

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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## Rampant KKK Racism in NJ County

# Workers Fight Legalized Lynching

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NJ** — For a lesson in Racism 101, you don't need to take a college course. You can just take a trip to Cumberland County in southwestern New Jersey. In the wake of workers' outrage to the non-indictments for police who murdered Michael Brown and Eric Garner, videos went viral of a police murder last December of Jerame Reid in Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Jerame's family refused to take this murder lying down. In late February, as many as 200 protesters marched to the local Bridgeton courthouse to protest this legalized lynching. The protest was full of young workers and youth — many from the Bridgeton community and others from nearby cities, including Philadelphia, where family members of other Black youth executed by cops came to show their solidarity.

### County Built on Racism

The political economy of Cumberland County is built around the racist prison industrial complex. The majority of New Jersey's prisons are located here. From across the state, tens of thousands of unemployed Black and Latin youth — from as far away as Newark — are imprisoned in these so-called "correctional" facilities. Whose job is it to oversee them? The local workers who rely on the prison industry for their livelihood. The main source of employment and business in Cum-

berland County — where unemployment is rampant—is the prison system. Most small business owners, many of them Latin, have contracts with the prison industry.

This is not a new story. For over three hundred years, Cumberland County has been home to concentration camps for oppressed workers. The Lenape Indians were systematically forced into plantations in Cumberland County after their land was stolen from them elsewhere in New Jersey by Dutch and British colonizers.

The roots of racism are so deep here that even the local Quaker community — defying national Quaker policy — held slaves here into the early 19th century. (New Jersey was the last state in the North to abolish slavery.) The county's agricultural base led even these supposed humanitarians to stay committed to forced plantation labor for kidnapped Africans. Cumberland was the perfect New Jersey headquarters for the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). Even today, the Klan remains an open force across Cumberland County. In January, in neighboring Atlantic County, KKK flyers were secretly left on people's lawns, part of a regional outreach campaign from Maryland through Pennsylvania to New York.

Meanwhile, Bridgeton's cops, local Black elected officials, and the courts are all in bed together to keep the working class divided and repressed. Indeed, it was a Black cop who killed Jerame Reid.

### Workers Ripe for Rebellion

But Bridgeton is not just a site of racist capitalist repression. It's also a sleeping giant for revolt led by Black workers. Even though police brandished semi-automatics and posted snipers outside the courthouse during the February rally, the youth and elders did not let up. They testified to the racist system of entrapment, going back their whole lives. What the cops failed to recognize is that the state's bullying tactics have created more angry, anti-racist soldiers.

From Newark to Philadelphia, the Progressive Labor Party has been winning youth to the idea that a long-term, multiracial movement must wage class war to obliterate the killer kkkops in communities like Bridgeton, along with their crony officials and judges. PLP is that movement!

With the leadership of the Reid family, especially Jerame's wife, PLP will continue to work with others across the region to point out how dead-end reforms will only buy time for the bosses while more youth are slain in yet another city. As workers rise to the occasion to fight back, PLP will be there to take leadership and learn from workers. And as more workers learn about our Party's vision for a future without capitalism and racist terror, we will accelerate our building of a mass movement for communist revolution!✊

## JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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# 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. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society’s benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of “race.” Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, 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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### WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP’s criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a “following” around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual’s writing of an article.

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# Editorial

# Ukraine: The Next Pearl Harbor?

The devastation and chaos workers face in Ukraine as a result of the ongoing fight between pro-Russian forces and Ukranian troops reveal what the bosses have in store for the international working class. While the fighting is confined for the moment to eastern Ukraine, increasingly hostile rhetoric by both sides and their imperialist financiers, the U.S. and Russia, threatens armed combat throughout Eastern Europe and beyond. As Reuters reported:

*More than 45,000 Russian troops as well as war planes and submarines started military exercises across much of the country on Monday [Mar. 16]...President Vladimir Putin called the Navy’s Northern Fleet to full combat readiness in exercises in Russia’s Arctic North apparently aimed at dwarfing military drills in neighboring Norway, a NATO member.*

NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is the pro-U.S. imperialist military bloc in Western Europe. Three days later, Russia announced it had “doubled the number of troops taking part in mass drills...to 80,000” (Agence France-Presse, 3/19/15).

