

PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

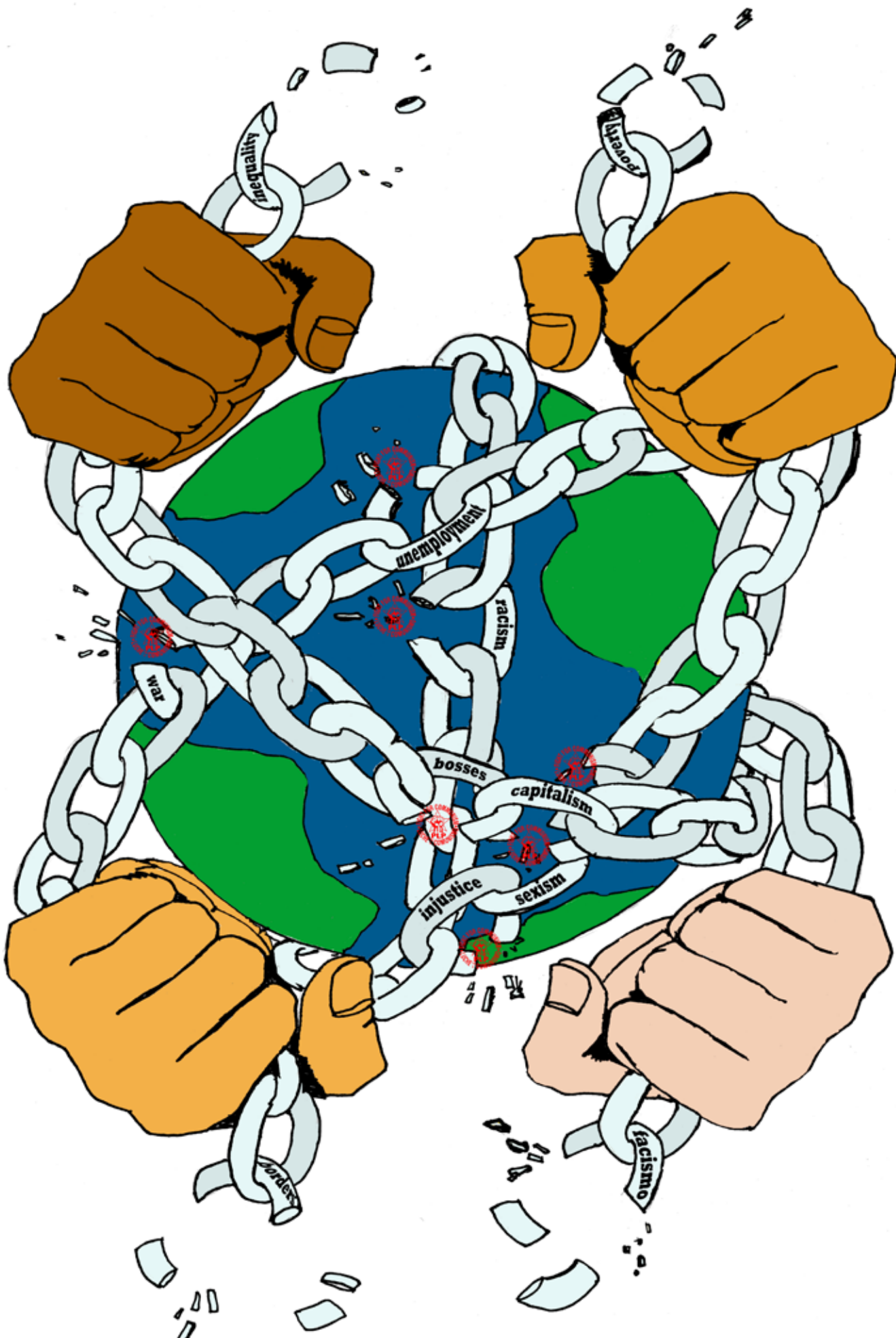


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BREAK THE CHAINS OF CAPITALISM



TURN IMPERIALIST WAR INTO CLASS WAR!

International Working-Class Solidarity Crucial Imperialist Dogfight: U.S.-India Axis vs. China's Bosses Would Kill Millions

On April 19, India's capitalist rulers, quietly urged on by U.S. President Obama, successfully tested a long-range ballistic missile that can carry a nuclear warhead. The New York Times, the U.S. rulers' leading mouthpiece, immediately boasted that the missile was "capable of reaching Beijing and Shanghai." This account fostered the growing possibility of a third world war, probably nuclear.

An intensifying arms race embroils India, China and the U.S. It stems from growing competition among imperialists for global market share amid limited resources, especially energy. Capitalists, organized as nation states, need to threaten their rival exploiters with the deadliest military force possible. They must also have allies ready for the inevitable day when their jockeying for profit sources — like oil from the Middle East — explodes into global armed conflict.

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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At present, China's and U.S. bosses are on a military collision course. In population, China outnumbers the U.S. four to one. So U.S. rulers must count heavily on troops from India (pop. 1.2 billion) to stem Chinese advances. In 2005, Admiral Michael Mullen proposed a multinational, U.S.-led "Thousand Ship Navy," with a large component fleet from India to police China's oil trade. Last year, however, "Indian Defence Minister A.K. Antony ruled out India joining such a group unless it is under a U.N. mandate" (Defense News, 5/25/11).

World's Workers Would Be Main Victims of Nuclear War

The fact that the next world war will kill tens of millions of workers never enters into the equation for these imperialist rulers. They only consider how their overwhelming stock of weaponry, both conventional and atomic, will give them the upper hand in their drive to exploit the greatest possible number of the world's workers.

