

CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

volume 44 no. 12

June 6, 2012

suggested donation \$.50

Students Defy Racist Principal Forman Defend Communists

BROOKLYN, NY, May 9 — “Fight back, fight back!” Hundreds of Clara Barton H.S. students poured out onto the streets today to protest harassment and show support for two teachers, both PLP members, who received an unsatisfactory (U) rating last June. The rally had a broad base of support and was endorsed by local union delegates as well as union caucuses, including SOTU (State of the Union). Hundreds of students and many staff members wore stickers with messages of support all around the school.

When students came out of the building, a group of retired teachers were there to greet them with signs. The students grabbed flyers as they left the school. Many still wore the stickers and chanted “Schools Not Jails” as they exited.

The administration tried to prevent the rally. The front exits were closed and students were forced to exit through the back entrances. Their efforts backfired when these students joined hundreds of others and marched around to the front of the school and then to the train station.

At the train station the rally regrouped as students led chants and gave speeches, along with staff members. One teacher, a friend of PLP, explained why it is so important to “think outside the box” and that this is the reason why the adminis-

tration fears PLP. Many people from the community came forward to speak to us and show their solidarity. When local cops tried to end the rally, student leaders stayed strong and started to chant “The cops, the courts, the KuKluxKlan, all are part of the bosses’ plan!” and “Know your rights!”

These two teachers were rated unsatisfactory by the racist Principal Forman for going to a union rally and march in Washington, DC, with students and parents. That rally was organized by a host of unions and attended by thousands of students, teachers and parents nationwide. However, racist Forman, along with the assistant principal of security, has tried to implement a policy that all teachers and students need administration’s approval for any after-school or weekend activities! He and the Department of Education (DoE) think they have more say-so over the students than their parents! How’s that for fascism! The DOE flunkies take control of the students from their parents!

Simultaneously, they have made the school feel like a jail with harsh suspension policies, school uniforms and interrogations of students who take CHALLENGE or leaflets from PLP members. We have consistently pointed out that while students in more elite schools are encouraged to travel and “see the world,” stu-



dents in our school face rules, regulations and limits when they try to do the same. We explained that this is a racist attack on our students, who are mainly black and Latino. While we are challenging these U ratings in the courts, our main fight is always in the streets!

The day of the rally, the administration acted as if they thought the revolution was about to start. They showed their contempt for the phony rights of free speech and the right to assemble and demonstrate. They called for an early dismissal, canceling all after-school classes and activities. They lied to staff and students about what was going on. One administrator said something about practicing a different exit tactic. The DoE also cancelled classes in the school next door, and dismissed the nearby elementary school early.

This rally exposed the truth that the administration and the DoE are not about education; they are about

keeping staff, but especially students ignorant, passive and obedient. Sounds like they want willing soldiers for their expanding wars.

This rally is part of a long fight for a better world — a communist world. As the rulers prepare for more and bigger wars to dominate the world, we must also prepare for more battles against racism and sexism and for communism. This was about more than just defending two communist teachers.

During this rally many students stepped forward showing bold leadership and initiative. Some wanted to fight for communism; some were just angry and fed up with the administration’s harassment. Some have been organizing and fighting back for some time; some stepped forward for the first time. We all have to step forward and toughen up. Join the Progressive Labor Party!✊

PL’ers Shine Red Beacon on Anti-NATO Protest



CHICAGO, May 20 — Thousands entered the streets here today to protest the meeting of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). NATO was formed after World War II to contain and undermine the first workers’ state, the Soviet Union. The western bosses feared that the example of the communist-led USSR, which had just defeated the German Nazis, the world’s most powerful military, would inspire workers worldwide to fight for a workers’ state.

NATO has rained terror on workers from Kosovo to Afghanistan to Libya and all points in between. This is the military wing of the U.S.-ruling class, to protect the financial interest of western bosses. One needn’t be a communist to know that NATO bosses use extreme racism to justify their imperialist wars and the super-exploitation of black, Latino, immigrant, and Muslim workers. One does need to be a communist to understand that the way to defeat this genocide is not through reform battles or siding with “lesser-evil” capitalist politicians. The working class must fight for, and take, state power through

communist revolution.

Today we saw all manner of well-meaning people misdirected by liberal reformist leadership. They prevented us from getting no closer than half a mile from the conference. A red beacon of light in this conglomerate of mis-leadership was about 20 PL’ers. We distributed 500 CHALLENGEs, led revolutionary chants and made militant communist speeches, explaining the true nature of capitalism and the communist solution for its horrors heaped on the working class. Many workers approached us after each speech, telling us how much they liked what we said. Many interested workers gave us their contact information, which we will pursue.

As communists we know that our struggle is long and hard. But, when we experience the working class’s eagerness for change and the receptiveness of those same workers to our ideas, they can be won to join PLP. We know then there will come a day when this ruling class will be overthrown and a communist world will be born.✊

Obama: Peacemaker or Warmonger?

The upcoming presidential election campaign between the U.S. capitalists' twin stooges, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, marks a critical period for the candidates' imperialist handlers. Facing large rivals (China, Russia) and smaller ones (Iran, North Korea, al Qaeda), the bosses' solution requires ever-widening wars led by the U.S. in the Middle East and Asia, especially over energy resources. To wage them, they need to win millions of workers to back the U.S. rulers' policies, now personified by Obama.

It's a difficult proposition for the bosses, since these policies are directly opposed to workers' class interests. Romney's election could make it even more difficult, since he's a more transparent enemy of workers and youth.

The trillion-dollar funding for war requires savage cuts in wages, pensions, healthcare, schools and other social services. As a result, Obama's ruling-class publicists must lie to workers about his intent to end wars, while reassuring U.S. capitalists of his resolve to expand them.



Agent Orange Genocide Hits 3 Million 40 Years Later. (See page 6)

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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CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. One Year: \$15. Six months: \$10. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, June 6, 2012. Volume 44, No. 12

On May 20, the New York Times, U.S. imperialism's leading popular mouthpiece, informed readers of Obama's "peaceful" Afghan intentions. In 2009, he "had *reluctantly* (our emphasis, ed.) decided to order a surge of more than 30,000 troops." The Times then elaborated on Obama's fake anti-militarism: "A year later, when the president...began to plan for the withdrawal, the generals were cut out entirely....And when Mr. Obama joins the leaders of other NATO nations in Chicago...he will announce what he has already told the leaders in private: All combat operations led by American forces will cease in summer 2013."

Just a month earlier, however, the Times headlined a fawning op-ed article, "Warrior in Chief." It boasted that the "president who won the Nobel Peace Prize less than nine months after his inauguration has turned out to be one of the most militarily aggressive American leaders in decades." Obama's use of deadly force — in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia — stood to his everlasting credit, the Times said.