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is the U.S. war-makers’ leading think tank. Representing the dominant finance capital wing of the U.S. ruling class, the CFR warned:

*Russian armed forces are in the midst of a historic overhaul....Russian interventions in Georgia in 2008 and Ukraine in 2014–2015...demonstrate that President Vladimir Putin is prepared to use military might to reestablish Russian hegemony....[T]he Russian military budget has more than doubled over the last decade (3/20/15).*

### World Wars: Crucibles for Revolution

In short, the competition between U.S. and Russian capitalists — for resources, markets, and geopolitical strongholds — is escalating. Current tensions follow Vladimir Lenin’s 1917 analysis, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*. As Lenin explained, imperialist countries like the U.S., China and Russia are constantly re-dividing the world through war. (The U.S. rulers used Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor to enter World War II and fight their Japanese and German imperialist rivals. The bosses may use Ukraine as an excuse to launch wider wars.)

As bosses in both countries strive to both motivate the working class for a wider imperialist confrontation, discipline workers through increased racist unemployment and intensified racist terror. But Lenin also showed that the world capitalist system is temporarily weakened by imperialist war, giving the working class opportunities for revolution. World War I and World War II, history’s two global conflicts, both proved to be crucibles for revolutionary movements. Those great advances were later reversed, as both Russia and then China decayed into profit-based systems with a capitalist elite. But today the Progressive Labor Party is organizing in 27 countries to smash capitalism once and for all with communist revolution!

### A Line in the Sand

In *The Grand Chessboard* (1997), war planner Zbigniew Brzezinski outlined U.S. imperialism’s need to conquer Central Asian countries like Afghanistan. Earlier, as national security advisor, he helped write the Carter Doctrine, which drew a line in the Middle East sand. This policy, backed by every U.S. president over the last 35 years, states that the U.S. will defend its oil interests in the Persian Gulf “by any means necessary, including military force.” On March 9, Brzezinski told the Center for Strategic and International Studies, another ruling-class think tank:

*The Russian army today is ... three to four years from*



## Imagining the Bosses’ Next War

On March 17, the Atlantic Council, a war-bent U.S. think tank, hosted a symposium called “How the Next Great War Begins.” Financed by such imperialist mainstays as Chevron, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Council focused on fictionalized predictions of how wars break out and play out. It awarded its top prize to “Coffee, Wi-Fi, and the Moon,” an essay that foresees “a combination of weaponized Wi-Fi, hackable body implants, and great power politics sparking the next Great War” after a U.S.-engineered assassination of Vladimir Putin.

James Stavridis, the retired NATO supreme commander who led the bloodbath to rid Libya of Chinese and Russian oil firms, urged the assembly not to forget China. He plugged a forthcoming book, *Ghost Fleet: A Novel of the Next World War*. As described by Amazon:

The United States, China, and Russia eye each other across a twenty-first century version of the Cold War, which suddenly heats up at sea, on land, in the air, in outer space, and in cyberspace. The fighting involves everything from stealthy robotic-drone strikes to old warships from the navy’s “ghost fleet.”

“Ghost fleet” refers to the hundreds of warships and freighters the U.S. Navy is keeping mothballed for World War III. Ghost Fleet’s authors, August Cole and P.W. Singer, are no harmless dreamers. Cole runs Atlantic Council’s Art of Future War project, while Singer has cashed fat checks from the Pentagon, the FBI, and the *Call of Duty* video game. Like other gore-soaked games of its genre, *Call of Duty* features gratuitous, carnage with no connection to real places or the working people who live in those places.

The war novel-and-game industry is explicitly tied to the Pentagon and military contractors. They are designed to build support and help recruit willing killers for the U.S. ruling class.

*being ready for a sustained military campaign against a well-armed professional military, namely [the U.S.] This is strikingly similar to the situation in 1938-1939, when...Hitler decided to go after Czechoslovakia.*

But if the bosses who control Russia decide they cannot wait to mass their ground troops, they have a quicker option: nuclear weapons. As ABC News reported (3/19/15):

*Russia plans to station state-of-the art missiles ... and deploy nuclear-capable bombers ... amid bitter tensions with the West over Ukraine....The missiles, which are capable of hitting enemy targets up to 310 miles away with high precision, can be equipped with a nuclear or a conventional warhead. From Kaliningrad, they could reach several NATO member states.*

It isn’t only Moscow hastening the outbreak of World War III [see box]:

*A planned U.S. military exercise near Russia’s border... set to begin Saturday, will involve a convoy of 120 U.S. Army Strykers. Over ten days, the eight-wheel drive combat vehicles will stop in a different border area community each night to showcase the ability of U.S. forces to transport troops quickly, and to assure Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland of NATO’s commitment (Military.com, 3/20/15).*

### Turn World War Into Class War

Our class has no stake in this ruthless battle among bosses. Both Putin and Barack Obama fight their wars on behalf of the billionaire capitalists they serve. Both are ready to sacrifice the lives of millions of workers. Meanwhile, China continues to ramp up its military spending to project its power beyond Asia to Africa and Latin America, the “backyard” of U.S. imperialism since the 1820s.