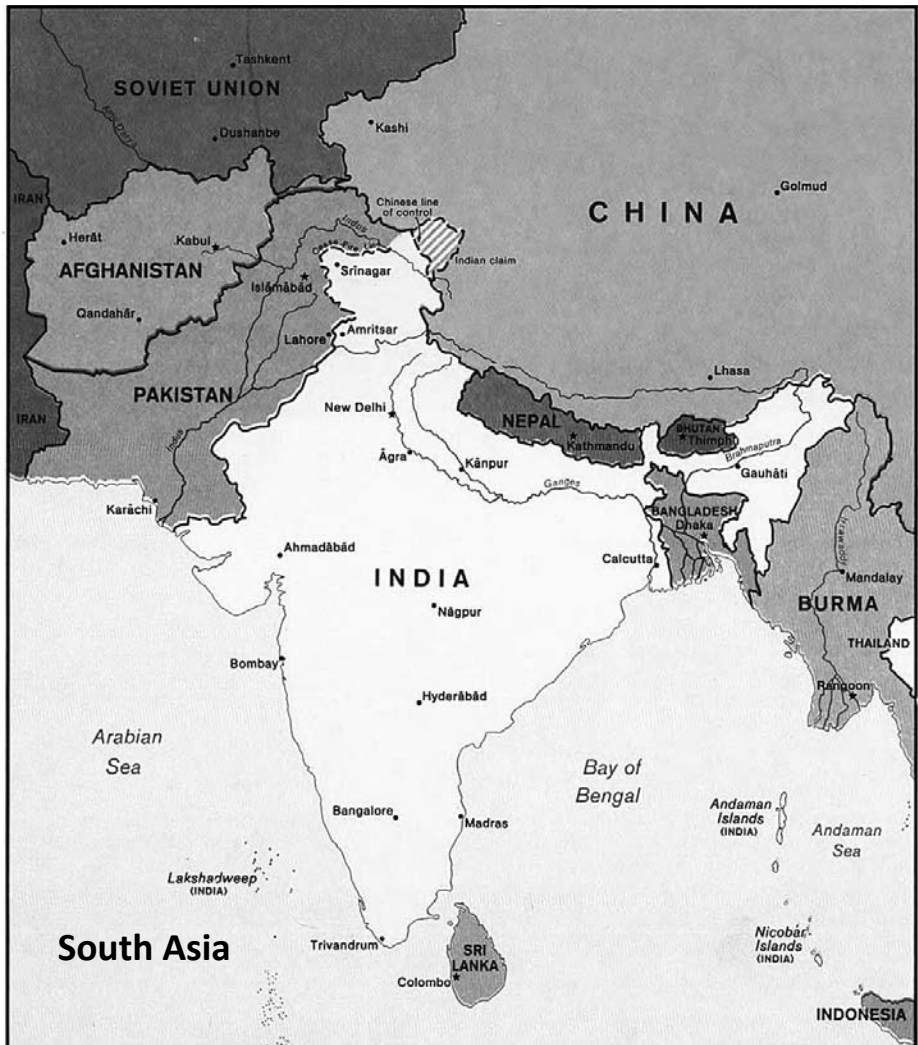
India's recent rocket test reveals U.S. rulers' desperation to enlist India's billion-plus workers as "coalition" cannon (or nuclear-bomb) fodder in a coming war. As the Times (4/19/12) explained, "The Obama administration... is now cultivating alliances with Asian nations and redirecting its strategic and military focus toward Asia to manage China's new military clout."

Most of Obama's current crop of foreign policy advisers hails from the Rockefeller-funded Center for a New American Security (see CHALLENGE, 4/25). This think tank endorses an anti-China "India Initiative" because the economic, political, and military rise of India "is reshaping world politics and promises to make India both a true global power and one of the most important bilateral partners for the United States."

After the launch, U.S. stooge and NATO head Anders Fogh Rasmussen said that the trans-Atlantic alliance did not perceive India as a threat. The Nation, a Pakistani newspaper, pointed to Indian efforts to catch up to China: "Only recently, India ordered 126 fighter jets from the French firm Dassault, one of the biggest arms deals in the recent past. Furthermore, New Delhi has purchased nuclear submarines from Russia and is seeking to modernize its tank fleet. In 2011,

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.



the country was the world's biggest purchaser of arms" (4/21/12).

For now, China and the U.S. both profit from the arrangement by which the U.S. buys Chinese goods while China buys U.S. Treasury bonds. But this harmonious dynamic can't last much longer. Ultimately, these two powers may very well settle their economic rivalry in imperialist war although other imperialist powers like Russia can become involved. China's burgeoning industry will soon require tens of millions of barrels of oil per day, more than its sole oil-rich Middle East ally, Iran, can supply. China won't forever endure being a mere buyer of Saudi crude, which is controlled by Exxon Mobil. Nor will it indefinitely tolerate the U.S.-paid mercenaries guarding Chinese wells in Iraq.

Beijing's bosses, already building naval bases in Pakistan and Burma, are taking further steps to counter U.S. dominance of Indian Ocean oil routes from the Middle East. Three Chinese warships are patrolling the Red Sea against "pirates." With blue-water aircraft carriers and submarines already in shipyards, "China's defence spending could overtake America's after 2035" (The Economist, 4/7/12).

Repercussions Likely from Al Qaeda and Russia

Zbigniew Brzezinski envisions the Indian navy and army helping to "encircle" rising China (see his 2012 book, "Strategic Vision"). As National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter, Brzezinski was the architect of the Carter Doctrine. It stipulated that control of Middle East oil supplies was in the strategic interest of the U.S. and had to be protected at all costs, by military means if necessary. This policy has been adopted by all subsequent U.S. presidents.

But Brzezinski offers three cautions against "a formal U.S.-India alliance." First, a treaty might entangle the U.S. in a land war even less winnable than Korea and Vietnam: "It would increase the likelihood of U.S. involvement in potentially prolonged and bitter Asian conflicts." Second, "It would increase Moscow's temptations to take advantage of a distracted America drawn into wider Asian conflicts to assert Russian imperialist interests more firmly in Central Asia and central Europe." Third, it might heighten "the appeal of anti-American terrorism among Muslims." This includes

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Workers' Counter-Attack Stops Pay Cuts

BROOKLYN, NY, April 9 — Radiology department technologists at a major medical center here turned the tables on the bosses, forcing them to back down from their speed-up plan.

Three days ago a manager told five technologists that starting immediately our lunch-hour would be cut in half, from 60 to 30 minutes. Our 7-hour work-day incorporates two 15-minute rest periods which would now be eliminated. We have a 60-minute unpaid lunch-hour. So they intended us to work a 7½-hour day with no additional compensation, clearly violating our union contract with S.E.I.U. Local 1199.

Ten workers in radiology are regular CHALLENGE readers and are overwhelmingly black and Latino. They respond favorably to our strong anti-racist stands. Our department union delegate is a PLP member. After several discussions, we deemed the bosses' plan unacceptable and collectively decided to fight this attack.

This morning the union organizer — who has a long history of corruption — entered the main work area with two managers and met with the technologists.

The organizer said we would not lose our two rest periods but would have only 30 minutes for lunch.

The PLP delegate, who had been excluded from the meeting where this deal was cooked up, loudly stated that this was an attempt to add 2½ hours to our work-week without pay and we would never accept that. Worker after worker rose to challenge the bosses and denounce this deal.

The managers were in disarray and four workers pulled the organizer aside to let him know he was on the wrong side and he better get his facts and act straight. We immediately instituted a slowdown which brought the ultrasound and x-ray work to a crawl. An hour later we heard that the bosses had temporarily backed off their plan. Two hours later it was dead in the water.

This attack may have been a trial balloon to gauge whether they could impose longer hours on the other 1199 technologists in the lab, in obstetrics and in cardiology. It's been 20 years since this kind of unity and militancy has occurred in our department. It resulted from dedicated organ-

izing work by key CHALLENGE readers and other workers who have responded to our calls for action. We're attempting to use the momentum from this struggle to organize hospital workers to join the April 28th May Day march in Brooklyn.

We realize this victory will be short-lived since the bosses still have the upper hand in this institution and in society. Nonetheless, it can spark the beginnings of a rising communist movement at the hospital.

Much work remains to be done. New PLP members must be recruited and step up to the plate. CHALLENGE sales must be expanded several fold from the current 24. Visiting workers at home will be crucial to further advance.