Bosses' Think Tanks Pave Way For War Policies

These seemingly contradictory articles, excerpted from books aimed at pushing Obama's re-election, flow from the same imperialist sector of U.S. capitalism. Peter Bergen, who wrote the Obama-as-warrior piece, directs the New America Foundation (NAF) and is the author of the forthcoming book *Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for Bin Laden — From 9/11 to Abbottabad* (the city in Pakistan where Bin Laden was killed).

The Obama-as-pacifist piece was by David Sanger, a top Times Washington correspondent and the author of the soon-to-be-published *Confront and Conceal: Obama's Secret Wars and Surprising Use of American Power*. He belongs to the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), which — like the NAF — is bankrolled by the dominant Rockefeller wing of U.S. bosses. A large number of Obama's foreign policy advisers hail from these two think tanks.

Political and economic reality gives the lie to Obama's Afghan peace charade. The U.S. needs to dominate the vast Turkmenistan gas supplies that flow through Afghanistan, shaky ally Pakistan, and hesitant ally India. This was a primary motive for the U.S. rulers' invasion of Afghanistan, but it continues to elude Obama & Co. As the Times editorialized on the eve of Obama's NATO summit, Afghanistan's Kandahar and Helmand Provinces are still a base for the Taliban and "remain heavily contested" (5/19/12).

So don't expect U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan anytime soon. In fact, Obama signed a pact with the corrupt Afghan regime to provide enough military force and finances to fight the Taliban until 2024. But all is not well between the U.S. bosses and their junior partners in Kabul, who now want the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan India (TAPI) pipeline all for themselves. Meanwhile, the U.S. invaders' racism has provoked rank-and-file Afghan soldiers to kill their NATO mentors in a wave of escalating attacks. Neither Sanger nor Bergen mention this development.

Paid Mercenaries Fill In For Troop-Short Army

Even if most uniformed GIs leave Afghanistan someday, what will most likely follow is a bloody, Iraq-style occupation by Pentagon-paid U.S. contractors and mercenaries. These hired guns, brought in to supplement a troop-short U.S. Army, are already guarding Exxon Mobil's oil wells. They're being entrusted with the prize that has led a quartet of U.S. presidents to promote mass murder in and around Iraq: George H.W. Bush, with the first Gulf War; Bill Clinton's murderous bombings and sanctions; George W. Bush's reinvasion and racist occupation; Obama's continued slaughter. Meanwhile, a deadly civil war seethes in the beleaguered country.

Imperialist tool Sanger, boosting Obama's Afghan "pacifism," suggests a bigger-fish-to-fry scenario for world war. According to a press release for *Confront and Conceal*, "Sanger describes how Obama's early idealism about fighting 'a war of necessity' in Afghanistan quickly turned to fatigue and frustration...and how an effort to re-establish American power in the Pacific set the stage for a new era of tensions with the world's great rising power, China."

These plans for past, present and future U.S. imperialist wars have killed millions of workers and youth in the Middle East and South Asia, and will inevitably kill millions more. They have sent tens of thousands of U.S. GIs to their graves or to lives damaged by war wounds, physical and mental.

Obama's Warmongering A Racist Body Blow to U.S. Workers

To pay for the U.S. war machine, Obama's policies — which a President Mitt Romney would no doubt follow — are heaping misery on the U.S. working class. Social services have been slashed, and Social Security may follow. Wages have been halved at General Motors under Obama's bailout plan, swelling the company's profits. Criminal bankers reap bonuses while tens of millions endure joblessness. Undocumented workers are terrorized under threat of deportation. All of these crimes against the working class stem from the rulers' need for its military machine to dominate its imperialist rivals.

The repercussions of the capitalists' crisis falls most heavily on black, Latino and immigrant workers. They suffer twice as much unemployment, far lower wages, and even more pathetic social services. Daycare has been wiped out for millions of minimum-wage workers. A rotting educational system is failing millions of youth. These racist cut-backs create hundreds of billions in super-profits for U.S. bosses to maintain their decadent capitalist system.

It is the task of communists in the Progressive Labor Party, in every country and organization where we are present, to win masses to understand how the profit system is the source of all our class's problems. They are needed to join and build PLP as the one force that can destroy this exploitative system and usher in a communist world. Then workers' power will run society to serve the needs of the international working class, which produces everything of value.

Join PLP and emancipate our class! ☪

Signs of Rebellion As Teacher Union Hacks Side with Bosses

BUFFALO, NY, April 27 — New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) is on a campaign here to win teachers to defend capitalism, a tough sell when teachers are being singled out for especially vicious attacks. Delegate numbers for NYSUT's state convention, the state affiliate of the two national teacher unions, are sharply down this year. Teacher anger is seething.

So how do the bosses respond? With 11,000 teachers laid off statewide, and phony teacher-evaluation grades made public, the NYSUT's leadership did not fight back with picket lines, mass meetings, job actions, or strikes. It didn't organize unemployed teachers and the still-employed into a unified fighting force. It didn't support other workers who are fighting back and to unite with them.

Instead, NYSUT's leaders invited a mayor, a state senator, the state comptroller, the state education commissioner, and a New York senator to address the delegates.

This convention was aimed at misleading teachers to support the racist and imperialist ruling-class attacks on the working class here and abroad. It was part of the bosses' ongoing campaign to win teachers to their side in the class struggle, a very serious danger.

Fortunately, the union's sellout politics were unable to suppress a lively demonstration by the Lancaster teacher local outside the convention on opening night, protesting the teacher-evaluation scam. Two New York City teacher delegates joined

them, chanting together as we faced the police on horseback: "Education is a right: Fight, fight, fight, fight!"

The next day, the Buffalo local walked out on Commissioner John King over the same issue. They rallied outside and welcomed some delegates from other locals. These are small signs of what is possible if teachers fight back.

The rogues' gallery of speakers was presented as "friends of labor" by the president of the National Education Association (NEA). Barack Obama and his racist, imperialist Democratic Party are also "friends," according to this well-paid stooge. But we know that many of the 600,000 teachers in New York don't agree with him.

With communist leadership from the Progressive Labor Party, they can be won to put aside narrow interests and find solidarity with other workers, including their own students. A communist analysis can also help them understand why the laws of capitalism require the bosses' state to impose budget and pension cuts, layoffs and forced furloughs, fascist-style public shaming, and threats to collective bargaining rights.

Win Teachers to Oppose Racism, Sexism, Imperialism, Capitalism

PL'ers and friends in NYSUT, along with other delegates who consistently support us in debate, have an uphill battle to expose the federal and state governments as tools of the dictatorship of

the capitalist class. We must lead rank-and-file teachers to the class consciousness denied by the AFT's (American Federation of Teachers) "union of professionals" logo denies. Eadie Shanker, widow of the red-baiting, racist AFT leader Al Shanker, actually told the convention, "We are not just workers, we are professionals." She boasted of winning the racist 1968 UFT (United Federation of Teachers) "strike" against black and Latino communities in New York. For a moment, the mask came off. The racist elitism of the UFT and AFT leadership emerged without apology.