The Progressive Labor Party is organizing a mass movement of millions of workers worldwide to upset the bosses’ plans for slaughter. We are waging anti-racist battles big and small on the job, on the campus and in the bosses’ militaries. Most of all, we are preparing to turn the next big war into class war for communist revolution. Join us!☺

# Health Workers, Students Fight Criminal Injustice System

**WASHINGTON DC, March 14** — Over 40 public health workers and students attended an anti-racist gathering today. It was led by three Black workers who addressed disparities in mental health and solitary confinement for incarcerated Black and Latin workers, racism and police terror, and the upcoming arbitration hearing in June on the DC transit system's racist background checks.

During the discussion period, people denounced capitalism and the profits it makes from prison slave labor. Others condemned the arrests in Ferguson, and called for a fight for jobs. One Progressive Labor Party (PLP) member declared that mass incarceration, generated by the war on drugs — a war on Black workers — jailed tens of thousands of young Black men to take potential militant fighters off the street.

PLP members met many new students, workers, and health professionals. Ten signed up to help on the Metro campaign against racist background checks and to join the upcoming conference on mass incarceration, mental health, and homelessness.

Earlier, on February 28, a PLP leader and a friend of the Party addressed 100

students at the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) convention session on mass incarceration and the history of racist oppression. The students responded with enthusiasm to the presentation and vigorously discussed strategies to organize against racism. Students in Maryland had organized a social justice discussion group while others organized medical student "die-ins" to oppose racist murders by cops. Local students as well as those from other states gave their contact information for anti-racist campaigns in health care. The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) chapter at George Washington University (GWU) organized a "die-in" and sponsored programs to train student activists.

For the past two years the Disparities Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association (MWPCHA) has been campaigning against Metro's background-check policies. The organization has been fighting to get former prisoners hired and not fired. PLP members have been important in this work. The issue has become well-known in DC and now the leaders of MWPCHA and the GWU School of Public Health have joined in activities to broaden the struggle.

During the upcoming National Public Health Week in April, the Dean of the School of Public Health at GWU will speak on mass incarceration. In the coming fall, MWPCHA's annual conference will focus on Incarceration, mental health and homelessness. The Public Health Student Association (PHSA) will also present a session on grass roots organizing. They have invited a PLer to speak.

Members of AMSA, SNMA, and PHSA are planning to work together on these issues. This will be an important step towards multi-racial unity and student health activism.

Despite these encouraging developments, a sharper discussion of capitalism and the need for communist revolution must develop with the many antiracist workers and students who have participated in our work. Capitalism cannot be reformed. Communism is the way to abolish the ills of this racist society. These truths must be raised more clearly in our forums, so that we can offer the vision of a communist society to the broad masses.

PLP is launching a study group with many of these new activists to address these points. We want these new activists to join the Party, participate in May

Day on May 2 in New York City, and to come to the national American Public Health Association Meetings this fall to build on these struggles with the Radical Public Health students in Chicago (see CHALLENGE, 3/11).

## Fight Racism in Public Health and Medicine

The rebellions stemming from the Ferguson and Staten Island police murders have made an impact on the thinking of medical and public health organizations around the country. Take a look at these two items from the New England Journal of Medicine to get an idea of the opportunities from struggle that PL health workers can embrace:

"#BlackLivesMatter — A Challenge to the Medical and Public Health Communities", <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1500529>

"Bias, Black Lives, and Academic Medicine", <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1500832>

PLP comrades should entwine communist politics into this anti-racist movement.✊

# Teacher Fightback Shows Need for Communism

**LOS ANGELES, February 26** — Fifteen thousand teachers and supporters rallied in front of Los Angeles City Hall today to demand smaller class sizes, full staffing in the schools, and salary increases. Class sizes in regular subjects are now around 42 students per class, up to 55 in some specialty subjects.

Many schools have nurses only two days a week, and counselors are asked to take up to 500 students each semester. Working-class Black and Latin parents in segregated schools are unable to supplement the school budget, and students are hit even harder. Extremely segregated schools and decades of racist policies against Black and Latin schools and communities, have resulted in large disparities in education and an excuse for the bosses to continue super-exploiting the Black and Latin working class.

All of this has angered students, parents and teach-

ers. Many are ready to fight back. The teachers' union is using this righteous anger to "bargain for a better contract" with the school district. As usual, they are attempting to divert our anger away from our true enemies — the ruling class and the racist, exploitative system of capitalism — and focus it on getting a pay raise and possibly a few concessions, such as 39 students per class.

