their fears — the strategy of 1199 and other unions, whose job is to keep the capitalist status quo in place.

PLP's and CHALLENGE readers around New York City have been circulating petitions and flyers to spread the word about Brookdale. In days following the picket in New City, one friend of PLP was conducting blood pressure screenings in another borough. He made available a stack of anti-racist leaflets that denounced the Brookdale bosses. One person getting her pressure checked read the leaflet and exclaimed, "My sister works for Brookdale! What can we do here to help?" She took several leaflets and contact information was exchanged. Wherever we are, we can meet people and deepen our ties.

PLP fights for both the short-term and long-term interests of the working class. By strengthening CHALLENGE networks while we build support for the Brookdale workers in our own workplaces, we are both sharpening the local struggle and moving toward our ultimate goal, a communist revolution. ☺



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IMF, FBI Circuses Try to Mislead Workers into Rulers' Wars

To combat a growing host of global warring enemies, U.S. rulers increasingly require loyalty, both from international allies and from the masses at home. This wartime need underlies the rotating episodes of two ongoing "true-crime" sagas: the cases of Dominique Strauss-Khan, the ousted head of the International Monetary Fund, and Whitey Bulger, the Boston gangster recently captured after 16 years on the lam. (see box on right.)

In both cases, the capitalist media boasted of "proof" that U.S. courts protect the downtrodden from the mighty and inexorably punish the guilty. But make no mistake. The bosses aren't merely distracting workers with media circuses here. These cases have implications far worse than these two criminals' misdeeds.

Manhattan D.A. Vance Uses Strauss-Khan Assault to Serve U.S. Imperialism's Class Interests

On May 14, IMF boss Strauss-Khan was arrested for sexually assaulting a New York hotel house-keeping worker, a story that grabbed headlines around the world.

But on July 1, New York District Attorney Cyrus Vance, Jr. declared there were "too many inconsistencies" in the hotel worker's testimony. Saying he now "had no case" against Strauss-Khan, Vance freed him from house arrest and returned his bail money.

But Vance's flip-flopping had accomplished U.S. rulers' goal: It forced Strauss-Khan's resignation as head of the IMF. Why? Strauss-Khan's original sin was pushing for a new currency to replace the dollar as the IMF instrument for indebting poor nations. This proposed "basket money," originally designed as a combination of the dollar, the British pound, the euro, and the Japanese yen, would now expand to include China's yuan. Beyond devaluing the U.S. dollar (by enabling countries to buy the new currency instead of U.S. Treasury bonds) and thereby threatening the dominance of the U.S. ruling class, the new currency would also enhance the influence of China, the United States' chief economic rival.

Vance is no Johnny-come-lately. He's a chip off the old, imperialist block; his father, Cyrus Vance, Sr., was the Secretary of State who helped President Jimmy Carter draft the "Carter Doctrine" in 1980. This policy declared Mideast energy a "vital U.S. interest" to be defended by military force, laying the groundwork for U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While there's no evidence that Strauss-Khan was a victim of a sting, his inability to keep his pants up — following a long line of similar "indiscretions" — was a gift that U.S. bosses used to eject him from the IMF, check his assaults on the U.S. dollar, and damage his chances to become the next president of France.

French President Sarkozy Cozies to U.S. War-makers, Arms Libya Rebels Following Strauss-Kahn Flap

Now U.S. rulers have sharpened their focus on "coalition-building." Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner blessed the choice of French economist Christine Lagarde, a member of Sarkozy's pro-U.S. Union for a Popular Movement party (UMP), to run the IMF. Lagarde had for years headed the law firm of Baker & McKenzie, a leading U.S. imperialist force in the Middle East and North Africa.

Steve Dunaway, of the Exxon Mobil/JP Morgan Chase-controlled Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) think-tank, spelled out Lagarde's latest pro-U.S. duties: "She has to demonstrate that the IMF will not automatically rubberstamp European decisions and be a convenient piggy bank to help Europe finance the debt crisis in some euro-area countries" (CFR website, 6/29/11). Sarkozy called the selection of this U.S. stooge "a victory for France."

Immediately following Lagarde's coronation, Sarkozy began flying arms to the anti-Qaddafi, U.S.-leaning Libyan rebels. These shipments go beyond the UN's resolution on Libya but delight Obama and the Pentagon.

Freeing Strauss-Khan supposedly humiliated Vance and allowed French rulers to save face in the eyes of the world. No longer would super-power U.S. bosses hold the 2012 French presiden-

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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.

To Energize Patriotic Police State:

Rulers Dump Racist Thug Bulger, FBI 'Agent'

While the Strauss-Khan circus has played out on a worldwide stage, U.S. rulers have pitched the Bulger drama to a domestic audience. On June 22, the FBI at long last collared fugitive gangster and "rogue" FBI collaborator Whitey Bulger. Bulger had served as an FBI informant and was protected by his handlers even as he was accused of 19 murders, a fact that has given this police-state agency a black eye for two decades.

On one level, the hype over Whitey's capture forms part of a ruling-class effort to publicly rehabilitate the bungling, corrupt FBI and win greater support for the burgeoning wartime U.S. police state.

On a deeper level, busting Bulger represents a profound shift from the ideology of the 1970s. While U.S. capitalists still rely on racist big-city police departments, and still protect KKK-Nazi groups to mislead white workers, they've needed to shift their emphasis from locally-oriented gutter racism to massive, patriotic, national racism and global genocide, often under the leadership of black politicians like Obama and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick.

Whitey and his "legit" politician brother, Billy, reached the height of their power at the end of the Vietnam War era. As part of a Defense Department shutdown after the war, the main Rockefeller-led liberal bosses wiped out thousands of better-paying jobs in redundant shipyards in South Boston, Charlestown, East Boston, and Quincy.

The predominantly white workers there quickly turned against liberal Kennedy & Co., their former protectors. No longer able to win over workers with federally-sponsored employment, the liberals set the Brothers Bulger to organizing white workers to blame — and fight — black workers. Liberal Judge W. Arthur Garrity, Jr., who lived in a lily-white Boston suburb, provided the tinder: school desegregation.

Desegregation is, of course, a good thing. But Boston's liberals turned it into a school-shutting vehicle to divide the local working class. Billy Bulger, Democratic Party president of the Massachusetts State Senate, made anti-busing speeches, while Whitey fed drugs to racist thugs. This was the anti-busing crowd our Party fought and smashed in 1975, in our genuinely anti-racist Summer Project (see plp.org).

Now the liberal war-makers need white South Boston enlistees willing to take orders from Obama and their black sergeants to kill Arab and Asian workers. (This facade of a "multi-racial" power structure masks U.S. rulers' continuing racist super-exploitation of black workers through higher rates of joblessness and imprisonment — along with worse pay, education, medical "care," and housing.) They require allegiance to a national patriotism, not to a two-bit racist ward boss or drug lord.

