

CHALLENGE



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Solidarity with 300,000 on 16-week Strike

Students Defy Quebec Rulers



WASHINGTON DC, June 1 — Occupy DC, including PL'ers, marched through the streets here today to the Canadian Embassy. Occupiers banged pots and pans like their brothers and sisters in Quebec, chanting "From Montreal to DC, Education Must Be Free," marching in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of striking Canadian students and workers in Quebec.

The Quebec student strike is in its 16th week and must become a rallying point for opposition to austerity policies around the world. Worker-student unity is key. Over the past year, the Canadian bosses' government has repeatedly used emergency legislation to break anti-concession strikes by Air Canada, Canada Post and Canadian Pacific railway workers.

Marchers briefly picked up two chants in French, expressing unity with the French-speaking Québécois: "Prend les rues (Take the streets!)" and "Ce n'est qu'un début, La lutte continue (This is only the beginning; the struggle continues.)"

Shocked embassy staff quickly locked down the building to prevent Occupiers from entering. Despite the pouring rain, demonstrators rallied and kept the embassy closed. A Canadian student waved his passport in the face of the embassy, declaring that it was an illusion that Canadian bosses are more compassionate than U.S. bosses and that their fascist crackdown on the student strikers proved this.

The Quebec government passed Bill 78 outlawing demonstrations near universities. In response, over 300,000 protesters have attacked this law and faced 2,000 arrests and brutal attacks by the police.

For decades, university education in Quebec has been seemingly free, since edu-

cation is actually paid for by workers' taxes. But the bosses' government is determined to make a "user-pay" principle the new Quebec norm for public services, starting with university education, which will actually be an additional tax on working-class students. The government is demanding tuition fee increases of 82% over seven years. If it succeeds, it will then move on to other "user fees" for other public services, increasing the exploita-

tion of the entire working class.

Despite the boldness and militancy of the Quebec students, illusions still run deep. Many students here and around the world are convinced that education is the ticket to a better life. While communists believe in learning for everyone, we know that a bourgeois university serves the ruling class, teaching capitalist ideas to tie students to the needs of the profit system. To make this bosses' education more accessible to all is a reform to a system that can never serve workers' interest. In their struggle student leaders have been willing to make concessions, allying with sellout union leaders and the "lesser-evil" Parti Québécois (PQ) to oppose the "more evil" Liberal Party that is in power.

But no electoral circus will address the underlying crisis of capitalism that is driving austerity measures from Greece to Quebec to the U.S. The bosses worldwide seek to increase the surplus-value or profit extracted from workers by driving down both wages, benefits, and "social wages" (public services used by the working class). They redouble their efforts to do this when they are in a severe economic crisis.

Capitalism can never meet our needs. Instead of allying with a party that works within the capitalist system, whether it's the Democratic Party in the U.S., the Socialist Party in France, or the PQ in Quebec, workers and students need to build the Progressive Labor Party, a revolutionary organization with the goal of abolition of the profit system through a mass communist revolution and workers' power on a global basis. Marx's declaration in 1848 still rings true. "Workers of the world unite, we have nothing to lose but our chains, we have a world to win!"✱



Obama's Democracy Mask Can't Hide Killer Drones

Intensifying imperialist competition has saddled U.S. rulers with an impossible political mission. On the one hand, they must brutally crush their international rivals and enemies to protect their dwindling sources of profit. On the other, they must sustain their facade of law-abiding democracy to hold the ebbing loyalty of workers.

This dilemma explains why the *New York Times* — representing finance capital, the dominant faction of the U.S. ruling class — both praises and admonishes its presidential candidate of choice, Barack Obama. On May 30, the Times published a multi-page exposé of Obama's assassination-by-drone campaign: "Secret 'Kill List' Proves Test of Obama's Principles and Will." The following day it printed a cautionary editorial on the same subject ("Too Much Power for a President," 5/31).

Both the article and opinion piece portrayed

Obama as an extremely capable if flawed leader. Taken together, they were more a fawning character study than a hostile critique.

U.S. capitalists face challenges to their global energy empire from al Qaeda, the Taliban, the Iranian bosses, and ultimately their Chinese and Russian rivals. In an effort to rally the rulers' camp around Obama's response to this challenge, the *Times* article depicted a fearless, remorseless warmaker who is prepared to cross any border to search out and murder U.S. foes. "[Obama] approves lethal action without hand-wringing....he has followed the metastasizing [growing] enemy into new and dangerous lands." The newspaper also praised Obama's "legal skills" in preserving George W. Bush's military kangaroo court [judge, jury and executioner] and torture practices under the heading of "rendition, military commissions and indefinite detention."

The *Times* spun Obama's early threats to invade Pakistan as brilliant, farsighted militarism: "In a 2007 campaign speech...Mr. Obama had trumpeted his plan to go after terrorist bases in Pakistan — even if Pakistani leaders objected. His rivals at the time, including Mitt Romney, Joseph R. Biden Jr. and Mrs. Clinton, had all pounced on what they considered a greenhorn's campaign bluster."

Run-up to World War III?

Unfortunately for the U.S. imperialists, however, Obama's drone killings create other problems, a point that's been duly noted by the Times. One is the potential for a free-for-all, drone-dominated run-up to World War III. "With China and Russia watching, the United States has set an international precedent for sending drones over borders to kill enemies." (See drones article, page 4.) Another is the foolish notion that drones can replace ground war. "Admiral Dennis Blair, the former director of national intelligence, said the strike campaign was dangerously seductive. 'It is the politically advantageous thing to do — low cost, no U.S. casualties, gives the appearance of toughness'" (NYT, 5/29).

The Times' superficially critical editorial was aimed at the other segment of its readership, one that is equally critical to the imperialists' wartime goals: the U.S. working class, and especially those workers who vote. In line with the bosses' charade that they follow the rule of law, it focused not on Obama's mass racist killing of Islamists, but on procedural issues: "[Obama] is a politician, subject to the pressures of re-election. No one in that position should be able to unilaterally order the killing of American citizens or foreigners...without the consent of someone outside his political inner circle." Since White House-ordered assassinations might seem open to question in an election year, the Times demands that an "outside" ruling-class authority rubber-stamp these atrocities.

The Morality of Mass Murder

To help consolidate the patriotic allegiance of its working-class readers, the Times portrayed drone-launcher Obama as a latter-day example of President John F. Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage." (In 1955, JFK published this ghost-written book to extol eight senators who took unpopular stands for the greater good of U.S. imperialism.) After weakly censuring bomber Obama, the Times editorialized, "To his credit, Mr. Obama believes he should take moral responsibility for these decisions, and he has read the just-war theories of Augustine and Thomas Aquinas." (In the name of killing infidels, both of these saints justified and endorsed "just wars" by the main expansionist forces of their day.)

The "Secret Kill List" article went so far as to characterize Obama's top drone advisor as a modern-day saint. State Department chief counsel Harold Koh was quoted as saying, "If John Brennan is the last guy in the room with the president, I'm comfortable, because Brennan is a person of genuine moral rectitude. It's as though you had a priest with extremely strong moral values who was suddenly charged with leading a war."

Of course, the Times, Obama and Saint Brennan have no moral problems with the long history of mass murder by U.S. capitalism, from the slaughter of Japanese civilians with atom bombs to the massacre of three million Vietnamese and, more recently, a million Iraqis.