We must win workers to see the Progressive Labor Party as their party and as the leadership necessary to smash the bosses' dictatorship over every aspect of our lives. Only egalitarian communism will provide health care and sustenance to all workers, another reason to fight for communist revolution.☸

MAY DAY 2012
March with
PLP

Saturday, April 28
New York:
Flatbush and
Nostrand in
Brooklyn at 11 AM

Tuesday, May 1
Chicago: Union
Park (Lake and
Ashland) at 12 PM
LA: Olympic and
Broad at 12 PM
Oakland: Fruitvale
Bart Station at 3 PM

PLP'ers Expose Racist Roots of Trayvon's Murder

ROXBURY, MA, April 4 — The discussion topic, "We All Are Trayvon Martin," drew the largest turn out this semester for Pizza and Politics. Many students came for the first time, looking for some direction as to what they could do about this racist murder. Students expressed their outrage at the lack of justice this system offers to black workers. There was a sense of frustration at all the marches and symbolic hoodies, knowing that no matter how large the outcry, the crime could not be reversed nor would Trayvon be the last victim.

The media was also roundly condemned for its role in criminalizing black youth, spreading ignorance, and distracting us from reality. Everyone present knew how commonplace racist violence is, especially when committed by the police, and they were somewhat confused by the enormous attention this particular case was getting.

The discussion then veered away from blaming the system toward blaming the victim. Students were criticizing black youth for dressing and carrying themselves like thugs and this spread to a general critique of black youth for not knowing themselves well enough and being immature. These points were answered with a class analysis:

Capitalists maintain racism, sexism, and other capitalist ideas to keep the working class confused, divided, and more easily ruled. Filling our

heads with lies ensures that workers will passively accept wage slavery as "the way it is." Keeping one section of the working class worse off than another not only makes billions of super-profits for the bosses, it is the main way they are able to hide the 1 percent's complete robbery of our class. Despite the Civil War, the Civil Rights Movement and a black president, the system keeps racism alive because it is the economic foundation of the bosses' system and weakens the working class's fight-back.

Becoming numb to racism is a dangerous tendency that comes from a sense of powerlessness. One of the roles of communists is to provide students and workers with an opportunity to express their anger and fight-back against every outrage of the capitalist system.

Distributing this issue of CHALLENGE (4/25) — "Youth Indict Racist System" — will enable us and our friends at Roxbury Community College to turn talk into action. PLP's goal of tearing down capitalism and building a communist society provides a long-term solution for the suffering that racism causes.☸

Students Get Communist Education at Anti-Cutback Rally

AUSTIN, TX, March 24 — Over 4,000 protestors descended on the state capitol to stand against cutbacks in education. Though the march was smaller than last year's rally of 12,000, the crowd was much more militant, and the forces around the Party have grown substantially.

PL teachers and workers organized nearly 30 students and several parents to travel from surrounding cities to Austin. On the ride, one teacher organized students to make signs. After lots of discussion, one student made the connection between imperialist war and the budget cuts to education. Her sign declared "Less bombs, more schools!" Others made signs attacking the local school board and their decision to gut college readiness programs like AVID. One sign read "RIP Our Future" with the word "AVID" on the tombstone.

We also discussed how instead of begging the bosses to "Save Our Schools," we should use slogans like "Students, Teachers, and Parents Unite to Fight School Cuts." The latter declaration separates us from the enemy, the administrators and local school board members. One teacher pointed out a contradiction: even though the school board president and superintendent attended the rally, they are the ones implementing all the cuts.

At the march grounds, busloads from all over the state began assembling: student teachers in training all the way from the University of Texas, El Paso, and teachers, students and parents from Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. A student drumline in the front of the march set the militant tone. As the march proceeded, the chant promoted by the organizers "Save our schools" was seen by many as too weak. Many friends of PLP were won to chant the more militant, "When they say cut back, we say fight back! Cut back! Fight back!" When a group of students started the

"Fight-back" chant, others around began joining in. Rally organizers quickly drowned out our calls to "Fight back" with their calls to "Give me a V, give me an O, give me a T, give me an E!"

The students who attended saw a distinction between the liberal call to "VOTE" and the calls in the PL leaflet for working-class unity and communist revolution. PL'ers sold the latest CHALLENGE and passed out over 500 PLP leaflets.

One student who read the PL leaflet said that he did not believe a passage that said schools are more segregated now than in 1968. A teacher who is a friend of PL'ers but not yet in the Party defended the leaflet, informing the student that the leaflet was correct and that racism in education is getting worse, not better.

In the end, students gained a valuable experience, reporting that they never knew there were so many people who were angry about the cutbacks in education and the new state exam called STAAR. For many of these students, this was the first march they have ever been to, and they now have more of a fighting spirit.

Many of the Party's flyers and papers ended up in the hands of the students who traveled to Austin and many more were brought back to students, teachers and parents who were unable to attend. Over the next few weeks we are making plans for a study group around the flyer and other anti-cutback materials. Students are also organizing to confront local board members at the next meetings about the planned cuts.

The rally against the cutbacks in education was a huge success for the Party. As we move forward to May Day, we hope to gain many new fighters for the working class!☸

Haiti's Only Public Hospital Hazardous to Workers' Health

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — The struggle of healthcare union workers in the General Hospital proves that capitalism can't provide healthcare for the working class. This hospital is the only one in the country open to the working class. The workers in this hospital make miserable wages of \$100-\$125 monthly. That's less than the country's minimum wage!

The process to privatize this hospital has begun, similar to the privatization of schools

To add insult to injury, the services this hospital provides do not meet the patients' needs. Patients must pay before receiving any medical care. The few who are able to pay can't even be treated properly because medical equipment is "borrowed" by the doctors for use in their own private practices.

The government ignores this

hospital because the rich doesn't use it; they go to private hospitals. The government does not provide the needed budget. Most of the budget goes to the training and maintaining of the national police who repress workers' anger about their situation. In fact, despite the high numbers of residents that have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder due to the earthquake, only one percent of the budget funds mental care services. That is less than \$10,000 for the whole country!

The process to privatize this hospital has begun, similar to the privatization of schools that occurred in the 19th century. The government began giving the public schools' money to the Catholic Church so it could open the "Faith and Happiness" schools. This served to keep much of the working class illiterate in the same way privatizing the General Hospital will sentence more workers to death.

Workers at this hospital, along with university students, have organized protests, sit-ins, and press conferences to condemn the bosses' neglect of this hospital. This class struggle is important and courageous, given the extreme fascist repression and racism they face. This struggle also unmasks President Martelly's unkept prom-

ises made during the election campaign to give healthcare to all, similar to Obama's promises to extend healthcare to all.

During this struggle, the Health Minister stepped down and the hospital director was transferred to another hospital so that the workers would have a hard time directing their anger at someone specific and therefore deflating their struggle.

PLP brought a communist analysis to all of these struggles. We have exposed the unions' misleadership of not fighting for the unity of these hospital workers with their patients. This has allowed the bosses to continue dividing our class by not confronting the lies they push when they blame the union for all of the hospital's problems.

We have distributed Defi (CHALLENGE in Kreyòl) and exposed how the union misleadership helps the bosses make more profits off the workers. We have explained that capitalism, a system of profits, will never give our class the healthcare we need. Only under communism, a system run by workers to meet the needs of all workers, without bosses, their state and inequality, will we free ourselves from the murderous chains of this system.☺

French Candidates Spew Anti-Immigrant Racism



PARIS, April 20 — President Nicolas Sarkozy, who is running for reelection, wants to renegotiate the preferential immigration treaty with Algeria. Sarkozy's anti-Algerian announcement in this week's Express magazine is an electoral maneuver to appeal to right-wing voters, particularly supporters of the fascist National Front party. But Sarkozy's Socialist rival, François Hollande, also says it's necessary to reduce immigration to France from the current level of 180,000 people a year (Le Nouvel Observateur article, 3/7).