So the Bulger Klan is essentially history. Whitey now faces the rest of his life in jail. Meanwhile, brother Billy had been bought out of politics by Governor William Weld with a cushy academic job as president of the University of Massachusetts. But Billy was forced to resign after it emerged that he'd recommended a corrupt FBI agent (Whitey's in-house protector) to be Boston's police commissioner. Now he stewes in retirement (on a \$200,000 annual pension.)

The Strauss-Khan and Bulger sideshows aim at getting workers to kill and die for U.S. imperialism, against our class interests. We have the opposite goal: to expose and attack the sideshows' billionaire puppet-masters. Alongside building our communist party, PLP, this is an essential step toward the revolution that will ultimately eradicate the profit system and the wars it ceaselessly spawns.☸

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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Teachers, Students Give Out Marks: A+ for PLP'ers Under Attack; 'F' for Racist Principal

BROOKLYN, N.Y., July 1 — "I feel like I am back in my country under the dictatorship of Noriega." So spoke one Panamanian-born Clara Barton High School staff member after hearing that some teachers would be "excessed" from the school (and moved to another building) after a year of sharp struggle. One of them has been an outspoken fighter in the school and a champion of student rights. It's no surprise that the administration has been scheming how to discipline or get rid of outstanding teachers who have challenged the racist regime of Principal Forman.

This struggle began in 2007, when several Clara Barton teachers volunteered to accompany students to help rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. After PLP teachers organized a few very successful trips with parent support, the teachers involved received "warning letters" in their files. The school community was outraged when the principal and assistant principal of security attacked us for the trip.

We realized then that only a racist could oppose our efforts to respond to the genocide that was taking place in New Orleans. As one parent involved said of the volunteer effort, "It was the best thing that my son ever did in his life."

New Orleans: Students Got Real Education

By supporting workers who were being brutalized by capitalism and racism in New Orleans, Clara Barton students got a powerful lesson in class struggle. This was real education. It's also the kind of learning that the New York City Department of Education (DoE) doesn't want them to get.

Since then, the principal and his lackeys have insisted that any activities involving teachers and students outside of the school represent a violation of a chancellor's regulation — unless approved in advance by the principal. As we've pointed out, this ridiculous policy could never be put forward in a more affluent or elite school; it was a racist insult to the entire Clara Barton community. As predicted in CHALLENGE (6/22), the despicable, racist principal lived down to his reputation. The day after the term ended, two PLP teachers — both among the most effective and committed in the school — received a "U" rating, for "unsatisfactory."

The response in the building was immediate. About 40 teachers attended an emergency union meeting called the next day. After a discussion ranging from the imminent excessing and Forman's relentless harassment, the teachers endorsed a resolution demanding that the principal remove the U ratings. They also considered withdrawing their contributions from a union-sponsored fund to show that they were dissatisfied with our union leadership's weak response to this attack. Finally, it was proposed that the staff rate the principal. There is no question that he would get a U!

We have not backed down since this fight began, and we ended the term with a bang. At graduation, one of the targeted PLP teachers was honored by the students as the principal hung his head. In front of hundreds of parents and students, the student speaker thanked the teacher for teaching her about Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, W.E.B. DuBois, and Paul Robeson.

On behalf of the senior class, she went on to say that she would rate this teacher an A+. There were cheers and loud chants in favor of the PLP teachers. Many students and some staff at the ceremony wore buttons on their gowns, with a slogan

aimed at both Forman and the DoE: "Schools Not Jails."

The same spirit prevailed at a staff meeting later that day, where numerous teachers condemned the excessing and U ratings. One PLP member addressed the principal and demanded to know why she was given a U rating for helping her students learn about the world. She received enthusiastic



applause from many teachers when she ended by telling the administration, "Shame on you!"

As we left the meeting, some teachers were shaken after being told on the spot that they would be excessed. There was disagreement about whether we should attend the end-of-term staff party. After a year of harassment and a barrage of investigations (reportedly more than 30 in all), some teachers felt we should not be at any party with the administration. But we agreed that when under siege, it's vital to show up everywhere and be a thorn in the administration's side. This turned out to be the right course, since many of

the staff — despite some political disagreements — support us and wanted to party with us, not with the principal.

At the party, a PLP teacher stressed the need to make our attack against racism front and center in every struggle. It was followed by a talk by the person who'd coordinated the party, a former student of a PLP'er. After calling for staff members to fight for their students and to change the world, she sang "Man in the Mirror."

Hearing lyrics that encouraged people to "take a look at themselves" and "change their ways," and for all of us to fight back, many staff members realized that the song was directed at Principal Forman. It was electrifying to hear this strong, clear voice belt out the song as many of us gathered in a circle and held hands. It was a great show of solidarity!

The Power of PLP's Ideas

Our battles have shown that the ideas of Progressive Labor Party are powerful; they've had a profound effect on many people in the school. Speakers at both graduation and the staff party spoke about the need to fight for our students and a better world. For Forman, of course, these remarks fell on deaf ears; he stayed on his cell phone, his back turned to the speakers. But many others heard the message loud and clear.

The seeds we have planted in this school are starting to grow. Many good people have stepped forward during this four-year struggle. We see that people will follow communist leadership and that they are open to communist ideas. We need only the discipline to put our views forward boldly and consistently.

We are also seeing more clearly that the administration's vicious attacks reflect a broader reality: Capitalism cannot provide an education for our youth. Only when workers, students, and parents gain state power will we be able to provide a genuine education for everyone. But we can get a good start in learning more about these ideas at PLP's Summer Project in New York, July 11-16. ☺

Workers' Support for Murder Victim Exposes Rulers' Use of Racist Cops

PHILADELPHIA, PA, June 23 — Albert D. "Audi" Purnell was murdered by a racist Philadelphia cop. Hospital workers here are supporting their co-worker Albert Purnell, Sr., demanding justice for his murdered son. PLP members and friends are actively involved in this struggle. On June 15, we took part in a march to the office of District Attorney Seth Williams to demand that this racist cop be brought to court. On June 23, we attended a meeting of the Philadelphia City Council where Audi's parents demanded justice for their murdered son. But to the racist Philadelphia cops he was nothing more than a black animal that they could slaughter at will.

When we first started talking to co-workers about this racist murder we ran into some cynicism. Some responded "Why would the police murder him?" "What was he doing?" We decided to continue talking with these workers patiently. As more of the details of the murder are coming out, the cynicism of these work-

ers is starting to soften.

Many who are black are under pressure from crime in their neighborhoods. They want to believe that the police will deal with this problem if they are given a free hand. This is the basis of support for Mayor Nutter's "stop-and-frisk" policy. This idea that the role of the police is to protect workers from crime is an illusion.

The murder of Audi Purnell and the wave of racist police shootings of black men occurring here give our Party the opportunity of exposing the true role of the police under capitalism. The KKKops protect the private property and power of the capitalists and the racist system that produces hundreds of billions in super-profits. As the capitalist system fails, black workers will feel the brute force the hardest because of the inherent racism in this system. The bosses know that black workers are a potential revolutionary force that could lead all workers to overthrow this rotten system. The police have always been

used not to protect but to terrorize and keep them from fighting back!