In a meeting of the civil and human rights committee, we debated resolutions brought by a progressive local against the war in Afghanistan, the racist stop-and-frisk law in New York City, and the "new Jim Crow" of mass incarceration of black people. In every case, the spokesperson for the UFT/AFT leadership amended the resolutions to remove any explicit attack on racism and imperialism. But even though the UFT leadership stacked the committee in its favor, a pro-imperialist amendment passed by only 58-49.

Teacher union leaders in the U.S. are explicitly allying with the capitalist state and opposing any rank-and-file struggle against its racist and imperialist policies. Our task as communists is equally clear: to win our fellow teachers to anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-imperialism, anti-fascism, and anti-capitalism.☺

May Day HS Walkout Hits Racist Cuts, Cops



BROOKLYN, May 1 — At noon today, a handful of students exited Brooklyn Technical High School and gathered at a local café. Although their numbers were smaller than they'd hoped, the students decided to go through with their planned course of action. Lined up in two rows, they began marching and chanting around the school. Soon other students from the school joined them. A march of 15 grew into a march of 50.

Chants were led by a few young people who have been in or around Progressive Labor Party. Instead of limiting the protest to racist cutbacks on education, the chants tied together a number of ills that students face under capitalism.

There was outrage against recent acts of police brutality, particularly last month's murder of Tamon Robinson, a popular employee at a local café.

In addition, the students marched in solidarity with workers all around the city, the country and the world. Chants of "Whose day? Our Day! What day? May Day!" and "Racist Cops Mean, We Got to Fight Back!" rang throughout the block.

Although the march was some-

what small, the participants' enthusiasm was unmatched. For over two hours, the Tech students yelled at the top of their lungs. Many displayed a newfound passion for protest and broke out in spontaneous chants when a moment of silence fell over the march. For many participants, this was their first rally. They were clearly glad to be part of it.

Their enthusiasm only ballooned after the Tech group made contact with other students from Paul Robeson High School in Fort Greene. A contingent of Robeson and Tech students continued to chant and cheer at the base of the steps at Fort Greene Park, drawing attention from neighborhood workers and residents. At one point a car drove by and the driver violently honked in support of the march.

Later, the students gathered at a larger rally at the Sailor's Monument at the top of Ft. Greene. More than 120 students heard speeches and poems and to participate in teach-ins with progressive teachers.☺

College Students Answer Attacks: 'Register to Revolt!'

It's election season at Queens College, a time when all the register-to-voters and the student government hopefuls rally to show us how effective they think elections are, both on campus and on the national scale. On our campus these election campaigns (both student and presidential) are happening in an immediate context of massive tuition hikes, a heightened exploitation of our teachers, fewer and fewer options for us when we graduate, and an intensifying criminalization of black, Latino, and Muslim students. So, we fought back!

We organized a "Don't register to vote, register to REVOLT!" campaign to expose the scam of elections. We made signs, gave out flyers and people took CHALLENGE. A lot of us were surprised at the number of students who connected with our message that elections are nothing but a racist battleground for the bosses to duke out disagreements amongst themselves.

We won many students and workers to "register to REVOLT!" They gave us their contact information and expressed interest in coming to a weekly speak-out we organized on the campus green. At these speak-outs, issues like racist police brutality in our communities, increasing tuition and the inability of working-class students, especially black and Latino, to afford higher education, are at the center of our conversations. These speak-outs

have been very well attended and very politically sharp, not only in ideas but also in organizing actions.

In a political climate where fascism in the forms of brutal policing, anti-immigrant laws and anti-Muslim racism seems to be intensifying, we saw fit to organize around this on campus, since a lot of the students are affected by these issues.

It has been documented that the NYPD has sent undercover spies into — and has hacked the computers of — the Muslim Student Associations (MSA) across CUNY, especially at Queens College. So, in the weeks that followed we successfully organized a mock incident of police brutality.

We walked into a crowded cafeteria on campus and put on a show. Students dressed up as KKKops by wearing pig masks and harassed other students by pushing them up against the walls, emptying their bags, and frisking them. This skit was very well received by the students sitting around us and more students expressed interest in joining the speak-outs. We're planning on putting on many more encore performances and leading this momentum in the direction of the only sustainable solution for us working people, a communist revolution.

In a campus desperately hungry for revolutionary change, we are planting red seeds.☺



Revolutionary Chants Carry May Day from Colombia to White House

WASHINGTON



WASHINGTON, DC, May 1 — "1, 2, 3, 4, We declare class war, 5, 6, 7, 8, Smash the system, smash the state!"

Three hundred Occupiers and friends marched to the White House with red flags flying high to condemn the racist, capitalist system and politicians like Obama and Bush who foster imperialist war and the exploitation of the working class. Workers alongside the march saluted the May Day marchers with clenched fists of support and applause.

With the bullhorn cranked up to the maximum and pointed (illegally) towards the White House, the May Day marchers rattled the windows of the White House with revolutionary chants. The Labor Committee of OccupyDC vigorously organized all sections of Occupy to join this march. It was a smashing success, overcoming the fragmentation of the movement and demonstrating that the struggle that began with Occupy Wall Street last fall continues stronger than ever.

Highlights included speeches by a Metro transit worker, calling on Occupiers and Metro workers alike to unify against the system, especially as fare hikes and attacks on workers both intensify on July 1; a United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union organizer calling for ever bolder attacks on capitalism; a moving poem in the tradition of Langston Hughes written by a college student;



a series of dramatic readings of May Day speeches from historic figures; several labor songs from the Labor Chorus including the Internationale in four languages; and a final rally featuring grassroots labor leaders from Bangladesh, Honduras, and the Philippines providing solidarity messages.

The PLP May Day march in New York and the Occupy May Day march in DC made many people realize the possibilities for revolution. At a recent PLP club meeting, two marchers pledged to join the Party, and two others pledged to continue to march with the Party through next year.☺

BOGOTA



Approximately 50,000 workers participated in this well-attended march, defying bad weather and police threats. They occupied both sides of Seventh Avenue and adjacent streets, harassing and frisking workers. Union leaders carried signs with no messages, and whined about a better functioning capitalism. Peasants and indigenous groups denounced the genocide, against them during the last 50 years, because of the bosses' thirst for maximum profits.

There were groups of retirees fighting against the reduction of their pensions, neighborhood mothers fighting for their jobs, workers marching with whistles and horns and all types of opportunists cackling about peace, sovereignty and social justice.

PLP arrived early. We distributed our literature, sold CHALLENGE and let marchers know about our revolutionary program. A Coca-Cola worker we knew and some veteran

operators of Bavaria beer, encouraged by our meeting, introduced us to their co-workers and invited us to attend their meetings and to inform our readers about their conflict with their bosses. We chanted our slogans against wage slavery and for a worldwide communist revolution. We explained that while capitalists get richer from our sweat, we'll be the ones who'll bury them. Then we organized our group to raise our flag and chant our slogans as we marched.