Both Sarkozy and Hollande play to the racist idea that immigrants "steal jobs" from people born in France and thus worsen unemployment. In reality, unemployment is a built into capitalism (see Marx's analysis below).

The 1968 treaty with Algeria has made it much easier for Algerians to obtain initial one-year and renewal 10-year residence permits than people of other nationalities.

Around 25,000 Algerians (the treaty limit) obtain residence permits each year. The Algerian immigrant community — around 578,000 — is France's largest.

Sarkozy wants to renegotiate the treaty to make it as difficult for Algerians as for other nationalities to obtain a residence permit. The Algerian government indicated that it wants the treaty left as is. The French government may try to buy the Algerian bosses' consent by offering development aid.

Karl Marx wrote in "Capital," chapter 25, that, "It is the absolute interest of every capitalist to press a given quantity of labor out of a smaller, rather than a greater number of laborers..."

This means capitalists are continually pushed to introduce machinery (or speed up the pace of work) to make workers more productive, in order to squeeze more work out of fewer workers. The "excess" workers are laid off and form "a disposable industrial reserve army" of the unemployed. They are used as a threat to employed workers to refrain from making demands and to accept give-backs or they will be replaced by the jobless.

Anti-immigrant racism divides the working class in France and weakens it in its struggle against the capitalist class. When Hollande and Sarkozy build racism in an attempt to win votes, they do the capitalist class a big favor.☺

Algiers: Workers Strike Against Sexist Conditions

ALGIERS, April 17 — The common services in the health sector went on a two-day strike yesterday and invaded the grounds of the Mustapha Bacha hospital in the capital here. They're striking against unbearable working conditions, receiving no compensation for possible contact with contagious diseases and are refused civil service status despite years of work.

Police used vans to block the gate opening onto May Day Square and cops were stationed behind the gate. Striking security guards helped organize the march and protected the workers from any attacks.

Workers chanted slogans against the Minister of Health, shouting, "No to marginalization" and waving their pay stubs, charging that talk of an increase in the gross salary was an April Fool's joke.

The strikers include women cleaners, administrative staff and security guards. Their stories reveal the extent of the special oppression of women.

"We were totally fed up; it was high time to raise our voices



Women workers fight intolerable conditions.

against such conditions, in short, to blow our tops," said one woman cleaner. "I've been working for 32 years, receive shabby pay, no transport bonus, no contagious diseases bonus, no health-risk bonus," she continued. She's past 50 and nearing retirement age.

Another women cleaner showed her pay stub: "I get 10,000 Algerian dinars (\$135) a month and — pinch yourself! — they even give me the job of cleaning the medical instruments, getting the patients dressed and more," she shouted angrily.

Another striker said disgustingly: "I was contaminated by a

microbe on the job and I was even operated on for that. I filed to demand my rights, and they told me that you can be contaminated even outside the hospital and rejected my demand."

These stories expose the lengths capitalism will go to super-exploit women workers. And it shows how ready they are to fight back. Only a communist society that eliminates bosses, profits and the exploitative wage system can free women workers from this special oppression and all workers from this bondage.☺

Afghans Battle U.S.-Warlord-Taliban Cabal

Afghans have taken to the streets in recent protests with posters depicting Karzai as a U.S. puppet, showing mutilated women and dead bodies. They burned an effigy of Obama and shouted their anger at the corrupt government, the violence against women and night raids by U.S. troops, and demanded U.S. withdrawal.

In ten years of U.S. occupation, thousands of Afghan civilians have been killed in the fighting between the Taliban insurgents and U.S./NATO troops and in night raids and helicopter attacks by the occupying forces.

Now the Afghan government and the United States have finalized a strategic partnership extending the U.S. presence until 2024. Under the agreement, to be signed by Karzai and Obama and ratified by the Afghan parliament and the U.S. Congress, the U.S. military will cede final authority on night raids (but not drone attacks) to Afghan security forces, and control of Afghanistan's prisons to Afghan authorities. It pledges \$4 billion a year for the Afghan police and army, with the bulk coming from the U.S. until 2014.

U.S. Forces Will Stay

Many Afghans reacted with skepticism to Afghan National Security Adviser Ranganatha Spanta's remark that, "the document provides a strong foundation for the security of Afghanistan, the region and the world," since it allows an unstated number of U.S. forces to stay in Afghanistan for 12 years, and ignores the long-term U.S. access to its 30+

military bases. Afghans know this military presence will continue the fighting and killing, with the U.S. effectively using Afghanistan to maintain a permanent military presence in the region.

U. S. Ambassador Crocker said it cements a long-term strategic partnership between "two equal and sovereign states." Afghans know this means the U.S. will continue to prop up a government of thieves, warlords, drug dealers and war profiteers who run the country, continuing the misery and horror of daily life.

Taliban Jockies for Position

Meanwhile the Taliban — who withdrew from talks with the U.S. and Karzai governments after a U.S. Marine massacre of 27 Afghans last month — is also maneuvering for a position in the country's affairs.

Violence moved to a new level when 35-40 suicide bombers launched coordinated attacks in Kabul and other cities on government buildings, Western embassies and NATO headquarters. The Taliban labeled the assault retaliation for U.S. military actions, the recent burning of Korans and the slaughter of 27 Afghan civilians.

The U.S. ambassador said, "...these attackers [are] part of the Haqqani network; they enjoy safe haven in northern Waziristan" (an area of western Pakistan bordering Afghanistan). Afghans suspected that the U.S. motive in singling out the Haqqanis is a tactic in a political

game to advance U.S. demands in its on-again, off-again negotiations with the Taliban and the Karzai government. The Haqqani network is one of eight anti-government, anti-U.S. groups, each with distinct goals, territorial and economic interests that comprise the Taliban movement.

Richard Haass of the Rockefeller-led Council on Foreign Relations outlined the strategy: make separate deals with different Taliban factions, carving Afghanistan into a "patchwork quilt" of territories overseen by various warlords and Taliban leaders. This would pacify areas protecting the TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghan-Pakistan-India) pipeline which U.S. transnationals are planning and would safeguard permanent U.S. military bases. The Haqqanis have been included in the two-year talks with Taliban leaders. Hillary Clinton met with them in 2011.

Afghans, however, see no difference between the Taliban factions; they view all as terrorists. Neither do they trust U.S. rulers. They accuse them of using the insurgency to push the Strategic Partnership Agreement and continue the occupation. In addition, the targeting of the Haqqanis justifies more deadly drone attacks on Haqqanis bases in Pakistan, further destabilizing that country.

Best Friends

Once a White House guest, Jalaluddin Haqqani, was a mujahideen commander in the U.S. proxy war in Afghanistan against the Soviets in the 1980s. This previously unknown Afghan, along with other warlords,

was on the CIA payroll, receiving millions of dollars and weapons, through Pakistan's ISI (security service).

When the Taliban seized power in 1996, Haqqani became a government minister. After the 2001 U.S. invasion, he refused a position in the Karzai government, returning to Pakistan to expand his network. Today his son runs the network's various business interests and funds a militia that rules by fear and violence in the territories it controls.