The more militant workers at our hospital supported Al Purnell, Sr. from the beginning. A number of them showed up for the June 15th march. Unfortunately they are attracted to the leadership of the National Action Network (NAN). NAN is calling on the police to break the "blue code" and inform on corrupt cops. They are also calling for a "master" from the federal government to police the police here.

We will struggle with workers to understand that racist police terror does not come from individual corrupt cops. It is part and parcel of the racist capitalist system. Under capitalism the federal government cannot be any less racist than the city government. Capitalist survival depends on racism and racist police terror will continue as long as capitalism continues. Only communist revolution can do away with it forever. ☺

'Jobs, Yes! Deportations, No! Workers Fight Fascist Attack on Immigrants

NEW YORK CITY, July 1 — The most important task for the world's working class is rebuilding the international communist movement, learning from past successes and failures and advancing the struggle for workers' power. Crucial to this process is fighting racism and all racist divisions within the working class. We must understand global immigration in this context.

Workers migrate for many reasons: work, hunger, misery, war, repression and persecution. The world is the marketplace where international wage slaves look for work, regardless of capitalist-imposed borders. The world's capitalists exploit the working class in part based on immigrants, both outside and inside their so-called borders. The lower the wages and the worse the situation for immigrant workers, the better capitalists can create the conditions to exploit the whole working class while building racist ideology and divisions. We must understand how capitalism works, unite across "borders" and fight for our class worldwide.

Bosses Spread Anti-Immigrant Lies

Within capitalist "nations," the bosses super-exploit undocumented workers, reaping huge profits. Meanwhile, their government and media system blame undocumented immigrants for "stealing" jobs from "Americans"; "taking services away" from "law-abiding citizens"; "committing crime"; "ruining neighborhoods"; and being "terrorists." These statements are based on racist lies and myths that foster a climate of racist hate and division that masks the nature of capitalist exploitation and builds a base for ruling-class-led fascism.

In the U.S. there are a rash of new anti-immigrant laws, often passed in states with the highest immigration rates, like Florida, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, Arizona and Utah. The latest law, enacted in Alabama:

- Requires public schools to check students' immigration status using birth certificates or sworn affidavits;
- Bans undocumented immigrants from attending state colleges;
- Makes it illegal for landlords to rent to undocumented immigrants;
- Makes it illegal for citizens and documented immigrants to transport or shelter undocumented immigrants; and,
- Makes it a crime to hire undocumented immigrants and forces employers to use E-Verify, a so-called "voluntary" program run by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to verify a worker's immigration status.

Meanwhile Texas Representative Lamar Smith has introduced a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives to make the use of E-Verify at workplaces federal law, thus mandatory. (E-Verify is a faulty system with a high error rate, causing many documented workers to be either fired or refused employment.)

Obama Expands Bush Program

Another racist feature is the "Secure Communities" program, a DHS "immigration enforcement" program in which local police share fingerprints with the FBI, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and DHS, supposedly to find and deport immigrant "criminals." The program was begun under the Bush administration in 2008 with the plan to make state participation mandatory by 2013. The Obama administration has expanded the program as a key part of immigration enforcement.

ICE deported 392,862 immigrants in 2010, not including over 400,000 who took voluntary deportation. Projected deportations for 2011 are 404,000. There are currently 350 detention jails in the U.S. More than 77,000 immigrants have been deported

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Obama's Boeing Buddies, Union Hacks Pave Way for Sellout

SEATTLE, June 28 — The court case between Boeing and the International Association of Machinists (IAM) kicked off earlier this month with a judge hearing Boeing's request to have the IAM's complaint thrown out. The latter is accusing Boeing of moving part of its 787 aircraft production to a non-union plant in South Carolina in order to punish the union for its 2008 strike. Boeing has denied the charges and wants the case dismissed.

However, the fact that Boeing's move to South Carolina was made to punish its workers is undeniable. And the fact that Boeing has chosen South Carolina reveals the racism of the company's move. The state's history of centuries of racism as a union-busting "right-to-work" area has kept wages much lower than in Washington State and enables the racist bosses to use it as a club against white and black workers in Seattle.

In 2010, Boeing CEO Jim Albaugh told the Seattle Times (4/22/10) that preventing strikes was the key factor in deciding to move to South Carolina. A 2009 conference call with then Boeing CEO Jim McNerney had the company again stating that the move was made to prevent "regular strikes." More recently Boeing's chief counsel told a Senate committee hearing that the move was undertaken to prevent further strikes. (LA Times, 6/26/11).

Now Congressional Republicans are attacking the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) for even hearing the IAM's complaint. Senate Republicans threatened to kill the appointment of NLRB general counsel Lafe Solomon over the dispute with Boeing. (LAT, 6/26/11)

Obama's Appointees Solidly Boeing

But workers shouldn't rely on the government's NLRB for help. Democrats have mostly sat in quiet approval of the attacks. Obama Commerce Secretary nominee John Bryson, in his recent Senate confirmation hearings, said he thought the NLRB decision to bring the complaint forward was a "big mistake." (Business Insider, 6/21/11) Bryson is a former Boeing board member, as is Obama Chief of Staff William Da-

ley.

Boeing is so confident it will beat the charge that it hasn't even bothered to show up for settlement negotiations with the IAM. Indeed in many ways Boeing has already succeeded in breaking the back of the IAM. In a 2010 speech, IAM president Tom Buffenberger condemned the 2008 strike, stating, "It is time to move beyond the old ways of bargaining that have been used since the 1930s... We must find ways to move forward where both the company and the workers benefit together, neither one profiting at the expense of the other in adversarial roles." (IAM, 1/26/10)

This abject union class collaboration is nothing new. This "strategy" has successfully whittled the membership of the UAW down to one-third of its peak in just a few decades. As only CHALLENGE reported, the IAM did not initially endorse the 2008 strike that began as a worker-led wildcat and actively tried to undermine it every step of the way. (CHALLENGE, 10/1/08)

The sellout of that strike by the IAM leadership and its continued propaganda campaign of pushing cooperation with Boeing has left many workers deeply cynical about their ability to resist Boeing's attacks on their wages and benefits. Many openly express their pessimism about the future of their jobs and their own ability to change that future. The IAM's appeal to the NLRB is part of its campaign to protest through the "right" channels (according to the bosses' laws) rather than striking. As the case stretches out over months and even years until the judge eventually and inevitably sides with Boeing, workers may become even more cynical.

In this era of union sellouts' surrender and coordinated attacks against the working class by the bosses and its capitalist state, workers need communist ideas more than ever. Following pro-boss union leaders is a dead end. We must win the rank and file to challenge the bosses' laws and in that class struggle build a mass communist PLP to fight for revolution and the ultimate destruction of the exploitative capitalist system.✪

N.J. Demopublicans Agree: Serve the Bosses, Screw the Workers

TRENTON, N.J. June 23 — The New Jersey Assembly, with the Democratic leadership fully supporting the deadly proposals of their pal Governor Chris Christie, voted for the pension and health "reform" bill here tonight. About ten thousand workers turned out earlier to protest these severe attacks on the working class; at one point, thousands surrounded the statehouse and chanted, "Kill the bill!" Hundreds of PLP flyers and scores of CHALLENGEs were received positively by the workers.