Instead of encouraging workers to strike and directly confront the ruling class, they are going through a long and arduous process set up to erode our power as workers. After bargaining, we are being told that there has to be "mediation," then "fact-finding," and only then can we strike. By then, the school year will be over. The union is also calling for boycotts of faculty meetings to vent teacher anger and head off a strike. We are going to channel their anger and organize rallies on campus

and build up our revolutionary work in the schools.

A PLer at the school has been building the party here and has recruited one parent and is respected by her co-workers and students as an anti-racist fighter. CHALLENGE readers at the school don't yet see communist politics as critical to the struggle. We plan to spend more time talking to them on and off campus about why communism is the solution.

We are going to have weekly gatherings after school called "Fight Back Fridays," where we socialize and discuss organizing struggles in school. Over time, we want to convert this, or separately establish, a study-action group that discusses CHALLENGE and plans how we can use the reform struggle as a school for communism.✊





# Fascism! Define It to Defeat It

Most working people have heard of Hitler and Nazi Germany, and the concentration camps like Auschwitz, which occurred under fascist rule in Germany. Workers in the United States will have definitely heard of the Ku Klux Klan's reign of terror, and witnessed the police terror unleashed on Black workers in Ferguson, Missouri and in cities across the U.S. Klan and police terror, like the Nazis, reveal capitalism's true face, with the mask of capitalist democracy removed. "Fascism," a word that is used often and rarely defined, is a vital concept that enables us to understand capitalist rule in its most racist, violent form.

Fascism is the open, naked rule of capitalism, a type that the capitalist ruling class turns to in times of crisis when their sham democracy no longer can serve their needs. Today fascism is increasing around the world, and the Progressive Labor Party is organizing the international working class to defeat it with communist revolution!

## Imperialist Rivals Use War to Become Top Dog

Imperialist war, racism, sexism and global devastation are business-as-usual for the capitalist class. Contrary to what hypocritical politicians say, competing capitalist factions and competing imperialist powers must use military and police violence in vying to control the world's natural resources and position themselves to become the world's top dog imperialist power.

Fascism results from a type of crisis that is specific to the capitalist rulers. Each country's capitalist class contains many factions, representing capitalists who derive their profits from different groups of banks and industries. The rivalries between different imperialist

country sharpens (as for example, the current U.S. rulers' desperate struggle to maintain control over Middle Eastern oil resources). At the same time, the internal rivalry between capitalist factions in each imperialist power also sharpen. The usual form of capitalist "democracy" breaks down. (Take for example the current government paralysis reflecting the fight between the older finance capital and Big Oil, which supported Obama and the newer upstart capitalists led by the Koch brothers who created and support Tea Party forces.)

Many severe problems plagued the ruling class of Germany in the 1920s and early 1930s. Following its defeat in World War I, the German economy was in shambles. Millions of workers, including war veterans, were unemployed or desperately struggling. As the volatile post-war German economy sank, work became increasingly scarce, runaway inflation made money worthless and massive strike waves rocked the country.

## Bolshevik Revolution Inspired Millions

Even worse for the German ruling class was the creation of a communist-led working-class state in 1917, the Soviet Union, which inspired millions of workers in Germany. Many began looking to the Communist Party of Germany for political leadership, even to the point of staging a revolt and declaring a short-lived Soviet Republic in Bavaria in 1918.

The largest political party in Germany at the time was the liberal Social-Democratic Party (SPD), which declared itself on the side of the working class in speeches and in election campaigns to earn the loyalty and votes of the working class. Behind the scenes, the pro-capitalist SPD leadership regularly met

with representatives of the German banks and industries like Deutsche Bank, steel giants Thyssen and Krupp, Volkswagen, the pharmaceutical monopoly I.G. Farben (Bayer), and other companies still around today. This dominant section of the German capitalist class became increasingly concerned throughout the 1920s that the SPD would be unable to control the working class and prepare it for another imperialist war.

Throughout this time, Adolf Hitler was busy organizing right-wing, nationalist World War I veterans, small shopkeepers and business owners to build a movement called the "National Socialist German Workers' Party," or Nazis. The Nazi movement had nothing to do with socialism, workers' power, or the Soviet Union. Very few actual German workers belonged to the Nazi Party before the 1930s. The Nazis blamed immigrants, Jews, and the Communist Party for betraying Germany.

## Hitler's Bosses: Ditch Social Democrat, Destroy Communists

In private speeches made to the German capitalists, Hitler persuaded the biggest bosses that their strategy of using the Social Democrats to control the working class was failing. Militant strikes and the growing Communist Party's relentless attacks on the Social Democratic Party as tools of the German ruling class increased capitalist rulers' fear that workers in Germany would follow the example of workers in the Soviet Union. Hitler declared that Germany's solution lay in following fascist Italy's lead: ditching the liberal Social Democrats, violently destroying the Communist Party and all trade unions and workers' organizations, to terrorize and discipline the working

class into obedience.