Contradictions between the Afghan working class and the fundamentalist warlords, drug dealers and war profiteers, both Afghan and foreign, who are now jockeying to maintain their position after 2014, are deepening at an alarming rate. Its present in downtown Kabul, where thousands displaced by the fighting and land-grabbing live in unspeakable squalor in shanties alongside new luxury buildings.

Political parties are forming to bring radical social change. Afghans once organized a movement that identified capitalism as the problem and communism the solution, to end the vast economic disparity between rich and poor. In 1978, a Marxist party, the PDPA, took power and for 12 years — despite fighting a war, the USSR occupation and its own errors — conditions for the Afghan working class improved tremendously.☺

(Next issue: the history of the struggle for communism in Afghanistan and how Afghans are fighting for those ideas today.)

Bay Area May Day Marks Working-Class Action and Potential

OAKLAND, April 21 — PL'ers, friends and co-workers gathered for our annual May Day dinner. Reacting to intense attacks and cynicism about the possibility of change, we celebrated the actions and potential of the international working class.

Presentations, comradeship, great food, art and music helped develop a sense of optimism. A nurse reported on the one-day strike planned for May 1. Later she said, "My favorite song is Bella Ciao- 'Soy comunista toda la vida, y comunista he de morir....' When I'm gone, I want others to remember me — 'She was a communist her whole life.'"

A young comrade made the main presentation:

May Day is the workers' day. May Day has a 100-year history of workers' struggles worldwide. May Day is a day for the working-class movement to review its forces... Only the communist movement unites the masses of the entire world because it encompasses the whole working class. The "Workers' Spring" will span the whole globe because the working class is international. It will light the way toward a future free from exploitation, crisis and war. The contradictions of capitalism include people who want to work but can't, or workers evicted from houses which stand empty. These contradictions will be gone.

On May Day, International Workers Day, we are planting the seeds of working-class consciousness. These seeds will grow into the Workers' Spring, un-

ing humanity's true potential for cooperation, equality, peace and sharing on a world-wide scale.

A mass transit worker and a teacher reviewed the year of struggles against the systematic destruction of these public services. PLP fights the worst and most racist attacks in transit— part-timing of jobs, devastation of community services and destruction of Para-Transit. Para-transit carries the most vulnerable workers: seniors and the disabled. The capitalists have no use for those whose labor does not create maximum profits.

The working-class art section of our cultural program was inspired by the German communist, Bertolt Brecht: "Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it." Posters celebrated May Day worldwide, the development of class-consciousness and world revolution. Two groups performed songs in English, Spanish and Italian and we ended with the Internationale in English and Spanish.

Afterwards, a friend commented: "Communist socializing is all around us in our communities of families and friends and in helping those less fortunate. Capitalism undermines these relations. Capitalism is not welcome at home but endured at work. These contradictions impassion our preparation for a better future."

Groups of workers organizing on the job are planning actions on May 1st. Many will join the May Day Coalition March.

On May 1st, nurses, dock workers, city and Golden Gate bridge workers and janitors are planning to have one-day strikes and protests against cuts and substandard contracts.

On hearing about these actions, one friend said "Maybe this is the pebble that will start a huge ripple. It needs to be everywhere."

May First, March on May Day

PLP is organizing a communist contingent in the larger Coalition March on May 1st. That march, focuses on immigrants' rights — stopping deportations; amnesty for undocumented workers and fighting the vast inequality and devastation which capitalism creates globally. Occupy Oakland is planning morning actions and then will join the 3 PM March.

PLP supports these demands and direct actions. Our communist contingent will broaden this outlook. We'll call for unity of the entire working class, whether immigrant or citizen; no matter what heritage, nationality, ethnicity or continent of origin. Our goal is a world without borders, a communist world.

Capitalism cannot produce a livable system. Our communist contingent will call for a communist society, around the slogan: "From each according to ability and commitment, to each according to need." We invite you to march with us.☺



LETTERS



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

PLP Strikes Back Against Sexism

"STRIKE!" shouted a male comrade of PLP. "Against Sexism!" replied the crowd of women, men, young, not-so-young, comrades, and others meeting the Party for the first time at a cultural event organized by PL'ers and friends. The poetry, songs, and stories of struggle clearly centered our Party's fight against the special oppression of women as a key element of anti-sexist action. Sexism, like racism, uses artificial social identities and roles to divide the working class. PLP specifically targeted the attacks capitalism unleashes on women and celebrated their heroic struggles.

The Culture Committee struggled and planned collectively in a multi-generational setting to create this event. In a process that focused on each PL'er on the committee struggling against their own individualism and emphasizing the collective, the communist essence of the struggle against sexism was clarified. Once this happened, culture became a weapon as each part of the program emphasized utilizing friends of PL participating in songs and developing the leadership of female comrades.

Reading the poetry of Tillie Olsen and a letter from Anna Louise Strong alongside a letter from a veteran comrade discussing her growth as a revolutionary communist illustrated the consistent role women have played in the international communist movement. A poem about the day-to-day struggle of being a woman subjugated by the daily insults meted out by capitalism particularly resonated with one young female HS student who deals with sexist degradation on a regular basis.

The role of culture as a weapon against capitalist ideological structures is being developed by PLP. As we continue to advance our understanding of communism and our practice at creating communist culture, we will create more events to help bring more people around our Party. People who wouldn't ordinarily come to political rallies or discussion groups came to the cultural event and saw our ideas in practice. The whole event ended with an invitation to join the Party and for everyone present to march on May Day.

Cultural Committee

Hunger Games Going On Now

The Hunger Games is a battle to the death, consisting of 24 teenagers fighting each other for survival (see *past three issues of CHALLENGE*). A N.Y. Daily News reviewer thought the *Hunger Games* portrayed a future capitalist dictatorship that forces children to kill each other. I think that future is happening now. The greatest form of violence today is capitalist genocide against billions of workers from hunger and poverty.

The gladiatorial Hunger Games are used as a metaphor for the life-and-death games that poor people must play every day under capitalism in order to survive. The mass appeal of Hunger Games is no media fad but is a reflection of workers' long hatred of the capitalist 1 percent's monopoly of desperately needed resources that the 99 percent created but have no access to. The Hunger Games are also symbolic of the daily struggle of millions of high school teenagers for survival in the capitalists' world of racism, unemployment and wars.

While a few reviews of *Hunger Games* can make some of the above points, none will mention communism, a system that outlaws hunger, poverty, racism, sexism, unemployment and profit wars. As the *Hunger Games* trilogy unfolds, pushed by the bosses' media, we will see communist revolutionaries vilified as fascists who want to destroy individualism. But PL'ers struggling for collectivism within the working class can point out that fascism is a form of capitalism and that only PLP's revolutionary communist party can end the bosses' fascist tyranny of the working class.

A Comrade

Diego Rivera's Art Is A Weapon for Workers

Diego Rivera's Murals for MOMA is an exhibit of Diego Rivera's works produced for New York City's Museum of Modern Art in 1931-32. It is a great opportunity to see how a mass communist movement can inspire great art. The exhibit includes eight murals by Rivera that honor the working class, depict the righteous anger of the exploited, working class



heroism and offers a limited exposé of capitalism. Additionally the exhibit contains two series of small color sketches by Rivera. One series depicts construction workers building New York's skyscrapers. They are beautiful and like several of the murals in the exhibit portray an inspirational view of the working class.