At the rally, the sorry union leadership held a mock funeral for "the soul of the Democratic Party." Ironically, a person in blackface joined the New Orleans jazz band walking ahead of the coffin. (The union leadership was apparently ignorant of the racism behind this tradition.)

One after the other, the politicians and union hacks who spoke at the rally claimed to be "true" Democrats. Here is the solution posed by the "most radical" speaker: "Take back the party" in the November election. But these are the "friends" they put in office in the last election.

The 2011 New Jersey budget represents an avalanche of cutbacks and take-aways from employed and unemployed workers and give-aways to millionaires. Last year's budget had \$3 billion in interest allocated to New Jersey bondholders. Of course they didn't mention who these "bondholders" were: the same banks that have profited from the current economic crisis.

The Democrats in the state legislature put up some token opposition, but in the end provided the necessary votes to pass the biggest blows against organized workers in New Jersey history.

The solution to these massive cuts lies far out-

side the capitalist system. While it is easy to hate Christie, with his arrogance and disdain for the working class, "austerity" programs are being pushed all over the U.S. and the world. All politicians are falling in line. Enforcing their class dictatorship through the police, the courts, and the media, the capitalists in all countries are shifting the burden of their crises onto the wage slaves.

In the process, they are taking away the gains that tens of thousands of militant fighters worldwide died to achieve over a century and more. This points up the fleeting nature of reform under capitalism. The bosses give when they need to stop revolutions or buy the workers off; they taketh away when, as now, the workers are politically weak and lacking communist leadership.

In every struggle, PLP strives to bring the bigger picture into focus by linking the attacks on the most oppressed sectors of the working class to the bosses' need to drive down wages and benefits. As in Nazi Germany, this is rulers' standard fascist labor policy. It helps them prepare for the inevitable next war against their rivals. We fight for unity in opposition to the bosses' plans to turn private against public workers, employed against unemployed.

Organizing to bring to light the true impact of these devastating cuts, including the racist demolition of the General Assistance (GA) program, is the first step toward mounting a united struggle. PLP members are already involved in that process. Within that fight, we will try to learn from our fellow workers while leading them forward. With our active participation, this crucible of struggle can make real the communist ideas workers so desperately need to take down all the capitalists and their puppet politicians.✪

Mexico: 'Drug War' Hides U.S. Slave Labor Empire

The recent revelation that 70% of the guns seized by police and the army in the Mexican drug war are in fact from the United States (Christian Science Monitor, 6/15) has infuriated people on both sides of the border. But for those who have followed the drug trade since the 1980s, the revelations of U.S. officials fueling the drug trade were nothing new.

The transfer of guns from the U.S. to Mexico was largely orchestrated by the U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) agency in an operation codenamed "Fast and Furious." Now that disgruntled ATF officials have leaked the story to the press, the Justice and State Departments have moved quickly to deny involvement and lay the blame at the feet of the ATF. However, in the wake of the ATF's bungling of the 1994 Branch Davidian standoff, it is hard to believe that they would have undertaken such an operation without Bush and Obama administration support.

Indeed the U.S. ruling class has a long history of supporting the drug trade in Latin America. In 1982 the CIA linked up the Medellin Cartel in Colombia with the anti-communist death squads in El Salvador and Nicaragua and built the cocaine pipeline between Colombia and the United States. The 38% increase in cocaine users in the United States and the ensuing crack epidemic covertly funded the anti-communist wars in Central America. Drugs flowed north from Colombia to El Salvador and Nicaragua and then through Mexico into the U.S. Southwest or over the Gulf into Florida. Then guns and money for the death squads flowed south through the same channels. (See Gary Webb's "Dark Alliance" series in the *San Jose Mercury*, 8/18-20/1996).

Even after the scandal broke that the CIA had been nurturing and building these drug pipelines, the CIA continued to operate its Latin American drug-running operation (*Washington Post*, 3/17/1998). It is therefore not surprising that along with fueling wars in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Colombia, the U.S. is also fueling the Mexican drug war.

The only real question left is that of the U.S. ruling-class' motive. U.S. capitalists, who have always viewed Mexico as their backyard, have long resented Mexico's 1917 Constitution that limited the ability of foreign powers to exploit Mexico's labor and resources. Finally, in the 1980s, after decades of U.S. pressure on the



Mexican state, the U.S. ruling class was able to exacerbate (some say create) a series of economic crises that began in 1982. Conditions attached to the U.S.-led "bailout" loans were used to begin to dismantle the 1917 Constitution. Mexico's laws protecting against U.S. exploitation then took another tremendous hit with the 1994 passing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The use of the drug war to further destabilize the Mexican state is a continuation of the U.S. ruling-class' drive to re-subordinate Mexico to U.S. imperialism (*La Jornada*, 3/26/2009). With U.S. guns flowing to both the drug cartels and the Mexican military, which has been given expansive policing powers, violence has predictably skyrocketed and it is the working class that has found itself in the crosshairs; 34,612 people have died in the last four years of the drug war in Mexico (*AP*, 1/12). The vast majority were poor workers in no way associated with the drug trade.

And that's the point: the "drug war" has not been about drugs at all, but rather about terrorizing Mexico's workers. The facade of the drug war hides the massive maquiladora slave-labor empire the U.S. has built in Mexico. It hides the fortunes that Mexican capitalists like Carlos Slim have made stealing public utilities and goods. It justifies the militarization of the U.S./Mexico border and the ratcheting up of anti-immigrant racism that makes U.S. capitalists rich. Stopping the flow of drugs is about the only thing the drug war doesn't do.☺

Watch Your Garbage.... FBI Manual Aims At Anti-War, Pro-Labor Groups

The new edition of the FBI's manual for domestic investigations grants agents extensive powers to search databases, go through household garbage and start surveillance on people or groups suspected of crimes. The new manual stresses that evidence of criminal activity is not a pre-requisite for opening investigations or beginning surveillance (*NYT*, 6/12).

The new rules are in fact only codifying behaviors that the FBI has engaged in since its inception and with increasing frequency since the 1970s. These surveillance powers, "justified" by the "war on drugs" and the "war on terror," have been primarily used to monitor and harass anti-war, anti-capitalist, pro-labor and other Left-leaning groups.

One activist in the environmental movement was shocked recently when a Freedom of Information Act request revealed that he had been under intense surveillance since 2001. There had been at least five FBI informants in his various groups, and the FBI had collected 1,200 pages of documentation on him (*Democracy Now*, 6/14/11). Two years ago anarchists were dismayed to discover that Brandon Darby, a man who had run an anarchist collective in post-Katrina New Orleans, had been an FBI informant for years (*This American Life*, 5/22/2009). In 2007 it was revealed that the FBI had been abusing national security letters, presidential edicts that allowed surveillance without judge-issued warrants, to spy on people with no evidence of a crime (*NYT*, 3/10/2007).