Not every faction of the German ruling class went along with Hitler's proposals, but when the liberal Social Democrat-supported Chancellor legally appointed Hitler the new Chancellor of Germany in 1933, the Nazis, with the backing of Germany's largest banks and industries, arrested the heads of those businesses that refused to cooperate. The German ruling class was brought into line first.

Then, the Nazis turned their attention to the working class by first destroying its most powerful organization, the Communist Party. The communists were the first to go into the concentration camps and the first inside the gas chambers. Once the Communist Party and its supporting organizations were smashed, the Nazis were free to round up trade unionists, Jews, homosexuals, the handicapped, Christians, Romanis, and immigrant groups — even workers associated with the Social Democratic Party, all to be used as slave labor or, later, sent to the death camps like Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, and Dachau.

The Nazis eventually launched a war of annihilation against the first workers' state, the Soviet Union. Bosses in the United States and Europe armed the Nazis to the teeth and pinned their hopes on them to defeat the Soviets. However, it was millions of communist women and men organized by the Soviet Union who ultimately beat the Nazis all the way back to Berlin. The Soviet Union also led the communist resistance movement's fight against fascism all over the world, and during that time was a beacon of hope for workers on every continent.

*Continued on page 5*

# Israel Elections: Smash Racist State with Workers' Revolution

**TEL-AVIV, March 17** — Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister since 2009 (and before that between 1996 and 1999) was re-elected once more to the office of prime minister. This open fascist servant of the U.S. billionaire Sheldon Adleson won the election by warning his voters that "Arabs are going to the polls en-masse." This racist ploy drove many racist Israelis to vote for him rather than the competing right-wingers, bringing him a victory against the Zionist Camp — the so-called "left-wing" party based on the old Labor party and elements of the now-defunct Kadima list.

Racism runs rampant on both sides

of the Zionist political map: both the Netanyahu camp with their open anti-Palestinian propaganda, as well as the so-called "Left" of the Zionist movement. The Israel foreign minister Lieberman said that Arab Israel critics should be beheaded. Various people in the orbit of the Labor Party, such as the "publicist" Yair Garbuz, expressed their dissatisfaction with their party's failure to win the election in blatantly racist terms about the "primitive Mizrahi [Middle Eastern] Jews who kiss Mezuzoth and worship talismans. Another racist, Prof. Amir Hezroni, even told a Mizrahi woman who came to an interview alongside him that

"it would have been better if her parents were left to rot in Morocco." This election allowed all Zionists to show their true faces: they are racist pawns of U.S. imperialism, who hate the working class.

Many people on the Israeli left were very dissatisfied with the results of these elections. But we as communists point out to our friends that we should not despair when one bosses' stooge is beaten by another bosses' stooge. Even if Herzog (Zionist Camp) would have won the elections, we would still face the same tax hikes, budget cuts and growing wars, not to mention a continued siege of Gaza.

## Election = Bosses' Stooges Fight It Out

Netanyahu is the servant of the U.S. billionaire Sheldon Adleson, it is true. But Herzog is similarly the slave of local bosses such as the press tycoon Arnon Moses, owner of the Yediot Ahronot newspaper, as well as a servile lackey of the Rockefeller wing of U.S. capitalists.

The elections were a fight between racist bosses. We workers have no side in this fight, and should instead focus on the

real fight for working-class emancipation and an end to Zionist apartheid in Israel-Palestine. We also point out that approximately four million Palestinians who live in areas under de-facto Israeli military rule are not allowed to participate in these phony elections; the rulers decide who is allowed to vote and who counts the votes and then boast about how their country is a "democracy" where one-third of the population they lord over is not allowed to vote in the capitalist elections.

We tell workers that the road for liberation is communist revolution. We must build a mass working-class movement encompassing workers of all ethnic backgrounds — Ashkenazi Jews, Mizrahi Jews, Palestinian-Arabs, immigrants, and refugees.

The ruling class has only racism to offer. They intensify their attack on our class, imprisoning hundreds of refugees in a so-called "open residential facility" in Holot (i.e., a prison camp) without trial; they murder hundreds of Palestinians in Gaza. They prepare Jewish workers for more and more imperialist wars to kill and be killed for the bosses' glory and profits.