The most impressive, and moving, part of the exhibit is a series of sketches by Rivera made when he visited the Soviet Union for the 10th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. The small pictures portray a single day's events starting at the home of a Russian family and moving into the streets and onto a massive communist march.

While the murals on display are beautiful and outshine in both content and form most of what passes for art these days, the exhibit is limited in a couple of areas. One is that the exhibit cannot possibly include Rivera's greatest works painted on the walls of Mexico's National Palace in Mexico City.

Secondly, while the strengths and weaknesses of Rivera's politics can be seen through his work, from the moving Russian series to an almost Christ-like portrayal of Zapata, the exhibit only skims the background on what Rivera thought. There is no mention of the political debates Rivera engaged in with Picasso over the nature of art, or his self-criticism of his bourgeois tendencies when he asked to rejoin the Communist Party.

The exhibit provides some limited information on Rockefeller asking Rivera to paint a major mural for Rockefeller Center and then later ordering it destroyed because Rivera refused to take out a painting of Lenin. But this part of the exhibit disingenuously presents Rivera as opportunistically soliciting the patronage of MoMA and the commission to do the mural, while portraying Rockefeller as being "reasonable" in trying to work with him.

In fact the exact opposite was true. Rockefeller was actively seeking to both co-opt and undermine the socialist realist art inspired by the mass communist movement of the times. Rivera was sought out in the hopes of buying off a major figure of the movement at the same time that Rockefeller, through MoMA, was trying to build up abstract painters to take class content out of art. The destruction of the Rockefeller Center murals was a political setback for the bosses, driven by Rivera's refusal to play ball.

Even with its weaknesses, the exhibit is worth seeing. While the limited background material presented didn't stop exhibit visitors from debating and discussing the political nature of the art, a little research on Rivera and his politics beforehand will make the visit all the more interesting and satisfying.

Red Art Buff

Garment Fire, Murder in the Mines: Same Enemy, Same Fight

I attended the commemoration of the Triangle Shirtwaist fire disaster on March 23rd, as I have for a number of years. One hundred forty-six workers, mainly young Jewish and Italian immigrant women, were killed 101 years ago in a fire caused by their bosses' greed. After the fire, hundreds of thousands of outraged workers marched or lined the streets of their funeral procession.

Fire safety, child labor and workplace safety laws were enacted in response to this anger. Union contracts were signed at many garment factories. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and the International Ladies Garment Workers

Union grew in its aftermath. Although the factory bosses were brought to trial, they were found not guilty of all charges. In fact, they netted a substantial profit from their fire insurance claim.

The annual commemoration has a pro-immigrant, anti-sweatshop feel to it. This year, however, there was an ironic twist to the event. The Amalgamated Bank, begun by the garment union as a "workers' bank," which is a major sponsor of this event, now has a major shareholder named Wilbur Ross. This murderous thug was the owner of the Sago Mine in West Virginia where long-standing serious safety violations caused the deaths of twelve coal miners in 2006. While Ross profited from conditions in his coal mine, he was never criminally charged for the deaths the safety violations caused.

The union movement claims that reform of capitalism are the best aims workers should have. The continued deaths caused by sweatshop conditions in the U.S. and around the world prove their claims are a lie. Similarly, many working-class people put their money and trust in the Amalgamated Bank. Occupy Wall Street called on people to move their bank deposits out of the big commercial banks and into "good" banks like the Amalgamated. Unions likewise deposit their vast sums into the "labor bank." The relationship of Amalgamated and Wilbur Ross is a stark example of the bankruptcy of the ideas that the unions honestly fight in workers' interests and that some capitalists can be good.

Building the revolutionary Progressive Labor Party is the way to avenge these and many other deaths caused by capitalism!

Red Retiree

Imperialist Dogfight: U.S.-India Axis vs. China's Bosses

continued from page 2

Pakistan, India's arch enemy.

Asian Nuke Threats are U.S. Bosses' Best Hope to Maintain Profits

U.S. bosses prefer nuclear weapons — their own, India's or NATO's — as an end run around costly ground wars that favor their enemies in Asia. Their defeats in Korea and Vietnam have made them cherish their genocidal 1945 atomic slaughter at Hiroshima and Nagasaki all the more. These atomic bomb strikes against civilian populations served U.S. rulers well. They were a powerful warning to Stalin's Soviet Union — then without nuclear weapons — that it would face similar destruction if it challenged U.S. post-World War II global supremacy.

By any sane estimate, conventional U.S. forces, however technologically superior, would fail miserably in assaulting China's mainland. That's why Obama keeps his thumb (and those of his Indian allies) on the nuclear trigger to check China's advances, uncaring that its use would kill millions of workers.

But the one factor that all imperialist bosses tend to ignore is the potential strength of international working-class solidarity. After all, the ruling class and their henchmen constitute barely three percent of the world's population. The world's working class, when organized and led by a revolutionary communist party, the Progressive Labor Party, represents the exploited billions whose interests run exactly counter to their exploiters. The same workers compose the imperialist armies that can be won to turn the guns on their oppressors. Without their rank-and-file soldiers, the bosses are powerless.

This is the internationalism that we celebrate on May Day. And this is the force that can destroy the racist system of capitalism and usher in a new world run by and for the working class. Crucial to this goal is the building of the communist PLP. Join us and march on May Day!✊

May Day's Communist Roots Belie Rulers' Reform Sham

May Day has always had two sides to it: one that demands reforms, and the revolutionary side that organizes to destroy capitalism. May Day commemorates a massive strike wave in the U.S., and the particular battle in Chicago's Haymarket Square in 1886. The movement's leaders demanded an 8-hour day, but also advocated the "abolition of the wage system." Six of them were hung by the rulers for their allegiance to the working class and defiance of capitalism. Then and now the capitalists feared this revolutionary side to May Day.

In 1848, Marx and Engels wrote in the Communist Manifesto, "A specter is haunting Europe, the specter of Communism." By 1886, the rulers of Chicago saw this specter. "The newspapers and industrialists were increasingly declaring that May 1, 1886 was in reality the date for a Communist working-class insurrection modeled on the Paris Commune. According to Melville E. Stone, Head of the Chicago Daily News...a 'repetition of the Paris Communal riots was freely predicted' for May 1, 1886" (Page 90, "Labor's Untold Story," Boyer and Morais).

In December 1886, San Francisco transit workers joined this rising strike wave. They demanded a work-day reduction from 13-15 hours to 12 hours (then 7 days a week), and for a pay increase from \$2.25 to \$2.50 a day. "Strike-breakers were hired, and

there was a great deal of violence. Cars were damaged, strike-breakers were beaten, and one person was killed." Newspapers reported eight instances of the use of dynamite by the striking workers. In March 1887, the Governor signed a bill "limiting gripmen, drivers, and conductors to a 12-hour day" ("Transit In San Francisco" published by SF MUNI RR Communications Department).

In the 1880's the early leaders of the American Federation of Labor were somewhat radical — it was actually an AFL delegate's report to the Marxist-led International Workingmen's Association that led to the call for the first May Day.