Of course this kind of harassment of workers has

not been limited to the FBI. Immigration Customs and Enforcement raids have been used to intimidate Latino workers from organizing as they were in 2007 at the Smithfield plant in North Carolina (*Center for Immigration Studies*, 7/2009). Anti-war groups formed after the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan have also been subject to spying and intimidation. In 2003 the campus office of an anti-war group at Texas Tech University was raided by local police. That same year a judge subpoenaed records (attendance lists, conference notes, etc.) of an anti-war conference at Drake University (*AP*, 2/7/2004). Just last year at the University of Washington, university police tried to place an undercover agent in a student group protesting the budget cuts (*ACLU-WA*, 7/8/2010).

The capitalist state has always used its state power to spy on and intimidate the working class. The current changes in the FBI manual represent not a change in policy, but an increasing boldness on the part of the ruling-class' police forces that shows their true fascist stripes. But in their efforts to intimidate the working class, they reveal their fear of it.

The capitalist class cannot exist without the subjugation and exploitation of workers. The creation of a workers' state through communist revolution would threaten to eliminate the capitalist class forever, and they know it. That is why they spend so much time and money trying to intimidate us. The continued growth of PLP, despite this intimidation, will ensure that the capitalists will fail in their efforts to prolong their murderous, racist system.☺

Immigration

continued from page 4

through the Secure Communities program; 49,000 had no criminal records or had only minor offenses (like a traffic ticket).

While Texas and other states are expanding Secure Communities, some like Illinois, New York and Massachusetts have "opted out." But DHS is apparently claiming that once in, you can't "opt out." DHS Chief Jane Napolitano defends the program. These three states have been told that fingerprints collected by local police will continue to be sent to DHS. An ICE spokesman has said the program is mandatory and that only the federal government can deport immigrants. The reality is that by 2013 the U.S. government will have merged federal databases so that all fingerprint searches check immigrants' status automatically.

All these ruling-class attacks reflect a growing fascism which the rulers need to continue to wage imperialist wars, in order to maintain their hold on the world's resources, especially oil and gas. But within this war drive, the U.S. bosses' position on immigration faces a contradiction: on the one hand they need to super-exploit and terrorize immigrants for profit and to divide the working class. Yet they also have great need for immigrant youth — through their proposed "Dream Act" — to replenish their war machine with cannon fodder for those very same wars. We must expose this contradiction to show how the rulers' attack on immigrants is an attack on the international working class.

The working class can't rely on piecemeal, defensive strategies led by the Democratic Party. We need to take the offensive. Comrades working in an organization in our neighborhood are proposing and organizing for a march in the area around the theme: "Jobs, yes; Deportations, no!"

Comrades have a large CHALLENGE circulation in the organization we're members of, with plans to expand CHALLENGE networks in the neighborhood and at job sites. We've recruited several new members to our PLP club and, with our two study groups, can recruit even more. Our job is to turn our new and veteran members, CHALLENGE readers and close friends into organizers who can mobilize the masses, fight for communist ideas, and lead the class struggle and the long-range fight for communist revolution.

The working class has two choices: unite, reject racist divisions and fight for the needs of our entire class, or fall for racist ideas which divide us and deflect anger from our real enemy under capitalism, the bosses, banks and government authorities. We must demand massive numbers of jobs, not "growing" jobs here and there. Make the capitalists pay! We must lead the working class to fight together against racist profiling and deportations. Immigrants don't cause unemployment and "insecure communities"; capitalist unemployment, ICE and racist policing do. Working-class consciousness, not capitalist politicians and momentary reforms, build real power.

Every day the international working class is fighting back. In all our areas — the factories and unions, the schools and college campuses, the churches and community organizations — communists must be fully involved in the class struggle. While illusory reformist/electoral ideas dominate the movement now, the door is wide open to communist ideas, organizing and leadership and, as the Party grows, a communist world.☺

LETTERS

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

PLP'ers Join Fight vs. Insurance Bosses; Back Bus Drivers, Dockers

PLP members in San Francisco joined senior citizen groups, including the Grey Panthers, and organizations promoting single-payer health insurance, to demonstrate against insurance companies gathered for a national convention last week. We are also rallying support for MUNI drivers and other unions now under attack. Plans are under way to form citizen committees to support the drivers and the longshoreman's union (ILWU), which is being sued by the Pacific Maritime Association (shipping bosses) for its one-day strike in support of Wisconsin workers last April.

First, single-payer was off the table. Then a public option was off the table. Then a Medicare buy-in was off the table. Then negotiated drug prices. Then cost controls. And now insurers are meeting here to celebrate their profits victory based on cuts in medical care and higher co-pays for the working class.

The Obama plan is a gigantic bailout of the insurance, drug, and hospital industries on top of big cuts to Medicare. Thirty of the 50 million uninsured may get some watered-down insurance, if they're able to afford it, but many of us with children are barely able to keep a roof over our heads. Twenty-five million unemployed will only qualify for Medicaid, which Obama and state budget hawks are gunning for sharp cut-backs on benefits.

The 1930s general strikes forced the government to cough up Social Security; the 1960s sit-ins and mass struggles against Jim Crow racism forced the rich to cough up Medicare and Medicaid. The thousands that recently occupied the Wisconsin State House could be the beginning of that kind of workers' movement.

But this time workers need communist leadership which will not settle for reform crumbs that will only be taken away when capitalist rulers need that money, as now, for their Iraqi and Pakistani imperialist wars.

A Comrade

Strauss-Kahn Editorial: A Debate

An online search for the Strauss-Kahn story reveals multiple conspiracy theories surrounding his arrest and trial. The theories of arrest range from his being taken down by political rivals in France to U.S. rulers silencing him for his knowledge that Fort Knox is out of gold. So what makes our analysis that Strauss-Kahn was taken down by the U.S. ruling class for his alliance with China any more credible?

The difference between a communist approach to understanding the world and the conspiracy view is that we don't believe that the capitalist class is an all-powerful group of greedy individuals. We understand that capitalism is a dynamic process that imposes certain laws on the capitalist class that force them into a fight over the accumulation of surplus-value and the division of the world's resources. The law of overproduction and the tendency for the rate of profit to fall guarantee this fight. No doubt these capitalists strive to impose their unrivaled will onto the world, but they are always confronted with various contingencies outside their control that arise from ever-increasing inter-imperialist rivalries.

We are correct in highlighting the growing inter-imperialist rivalries between China and the U.S. as the main idea to glean from the Strauss-Kahn incident. But suggesting a direct causal link between Strauss-Kahn's pro-China position and the U.S. ruling class "taking him down" hinges on conspiracy theory. It presents a mechanical view of the world rather than a dialectical one. It suggests that inter-imperialist rivalries are driven by choices made by greedy individuals rather than by the imperatives of the capitalist system.