Obama & Co.'s drone "morality" is proving a harder sell to people who actually live in their deadly robots' sights. Liberal U.S. imperialists like George Soros are well aware of this problem. The multi-billionaire Soros owns and runs Human Rights Watch (HRW), which recently quoted a Yemeni activist: "These drone strikes are stupid policy....Every time they kill Yemeni civilians they create more hatred of America" (5/31). At the same time, these random killings breed anti-Arab and anti-Muslim racism in the U.S. and elsewhere.

'Democratizing' Drone Slaughter

Soros understands that Yemeni unrest might destabilize neighboring Saudi Arabia, the cornerstone of U.S. capitalists' oil-dependent empire. He also understands that broader support for the U.S. cause is needed from the United Nations and the "international community." Soros proposes that:

To win Yemenis' confidence, the U.S. should transfer command of all drone strikes from the CIA to the U.S. military and provide a detailed rationale of why its targeted killings in Yemen are legal under international law. It should insist on more transparency as well from the US military's Joint Special Operations Command, which also reportedly conducts drone strikes in Yemen under a veil of secrecy approaching that of the CIA. That will not only give Yemenis information about U.S. strikes but also allow them to seek redress for any unlawful attacks (HRW, 5/31/12).

To that end, these preposterous proposals mimic those of the New York Times: Keep up the drone killings but make them "more democratic," with stronger "legal justification" to placate the people being bombed.

Reject Bosses' Elections and Racist Wars

Capitalist "anti-war" measures inevitably mask a maneuvering toward greater slaughter. In reality, it's the bosses' system that propels imperialist war and wreaks untold horrors on the international working class. For the capitalists, war is no aberration. It is the logical extension of a profit system that feeds on misery and exploitation. War becomes necessary when the system's day-to-day profiteering — from massive layoffs, social service and education cuts, and the legalized persecution of immigrants — is no longer adequate for the rulers' needs. In turn, capitalist war escalates the racism and sexism used to justify the exploitation of hundreds of millions in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as well as of black, Latino and immigrant workers in the U.S.

For the U.S. ruling class to maintain its profits and its top-dog position worldwide, a president like Obama is ideal. While Mitt Romney is ready and willing to pursue the same murderous capitalist agenda, Obama is more capable of winning workers' loyalty to the rulers' class interests. The task for Progressive Labor Party, in unity with our supporters in mass organizations, is to blast through the capitalist fog of elections and lesser-evil candidates and expose the rotten system underneath.

Given the all-out ruling-class offensive, joining and building the PLP to organize a communist revolution is the only answer for the working class. It is the only means we have to free our class from history's most vicious oppressive system. It is the only way to create a society without bosses and profits, run by and for the international working class. Join us!✊

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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School Strike Could Teach Bosses A Lesson

CHICAGO, May 23 — Strike was on the minds of some 6,000 teachers and paraprofessionals, joined by nearly 2,000 supporters, who took over several downtown streets here to demand that city students get better schools and to oppose the rulers' all-out assault on students and teachers. The march followed simultaneous indoor and outdoor rallies, where, in a show of unity and solidarity, virtually every Chicago Teacher Union (CTU) member wore red CTU shirts.

The CTU contract expires June 30 and the Board of Education wants to increase class size, outsource art and music positions, increase work hours 20 percent for 2 percent more pay, introduce "merit pay," decrease job security, and close more schools.

During the rally, members spontaneously shouted "Strike" and carried signs reading "YES," foreshadowing a June 6 strike authorization vote (unannounced at the time of the rally).

The ruling class here has been viciously attacking students and education workers for years. Recently, in Chicago and throughout the U.S., the attacks have ramped up as rulers, faced with trillions in war costs, feel the economic squeeze on their profits. Internationally, public education has been under attack for even longer.

Fighting A Racist School System

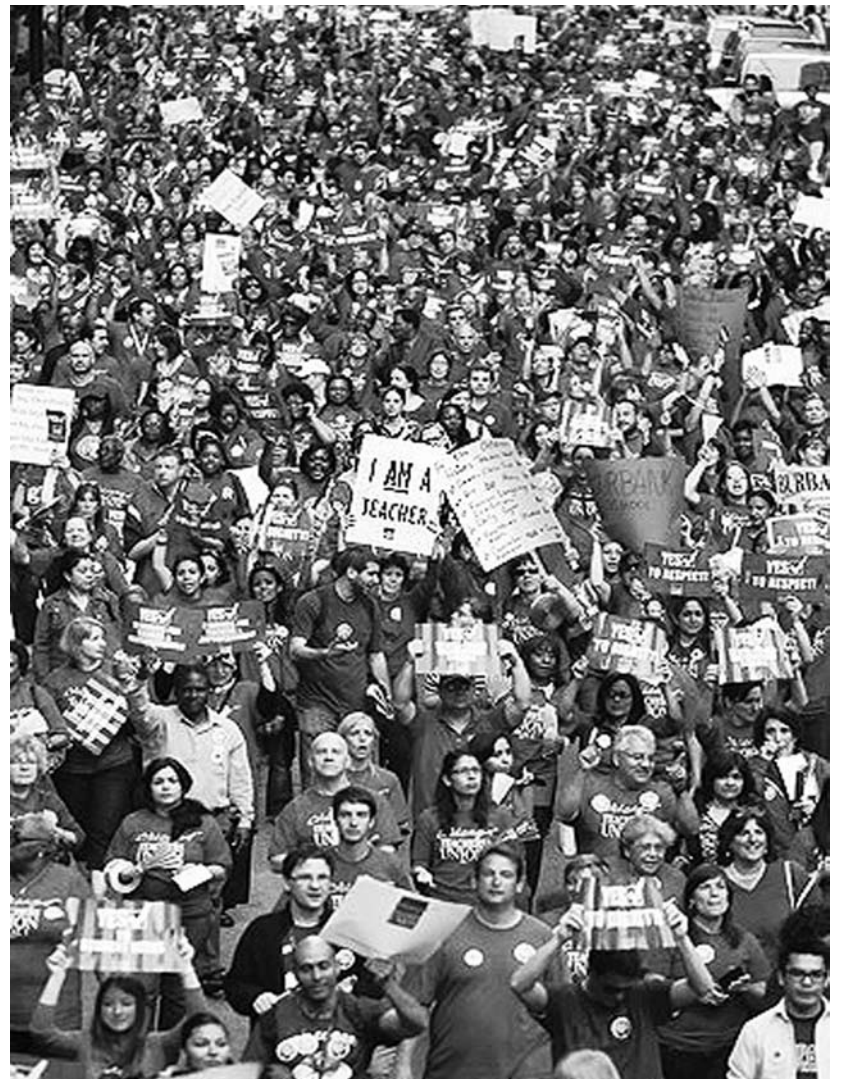
The ruling class wants to turn teaching into a revolving-door, lower-paid job. In line with their need to maintain racism that produces superprofits, they don't want to spend money on educating poor, working-class black and Latino students. Defense of their empire is a more important priority. They've closed over 100 schools here, replacing them with charter schools. In what is still the country's most segregated city, predominantly black schools suffer disproportionately from closures.

Whether through charters or regular public schools, the ruling class wants to more finely craft the schools attended by working-class students so they better serve the rulers' interests. Penny Pritzker, billionaire owner of Hyatt Hotels and others sit on Chicago's Board of Education.