But by the 1920's the pro-capitalist AFL leadership, fearing the growth of communist ideas in the working class, collaborated with the U.S. government to subvert May Day. At the 1928 AFL Convention, the Executive Council supported a Congressional resolution to make May 1 "Child Health Day." They said, "May 1 will no longer be known as either strike day or communist labor day."

The revolutionary side of May Day dominated when the communist movement was strong. During the peak of the communist organizing of the CIO's industrial unions in the 1930's and '40s, May Day was celebrated in the U.S. As many as 250,000 would march to New York's Union Square. However, with the ad-

vent of the Cold War, and U.S. imperialism's launching of a worldwide anti-communist offensive, the bosses' government in Washington helped oust communists from union leadership by making it illegal for them to hold union office. With the triumph of business unionism and anti-communism, organized labor discarded May Day and recognized Labor Day in September.

However, in 1971 PLP resurrected the annual May Day march from its abandonment by the old U.S. Communist Party. PLP has marched in many cities every year since.

From the Haymarket battle in 1886, revolutionary workers spread May Day around the globe. But history is written by the conquerors, and many workers born here know nothing of the contribution that the U.S. working class, with the support of the international working class and communist movement, made to the development of this revolutionary holiday. Today May Day is the official Labor Day in most countries, but the leadership of these marches demand reforms, and stress the "common goals" of labor and capital.

PLP has learned from the triumphs of the communist movement in the USSR and China, and from their failure to fight directly for communism. We advocate "Abolish the Wage System" as part of changing the relationship of workers and work

in a new communist society.

The abolition of money, of production for sale and profit and of the wage system is absolutely necessary to establish communism. When the international working class wins and holds control over all economic, political and cultural institutions of society, it will unleash a creative power that will propel the human race to its highest accomplishments in all fields of endeavor. We call this the dictatorship of the proletariat. We need a mass revolutionary communist party to achieve this. The capitalists will use every means — including mass, fascist terror and war — to prevent it.

For the last several years some groups now want to "Reclaim May Day." They want to reform the "evils" of capitalism, but disconnect May Day from its communist roots. PLP seeks to keep May Day as a revolutionary international working-class holiday; to advance and popularize communist production for need as the future of the human race; to develop a strong and healthy class hatred that will destroy wage slavery and fascism everywhere.

Long live the 1st of May, the revolutionary, international, working class holiday! Fight for communism!✊

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

Subsidized Euro boats are the real pirates

GW, 4/13 — Community leaders in Joal and across Senegal have warned that overfishing by foreign fleets could lead to piracy and violence....

Senegal's only resource is the sea.... "People are getting desperate. For sure, in 10 years' time, we will carry guns...."

Blame for the fall in [ships'] catches is leveled... at the foreign-owned trawlers that take up to 300,000 tons of fish a year from Senegal's waters....

Fishermen say they want more action. "We are now prepared to take direct action against the foreign boats," said Sall. "It is they, not we, who would be acting as pirates. We want people in Europe to be aware that, when this happens, they should not call us pirates. The pirates are the vessels taking our fish...."

"Europe has over-exploited its own waters, and now is exporting the problem to...the fishing grounds of some of the world's poorest countries.... [These] communities...rely on these [seas] for work and food...."

Heavily subsidized EU-registered fleets catch... tens of thousands of tons...in waters off Sierra Leone, Ghana, Guinea Bissau and elsewhere.

Nobel prize criticizes ; Israel bans him

NYT, 4/5 — The German novelist and Nobel laureate Gunter Grass...has come under intense criticism after publishing a poem saying that Israel was the Mideast's greatest threat to world peace....In the poem...Mr. Grass said he was tired of "Western hypocrisy" for calling for an end to Iran's nuclear program while tolerating Israel's own secretive nuclear program....[He] noted the German government's recent decision to sell Israel additional submarines with what the poem described at the ability to "send all-destroying warheads [at Iran] where the existence of a single nuclear bomb is unproven...."

The Israeli embassy in Berlin issued a statement accusing Mr. Grass of propagating blood libel.... Israel banned him from visiting.

No Jail for BP's murderers

NYT, 4/14 —Time after time over the past 15 years, BP [British Petroleum] put profits over safety and created dangerous conditions for its workers, which resulted in serious industrial accidents that brought criminal investigations. Every time, BP wiggled out of trouble by paying money and promising to do better — and then went right back to its... ways....

Necessary maintenance was deferred. Warning signs were ignored....

Two years after the spill that cost 11 lives and saw millions of gallons of crude poured into the Gulf of Mexico, the company unveiled 2011 net profits of close to \$24 billion....

As for the criminal investigation, it will likely result in a deal in which BP agrees to plead guilty — and pays more fines — while no actual human being goes to jail. Money solves everything, doesn't it?

It always has before.

Profit system: useless medical tests

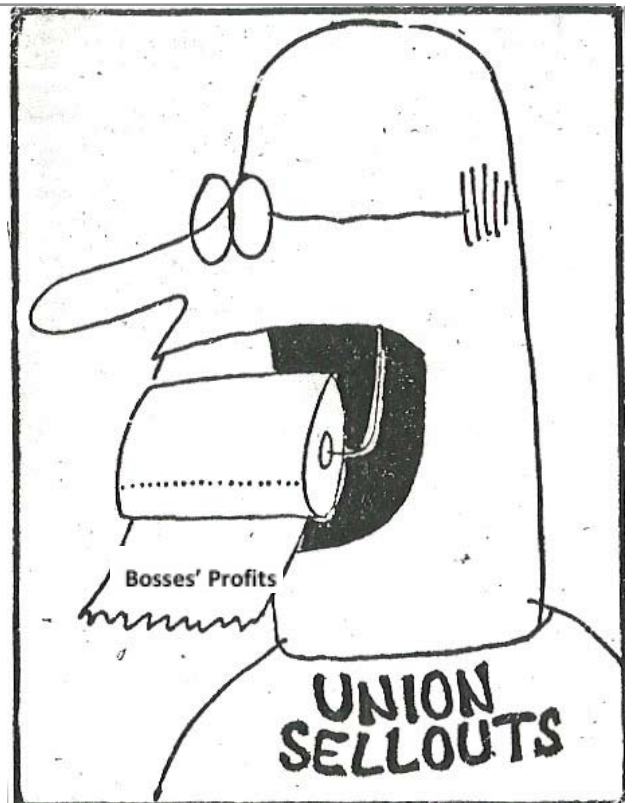
NYT, 4/4 — A group of nine specialty medical boards recommended...that doctors perform 45 common tests and procedures less often....

Many profitable tests and procedures are performed unnecessarily and may harm patients. By some estimates, unnecessary treatments constitute one-third of medical spending in the United States....

The list of tests and procedures [experts] advise against include: EKGs done routinely during a physical, even when there is no sign of heart trouble, MRIs ordered whenever a patient complains of back pain, and antibiotics prescribed for mild sinusitis — all quite common.