The CHALLENGE article presents a problematic timeline that suggests the events leading to Strauss-Kahn's arrest, his call for a new reserve currency to replace the dollar and his appointment of Zhu Min (deputy governor of People's Bank of China) as "special advisor," happened consecutively two months before his arrest.

In fact, Strauss-Kahn has been pushing for the yuan to play a bigger role in the IMF since at least

2009 and the IMF has made more specific proposals for a new reserve currency both this year and last.

Zhu Min's appointment in February 2010, while strengthening China's position in the IMF, is not as cut and dried as the article suggests and has many sides. From the perspective of the IMF's European leaders, Zhu's appointment could help the IMF get a better handle on Asian countries, many of whom remain suspect of IMF practices since its poor handling of the 1997-98 financial crisis. In fact, the Asian countries that followed the prescribed IMF script to more open trade have suffered the most. More closed-off countries like China have fared much better.

The 1997 crisis began when speculators pulled out of the Asian market and crashed the economy. The U.S., now fearing China's ability to pull out of the U.S. market and cause a similar crash, might benefit more from a China that is integrated into global institutions. Zhu's IMF appointment then might represent an attempt to "reel in" Chinese imperialists to the benefit of both U.S. and European imperialists.

By presenting the Strauss-Kahn story with a mechanical "this" caused "that" approach, we exclude the various contingencies that come into play with inter-imperialist rivalries. Further, the role of inter-imperialist rivalries becomes trivialized. These rivalries are presented as the product of policies and actors rather than as the product of a capitalist system.

The CHALLENGE article would have been much stronger by focusing on how Strauss-Kahn's arrest and the debate over the new IMF head reveal the contradictions among rival imperialists. While it is clear that the world's imperialist powers are in a fight to the death, the contingencies of that fight are not always clear and must be investigated from all sides.

As communists we should strive for a dialectical understanding of the world. And we should always have inter-imperialist rivalries at the forefront of our mind when dissecting world events. This means seeing the fight between inter-imperialist rivals not in a mechanical cause-and-effect way but in a way that takes into account both necessity and contingency.

Skeptical Comrade

Challenge Comment

The writer has a good point. As subsequent events show, there's much more to the DSK affair than meets the eyes, or we originally explained, or that the rulers are willing to tell us. It seems now that both Vance and France have decided to relocate the case to Paris, which allows French rulers to regain global face and appear the determiners of their own internal politics. How would it look if Sarah Palin or Mitt Romney were rotting in a foreign jail? Now it seems more like a pro-U.S. vs. anti-U.S. capitalist dogfight inside the French ruling class. Instead of Vance's indictment, DSK faces sexual assault charges dating back to 2002 from journalist Tristan Banon. Her lawyer David Koubbi once toiled in the New York-based imperialist law firm of Hughes Hubbard and Reed, whose website boasts "representation of JPMorgan Chase Bank and Citibank." Its chief Candace Beinecke is a Director of Rockefeller Financial Services, Inc., and of Rockefeller & Co., Inc.

The letter says that CHALLENGE's analysis is, right to focus on imperialist rivalry but overly mechanical on the subjective side, in attributing events to human decisions. The letter may be making a mechanical error on its own by focussing narrowly on overproduction and falling profit rates. Both the objective necessities of the profit system and the subjective needs of the capitalists themselves are at play here. This is probably the main dialectical contradiction in the DSK matter.

As for conspiracy theories, some are indeed crackpot, and some are right on the money. Capitalists always compete, but they often conspire, too. They do meet in private. As Mark Twain once said, "A conspiracy is nothing but a secret agreement of a number of men for the pursuance of policies which they dare not admit in public"

Editorial Needed to Expose Capitalism's Sexism

The article on the rape of a female hotel worker by IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn in the June 8 issue of CHALLENGE cut through the bosses' media circus obsession with the sordid details of the crime to get to the bigger imperialist forces at work. Unfortunately, the article failed to deal with this brutal attack as an example of what women go through under capitalism.

The victim and her situation both individually and on the job was brutal, but not discussed — what she'll go through, physically and emotionally, like all rape victims. And like most maintenance workers in the hotel industry, she was an immigrant woman of color, subjected to low pay, long hours, grinding work, no benefits, and by all accounts frequent sexual harassment.

The article repeatedly used rape as a euphemism for the exploitation and oppression of the working class. But rape is also a literal act of violence against women in a sexist society, either individually (the incidence of rape both in the U.S. and around the world is astonishing) or as a mass attack in war, such as Congo and the Balkans. Only using rape as a synonym for working-class exploitation ignores the special oppression of women.

The attacks on women are constant, such as the astonishing acquittal that same week of two savage New York City cops for the rape of a woman they were supposed to be helping, nor did it call for action.

It's telling that the article appeared on the same page as the "Our Fight" box, which contains a point about the need to fight against the special oppression of women under capitalism. Only looking at the larger forces involved in the bosses' throwing Strauss-Kahn to the wolves, however vital, by itself doesn't show that a communist movement can, and will, be the real answer to capitalist sexism. It was essential to delve into the sexist nature of the attack on the victim and women under capitalism.

Anti-Sexist Comrade

Philippines: 'Democracy' Illusion Wiped Out C.P.

A few weeks ago a U.S. destroyer docked in Manila Bay. It wasn't too many years ago that thousands of Filipinos demonstrated with chants of "Laban!" (Fight Back in Tagalog), which helped to drive the U.S. imperialists out of the huge naval base at Subic Bay. China is nearby, and its power in competition with U.S. capitalists is increasing. Are the U.S. and Filipino bosses planning a return of the U.S. Navy?

In 1986, the New People's Army of the Communist Party of the Philippines helped to drive fascist Ferdinand Marcos from the Philippines. So what happened to the Communist Party? Are there lessons for communists worldwide?

I knew members there. They were dedicated and highly principled, and had a two-stage theory, of socialism first, and communism later.

After Marcos was driven out, Corazon Aquino came to power. The Communist Party split, largely over reform and revolution.

Many party members were lured in by the illusion of "democracy." They thought they could openly organize in unions and run in elections for public office. Some were killed; others jailed. Sadly, the Communist Party of the Philippines was largely destroyed.

So what are the lessons for communists around the world? Let's learn, and on to a better day.

Stockton, CA. comrade

NYC Transit Cuts, Give-backs: Need Job Actions, Red Leadership

NEW YORK CITY, July 5 — The June 14 demonstration at City Hall saw only 100 transit workers and a few hundred teachers uniting with thousands of AFSCME city workers to protest billionaire Mayor Bloomberg's massive budget cuts. However, despite this appearance of working-class unity against the bosses, the largest union of state employees and the teachers union agreed to massive give-backs. The leaders of the teachers' and transit workers' unions refused to organize their combined membership of well over 100,000 to turn out to the demonstration.