Some youth and workers joined our group as a comrade called out the slogans and directed the group with a bullhorn to help us chant as a single voice: "Democracy is a capitalist farce, Let's organize a communist revolution," "One working class, One communist world, One Progressive Labor Party," "Don't support any capitalist, We offer communist leadership," and 30 other slogans. Our chants generated interest amongst the marchers be-

cause we rejected reformism, wage slavery, fascism, nationalism, electoral politics, the capitalist dictatorship, racism, imperialism — always presenting the internationalist communist revolution as the solution.

We marched with revolutionary pride, with raised fists, demonstrating our hatred of the class enemy, finally arriving at Plaza Bolivar, where we sung the Internationale. We highlighted the organization and discipline of our comrades and their active participation, and left in well-organized groups to prevent arrests by the bosses' repressive apparatus.

At the end of the march 160 people were arrested, some youth severely beaten and local businesses damaged. Shock bombs, pepper spray, water cannons and explosives emptied the Plaza. The march was also reduced by arrests of dozens of youth before it began, starting from different points in the city, in Soacha, Bolivar, and Restrepo.☺

CALIFORNIA

May Day in Stockton, California was celebrated mainly by immigrants and Occupiers. Two PL'ers distributed leaflets in Spanish and English. It stressed the importance of internationalism and how we needed a society without borders or the

wage system. We also stressed the importance of not relying on politicians; we must depend on the international working class. No unions were present. We've had brighter May Days here and we will see them again.

Stockton Reds

NEW YORK CITY

"Get up! Get down! There's revolution in this town!" As a communist in PLP it was special to loft this chant on my union bullhorn above the march through the insurance towers and cathedrals of commerce of lower Manhattan.

"Get up! Get down!" is an Occupy chant, not from our Party but expresses the best fresh new impulse in Occupy. This impulse wants to sweep away racist capitalism not with reform demands, but with good old, traditional revolution, even if the nature and methods of that revolution are not yet spelled out.

I walked with two of my family alongside young grad students with a half-self-mocking giant sign "Five Theses on the Student Strike," whose language, though not communist, was dead serious about revolutionary theory. We chanted with a dynamic group of Filipina left-wing nationalists, whose cause was domestic workers, trafficked workers, undocumented workers—"We are the workers! The mighty, mighty workers!"

While they had many nationalist ideas, they were organized and militant, great partners for the moment. These mostly young women were oriented to the working class, unlike most of Occupy. They could be won to, and help develop, PL's revolutionary communist politics, as can everyone on this march in this moment.

And the moment was a mass May Day! Since I had just been

to PL's May Day, I may have let my feelings there spill over into a too-optimistic view of Occupy May Day. But maybe not.

Near us was a small multiracial group with signs against racist police brutality. I borrowed a sign with two photographs, comparing police commissioner Ray Kelly to Bull Connor, the Alabama sheriff who turned dogs and firehoses on multiracial marchers in the 1960s. Since my delegation at a teacher union convention had just been working hard for two resolutions against "Stop-and-Frisk" and the mass incarceration of young black men, and since my own politics, like many other Party veterans, began in the '60s civil rights movement, this was my sign!

Communists in our day must be known to others in the mass movement for our emphasis on fighting the key class issue of racism, as the PL May Day main speaker kept hammering home. This group had taken those anti-racist politics to heart.

Occupy May Day was the world we have to win. We, and they, won't succeed without masses of these marchers joining PLP. We won't do that in a day, but we will do it together. They don't know it yet, but they are waiting for our line — not to accept passively as the gospel, but to grasp, to debate, to develop, to carry out in practice and see how it illuminates every effort. Get up! Get down! Build the Party in this town!

NYC PL'er

Class Struggle Heating Up

Workers Strike Against Lockheed War-maker



FORT WORTH, TEXAS, May 19 — A strike by 3,600 Lockheed Martin workers, members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 776, is entering its third week. The workers make F-35 and F-16 fighter jets, and are striking against healthcare and pension cuts. Lockheed Martin had \$17.34 billion in federal contracts in 2010, making it the largest U.S. defense contractor. The company is threatening to “implement our contingency plan” to meet their blood-soaked commitments.

The war-makers’ “last, best and final offer” would force workers to pay much higher healthcare costs and eliminate defined-benefit pensions for new hires. These two issues have

been at the core of practically every union contract, public and private, for more than a decade, regardless of the employers’ financial condition.

The International’s pro-capitalist union leaders generally agree to relieve the bosses of health care costs and are campaigning either for Obamacare or single-payer coverage. This was a central part of the auto union’s bailout contracts with GM, Ford and Chrysler. PLP fights to eliminate the bosses and their racist profit system altogether, with communist revolution. Then we will all contribute to — and share in — a society that exists to meet the needs of the international working class.

Workers here went on strike in 2000 and 2003 to resist concessions. A local leader said, “Every three years they want to come and take some other benefit. Everyone is sick and tired of it. These folks are prepared to be on strike for a long time.”

This strike, like the one against Caterpillar (see below) could be a sign that the class struggle is heating up. And such strikes show industrial workers’ potential power to not just fight for economic demands, but to cripple the imperialist war-makers.

If workers are won to that goal, they could paralyze the bosses’ slaughter of our sisters and brothers worldwide, in the interests of the international working class. Lockheed’s warplanes are used in Iraq and Afghanistan. Caterpillar’s bulldozers demolish workers’ homes in Palestine and erect Israel’s apartheid wall.

Defeating these warmakers won’t be realized without the building of a mass communist PLP and a raging debate among millions of workers. In that debate, combined with class struggle, PL’ers can win the working class to a complete overthrow of the profit system that mires our class in exploitation and perpetual imperialist wars. ☺

Immigrant Worker’s Questions Stir PL’ers’ Thinking

Without the question you can’t think at all. “If you had an island to work with, how would you create a communist society?” This question and twenty others like it were asked by a young immigrant worker in our study group. Of course it made all the comrades think furiously. We’re so caught up in the daily political work that it takes a fresh eye sometimes to make us see anew our own political vision.

This worker was convinced, for example, that socialism in East Germany was inferior in productivity and drive to capitalism in West Germany, that the capitalist West had to rescue the backward East when they reunited the country. How could we explain that, as communists? He agreed that capitalist society did NOT work. But didn’t the German example mean that for a communist society to work we had to take some of the things capitalism is good at and use them to build communism? Such as motivating people by letting them get ahead or by technological innovation? We went at that one for a while.

We got tangled up about socialism because when we criticized socialism as practiced in the USSR, China and Cuba, and advocated moving directly to communism, he was confused. He had to ask us several times, what was the difference? Socialism, communism, which was which? Could we show him an example of communism the way we meant it?