Education for Profits

As one rally speaker revealed, Pritzker told an interviewer: "Students are entitled to get the skills in reading, math and science so that they can be productive members of today's workforce." She was talking about working-class students, not those in schools attended by her children or

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Growing Caucus Exposes School Bosses' Schemes

NEWARK NJ, May 22 — "Elitists are trying to make the working class more malleable, cheaper, more technocratic, and soldiers for war," declared the chair of the Newark Education Workers (NEW) Caucus at a recent Advisory Board meeting. (This Board has no decision-making power, but only the illusion that it has any.) Tonight's event marked a qualitative step in the rise of a newly formed teachers caucus in the Newark Teachers Union (see CHALLENGE 2/1/12).

What was once a small group of teachers looking to struggle with the union leadership has now become a full force that has members and friends in over 15 schools in the district as well as support from parent and community organizations. The scene at the Advisory Board, where three members of the NEW Caucus openly attacked the Board and the superintendent, ignited the room and brought many of the parents and teachers to their feet.

This comes at a time when the ruling class is on the offensive in their plans to close schools, lay off teachers, increase class sizes. They plan to develop an education system that will even more intensively serve their needs in the long run — to mold an obedient working class as cheaply as possible.

The latest attacks began last month when Newark State Superintendent Cami Anderson, announced the closing of six schools. All the teachers will have to reapply for a job in the district and the students will be bused to schools further away from home. The students' new

schools already have large class sizes and will now get even bigger.

On top of that, teachers in the "renew" schools will also be forced to reapply for their jobs. The closed schools will be replaced with new district and charter schools.

While the students are the main focus of the rulers' decisions, the need to discipline teachers then becomes a necessary piece of their puzzle. This is one result of the school closures. As more teachers are being kicked out of the classroom and their futures uncertain, many teachers think that by being obedient they can escape the attacks. But many more are ready to fight back, which emerged at the last Advisory Board meeting.

The NEW Caucus has been building this year to give teachers, parents and students the voice and courage they need to fight these attacks. Those of us in PLP are involved in this movement. We have already learned a great deal from other workers and parents in this struggle and continue to spread the Party's ideas.

Over the past few months a group of students, teachers and parents have moved closer to PLP: helping write CHALLENGE articles, attend study groups and distribute CHALLENGE. While still having a long journey ahead of us, we hope to continue to build the Party's base and membership as these attacks sharpen.☺

Postal Worker Stamps on Racist Pro-Boss Contract

At a state convention of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), a postal worker approached National President Cliff Guffey to challenge the recent sellout contract. He recalled how this "leader" had signed a five-year agreement giving up the eight-hour day for thousands of workers and cutting wages of new hires in half. They would have no chance of ever reaching the higher rate of veteran workers. The contract also freezes wages for two years, in line with Obama's wage freeze for other federal workers. Guffey was obviously taken aback when the rank-and-filer demanded, "how could you sign a contract allowing management to bring in new workers for half of what we make?"

"Well, at least we kept those jobs in our bargaining unit," he replied.

"Right, and now management is trying to fire all of us to bring in low-paid workers," the worker shot back.

"Well, these things usually work themselves out," said Guffey. "You have to file grievances."

"It sure is working itself out," the worker retorted. "They are making clerks become letter carriers, while they hire new clerks at \$14/hour."

Guffey advocated to concentrate on electing more Democrats in November.

"You mean more of the politicians that have been screwing us in Congress so far?" the worker responded. Obama voted for reducing the 6-day delivery system down to 5. "They haven't exactly done what we wanted them to do, have they? They're all no good!"

Attacks against postal workers have caused a lot of confusion and anger, fueled by racism. The Post Office has been one of the primary avenues for black workers to break out of poverty and make a more decent,

steady living. While racist unemployment continues to rise, the bosses, with Obama's full support, are trying to slash another 200,000 jobs. Postal unemployment has already declined by several hundred thousand clerks. A two-tier wage system means they will never hire clerks at anything much beyond the minimum wage.

The union has gone along with these attacks "to save 'our' postal service." Management bought off the union by allowing the new low-wage employees to join the APWU and buy into its insurance plan, but no other. As workers we know that our power comes from multi-racial class unity, not from turning our backs on each other.

These attacks aren't unique to the postal service. The "lesser-of-two-evils" Obama has been attacking auto, steel and health care workers, among others — forcing them to accept layoffs, wage-cuts, speed-ups and cuts in pensions and health insurance.

The U.S. bosses are in a fight to the death with their imperialist rivals in China, Europe and Russia. To pay for this, they're forcing workers to pay for their wars. This is the "shared sacrifice" Obama was winning our class to in 2008.

But workers are beginning to fight back more. Caterpillar workers are striking in Joliet, IL (see CHALLENGE 6/6/12). The Occupy movement has inspired millions of workers to consider the reasons why the 1% control all the wealth while the 99% do all the work.

All workers have an enormous responsibility. Building a movement for communist revolution is the only way to end this profit system, which is the cause of the layoffs, excessing, and pay and benefit cuts. By uniting black, Latino, Asian and white, we can organize workers to understand the need to smash these bosses and build a communist society.☺

Obomber's Drones: Mass Murder

The Obama administration's authorization of drone attacks — initiated by his Bush predecessor — has carried past U.S. murders of innocent workers to a new high. Based on a New York Times analysis (5/29), the Nation of Change (NOC) website reports that the Obama killers "are putting people on a hit list who are as young as 17."

Pakistani lawyer Shahzad Akbar, suing the CIA on behalf of drone victims, cites "a program that has existed for eight years, picks its targets in secret, faces zero accountability and has killed almost 3,000 people in Pakistan alone whose identities are not known to their killers," including "women and children in Waziristan...killed with Hellfire missiles."

In trying to justify these executions as "limiting civilian death tolls to a minimum," the Times reported that the CIA simply counts all military-age males in a strike zone as "combatants." Their rationale is that "people in areas of known 'terrorist activity'... are probably up to no good." (Shades of racist George Zimmerman's "self-defense" claim in murdering Trayvon Martin.)

Obama Gives CIA Greater Kill Potential

In addition to hit lists, "Obama has granted the CIA authority to kill with even greater ease using 'signature strikes' — strikes based solely on suspicious behavior." The Times noted the U.S. State Department's description of the CIA's criteria: "The joke was that when the CIA sees 'three guys doing jumping jacks' the agency thinks it is a terrorist training camp, said one senior official. Men loading a truck with fertilizer could be bomb makers — but might also be farmers."

Under such a rationale the NOC website said, "China might declare an ethnic Uighur activist living in New York City as an 'enemy combatant' and send a missile into Manhattan; Russia could assert that it was legal to launch a drone attack against someone living in London whom they claim is linked to Chechen militants. Or consider the case of Luis Posada Carriles, a Cuban-American living in Miami who is a known terrorist convicted of masterminding a 1976 bombing of a Cuban airliner that killed 73 people.... The Cuban government could claim that it has the right to send a drone into downtown Miami to kill an admitted terrorist and sworn enemy."

The NOC website says, "The kind of 'intelligence' used to put people on drone hit lists is the same kind of 'intelligence' that put people in Guantanamo.... Hundreds were innocent people who had been sold to the U.S. military by bounty hunters."

Obama's Killer List may very well be part of his presidential campaign to portray his "tough leadership," not being a shrinking violet when it comes to killing. Of course, this drone campaign is only a part of capitalism's death and destruction through imperialist wars, mass racist unemployment, poverty, periodic Great Recessions, racist cops and other horrors. All the more reason to destroy it with communist revolution that puts the bosses six feet under and the working class in control of our future.✊

Worker-Patient Unity Needed Against Cuomo-Boss Gang-up

BROOKLYN, NY, June 1 — Workers and patients at Downstate's three hospital campuses face the fight of our lives as Governor Cuomo's consultants and our administration make plans to "Right Size" the institution.