These givebacks are a signal for the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), a state agency, to slam transit workers in upcoming contract talks. The fact that black, Latino and immigrant workers comprise a majority of government employees in the city as well as most workers relying on government services (like schools), all serves to make these cuts inherently racist.

Sellout Union Flunkies in Bed with Cut-back Bosses

Less than two weeks after speaking at that June rally, the leaders of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA), the largest union of New York State employees, accepted a five-year contract with no raises and nine unpaid days off during the first two years, a \$1,000 cash bonus the third year and 2% "raises" (given inflation, actually a wage-cut) the last two years. CSEA president Danny Donohue admitted to serving bosses rather than workers when he said, "CSEA stepped up to help produce the labor saving that Governor Cuomo sought" in order to avoid 10,000 threatened layoffs.

The teachers union followed suit soon afterwards to avoid nearly 5,000 layoffs but with a deal allowing 5,000 vacant teaching positions to go unfilled. This reduces the number of classroom teach-

ers, thereby increasing class sizes for the majority black, Latino and immigrant students.

Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100 — representing nearly half of all MTA workers — has a contract expiring in January. Several smaller Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) locals have been working without contracts, some for months or years. The MTA is looking for give-backs. But transit workers have no reason to bend over for the bosses or "waiting until the economy improves."

Blame for the budget crisis lies with the worldwide system of capitalism, which drives bosses to squeeze every ounce of profits from "their" workers to be able to compete against capitalist rivals. Wall Street banks currently rake in more than a billion dollars a year in bond interest from the transit system. For these banker-bosses, who really run the MTA, profits are at record highs while the economy is officially "in recovery."

The capitalists use racist unemployment, imposed on black workers at twice the rate of white workers, to terrorize employed workers into accepting less because "we're still 'lucky' to have a job." But it's not wages and benefits for public workers but rather two profit wars in Iraq and Afghanistan over access to energy rich regions that suck billions a month from government budgets. Union flunkies, in bed with the bosses, share the racist bosses' political and economic profit goals and will never lead a real struggle against them.

Job Actions and Communism

Transit workers must fight back where it matters most, on the job. Over the past year, four bus operators refused to drive unsafe buses at the College Point depot. Queens Village bus operators refused to take assignments from a racist dispatcher who called a bus driver a n----. Such militant actions send the bosses an anti-racist, fight-back message. However, following the union sellouts or waiting

to elect "good" union leaders hold back many angry workers from taking the lead for massive job actions themselves. Rank-and-file transit workers must organize and co-ordinate our own mass wild-cat actions.

Militant class struggles to win immediate improvements are important, even if they fail to win. The most important part of the fight is developing a long-term communist ideology to guide militant class struggle. Without such an outlook, militant actions that fail, or produce mixed results, make workers cynical about such struggles.

The sellouts of the 2005 city-wide strike and 2002 Queens bus lines strike has left many workers with little stomach for another walkout. To advance after defeat, militant workers must make the long-term fight for communism as much a priority as the fight for immediate gains, which wind up being taken back in one form or another. Waging a mass, militant communist fight-back in transit will realistically take many years to build. But for U.S. bosses to remain a top global capitalist power, they will enforce decades of low wages, sky-high unemployment and endless wars for workers.

During the 1930s Great Depression, mass struggles and sit-down strikes led by communists put millions on the picket lines and into the streets during a period of massive unemployment not unlike today. This class struggle won unemployment insurance, the 40-hour week, Social Security and collective bargaining by stopping the flow of bosses' profits. This produced a standard of living now being eroded and destroyed because those communists settled for reform and were ousted from leadership in the Cold War.

Union flunkies have offered us only give-backs with no mass on-the-job fight-back. Whether U.S. bosses fail or succeed, capitalist competition guarantees losses for workers unless we learn to fight for our class's long-term interests. ☺

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

U.S. troops serve aims of big biz

NYT, 6/14 — In 1954, the American government committed one of the most reprehensible acts in its history when it authorized the C.I.A. to overthrow the democratically elected leader of Guatemala, President Jacobo Arbenz. It did so secretly but later rationalized the coup on the ground that the country was about to fall into communist hands.

Guatemalan society has only recently recovered from the suffering that this intervention caused, including brutal military dictatorships and a genocidal civil war against its Indian population, which led to the death of an estimated 200,000 people....

Washington feared Arbenz because he tried to institute agrarian reforms that would hand over fallow land to dispossessed peasants...Most of that territory belonged to the largest landowner and most powerful body in the state: the American-owned United Fruit Company. Though Arbenz was willing to compensate United Fruit for its losses, [United Fruit] tried to persuade Washington that Arbenz was a crypto-communist who must be ousted....

There was no evidence that Arbenz himself was anything more than a European-style democratic socialist....

Eisenhower's attack on Guatemala was brilliantly executed....Soon afterward, a Guatemalan colonel named Carlos Castillo Armas took power and handed back United Fruit's lands. For three decades, militarily strongmen ruled Guatemala.

U.S. in Cambodia: a lesson for today

NYT, 6/26 — Americans too frequently seem to enable monsters abroad, then recommend policies to reverse the damage. The United States did not

directly foist the Khmer Rouge on Cambodia. But...Lon Nol, who was friendly to Washington, overthrew Prince Sihanouk in a 1970 coup, and...the prince, in frustration, implored Cambodians to join the Khmer Rouge....

The United States continued a secret carpet bombing campaign until 1973.... The United States dropped more bombs on Cambodia than the Allies dropped in all of World War II....The extensive bombing, with its ten, maybe hundreds of thousands of civilian deaths, might have added urgency to Sihanouk's plea to join the Khmer Rouge....It seems clear that "Cambodia's Curse"...holds implications for other American interventions that are worth serious debate...Given Washington's role today in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, it might...be...braver...to hold America...accountable for the suffering....

Kill economy; stay free and rich

GW, 6/3 —The award-winning documentary film Inside Job does for banking what An Inconvenient Truth did for climate change. It's an hour and 20 minutes that quietly and clearly documents the appalling corruption to the brink of collapse.... Yet effective reform has stalled, all the key players and institutions are still in place: business as usual....Not one financial institution or individual has been prosecuted for the biggest bank theft ever; the executives who resigned from their collapsing banks in 2008 walked away with their vast fortunes intact....

So where are the riots? The mass protests? Anger with the banks is widespread but diffuse, confused as to what to ask for. It doesn't have the political vehicle....

U.S. basic workers see no future

NYT, 6/20 —Two years into a fitful recovery, unemployed Americans are getting painfully accustomed to the notion that it will take years to bring back the jobs eviscerated by the financial crisis.

In some regions, those years are in danger of



turning into a decade.... "The type of jobs are not easily replaced,".... Old-line factory workers did not necessarily have the skills for the jobs that are now being added....

Court can't be workers' hope

NYT, 6/22 — Santa Barbara, Calif. Monday's Supreme Court decision to bloc a class-action sex-discrimination lawsuit against Wal-Mart was a huge setback for as many as 1.6 million current and former female workers of the world's largest retailer. But the decision has consequences that range far beyond sex discrimination or the viability of class-action suits.