Our answer is to build a unified workers' movement for the liberation of our class. It is time we organize to kick out this rotten system of war and oppression and replace it with a communist system which will serve our class.✊



# NYPD's 'Strategic Response Group': One More Step To Fascism

**NEW YORK CITY** — Never let it be said that the liberal politicians and their appointees don't serve the needs of the ruling capitalist class as well as or better than the conservatives. William Bratton, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's choice for police commissioner, is a perfect example of this.

Under capitalism, we are taught that the job of the police is to protect "society" from serious crime. But because capitalism is based on the exploitation of a large group of workers by a tiny minority of bankers and bosses, the rulers need a group of armed cops to help them enforce their aims. The real role of the police is to protect private property and serve the capitalists. This includes using terror to intimidate sections of society which are dissatisfied with the status quo of a few billionaires dictating to the rest of us.

## Mass Protests Hit Cops' Racist Murders

In the wake of an epidemic of police killings, a mass upsurge of protests engulfed NYC, the whole U.S. and the world. Mass hatred of racist murders by the cops, and class love for our brothers

and sisters who were struck down, provided the spark for this movement. In response, Bratton recently announced a two-pronged program to "fight terrorism and improve community relations" (NY Times 1/30/15). Under this program, the NYPD "will spend more time visiting with community members to learn their concerns." The idea here is to win workers to side with the cops in the sharpening debate over racist police terror.

At the same time, the NYPD will create a "heavily armed unit to patrol the city and to respond to large-scale events, such as protests or terrorist attacks" called the Strategic Response Group (SRG). Cops assigned to the unit "would be equipped with heavy protective gear and machine guns and receive advanced training in counterterrorism tactics and "advanced disorder control" (NYT, 1/30). Workers must see this for what it is: a dangerous move by the NYC bosses.

Remember, it was Bratton who claimed that anti-police brutality demonstrators were partly responsible for the murder of two cops in Brooklyn by a mentally unstable man who later committed suicide back in December (NY

Post, 12/22/14). It was Bratton and de Blasio who blasted demonstrators' calls for the death penalty for Darren Wilson, the cop who murdered Mike Brown in Ferguson, MO., and for the Staten Island cops who killed Eric Garner.

The openly fascist SRG unit is not mainly designed to go after ISIS supporters in the U.S.

From the rulers' point of view, in order to create a larger base of support for imperialist war, they need to paint workers from the Middle East and South Asia as the enemy. And if they can win workers to equate militant rebellion against racist conditions in the U.S. with "terrorism," so much the better for them.

## Bosses Equate Anti-Racist Rebellion with 'Terrorism'

But the reality is — under the cover of "the fight against terrorism" — the SRG is an attack on militant anti-racists and communists who give leadership to those fighters. By lumping "protests" with "disorder control" and then with "terrorism," Bratton & Co. continue to implement the ruling-class strategy of using "homeland security" to justify fascist measures.

While the cops, the politicians, and the big bosses who stand behind them continue to use a "carrot-and-stick" approach, make no mistake that the last thing the U.S. ruling class needs as they prepare for war against their imperialist rivals is a vibrant, growing anti-racist movement that is challenging the whole nature of policing under a viciously racist capitalist system. However, the rulers are going all out to try to pacify or buy off as many workers as they can with reforms and politicians. But they are holding their rabid dogs for when they need them to crush any future uprisings against police terror, mass racist unemployment, poverty wages and lousy working conditions. SRG is a step towards that.

Although our numbers may be small now, the ideas of PLP have broad appeal to the masses. Workers who have fought back have earned the bosses' wrath. But the bosses' attempt to clamp down on dissent will backfire, exposing what their "democracy" really means for workers. Join the fight against racist police terror by joining the fight for communist revolution.✊

# Fascism! Define It to Defeat It



The Red Army plants the communist flag over Berlin's Reichstag building in May 1945. The Soviet Union under Stalin defeated the fascists in World War II. Celebrate the power of the working class at PLP's 50 anniversary this May Day (see backpage).

## Continued from page 4

### U.S. Bosses Supplied Gas for Nazis' Ovens

Communists defended the working class against fascist violence and racist terror at the same time as capitalist leaders like Henry Ford (U.S. auto boss) made under-the-table deals with Hitler to share fascist-made profits. U.S. chemical companies sold Germany the poison

gas for use in genocidal gas chambers. While the failures of the old communist movement, including its fight for socialism which retained wages and inequality, eventually allowed capitalism to be restored in every socialist country, those failures do not detract from the courageous sacrifices of millions of communists and their friends in the fight to defeat fascism's terror.