'Occupy' must fight backlash laws

GW, 4/13 — In a five-four court ruling last week, the U.S. supreme court decided that anyone can be strip-searched upon arrest for any offense, however minor, at any time. This horror-show ruling joins two recent horror-show laws: the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which lets any-



one arrested for protesting forever at any time, and HR347, the "trespass" bill, which gives you a 10-year sentence for protesting anywhere near someone with secret service protection. These criminalizations of being human, follow, of course, the...uprising of the Occupy movement.

China's workers get little, rebel

GW, 4/13 —In...[China] the share of wages in national income is far lower than in developed capitalist nations; the forces of capital have been the big beneficiaries of growth....An effort is being made to boost blue-collar pay...but this will be a matter of two five-year plans....

Underlying everything is a serious trust deficit. "Only believe something when the government denies it" is a common saying. Corruption endemic,...any form of organized dissidence is ruthlessly crushed — the budget for internal security is greater than that for the armed forces. Still, there are reckoned to be 150,000 popular protests a year, some involving tens of thousands of demonstrators.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202

May Day

Only Communist Revolution Can Smash Bosses' Racist Terror



Amid the mind-numbing media dribble about the U.S. presidential shell game, the truth keeps bursting out in hails of bullets from Central Asia to New York City. The ruling class never forgets that it's in a life-and-death struggle to preserve its vicious profit system. Racist terror is the rulers' trump card to enforce a future of poverty wages and perpetual war, no matter who lives in the White House.

The Atrocities of Capitalism

In Afghanistan, "Operation Securing Freedom" recently massacred 16 unarmed villagers, most of them women and children. They were the latest of nearly 12,000 Afghan civilians killed over the last six years, victims of the U.S. bosses' military effort to secure critical oil and gas pipelines in the region.

On February 2, Ramarley Graham, 18, ran to avoid a racist "stop and frisk" in the Bronx by the New York Police Department — one of a million searches each year by the cops to control young workers and students, 80 percent of whom are black and Latino. Ramarley was murdered in his grandmother's apartment by a NYPD death squad.

One day earlier, Stephon Watts, 15, became agitated at his home in Calumet City, outside Chicago. Stephon had autism, and his parents called their social worker for assistance. The cops arrived instead, confronted Stephon in his basement, and shot him dead.

Three weeks later, Trayvon Martin, 17, armed with only a cell phone and a bag of Skittles, was shot in cold blood by racist cop wannabe George Zimmerman on the streets of Sanford, Florida. It took six weeks of demonstrations by hundreds of thousands just to get the shooter arrested. Despite a charge of second-degree murder, Zimmerman needed only \$15,000 to bail himself out of jail. When Sanford's city commissioners refused this week to accept their police chief's resignation, they sent a clear message: It is open season on black youth.

The Progressive Labor Party has provided bold political and tactical leadership to the mass anti-racist demonstrations around each of these killings. We have offered a revolutionary alternative to Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, and the pack of liberal opportunists who want to confine the struggle to the courts and then take their cut from a multi-million-dollar settlement.

Equally important, teachers, hospital workers, transit workers and others have brought this fight to their jobsites, circulating petitions and raising resolutions. More than 200 New York City transit workers signed petitions demanding Zimmerman's arrest during a lobby day in the state capitol. City University professors recently passed a resolution condemning the racist murder of Ramarley Graham.

To End The Dark Night

The international working class has a powerful hand to play — but only if we stand united in anti-racist solidarity, under the leadership of an international communist party. The history of class society, as Karl Marx noted, is a history of dictatorship, with one class wielding absolute state power over another. Today we live under the dictatorship of the capitalists, where society is designed to create obscene profits for a few at the expense of billions of workers. The Progressive Labor Party stands for the dictatorship of the proletariat, for a society run by workers to meet workers' needs, based on need and commitment.

We call that society communism.

As May Day approaches, we are reminded that anger is not enough. History tells us that no class gives up state power until it is destroyed by violent revolution. Now, more than ever, we must fight back. We must fight to defend our fellow workers in the here and now, and also to prepare the working class to seize state power, smash the capitalist class and its decadent ideology, and create a communist future.

Fighting Back

Since the collapse of the old communist movement over 40 years ago, the working class has been trapped in a long dark night of imperialist rivalry, incessant wars, and unrelenting oppression. Mass fight-back has been limited to the dead end of reform. Ultimately, as the contradictions of capitalism continue to sharpen, these conditions will lead to full-blown fascism. Pressured by international competition and their inevitably declining rate of profit, the capitalists will be unable to sustain their charade of "democracy" and phony formalities like the Bill of Rights. As the U.S. heads toward a military draft and the next world war, the rulers will need to assert more open and brutal control in the workplaces and schools.

This long dark night will end only when a mass, international Progressive Labor Party leads the working class to power with communist revolution. The movement for a communist future is being advanced by PLP in 27 countries around the world. In Haiti, since the 2010 earthquake, students and workers are organizing on campus and in the tent cities against fascist president Michel Martelly. In Pakistan, PLP is growing within the bosses' trade unions and mass organizations. In Palestine-Israel, a Party group is helping to lead the resistance against racist foreclosures and evictions in the occupied territories. In Mexico City, PLP is fighting for vital sanitation services in neighborhoods flooded because of the bosses' decaying infrastructure.

But even as we work within reform organizations, we are also building a movement on five continents to smash all borders and eliminate bosses, profits, money, and the wage system. Only when the bosses' capitalist system is destroyed will we see the end of racist terror and imperialist war.

PLP is a mass party, open to all workers, soldiers and youth. This May Day and every day, we fight for a communist world, a society whose sole purpose will be to serve the international working class. Join us!☺

A 'Recovery' for Profits

U.S. imperialism is being challenged around the world, from an increasingly unstable Middle East to a rising capitalist giant in China. The invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan have backfired, doing more harm to the U.S. and its economy than to its enemies. War is widening to Pakistan and Iran as the world's bosses, big and small, jockey for position to see who will supplant the U.S. as number one.

As these challenges to their empire intensify, U.S. bosses are locked in a billionaires' dogfight over how best to save their empire. This division became apparent in this year's Republican primaries and the standoff in Congress over budget cuts and taxes.

But while the bosses have significant tactical and strategic differences, they stand united in their need for a U.S. economic "recovery." For the capitalists, this means recovering maximum profits through heightened exploitation of the working class: high unemployment, wage cuts, racist budget cuts on every front, increased deportations, a world-leading prison population, crumbling schools, strike-breaking and union-busting. While conservative governors in Wisconsin and Indiana grab headlines by attacking collective bargaining, their liberal counterparts in California and New York do more damage still by raising college tuition and cutting pensions and aid to the poor.

These economic assaults have a profound racist character, with double the unemployment rate for black and Latino workers, and hovering around 50 percent for young black males. They also especially victimize women workers and youth, with sexist wage differentials and attacks on women's health care plunging two-thirds of black children into poverty.

Racist terror — by the police, or immigration agents, or mad-dog civilians like Zimmerman — plays a critical role for the bosses during crises like the current Great Recession. It aims to intimidate workers from resisting their exploitation, and to divide workers based on the invented concept of "race," which has no scientific basis. But when the capitalists expose their system as the lethal hell-hole it is, it creates an opportunity for PLP to open workers' minds to our ideas for a better world. In the Soviet Union and in China, the working class overcame its fears and divisions to destroy the old order in communist revolution. Onward to May Day!☺

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