These racist plans will likely involve hundreds of layoffs and cuts in services in central Brooklyn. A year ago, as Downstate Medical Center "saved" Long Island College Hospital from closing, we felt secure in what we thought was an economically sound, indeed growing, institution in a sea of troubled Brooklyn hospitals. But the appearance belied the essence of what was going on. How could this happen?

To understand this and how to fight back, we need to take a step back and grasp what is driving the changing capitalist health care system in 2012. Change is caused by the interplay of contradictory or competing forces. What are the forces at play in healthcare?

Some, like insurance companies, medical technology companies, pharmaceutical companies and providers (hospitals) must make profits from health care to survive in the capitalist game. Others, like employers paying for health insurance and governments, are out to limit their costs for health care.

The major capitalists take a broader view. They want to minimize the resources put into health care (as well as other services for the working class) so that resources can be focused on world domination (wars). Cuomo with his presidential aspirations represents the latter — and they are winning.

Where are the patients and healthcare workers in all this? The



various bosses try to divide us and/or win us to their side. Cuomo, whose main financial backers are insurance, finance and real estate, tells New Yorkers that State workers are just too privileged and greedy. The beginning of the 2011 State of the State address put blame for budget woes on our pensions (\$6 billion out of a \$132 billion budget). Now we have a sixth pension tier. Downstate Hospital President LaRosa echoed his words when he whined to the press that our pay and benefits are the source of his money problems. Cuomo pits upstate against the city, implying that the problem is mismanagement of inner-city hospitals. But these hospitals have been set up to fail by years of Medicaid cuts.

Let us become a true force in the development of healthcare by uniting patients and workers to fight against the attacks. Our union leaders blunt our efforts. Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) leaders tell us not to worry because there is no-layoff language in the contract. But that expires in January. The Public Employees Federation's expires in April. Think you can get all your furlough days in by then?

They divert our anger into writing and calling legislators. They caution us that going to our patients could scare them away and make Downstate more vulnerable. We are the human face of the hospital to our patients. We should not leave them in the dark to be surprised when a service disappears. Rather, we should have confidence that we workers and patients have the same enemy and the same fight. If mass layoff notices come out, we should gather that very day in the lobby to take action!

PLP says that workers' needs cannot be met under capitalism. We fight for a workers' revolution for communism. What will be the conflicting forces in the development of health care under communism?

One force will be the organized power of the working class led by its communist party to overcome scarcity, inequality and other obstacles. The opposing force will be the old capitalist ideas of pacifism, individualism and defeatism. There will be no money or profit to get in the way of health care — from each according to commitment, to each according to need.✊

Car Wash Workers' Protest Rains on Bosses' Profits

NEW YORK CITY, June 1 — John Laje, a very rich businessman and owner of a dozen car washes in New York City, has never wanted to meet with his workers who have asked him on various occasions for a better contract including a paid vacation, paid sick days, salary raises for a year and protection against unfair layoffs.

The car wash workers face extreme exploitation that is typical of capitalism. They work 72 hours per week making \$5.25 to \$5.50 per hour. The workers have to put up with extreme temperatures and using dangerous chemical products without proper equipment or protection.

Management has stolen their tips and sent them home without pay when it rains. Exploiter Laje has doled out a measly 25 cents-an-hour raise to pacify workers.

Laje's move backfired; the workers went into the streets to protest in front of "LMC CARWASH AND LUBE," one of his car washes in Harlem. They were joined by workers from community organizations and unions.

Management has stolen their tips and sent them home without pay when it rains.

This protest was led by members of a fighting organization in Brooklyn supporting the car wash workers in Manhattan. The purpose of policies and union leaders is to demand that the laws and "rights" of workers are respected. It is very emotional seeing that group yelling militant PLP chants such as: "This fist is seen, power to the workers".

In a meeting a few days before the protest, the group of workers who led this protest proposed celebrating a new conference in which the main theme would be racism, a social construct that directly affects our comrade workers. With the introduction of the Secure Communities Law throughout the U.S. — a

racist anti-immigrant law that targets and deports thousands workers through mass arrests) — we're going to see more attacks on and terrorization of immigrants. More than 50 of the present members approved this protest and we are now organizing this conference for the month of September.

This entire struggle shows us the importance of uniting and creating class consciousness. Capitalism is the root of all evil and it must be destroyed with a revolution. By broadening our base and building the Progressive Labor Party, we can build a new society where power is in the hands of the workers: a communist society.✊



Israel Steals Land; U.S. Tycoons Profit

WADI AL-NAAM, ISRAEL-PALESTINE, March 30 — Hundreds marked the Land Day in memory of violent land theft engineered by the Israeli government since 1976, in this “unrecognized” Bedouin village in southern Israel-Palestine. Eight thousand working-class families live in this village, with no basic infrastructure such as electricity, running water and proper roads.

Another village in southern Israel-Palestine is al-Arakib, also not recognized by the Israeli government. Its residents hold title for their lands since the days of the Ottoman Empire. This does not bother the Israel Land Administration, which makes fiery speeches about “the right of private property” but hypocritically forgets this “right” completely when it comes to the rights of workers in general and Arabs in particular.

Racist War vs. Bedouin Workers

The racist Israeli regime attacks the Bedouin workers in the south in “unrecognized” villages and violates their right, despite the fact that this government collects full taxes from them and even drafts them into the military. This is a violent war of attri-

tion waged against workers considered second-class citizens for racist reasons, in the name of spreading the Jewish population in the South.

What stands behind this Zionist rhetoric? The financial interests of the NYC billionaire Ronald Lauder, who greatly profits from building an exclusive town for wealthy religious Jews called “Hiran” on the lands of al-Arakib.

The women of al-Arakib chanted: “al-Arakib is in our hearts and we will stick to it!” Since July 2010, this village was demolished again and again, and always re-built by its residents. Arabic, Jewish and international activists came to show solidarity with the villagers and fight against the eviction of these Bedouins from their ancestral lands.

The regime’s goal, attempted through the Jewish National Fund (JNF), is to “forest the Land of Israel and make the Wilderness Flourish” and “Judaize” the South. These are code names for land theft by real-estate tycoons. This is why peasants, who make a meager living from small-scale agriculture (olive trees and sheep), are being evicted from their land in favor of trees which would

soon be up-rooted and replaced with fancy houses for the rich.

A million trees, which will “bring about the Second Coming,” as the U.S. evangelical donors claim, are more important than people who have lived there for over a century! Each tree costs \$25, totaling \$25,000,000, not including the money spent by the Israeli government on demolishing the village multiple times with heavy police support.

For such a hefty sum they could’ve connected al-Arakib with electricity, running water, paved the roads, built a school and a medical clinic. This is the essence of capitalism: the bosses and their regime prefer to invest in trees to grab prime real-estate and in racist evictions from this land than to invest money in the lives of poor workers and peasants.

The spokesperson of al-Arakib’s Popular Committee, Awad abu-Farikh, was once interrogated for three hours at the Rahat Police Station on charges for “inciting violence.” This meant fighting for the rights of his Bedouin people. We ask: why don’t they interrogate the riot cops and their masters for violence and racist slander? Or is a worker who defends

his home from demolition “inciting violence,” while racist thugs who “enforce the law” can practice violence against workers? This is capitalist “justice!”