Fascism is not something unique to

Germany, or any other country. It grows out of capitalism. Many capitalist countries like the U.S., members of the European Union, South Africa have a democratic facade, where some workers are allowed certain amounts of freedom. But, in truth, *all* workers live under a dictatorship of the capitalist class. Fascism is not different from capitalism. It is a tactic that the capitalist class uses to stay in power and maintain its class dictatorship over the working class.

Communism is the opposite of fascism. Communism means the dictatorship of the working class. After the working class has overthrown the capitalist class and abolished wages and money, the workers will run society for the good of the workers, and protect it with force to prevent the capitalists from ever regaining power. This is what Progressive Labor Party fights for.✊



# LETTERS

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

## Transit Workers Need Unity with Riders, Not Cops

The 3/25 CHALLENGE bus driver article exposes the fact that operators are charged for accidents that kill people while cops walk away from racist murders. This is hypocritical because when cops murder working-class youth, such as Akai Gurley in Brooklyn, the bosses label these incidents as accidents.

In 2013, 176 pedestrians were killed in traffic “accidents.” Now the Transport Workers Union (TWU) misleaders are equating bus drivers with cops by demanding that drivers — “just like cops” — should be exempt from charges in pedestrian deaths in traffic “accidents.” But bus operators who drive “often with faulty equipment” are completely different from the cops who murdered Gurley and Eric Garner. Racist cops who kill Black and Latin workers and youth are definitely “doing their jobs,” making their arrest quotas and terrorizing the working class. However, when transit workers are forced to “play by the bosses’ rules,” it means ignoring safety laws in the rulebook, safety that workers fought for and won after many workers and riders were killed.

The bosses’ exemption for cops means not charging them for racist murders. If bus drivers are forced to ignore safety laws in the rulebook leading to traffic “accidents,” it is the bosses who are guilty of these deaths, not the bus drivers.

Transit workers should not be looking for unity with cops — who are not part of the working class — but should be organizing to refuse to operate unsafe vehicles and drive at unsafe speeds in crowded streets just to keep to a schedule. Most transit workers killed and injured on the job were playing the bosses’ cross-cutting game of ignoring the rulebook to prevent being harassed by management. The only time the safety rules are enforced occur during rare rulebook slowdowns used by the sellout union to pressure the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA).

Older transit workers remember conductor Joe Carnegie and the Rank-and-File transit committee and their newsletter which fought for Black and Latin representation in the TWU. The Rank-and-File demanded that the Wall Street bondholders who created the MTA be responsible for all fare increases and to remove that issue from politics. The MTA however pitted the riding public against transit workers.

PLP should be organizing transit workers towards unity with the riding public like opposing the four percent fare hike on 3/22/15 which will increase the 40 percent New York City poverty rate of mostly Black and Latin workers. Demand that billionaire bondholders, real estate and department stores pay for the transit system, without which they wouldn’t make any profit. And PLP should unite with transit workers who resist the bosses and the TWU.

★ ★ ★ ★

## CHALLENGE Readers Correct Political Error

I wrote a letter in the 2/11/15 issue of CHALLENGE that contained an important error. I want to thank the authors of the two responding letters in the 2/25/15 and 3/11/15 issues, who both corrected my error. I also want to apologize for my carelessness in making that misstatement. Here is what I said:

First, [an article in the 1/24/15 issue of CHALLENGE] implies that whatever capitalism needs it has the ability to create. While this is true of many ruling class policies, such as imperialist military efforts or racist and brutal police forces that are uncontrollable by the communities they patrol, unemployment is not a policy [my emphasis].

With the help of the two responders, I now see that unemployment is indeed a policy of the ruling capitalist class, at least in part. When unemployment gets too low (i.e., when too many workers have jobs), the Federal Reserve (the Fed), which is a govern-



ment-appointed institution, is able to increase the unemployment rate deliberately through manipulation of interest rates and/or the money supply (monetary policy). I missed that point.

However, just to clarify for other readers what has now become clarified for me, there were two independent points in my original letter. The first point was that there are unintended outcomes of decisions made by individual capitalists, over which they have little or no control and that occur despite their wishes. This point was affirmed by the two responders. The second (erroneous) point was that unemployment is one of those unintended outcomes. While the unemployment rate is still partly the unintended result of individual capitalist decisions, that rate can also be deliberately manipulated to some extent by the Fed, a capitalist institution.

It is vital that all of us understand the first point (i.e., there are outcomes over which the rulers have no control) and not let it get lost in the debate. It is vital because it underscores the fact that the capitalist ruling class is not all-powerful. That is, while it controls the state at every level, there are limits to its power. We need to understand its total control over the state to know what we are up against and to avoid falling into the ruling-class-fostered myth that power lies in the hands of the “people.” But at the same time we need to understand that there are limits to its control over our class, because if we think that together we are powerless to change this system, we are lost before we begin.