We realized that *socialism*, in the sense of the USSR, China, and Cuba, *is* communism to most people because it is what communists built. They were communists, the only ones who ever won state power, and as communists they built socialism with unequal wages and commodities and markets held over from capitalism. On our theoretical communist island we would have none of those things. Communists made great steps forward, before it all got reversed.

So part of our discussion was in fact DEFENDING what our communist predecessors had built, before we could move on to a criticism of how their best efforts fell short, how their very advances revealed gaps in the communist theory they used. If we start with the criticisms and not the defense we confuse everybody. Our criticisms make more sense after we have showed the value of the steps socialist societies took to abolish capitalism. We realized that this is what had angered a Caribbean member of the study group, who loved the Cuban revolution and thought our criticisms slighted it, so much so that he left.

Another productive question was, “If I have a plot of land to feed my family, and the communist state comes along and says, ‘We have to take your land to make a collective farm which will be better for everyone,’ why would I accept that? I have to feed my own family first.” One thing we realized in answering is that the question comes from the fact that capitalist society forces every one of us into this kind of defensive individualism — it’s true that under capitalism you have to feed your own family or they starve. But collective, egalitarian communist society means that no one starves, no one is left to themselves to fight off everyone else as competitors for scarce resources.

And so it went. The new worker had a lot to think about and veteran comrades went home buzzing with fresh thought about some of the most difficult and most valuable questions humanity has ever asked itself. Without the question, you can’t think at all. He’ll probably have twenty more for us on May Day.

A lover of study groups

CAT Workers Reject Boss-Union Pact; Walk Out on May Day

JOLIET, IL, May 19 — About 800 Caterpillar (CAT) workers, members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 851, struck at 12:01 a.m., May Day morning, after rejecting a proposed six-year contract that includes pay cuts and almost doubled healthcare costs. CAT made \$1.5 billion in first-quarter profits.

“You can only bend people so much until they can’t take it anymore,” said one striker. “Put it this way,” said another. “Under their proposed contract, I wouldn’t be able to afford to take my kid to the doctor.”

CAT wants to determine starting wages for second-tier new hires on a “market-based” formula allowing the company to pay even less than the current \$13/hour. CAT also wants to eliminate guaranteed healthcare for current retirees, key seniority provisions and put workers on unpredictable schedules with shifts that change every week.

Despite increasing profits by 44 percent over last year, CAT is stepping up attacks on its international

work force. And while the workers have taken a bold a step by walking out, they should have no confidence in the pro-capitalist union leadership.

- In January, CAT locked out 465 members of the Canadian Auto Workers union at a locomotive facility in London, Ontario, after they refused to accept a 50 percent wage cut. CAT then closed the plant and moved the work to a non-union plant in Indiana.

- Last year, 840 IAM members at a Honeywell plant in Kansas City and almost 200 IAM union members at Manitowoc Cranes in Wisconsin struck against concessionary contracts. After a few weeks, both strikes collapsed in the face of scabs, and then strikers, crossing the picket lines.

Similar things could be happening here. It underlines the need for revolutionary communist leadership, with the goal of leading the workers to power to abolish wage slavery, as opposed to hanging on at any cost to keep the dues money rolling in.

The current International leadership is mainly concerned with making sure the bosses are profit-healthy and then, at best, hoping workers can “share” in the profits. These pro-capitalist union hacks are looking out for “their” country, “their” company and “their” factory, and then “their” workers. While it works for the bosses, it’s a dismal failure for the workers.

Red leadership would have shut CAT down internationally to keep the Ontario plant open. And while the whole U.S. labor movement has been focused on Wisconsin for two years, it did not defend the 200 Manitowoc Cranes strikers in that state, even as they gathered one million signatures to recall Governor Walker.

These union sellouts are marching the working class into the bosses’ electoral circus, away from sharpening the class struggle and supporting striking workers. We have our work cut out for us. ☺



LETTERS

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

Israel-Palestine: Jobless, Depressed, Then Joins PLP

I was personally touched by the article "Pakistan: Workers Fighting Hell of Capitalist Crisis" in the April 11th edition of CHALLENGE. I was especially touched by the story of the young Pakistani worker with a Master's Degree who committed suicide after being unemployed for over a year after graduating. The same thing almost happened here, in Israel-Palestine, to my fiancée.

I am engaged to a young woman (now 27 years old) who finished her Bachelor's Degree in Biology in 2009. She had a year of job experience in a lab and a lot of motivation to work in the field. But there were no jobs for her, neither in her profession nor in other, even unprofessional, lines of work. Jobless, she had to live off her parent's savings, which were intended for funding her Master's Degree.

After a year of unemployment, her self esteem was devastated; she saw herself as a burden to me (then her boyfriend) and to her family. Her mental health deteriorated and she started having obsessive thoughts about her appearance. We tried to look for professional help, but private help was too expensive for us, and the overworked, understaffed, underfunded public system didn't lift a finger to help her.

Eventually, in April 2010, she tried to commit suicide and almost succeeded; she had to be hospitalized in an intensive-care unit (which, luckily, is funded by the state healthcare insurance here in Israel) for a weekend. This tragic event has finally moved the public system to give a little bit of help — namely, anti-depressants — and moved the National Insurance (Israel's Social Security) to finally give her disability benefits of 2,200 ILS (around \$600) a month. This was not enough to live on, but it did allow her to survive longer on her savings.

Now, in 2012, she is still unemployed, living off the disability benefits and some help from me and her mother. While the medication helps her a little bit, she is still quite depressed and dissatisfied with herself, as the capitalist system was unable to allow her to make use of her talents for the benefit of others.

I must say that she joined PL in May 2010 and is now fighting alongside the other comrades in our club for a communist future. But as long as capitalism survives, she is condemned to poverty and a feeling of uselessness. Today, in May Day 2012, we are fighting for a real future for her and the rest of our generation — a communist future!

Red Grad Student from Israel/Palestine

Veteran PL'er Proclaims, 'Hail to the Youth!'

I have been in the Party for many years. Lately I have not been able to attend many Party functions. On April 28 I was able to attend the May Day event in Chicago. I was impressed. The youth of our Party ran the event. They did an excellent job. The Party and the working class have nothing to fear with them running the struggle for workers' revolution. They were very punctual.

Long live PLP. Long live our Party youth.

Red Senior

'Pathway' Program Needs Better Class Analysis

In the article "CUNY Profs Slam Racist, Sexist Pathway to Ignorance" in CHALLENGE (3/28), it's nice to hear about the Professional Staff Congress's stand against CUNY Pathways. However, this one seems to be a struggle by university professors to keep control over their curriculum and to maintain a certain intellectual prestige in what they teach. Let's not forget that this prestige was the very thing that Chancellor Goldstein spoke about preserving when he, along with the Board of Trustees, got rid of open admissions a few years ago, effectively beginning the racist purge of CUNY. This "prestige" is what's keeping a lot of poor, black, Latino, South Asian, and immigrant students out of 4-year colleges at CUNY and is making it harder for students to transfer credits from other schools and community colleges.