The war plan of Prime Minister Netanyahu and his Minister of Internal Security Aharonovich — a colleague of politician Libermann who preaches deporting all Arabs from Israel-Palestine — is to send hundreds of riot cops to demolish villages, starting from al-Arakib. They have invested vast sums of money in a new unit of 200 cops, which will be organized in August, tasked solely with enforcing eviction and demolition warrants in the South.

Meanwhile, a worker who goes to the police for protection from crime gets a sleepy response at best and is ignored at worst, under the excuses of “manpower and resources.” This is an example of how, under capitalism, the role of the state apparatus, including the cops, solely serves the capitalists and their profit interests.

This is a colonialist policy aimed at robbing Arab workers, destroying their sources of income and social fabric. The Israeli state is trying to

continued on page 6

Jewish, Arab Workers March vs. Evictions

TEL-AVIV-JAFF, ISRAEL-PALESTINE, May 8 — Thousands of Jewish and Arab workers, many of whom live in public housing apartments, marched today to protest the racist policies of the public housing companies. The marchers demanded housing for all (regardless of ethnicity) and an end to the evictions of Arab workers from their homes by the “Amidar,” “Amigur” and “Halamish” companies. Chants also called for a revolution and for an egalitarian society. A speech by a PL’er linking the racism in housing to the bosses’ financial interests and calling for a workers’ revolution was welcomed by loud applause.

Exploiting Jewish Workers

Israel’s public housing companies, at least partially state-owned, were established in the 1950’s and 1960’s to house the masses of Jewish immigrants brought from all around the world to serve as a labor force for the Zionist regime and its capitalist backers. Construction was shoddy at best, but the apartments were very cheap and affordable for most Jewish workers.

The public housing companies are also responsible for administering the homes confiscated from Palestinians who were deported in the 1948 war. Many of the lands on which Palestinian-Arab workers live today inside the “Green Line” (in the western part of Israel-Palestine) are officially owned by these companies.

Since the “Monetary Reforms” (neoliberalism) of the 1980’s, the bosses cut the funding for public housing, leaving the apartments to rot and crumble on the heads of their impoverished working-class residents while the public housing company bosses and officials draw fat salaries. Workers who cannot pay the rent to a regular landlord can no longer rely on public housing. Indeed, getting a public apartment is nearly impossible. Some workers were forced to squat in public-owned apartments to have a roof over their heads.

Recently, there’s been a wave of attacks by the public housing companies on residents in general and Arab residents in particular, trying to milk these poor workers for money and to forcefully evict them, typically under racist excuses. For example, one lawyer in the

The bosses cut the funding for public housing. Apartments rot and crumble on the heads of impoverished working-class residents.

employ of the “Amidar” Public Housing Company said in court that “this land belongs to us [the Jews] and the Arab residents should be grateful to us for allowing them to live there [on their own land] for decades.”

Real Estate Bosses Profit from Evictions

The real reason for these evictions is to sell off the land to real-estate tycoons who will reap profits from its development. Many of the lawyers employed by these tycoons are former public housing officials who have kept information about the residents with them when they switched to the new, well-paying private-sector jobs.

The marchers have shown these racist vultures that, despite all this racist crap, thousands of workers from all nations, ethnicities and creeds can unite and fight against these bosses. The slogans marked the way forward for the struggle - a struggle for an egalitarian society free from racism, exploitation and homelessness. We in the Progressive Labour Party have a name for such a society - communism. And the only way to bring that about is for workers to unite, struggle, have a revolution and smash all bosses!✊

Chicago Schools

continued from page 3

other children of the wealthy. “Skills to become productive workers,” she means teaching students the skills and ideology they need to become workers who make lots of profits for the corporations or become soldiers who fight to protect those profits.

Chicago education workers may challenge ruling-class plans by striking next fall. The politicians who serve the rulers thought they were preventing this by passing a law in 2011 requiring a 75 percent vote of the entire membership (not of just those voting) to authorize a strike. Now it seems highly likely that threshold will be met.

A strike opens up the potential for teachers’ union members to feel their power, to build multi-racial unity against the capitalists who control Chicago’s Board of Education. It can be a great opportunity for a militant, united, anti-racist fight against the children’s exploiters who run the school system. Anything less, in fact, will only embolden these fascists and encourage them to quicken the pace of their attacks on students and education workers.

However, a strike is not enough to stop these profit-driven attacks. Only communist revolution can accomplish that and allow students to flourish in schools designed in their interests, not the bosses’.

New System, Not New Mayor

The CTU is still hampered by its reformist outlook. At the rally and march, for example, sellouts Jesse Jackson (Operation Push) and Randi Weingarten (American Federation of Teachers president) had front-row seats.

Marchers chanted, “The workers, united, will never be defeated” but also “Hey, hey, ho, ho, Rahm Emanuel has to go.” Replacing the Mayor, electing the school board, or doing anything else short of overturning capitalism only ties workers more to this murderous system. Communist revolution really is the only solution.

PLP’s role in this fight is advancing, but still needs improvement. A serious group of teachers who meet regularly with the Party; a PLP flyer and CHALLENGES were distributed at the march; the level of discussion and struggle inside CTU and the numbers reading CHALLENGE have increased, creating the potential for more PLP supporters and members.

If a strike occurs, it will provide an even greater opportunity for PLP to become more deeply involved in this class struggle. We must be in it to win workers to realizing they can and must take power and run society.✊

LETTERS

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

PLP Helps Fight Sexism

A group of students in a school where PLP has a base decided to protest bullying in general, and bullying of homosexuals in particular. A student who has a CHALLENGE network of ten papers was part of the leadership of this protest. The students wore black tape over their mouths to symbolize the silence that exists around the discrimination that homosexual teens get.

The PL teacher saw this protest as an opportunity to engage his students in a struggle on sexism within his classroom. He discussed the social identities that exist under capitalism. The PL teacher made sure to stress that we shouldn't unite based on these identities, but unite based upon our identity as the working class. He further discussed how capitalism uses racism and sexism to divide and conquer the working class. He pointed out that sex is biological anatomy and gender is what society demands the individual conform to based upon that biology.

Sexism is discrimination and oppression based upon the roles that capitalism demands human beings adhere to due to their sexual anatomy. Since communism means the abolition of "race" and redefining gender roles after the revolution, many students came closer to understanding the need to abolish a system that brutalizes people based upon gender roles and their skin color.

A conversation on bullying also led to students discussing the fact that the U.S. acted like a bully to the whole world. This conversation on U.S. imperialism also touched on racism towards Muslims and dovetailed with the racist mass murderer who's on trial in Norway. Pointing out the intersections of systemic oppression in the classroom helped to clarify how capitalism affects us all. Many of those students who participated the most in the class discussion were already CHALLENGE readers, but those who aren't yet will start getting the paper.

By clearly illustrating PLP's line on sexism and fighting for a communist analysis of bullying, racism, sexism, and capitalism, opportunities to build the Party and organize for May Day were seized. Communists must help students as they fight back against all forms of oppression while clearly illustrating the interconnection of that struggle to capitalism as a whole.

Communist Teacher

PLP School Unites Workers Across the Caribbean

During a communist school in the Caribbean, workers worldwide spoke about how to write for CHALLENGE in a collective manner. We discussed drug trafficking as one of the many evils capitalism generates, and how only workers united for communism in PLP can end it once and for all. We realized we have more similarities than differences and understood the need to build an international party. There is no difference in the way that capitalists use workers, regardless if you live in Pakistan, China, Japan or South America.