The underlying issue...is Walmart's authoritarian style, by which executives pressure store-level management to squeeze more and more from millions of clerks, stockers and lower-tier managers....

The workweek for salaried managers is around 50 hours or more, which can surge to 80 or 90 hours a week during holiday seasons...Some managers think women with family responsibilities would balk at such demands....There used to be a remedy for this sort of managerial authoritarianism: it was called a union....For a time it seemed as if the class-action lawsuit might be a partial substitute. By drastically limiting how a class-action suit can be brought, the Supreme Court leaves millions of service-sector workers with few avenues to escape the grinding work life and limited opportunities that so many now face.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

Red Ideas Take Root in West Africa

Approximately 80 activists from Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria, Guinea, and Ghana convened in Dakar, Senegal on June 18-19 at the 3rd Summit of the League of Revolutionary PanAfricanists. The participants were mainly youth involved with several different self-described left parties or trade unions in Senegal and other West African countries. A PLP contingent was invited by conference organizers to participate.

Plenary sessions and workshops covered issues including the current state of the African revolution in several countries; how to unify trade unions across different countries; understanding imperialism and the environment/global warming crisis; advancing the role of women in the movement; how to prepare leaflets and engage in concrete struggles in schools, on the job, and in the community; and how to strengthen the role of youth in the class struggle.

French editions of key PLP documents — “Road to Revolution 4” and “Dark Night Shall Have its End” — as well as CHALLENGE, were eagerly taken. Over 40 participants from five countries signed up to continue to receive PLP literature so that our ideological debates and shared struggles could continue after the conference.

Three PLP’ers participated as workshop leaders, panel presenters, and translators. We made a joint presentation about the Party’s history and work, focusing on the need for the direct fight for communism. We described the role of PLP in the militant strike at the Stella d’Oro bakery; among Iraq war soldiers and veterans; and in the fight against cuts in education funding in New York. We presented the Party’s analysis of the intimate link between imperialism, world war, and the looming devastation of global warming.

Warm ties were forged among participants with promises of ongoing struggle over line and strategy and continuing struggle against imperialism and capitalism. The fledgling



PLP group in Senegal will work to grow, to advance the vision of one working class, one party, and one world communist revolution!

Senegal’s History

Senegal, the westernmost country in Africa, was a French colony beginning in the mid-19th century and became independent in 1960 under President Leopold Senghor. His party (today the Parti Socialiste de Senegal (PS)), continued in power under Abdou Diouf in 1981. Today’s president, Adoulaye Wade, was active in Senegalese politics since the early 1970s when he founded the Parti Démocratique Sénégalais (PDS), challenging Senghor and Diouf. He was elected president in 2000 when all opposition parties, “left” and right, united to kick out Abdou Diouf, who was seen as a corrupt lackey of French bosses.

Like the “socialist” Diouf before him, Wade is a free-market advocate, a willing tool of French imperialism, and a slavish tool of the IMF’s structural adjustment program. During his time in office, he continued the privatization demanded by the IMF’s program and later its Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. The peanut industry (Senegal’s main product) was privatized on orders of the IMF in 2002, leading to a virtual famine in rural areas. Similarly, the IMF required in 1999 that the electric utility company SENELEC be placed under the control of a French-Canadian company (Ely-Hydro Quebec (EHQ)), resulting in more frequent and longer power failures.

Meanwhile, the poverty of the Senegalese working class is enormous. Its per capita annual income of \$1,900 ranks 192nd out of 228 countries in the world, with 54% of the population in poverty and an official unemployment rate of 48%. The Senegalese ruling class, like ruling classes everywhere, translates the misery of workers into profit. Ten percent of the population receives 30% of the national income and a greater share of the national wealth.

Militant Class Struggle is Setting for Conference

Workers in Senegal, like in Egypt, Tunisia, Greece and elsewhere are angry at the misery bred by capitalism and they’re

fighting back in ways large and small. Four days after the summit thousands of young protestors, including some conference participants, surrounded the National Assembly building in Dakar protesting a blatant power grab by President Wade. The regime responded with water hoses and tear gas. In a street battle that went on for hours, cars were set ablaze, hundreds of demonstrators were injured along with a few cops and, reportedly (but not officially) four demonstrators were killed by the police.

The militancy shown by workers in Senegal should be celebrated by workers around the world, but the guiding strategy is a political dead-end. They propose to first form an electoral bloc to defeat Wade and fight for total independence from imperialism, especially from France. Once this is achieved, they argue, then the process of economic development, socialism, and ultimately communism can begin.

This strategy was the dominant (and failed) strategy of the world communist movement throughout much of the 20th century. In case after case, national liberation meant that a new capitalist elite came to power, often from the local population, rather than from the colonizing country, and usually in league with one or another imperialist. The situation in much of Africa today is the fruit of these liberation movements: the dream of the liberation turned into the nightmare of continued capitalist rule, with poverty and oppression continuing to blanket the working class of the African continent.

Analysis of this historical data leads PLP to this conclusion: Only the direct fight for communism coupled with the revolutionary smashing of the state can possibly lead to true liberation for workers. This approach requires confidence on the part of revolutionaries that workers (whether in the countryside or in the cities) are open to the ideas of equality, collectivity, and an abolition of the wage system. It also requires that workers have confidence in PLP as a party that can lead this battle. Every day, as we bring communist ideas to schools, factories, picket lines and to events such as Summit of the League of Revolutionary PanAfricanists, and as we stand shoulder-to-shoulder in the class struggle, this dual confidence grows.✪

Strauss-Kahn

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tial elections hostage. But despite having to reverse himself, Vance’s push for a premature indictment will help war-bent U.S. imperialists at the French polls. It has clearly weakened the Socialist Party’s challenge to Sarkozy, whoever their candidate may be. “Strauss-Kahn’s possible return has thrown the Socialist party’s primary race into disarray” (*Guardian, UK, 7/3/11*).

The critical back story is that Strauss-Kahn’s Socialists oppose French integration into NATO’s U.S.-dominated military command. Incumbent president Sarkozy had rejoined this coalition in 2009, also to the delight of Obama and the Pentagon. By arresting Strauss-Kahn and then releasing him, DA Vance did maximum damage to Sarkozy’s Socialist Party adversaries without making Strauss-Kahn a martyr, which might have drawn anti-U.S. (and anti-Sarkozy) forces out to vote.

What gets lost amid the sensational headlines is how Strauss-Kahn’s sexism exemplifies the pervasive attacks on women under this system. The IMF is a huge force for the oppression of working-class women worldwide; women are doubly affected by the austerity measures forced upon the most exploited countries. These women are super-exploited by the lowest incomes and murderous medical “care.” They are victimized by mass rapes in imperialist-inspired wars over diamonds in central Africa.

Regardless of Strauss-Kahn’s future, or which ruling-class faction calls the tune at the IMF, this is the hard law of capitalism: maximum exploitation for maximum profit.✪

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