I've also noticed that a lot of my own professors, who are actually very conservative, have opposed CUNY Pathways, and the reason they've done so is precisely to maintain this racist "prestige." Of course, not all the professors who stand against CUNY Pathways feel this way, but the article fails to see the entire class character of the institution of CUNY. Students need to graduate faster, learn better, and be better prepared. So, there is a contradiction in CUNY Pathways which needs to be better analyzed because it does let students easily transfer credits from community colleges.

A bourgeois education is a lose-lose situation for workers, especially for those among us who are black and Latino. Dismissing CUNY Pathways by just pointing out "the subtle racism of lower standards" fails to see the issue in its racist entirety.

CUNY Red

Agent Orange Genocide Hits 3 Million 40 Years Later

Should there be any doubt about CHALLENGE's defining the U.S. war against Vietnam as genocidal, one need only read a report published in the Nation of Change website written by documentary-producer Jon Mitchell. The genocide was revealed in an interview with Vietnam veteran Larry Carlson (now 67) by The Japan Times and the Ryukyu Asian TV station. Carlson is one of three vets awarded disability payments by the Veterans Administration for exposure to Agent Orange, resulting from handling the storage of the toxic herbicide on Okinawa.

From December 1956 to April 1967 the U.S. military sprayed huge amounts of Agent Orange over the jungles and crops of Vietnam and Laos in its herbicidal warfare campaign to destroy those areas. The Vietnam Red Cross estimates that 40 years later 3,000,000 Vietnamese are still suffering from exposure to the dioxins contained in the herbicide.

The range of death-dealing sickness it caused includes a variety of cancers, skin diseases and diabetes, among others. It is also fetotoxic: children died in the womb and 150,000 are now suffering from these illnesses while others have been born with crippling defects, both mental and physical. The ground in southern Vietnam where Agent Orange has been stored is still highly toxic. The soil near Danang Air Base has recorded dioxin levels 30,000 times that which is considered normal.

Veteran Carlson said he and other GIs and Okinawan stevedores were exposed to Agent Orange when unloading thousands of barrels in 1965 and '66 for shipment to Vietnam. It is still present in the soil there. So far 130 of these vets have lodged claims for disability payments but "experts say the number of those exposed could be in the thousands." Carlson himself says he is "the tip of the iceberg." His disability payments cover a daily dose of 20 different pills required to control the poisons in his body.

Such a weapon of mass destruction affecting millions is an integral part of U.S. imperialism's inevitable war-making to dominate the world's resources, energy and otherwise, and of its global drive to exploit the labor of millions of workers. Only a communist revolution by those millions can rid the planet of these most vicious killers the world has ever known.

Long-time comrade

PLP College Work Growing

Nine months ago, I joined the NYC PLP college club after a two-year hiatus from political work. Since the club's formation in September 2011, we have held CHALLENGE sales at the campuses where each of us attend school. As a result, I sell CHALLENGE at The City College of New York (CCNY).

I was nervous about selling on campus because I had never mentioned my political life to any of my friends. I was worried they'd shun me if they knew I was a communist. I ended up telling them and, to my surprise, they were okay with it (although they didn't fully agree with PL's politics).

The campus sales have overall been positive. We've gone from selling 100 papers a sale to selling 250. Those numbers come from selling on a Friday, a relatively lax day at CCNY. This boost in numbers also come from the extra help we've received. Through our sales, we've been able to get contacts. One CCNY student who we have kept in constant contact has been selling CHALLENGES with us. He has also come around to our events and is very friendly to our politics. Other students have shown their support by giving donations or taking extra papers for their friends.

I am a part of two campus clubs. The first was the Sci-Fi, Games and Animation (SGA). It's an uphill struggle getting my SGA friends to read CHALLENGE, but I've been able to distribute a few papers and I even have some political discussions. Another group I've joined is Leaders Against Systemic Injustice (LASI). Not much is going on because I joined towards the ending of the semester. We are preparing for a forum in the Fall semester. I look forward to being busy in the Fall, as I am part of two clubs, school work, and building the PLP.

Red Student

Protests Mount vs. NYPD's Racist Terror

continued from page 8

ist ones. Most importantly, a few of the organizers and Ramarley's parents have approached PL'ers and friends asking to participate in the weekly organizing meetings. We plan to do that soon.

We've made several contacts with workers and students and won teachers from this Preschool to read CHALLENGE, distribute it to their friends and family and organize for the weekly Thursday events.

But convincing workers to march to militant chants isn't enough. Currently, the family and march organizers continue to advocate voting for "good" politicians. PL'ers have exposed the true role of the police: instill fear among, and control over, the working class, preventing us from fighting the capitalist system as a whole.

We continue to support the Graham family while simultaneously challenging these reformist ideas. "So that's why you guys call the cops fascist!" commented one CHALLENGE reader. Another worker commented, "We understand it's the whole system, but don't you want justice for Ramarley and set a precedent so this doesn't happen again?" Another worker said, "It's gonna happen again because it's not just a few bad cops. It's all of them!"

This same worker challenged some organizers in front of the 47th when she started yelling repeatedly at the cops guarding the precinct, "They're all guilty!" Others joined in, causing a disagreement among demonstrators and some Graham family members. This brought some demonstrators closer to PL's politics. Several offered to help distribute CHALLENGE and PL leaflets.

Struggles like this will continue. We'll persist in doing what's needed in this fight while raising the idea that we'll never get rid of Killer KKKops until the entire capitalist system is smashed and rebuilt with a society led and run by the international working class. We call this communism!✊

Mockingjay

Defeatist Finale: Workers Rebel, Win, But Nothing Changes

As *Mockingjay*, the third book of the Hunger Games trilogy, begins, Katniss sees the destruction of her home district and is taken to the underground District 13. The rulers of Panem had long treated the complete destruction of District 13 as an example of what would happen to any who rebelled.

District 13 had long ago been part of Panem rulers' nuclear weapons program. District 13's survivors had trained the weapons on the Capitol and agreed to "play dead in exchange for being left alone." Katniss learns that the offspring of survivors of that fight 75 years ago were now organizing and leading the rebellion against Panem's fascist rulers.

District 13 has some aspects of communist egalitarian life. All, including leaders, share the limited resources available and all share in work and production. This collective life and the nuclear standoff hint at a parallel to the former socialist Soviet Union — maybe suggesting that it is communists who can be relied on to lead the struggle.

The author paints an extremely negative picture of life in District 13 which mirrors the portrayal of the Soviet Union and socialist China in capitalist media. Everyone in District 13 wears a uniform, waits in line for tasteless meals and follows strict schedules. District 13 is joyless and regimented. Leaders may share food and clothing, but decision-making and power is only for the elite. Even a small deviation from the mechanical sharing is met by violent punishment instead of collective and comradesly struggle.