Imagine that you are a single mother with three children; you receive government assistance. It isn't enough to pay for rent, education, dress your kids, or buy food. An "opportunity" presents itself: transporting drugs. What do you do? Accept and take the risk of imprisonment or death? Or do you accept that your family will suffer for the rest of their lives? This is only a natural scene under capitalism. The only options the working class is offered is oppression or more oppression. Drug trafficking has many levels, but the effects it has on the working class are devastating.

Drug Tracking in El Salvador manifests itself in many individual forms or by using distribution through neighborhood gangs. El Salvador is just a corridor where drugs pass through without control. Two years ago, two tons of cocaine from Colombia were discovered that were on their way to the United States. Drug lords use men, women and children as drug traffickers.

In the Dominican Republic, drugs are a tool to keep the youth and working class away from class consciousness. Drugs are kept and distributed by capitalists through the corruption of governments.

Demand Release of Activist

Andrew Pshenichnikov, 23, has been in an Israeli prison for one week trying to give up his Israeli citizenship and become a Palestinian citizen. He refuses to accept any judgment made by the Israeli court, as he does not recognize the Israeli government as legitimate because it represents an illegal occupation.

PLP supports Andrew's struggle against the fascist Israeli rulers and urges all workers and youth to protest at Israeli embassies and raise resolution in their unions and mass organization demanding his release.✪



We must fight in this struggle. We cannot abandon our youth. For example, in the Dominican Republic during the 1970s, the youth fought for a better education system and for the lives of workers. They went out on the streets under communist flags. However, now the drug lords have put the youth to sleep with drugs and "easy money." The reality is that they end up dead.

In New Jersey, the government and the police depend a lot on the drug market in the poor neighborhoods. In Newark, unemployment and poverty for black and Latino youth is highest. Since the 1950s, factories have left Newark for cheaper and more controllable labor elsewhere. The youth have no future. That's why they've fallen prey to drugs and crime.

Poor workers became involved in heroin and other drugs that began with the Vietnam War. Also, the capitalist music industry spreads drug use through their artists' lyrics and they also help drug trafficking.

I'm a teacher and many of my students sell drugs to help their families survive. This is only an example on how capitalists use drugs to maintain inequalities and horror. That's why the only solution for us is to fight for a system for the workers — communism.

A comrade

Honored to Be Part of Brooklyn's May Day

May Day 2012 painted the world red. The streets of Brooklyn were paved with workers sick and tired of this racist capitalist society. The day began with a rally to send a message to workers that we shall not quiver in fear of the police, to show that bosses may cut our benefits and paychecks but they can never cut worker's spirits. Then a two-mile march of red glory down streets of Brooklyn as we try to rally up the dormant hearts of the exploited workers, followed with chants and CHALLENGEs. Workers young and old never yielded as they continued marching strong.

Afterwards, we celebrated this joyous occasion with dinner and a program. Comrades worked hard cooking delicious food, doing music presentations, and giving their thoughts about communism. It was awesome and an honor to be part of this year's May Day.

Young Red

Israeli Land Grab

continued from page 5

force this dispossession in order to make way for "Pioneers" (rich Zionists) from the U.S. and Western Europe who will be brought there by the JNF. Prime Minister Netanyahu even says that "changing the South to an area without a Jewish majority is a real threat [to national security]" (Yisrael HaYom, July 25th, 2010).

The same paper, owned by the U.S. billionaire Sheldon Adelson, a big supporter of Netanyahu, reported on June 23, 2010, that "the nation goes to war against the takeover [by Bedouins] of its lands." How can people "take over" their own land? This is also the opinion of Knesset (parliament) member Michael Ben-Ari. Netanyahu and Aharonovich want to "defeat the Bedouin takeover of lands in the Be'er-Sheva region as a first stage" and then implement the same program of racist land grab in the entire country.

This is reminiscent of dark times in history when minorities were put in ghettos by fascists. This, of course, prepares the ground for a second "Nakba" (ethnic cleansing of Palestinians in 1948), this time a "creeping Nakba" under the guise of planning and land-ownership laws.

This is apartheid, pure and simple. Netanyahu, an open racist, wants to prevent something he calls "land grab by minorities and criminals." Meanwhile his administration hands out lands and building rights to the criminal capitalist minority (19 big capitalist families in Israel — far less than 1% of the population — as well as their super-wealthy friends in the U.S.).

Faced with this racist robbery by Zionism, we, the workers and unemployed of all nations, ethnicities and religions in historical Palestine, must unite and fight back. What happens today to the Arab worker will happen tomorrow to Jewish workers as well; and, indeed, starts happening to them even today, especially in the public housing sector. The growing fascism has already showed its hostility to workers, both Arab and Jewish, such as the brutal arrest of "Zochrot" activists on Israel's Independence Day last month. They "dared" to try and hold a vigil reminding the residents of Tel-Aviv-Jaffa about all the Palestinian villages which were destroyed to make room for the city; of the violence against Jews and Arabs who protested against the apartheid in Silwan, East Jerusalem; and of the arrests and harsh violence against Jewish and Arab workers who showed solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike in front of the Ramle jail.

Capitalism means repression, poverty and fascism on the backs of most workers in order to enrich the tiny ruling class. We, the workers and unemployed, must take charge of our destiny, overthrow the capitalist regime and replace it with communism, both in Israel-Palestine and in the rest of the world. Workers of the world unite!✪

U.S. Constitution Serves Only the Ruling Class



"Liberals" and "conservatives" both tell us that the U.S. Constitution is there to protect the working class and middle class from oppression. As Jerry Fresia's *Toward an American Revolution — Exposing the Constitution and Other Illusions* shows, nothing could be further from the truth. In a word, the Constitution was intended to be and always has been an instrument of the capitalist class to protect its wealth from former slaves and the rest of the working class. It ensures power over the propertyless. Initially it protected the slaveowners from the northern bankers and manufacturers. The book is now almost a quarter century old, but is still very relevant and an easy read.

Today, there are numerous executive orders and laws, that pretend to protect us from terrorism. They permit increased wiretapping and electronic surveillance. They allow anyone the government chooses to be held in extended arbitrary detention without trial. They carry out military tribunals with no rights of appeal, and many other forms of governmental oppression.

Constitution's Purpose: Protect Profits

But workers cannot appeal to the Constitu-

tion for protection from these orders and laws, since, as Fresia shows, they are all completely consistent with it. He shows that the very intentions of the men who wrote the Constitution were to protect owners of profit-making property from the working class.

Furthermore the Constitution was sneaked through by the slavocracy over the anticipated objections of certain state legislatures whose populations, fresh from a war of liberation against the British aristocracy in 1787, were up in arms over the even greater oppression that they faced at the hands of domestic property owners.

The first 10 amendments of the Constitution adopted in 1791, the Bill of Rights, is often touted as a guarantee of freedom from oppression by the government. The Bill of Rights, however, does not even address the right of participation in government, only protection from it, and only for capitalists at that. And there is nothing that protects us from our bosses. This "afterthought" to the Constitution took four years of arguments in Congress before it was even passed. Lincoln's famous claim that this is a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" was then, and continues to be, a bald-faced lie.