While Katniss often thinks only about the needs of her own family and friends, she also sees the strength of district 13's discipline in a fight against the Capitol and agrees to be the "mockingjay" symbol of the revolt. Most of *Mockingjay* is the story of the rebellion. Unfortunately it more



often than not is a story that emphasizes Katniss's propaganda triumphs and bravery rather than the masses of workers who are really the only force that could (and do) defeat the Panem rulers' fascist forces.

In the end Katniss is matched against Panem's President Snow in an individual fight that undercuts earlier descriptions of a united workers' revolution. At the same time, the leader of District 13 is increasingly portrayed as selfish and obsessed with power. In the end even Katniss is often portrayed as cold and heartless.

This pushes the same cynical ideas the capitalist media offer workers all the time: even if workers rebel and win, nothing will really ever change. At the end of the book, children are massacred and Katniss comes to believe that the rebellion leaders (including her friends) are responsible for tactics as brutal and immoral as those of the Capitol rulers.

Then the new rulers propose a Hunger Games fight to the death for the children of the old rulers. To gain revenge for the death of her sister in the rebellion, Katniss gives her approval. Finally, Katniss takes individual action to assassinate the leader of the rebellion instead of relying on the collective of former tributes who might have prevented the new Hunger Games. The epilogue of the story proposes that a new, milder leader has taken over and the system has been reformed. However, the actions required to create this new happy ending are not portrayed.

The author's analysis of the horrors of fascism is strong and compelling, but she cannot really picture or describe what the solution would be. The anti-communism most workers are taught in school shows clearly in the last book, where the communist-like society of District 13 is eventually revealed as just as bad as fascism. Her portrayal of strong female characters reveals an anti-sexist attitude, but individualism rather than collectivity is the defining trait of the "heroic" Katniss.

Without a communist perspective, *Hunger Games* has no real alternative and just leaves the reader with the defeatist idea that nothing will ever change. As communists we do have a vision where workers can rule society in a new way that smashes the capitalist state of racism, sexism, exploitation and endless wars for profit. These are the ideas we have to present to readers of the Hunger Games: join with us, we have a world to win.☺

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

Ailing black man killed; cop freed

NYT, 5/4 — A...White Plains...District Attorney...concluded that there was no reasonable cause to indict Officer Anthony Carelli who fired the shot that killed...Kenneth Chamberlain, Sr.

Officer Carelli and several other officers were sent to Mr. Chamberlain's apartment after his medical-alert pendant went off....

Officer Stephen Demchuk described Mr. Chamberlain as "acting irrational"...and said he made "continuous slashing motions towards my head and face...."

Ms. DiFiore said that one officer...used a racial epithet....Mr. Chamberlain was black. Officer Carelli is white....Mr. Chamberlain...could not walk more than a short distance without becoming short of breath....

A lawyer for Mr. Chamberlain's family.... Said that Officer Carelli fired his pistol immediately after [a] shotgun with...beanbag ammunition had been fired. "The shots are beanbag, beanbag, beanbag, gun," he said. They weren't giving him a chance...to react."

Legal minimum wage = poverty

NYT, 5/1 — New Yorkers have talked about how they struggle to survive on the minimum pay. A woman said she routinely waits until after 5 p.m. to buy end-of-day bread for her family....A waiter survives on his restaurant's leftovers. A woman juggles two full-time minimum wage jobs for a 70-hour workweek....

It has been more than 30 years since a worker

paid the minimum wage in New York could lift a family of three above the poverty line....

Workers marching worldwide

NYT, 5/2 — PARIS — The annual May Day demonstrations took on special resonance across Europe...as tens of thousands of protestors turned out amid rising anger over enforced austerity that many see not as a cure to the region's fiscal troubles, but as a deterrent to...job creation.

In Spain, trade unions estimated that more than one million people had protested in 80 cities....

"This is a May Day against the destruction of jobs and in favor of other alternatives...."

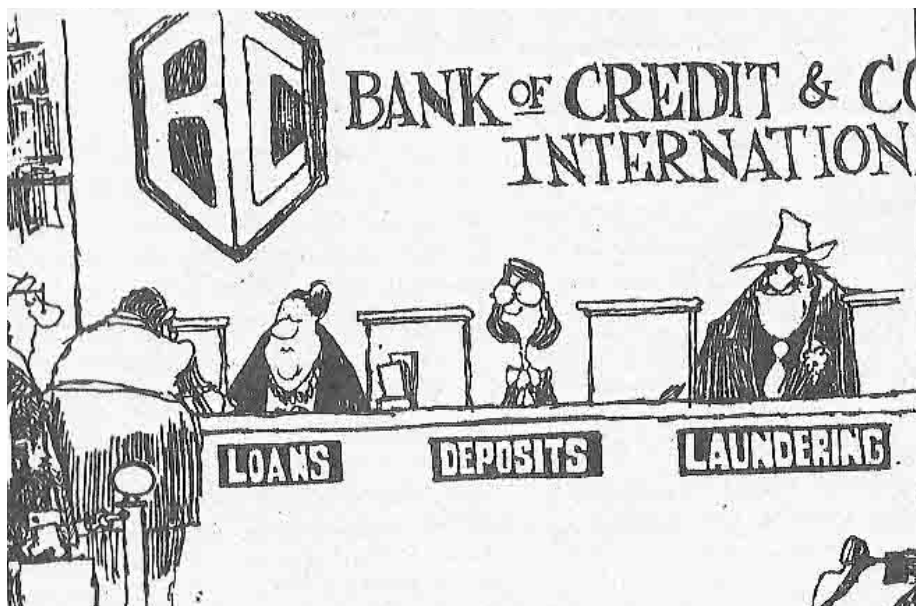
Public outrage over the growing gap between rich and poor, and the struggle by average families to make ends meet, was also felt in Britain, France and Greece, and well beyond Europe into Asia....

Unemployed vets losing all hope

NYT, 5/1 — To the Editor:....

I can say from my own experience that there is a causal link between veterans' chronic unemployment and post-traumatic stress. The feelings of worthlessness for the thousands of veteran job candidates who send out hundreds of résumés to a numbing silence and no interviews creates an emotional hopelessness tied to economic helplessness.

Many....tell us that...they are considering suicide.



Drones make civilians an easy kill

NYT, 5/1 — The use of armed drones to strike at suspected militants in places like Pakistan and Yemen has grown dramatically under the Obama administration, and the emergence of the new technology — which has sharply reduced the cost and risk of warfare to its operators, making it easier to engage in sporadic combat in far-flung regions — has led to a growing concern...about civilian casualties....

The United States government has been reluctant to talk openly about its use of drones, apparently in part because foreign governments that granted permission for strikes did so on the condition that the deals would remain secret....

The killing of civilians by drones has fueled anti-American sentiment, especially in Pakistan.... American officials have described such deaths as rare, while critics have said there are far more than the government acknowledges.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Protests Mount Against NYPD's Racist Terror

On Sunday June 17 (Father's Day), thousands of people angry at the recent murder of two young black men, as well as the daily humiliation of the NYPD's racist stop-and-frisk tactics, will march down Fifth Avenue to the townhouse of "Mr. Wall Street" — billionaire Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Bronx PL'ers have joined the fight against the fascist murder of unarmed teenager *Ramarley Graham*, shot by NYC cops in his own bathroom (see *adjoining article*).

More recently, NYPD officers used their police car to strike and kill a 27-year old bakery worker, *Tavon Robinson*, who the cops allege was stealing cobblestones in front of his home. Residents of the Bayview Houses in Brooklyn were outraged at the killing of this popular young man.

In 2011, the NYPD stopped more than 685,000 people, 87% of whom were black or Latino. Although black and Latino men between the ages of 14 and 24 are only 4.7% of the city population, they were 41.6% of the people stopped. The vast majority of those stopped and frisked (94%) were innocent of any crime, and the small numbers of arrests were generally for victimless crimes like marijuana possession.

The NYPD's stop-and-frisk program has been aggressively promoted by NYPD commissioner *Ray Kelly* and Mayor *Bloomberg*, with the numbers of those subjected to stops rising from 97,000 in 2002 (*Bloomberg's* first year in office) to what it's projected to be in 2012: 800,000.

Constitutional guarantees against unreasonable searches go out the window when it comes to black and Latino men and women, the racist targets of the NYPD who are far more often humiliated by being spread-eagled while being searched.

A coalition of groups has called for the Father's Day march: Local 1199 SEIU, the NAACP, and the National Action Network (*Al Sharpton's* organization). All three are closely tied to the Democratic Party, and are doing their best to tame the anger of workers in NYC and divert it from their real enemy — the capitalists who profit from the racism.

- The original plan was to have the march leave from 125th Street in Harlem, which was changed to begin at 110th Street and march through mainly the wealthy neighborhoods on 5th Ave.

- The marches in the Bronx and Brooklyn against police terror have been loud and angry, but the organizers of the June 17 march want it to be a silent procession!

- Rather than have a militant rally or picket line when we reach the Mayor's townhouse, the organizers want the marchers to immediately disperse. This is because they don't want

to antagonize a billionaire who still might endorse and fund the campaign of President Obama.

- A dozen or so Democratic Party officials — members of the city council and NYS assembly and senate — are part of the coalition leadership. Their approach is to pass laws limiting stop-and-frisk tactics, rather than rely on actions in the streets to force an end to it.

The organizers of this march, and the Democratic Party they serve, will never tell the truth about racist police brutality or the terror the police impose on black and Latino communities. Racism, including a racist criminal justice system, will never end under capitalism. In fact, racism is intensifying.

The recent recession took a greater toll on black and Latino men and women than any other group. Black unemployment is twice that of whites. The median wealth of white households went from being 11 times that of black households a few years ago, to being 20 times that today.

From 2005 to 2009 — largely because of foreclosures and falling housing prices — the median real wealth of black families fell by 53%, while the median wealth for Latino families fell by an astonishing 66%. And last year, there were 168,000 stops for young black men by the police, which is more than the number of young black men who live in NYC!

The stepped-up police presence and harassment in black and Latino neighborhoods in NYC is intended to send a message to its residents that rebellion against the deteriorating conditions of capitalism will be met with force. White workers should understand that the daily terror faced by black and Latino workers is what's in store for them in the not-too-distant future.

Unless we build a multi-racial movement against racist police repression and capitalist austerity, we'll never have the class unity necessary to stop the capitalists from slashing our wages, health care and pensions, or to prevent what happened in Germany, Italy and dozens of other countries around the world — the rise of fascist regimes using terror to impose their anti-working class program of lower living standards and imperialist war. ☺



BRONX, NY, May 19 — Since NYPD's killer cop, *Richard Haste*, murdered black teenager *Ramarley Graham* in February, the family and residents of the Norwood neighborhood here have continued to fight this fascist killing. Various organizers have mobilized weekly Thursday vigils in front of the *Graham* residence, followed by a march through the neighborhood and ending with a demonstration at the 47th Precinct. PLP members and friends have joined this struggle, organizing others to participate. CHALLENGE and our leaflet entitled, "Racist Killer KKKops, You Can't Hide! We Charge You with Genocide!" have sparked good discussions with workers and students.

However, the politics and tone of the march changed when teachers from a neighborhood *Preschool Day Care Program* joined it, carrying a PLP banner emblazoned with the above "Genocide" headline. One of these teachers had attended PLP's *May Day March and Dinner*. The other two are regular CHALLENGE readers.

Two teachers from this school have organized several friends, parents of former students and co-workers to attend the events. One who helped organize for a Thursday action asked a PLP comrade to remember to bring the PLP banner, saying, "We don't want to forget that; it's precious cargo!" The same teacher organized a former parent to help distribute leaflets to over 150 demonstrators preparing to march to the 47th Precinct.

Initially the chants at the Precinct were enthusiastic but primarily had a more reformist tone: "What do we want! Justice! When do we want it? Now!"; and, "I am *Ramarley!*" This resulted from liberal politicians' influence.

While it may seem that *Al Sharpton* and other liberal misleaders are attempting to "lead a struggle," in reality their role is to diffuse our an-

ger! These politicians try to dazzle us with calls for "justice," "independent investigations" and "sensitivity training." But history shows that essentially nothing will be done to punish the brutal NYPD.

The entire judicial system is racist to the core! U.S. prisons contain 2.3 million inmates, 70% black and Latino workers and youth, two-thirds for non-violent crimes. Ironically, the black and Latino youth victims of racist murders are the very same people the racist rulers target for recruitment to fight and die in the Middle East, killing other workers who the oil bosses exploit for billions in profits. Many more workers and children have been brutalized and killed since then and, as this latest killing shows, will continue.

The cops have proven once again to be hired goons of the rulers who rely on racist terror to try to prevent workers and youth from fighting back. Racism is used by the bosses to divide all workers and reap billions in superprofits from the lower wages paid to black, Latino and immigrant workers.

PL'ers have raised these ideas with workers and students every Thursday. One member of the *Graham* family is beginning to see the contradictions of the liberal politicians, stating, "In the beginning all of these politicians were out here giving us hugs and making speeches. Now where are they? Nowhere to be seen!"

One PL'er who attended the rally approached a *Graham* family member and asked to lead some different chants. They enthusiastically embraced our offer and the chants added more militant ones: "NYPD You Can't Hide! We Charge You With Genocide!"; "Racism Means, Fight Back!"; "Capitalism Means, Fight Back!"

These PLP-led chants have become part of every Thursday march, and now outnumber the more reform-

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