Racism: Bosses' Insurance Policy Against Rebellion

Fresia gives detailed proof that supports Marx and Lenin's demonstration that all states (governments) serve only the interests of the class that rules. Meanwhile they drown the interests of the oppressed and exploited (literally, in the case of New Orleans Hurricane Katrina). For example, the authors of the Constitution, including Washington, Jefferson, and Madison (first, third, and fourth U.S. presidents), owned vast amounts of property, including hundreds of enslaved Africans. He shows how they designed the Constitution to protect themselves from rebellion by those workers who slave to generate the profits — whether through

chattel or wage slavery.

Each U.S. President, including Obama, belongs to a long and dishonorable line of accumulators of wealth who display total contempt for workers — most particularly, black and Latino workers — generated by a fear of losing this profit-making property. Murderous racism is no accident. It was and is designed as an insurance policy against united rebellion by the oppressed and exploited.

In order for the ruling capitalist class to avoid having to resort to armed force on a daily basis to maintain this oppression, as they have done on many occasions in the past, they inserted a deceptive Preamble to the Constitution, that all U.S. school children are forced to memorize. It starts with "We the people," a term that lacks class consciousness and links workers to their oppressors.

Fresia brings it all up to date with the secret operations of the CIA and private mercenaries who assassinate, train in torture techniques, and otherwise blaze a trail throughout the world to secure profits for U.S. corporations. He shows how the Constitution encourages and protects the rights of these secret operators to carry out this world-wide terrorism, and protects the rights of the government to wage war for oil and gas in the Middle East and kill millions in the process.

Pacifism: An Achilles' Heel for Protest Movements

He also shows, significantly, how the non-violent and peace-directed approach of most modern protest movements prevents effective opposition to the ruling class.

In summary, the book helps destroy the illusion that somehow things have gone drastically wrong in the last 200 or so years. The fact is that things have been drastically wrong for the great majority of us right from the start. The major weakness in the book is that Fresia never addresses the fact that the only solution to this problem is a revolution of the working class for an egalitarian communist system all over the world. But for the alert reader this conclusion is all but inescapable. PLP is organizing just such a movement of workers worldwide. Join the fight! ☺

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

Rotten system needs rotten bosses

NYT, 5/13 — A recent study found that 10 percent of people who work on Wall Street are "clinical psychopaths," exhibiting a lack of interest in and empathy for others and an "unparalleled capacity for lying, fabrication and manipulation...." Another study concluded that the rich are more likely to lie, cheat and break the law.

The only thing that puzzles me about these claims is that anyone would find them surprising. Wall Street is capitalism in its purest form, and capitalism is predicated on bad behavior. This should hardly be news....

In other words, Enron, BP, Goldman [Sachs], Phillip Morris, GE, Merck, etc. — accounting fraud, tax evasion, toxic dumping, product safety violations, bid rigging, overbilling, perjury....Just open up the business section on an average day. Shafting your workers, hurting your customers, destroying the land....These aren't anomalies; this is how the system works....

There's been a lot of talk lately about "job creators...."

If entrepreneurs are job creators, workers are wealth creators. Entrepreneurs use wealth to create jobs for workers. Workers use labor to create wealth for entrepreneurs — the excess productivity over and above wages and other compensation....

And [the] most destructive lie...is that it "is very easy for any American to make money." The lie goes on: The poor are lazy, stupid and evil. The rich are brilliant, courageous and good. They show their beneficence upon the rest of us!

Brass lagging on GI brain damage

NYT, 5/17 — Scientists who have studied degenerative brain disease in athletes have found the same condition in combat veterans exposed to roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan, concluding that such explosions injure the brain in ways strikingly similar to tackles and punches....

"Not long ago, people said N.F.L. players with behavior problems were just having problems adjusting to retirement," Dr. Goldstein said. "Now it's more or less settled that there is a disease associated with their problems. But we do not have that consensus in the military world yet."

French voters lose faith in voting

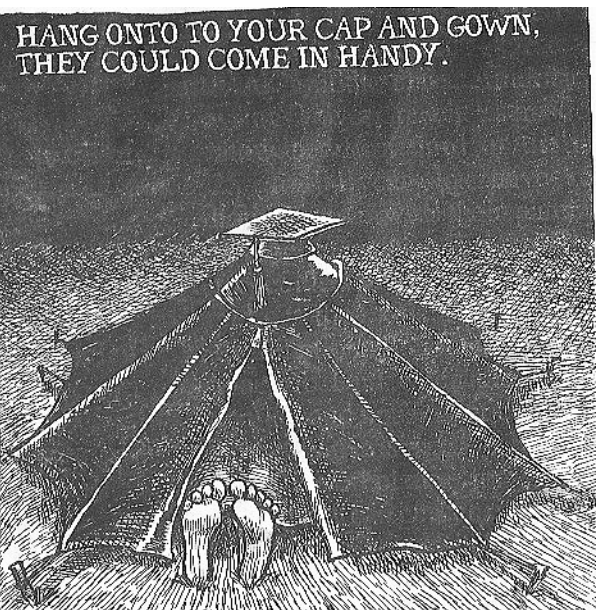
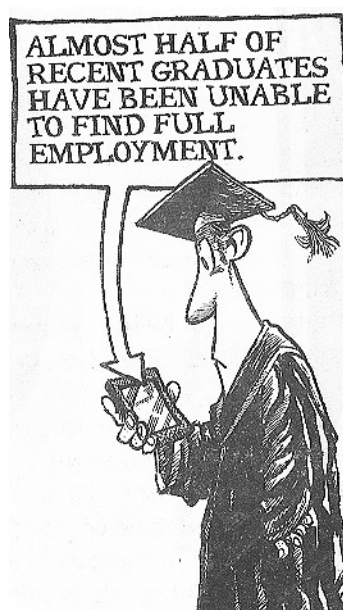
NYT, 4/23 — PARIS —In Sunday's first round of France's presidential elections....the strong showing by the left and anger on the political extremes seemed to reflect a desire for change in France....

But the vote was also about an electorate that has grown increasingly disenchanted with politics and the political class....

"The situation is so catastrophic that whoever wins it won't make much difference...."

Capitalist job loss devastates us

NYT, 5/13 — Long-term unemployment is ex-



perienced disproportionately by the young, the old, the less educated and African-American and Latino workers.

While older workers are less likely to be laid off than younger workers, they are about half as likely to be rehired. One result is that older workers have seen the largest proportionate increase in unemployment is this downturn. The number of unemployed people between ages 50 and 65 has more than doubled....

The result is nothing short of a national emergency. Millions of workers have been disconnected from the workforce, and possibly even from society....

Economists found an 18 percent increase in the probability of divorce following a husband's job loss and 13 percent after a wife's. Unemployment of parents also has a negative impact on achievement of their children....

For many people, their very identity is their occupation. Few events rival the emotional strain of job loss.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Capitalism Caused the Crisis

The documentary *Heist: Who Stole the American Dream?* is about the financial crisis that began in 2008. It continues to this day, with high unemployment, home foreclosures, and other aspects of capitalism that devastate workers' lives. The documentary lays the blame firmly on the banks and compliant politicians for the fiasco. The format is mainly a series of interviews of people who expose the way banks have manipulated their financial control with the help of governmental rulings and deregulation. But the film tells only part of the story.

First, it shows the degree to which banks and big business owners are stealing virtually everything we produce with our labor. However, its main message is that the "heist" consists of a relatively recent move by big business, particularly banks. It traces this move to a 1971 memo to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by corporate lawyer Lewis Powell — shortly thereafter a Nixon-appointed Supreme Court Justice. In this memo Powell falsely claimed that there was a socialist attack on free enterprise and that big business needed to ward it off with extreme aggressiveness. It did, by mobilizing the full force of a friendly federal government to protect and magnify already swollen banking profits.

U.S. History: One Long Heist

While the filmmakers claim that this 41-year-old memo was the origin of the heist, can anyone remember a time in U.S. history when banks did not rob people to accumulate vast wealth? The so-called founding fathers were quite explicit that the role of government would be to protect their property from the mass of property-less people (what the Occupy Movement calls the 99%). The U.S. government was designed from the outset to protect the bosses from the workers. Far from a mere 41 years, this ongoing function of government is at least 223 years old. It has been punctuated by war on tens of millions of workers.

Furthermore, by pointing the finger solely at the way big business buys politicians in order to dominate the rest of us, the film again misleads. It omits the fact that the owners of big business also determine school curricula, points of view in the media, levels of health care, funding of research through foundations, control over think tanks, and placement of government advisors from these think tanks who agree that world dominance by U.S. capital is the most vital function of government. In short, the capitalists rule through a class dictatorship.

Rulers' Ideas Their Trump Card

Control over not just government but all institutions in the society — particularly universities and secondary schools, as well as the media — means that the class of billionaires rules us through more than the military, cops, courts, prisons, and religious leaders. They rule through their ability to determine which ideas are permitted to flourish in the mainstream publishing, media, and educational outlets, and which ideas are to be punished (or threatened to

be punished) by firings, imprisonment, and even assassinations. The degree to which these latter methods are less necessary today only reflects the success of the other methods in dominating the prevailing ideology.

While the film presents this as a conspiracy, class rule is far from a conspiracy. The overwhelming domination through capitalist ideology is the main thing that distinguishes class rule from conspiracy. Conspiracies do happen, but they are minor, fleeting, and almost trivial compared to the way the ruling class rules through ideological control — ideology that they firmly believe in, so they don't all see it as domination.

Wars to Maintain Profits

One interviewee claims the problem is not profit itself, but rather excessive profits (implying some arbitrary unstated cutoff point between reasonable and excessive). He and the filmmakers miss the point that capitalism is driven by competition to seek not just profits, but maximum profits — making them inherently "excessive" sooner or later. Competition from other capitalist nations has led to endless wars and the slaughter of the working class to maintain profitability. The problem therefore is the profit system itself. Workers are victims of capitalist ideology.

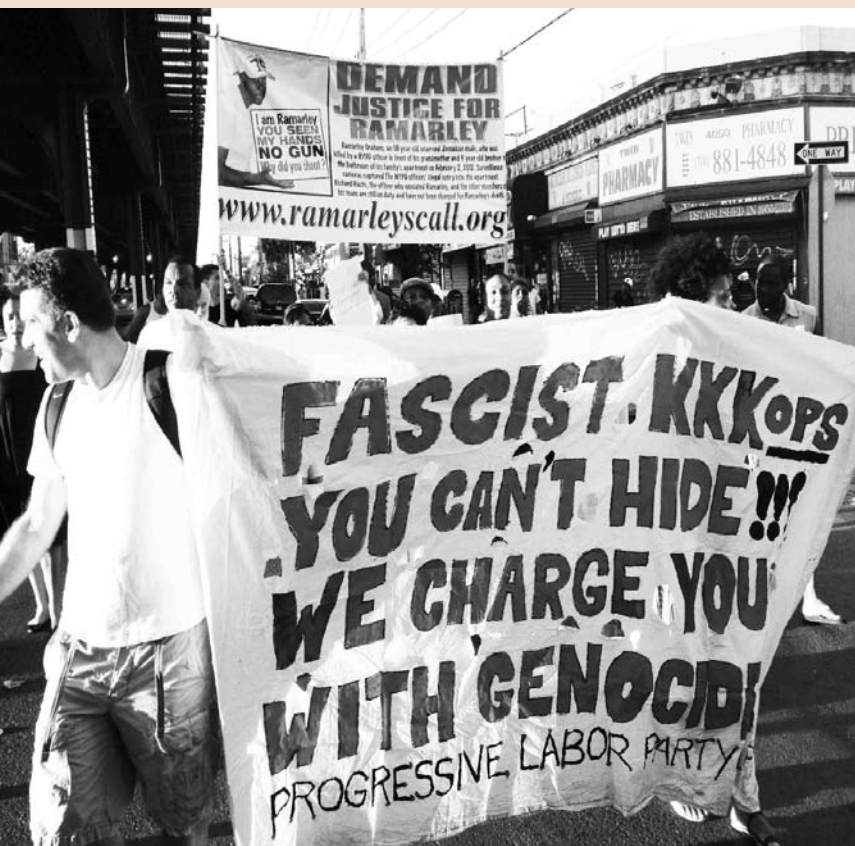
The problem for the world's working class lies not just in thieving banks and politicians, but in the source of capitalist power that grants them the ability to carry out this theft continually. This source is the "excessive" profit-maximizing system itself, in which the rich necessarily get richer and most of us necessarily get poorer, as the bosses rob us on a daily basis. They protect and enforce this through their control of the state apparatus.

500 Years IS Long Enough

For the last 500 years this has been the situation everywhere in the world where capitalism and its competition for maximum profits exist. PLP is building a worldwide communist movement of millions of workers and allies to destroy this system and its state and erect a workers' state.

We strive to put the working class in control of an egalitarian system that allows us to satisfy all our needs collectively and through worldwide cooperation. Communism would be free of competition, profits, exploitation, and all the extreme miseries that the profit system produces. Join us today.☺

Father's Day March We Will Not Be Silent About Ramarley's Murder



BRONX, NEW YORK, May 31 — The marshals stopped the march and instructed us to tighten our ranks and pump up the volume. As we approached the 47th precinct the chants of "NYPD you can't hide, we charge you with genocide!" and "Mayor Bloomberg you can't hide, we charge you with genocide!" grew louder and louder.

"Haste, Haste, Haste" "the multi-racial crowd roared, calling for the racist killer cop who shot Ramarley Graham to death in his grandmother's apartment on February 3 after kicking in the door. The cops had no warrant and Ramarley had no weapon.

Led by Ramarley's parents, supporters march every Thursday through the neighbourhood and to the precinct. The parents and organizers of the march always make it clear that they are not only asking for justice for Ramarley but are commemorating the many other victims of police brutality and are fighting to prevent others from becoming victims.

At the police station a PLP member was called up to speak. He praised the parents for their courage in waging such a militant struggle, saying that they were an inspiration to the working class. His major focus was on the role of the cops. While

some people say it's just a few bad cops, we condemn the entire police department as protectors of the capitalist system. Putting it in perspective he said that police around the world from the U.S., to China, to Syria have the same role: to suppress the workers from fighting back against their rulers.

His speech was well received as were the many CHALLENGEs we distributed. The last page was completely about the Ramarley Graham struggle (6/6/12). An article explained in detail how "leaders" from the NAACP, Al Sharpton's National Action Network, and the Service Employees International Union were trying to pacify the people. They are organizing a mass march against the "stop-and-frisk" policy but do not want to raise the issue of police brutality. Their plan calls for no speeches and a silent march!

Well, we will not be silent at the June 17th Father's Day march or on any other day. We call on all CHALLENGE readers to come to the weekly Thursday night vigils in the Bronx. Raise the anti-racist struggle in your schools, unions, churches, and PTA's. Fight back!☺

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