Marx and Engels first noticed, and made the point a century and a half ago, that the state is wholly the instrument of ruling classes throughout the history of class-divided societies. The rulers, on the other hand, push the myth that the state is neutral in the face of disputes between bosses and workers in order to hide their (the bosses’) control over it. But Marx also made the point that, among other outcomes, the capitalists unintentionally create their own grave diggers in the form of the working class. For example, there are things that result from the very workings of capitalism that are against the interests of the capitalists. Both aspects are vital for us to understand if we are to succeed in ridding ourselves of the most vicious and exploitative system in

the history of the world.

Together, once millions are organized under communist leadership, the working class of the world will not only be able to challenge the capitalist classes for power, but we will also be able to ultimately succeed in this challenge. The Soviet and Chinese revolutions of the 20th century gave a glimpse of this collective power of the working classes, even if inevitable errors led to their reversion to capitalism — for the time being. Errors, like my own, are inevitable, but we often learn more from our errors than from our successes.

★ ★ ★ ★

## Kingsman Secret Service: So Bad

I walked out of the film Kingsman: The Secret Service after 30 minutes, it was so bad.

The film is simply a marketing appendage for a video game. Every scene in the film resembles a scene from a game. At regular intervals there are scenes where the “hero” has to make a choice — evidently places where the player has to push a button.

There are continual in-your-face sequences that are bewildering and aggressive, like something out of the Guantanamo torture camp.

The ideology of the film is thoroughly fascist, from the opening scenes, where an Afghan prisoner is tortured with death threats, to the scene where the “hero” is interrogated in a bare gray underground interrogation cell. There were other fascist scenes, such as when the “hero”’s stepfather tortures him. The stepfather threatened to cut his throat with a meat cleaver to obtain information about the secret order, funded by the wealth of bourgeois and aristocratic World War I “martyrs” and dedicated to maintaining British imperialist “peace and order.”

On top of all this, the “hero” is caught up in an Oedipus complex (“sanitized” by his wanting to kill his stepfather instead of his “martyred” biological father) in order to give the film emotional punch.

★ ★ ★ ★

## CORRECTION

In the March 25 issue, the obituary on page 6 left out our comrade’s last name. The memory of Ruth Lessuck will live on in our struggle for communism.

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# From May Day to Mexico: Fight to Destroy Capitalism

**NEW YORK CITY, March 18** — I joined several comrades at the City University of New York Graduate Center to hear a professor from Mexico. He was representing the parents of the 43 students from a rural teachers college who were kidnapped in September 2014 and never found. Since tens of thousands of disappeared people have turned up dead in the last decade, the parents dread they will never see their children again.

The teachers college, in the town of Ayotzinapa in the state of Guerrero, admits students from poor backgrounds, trains them to become teachers, and sends them back to their community to educate others. The college views teachers not simply as transmitters of knowledge, but as agents of social change who will join with workers and peasants to demand a better life. When they were kidnapped, these students had been rallying for more funding for their college, just as students and faculty at CUNY are demanding more funding now.

What I found most admirable about the professor's talk were his repeated calls for a revolution in Mexico to — in his words — “end the exploitation of man,” referring to the corporations and the politicians who serve them. He said the parents had no faith in any of the bourgeois political parties and that all of them “should be dumped in the trash can.”

On May 4, 1886, in what led to the first May Day, 80,000 workers marched down Michigan Avenue to Haymarket Square in Chicago to demand a reduction in their workday from ten hours to eight with no loss of pay. We're often told that people can't change. But one of the leaders of that march was Albert Parsons, who as a teenager had fought for the Confederacy — that is, he'd fought for slavery, on the opposite side of Harriet Tubman. After the war, however, Parsons moved to Texas, worked with ex-slaves and dramatically changed

his outlook. He became an advocate for equal rights for former slaves. He also married a former slave, Lucy, who became an important radical activist in her own right.

Albert Parsons was among four trade union leaders hung in 1887 after being falsely convicted of throwing a bomb at the Haymarket Square rally. He was targeted because he was a well-known socialist and anarchist who edited *The Alarm*, a newspaper whose banner headline read: “Workingmen of All Countries, Unite!” In the week before he was executed, Parsons advised his followers, “Lay bare the inequities of capitalism; expose the slavery of law; proclaim the tyranny of government; denounce the greed, cruelty, abominations of the privileged class who riot and revel on the labor of their wage-slaves.”

Like the students and teachers in Mexico, Albert and Lucy stood for something more than reforms. They believed in bringing to birth a new society, one that would end class exploitation — a society where we share the fruits of our labor.

A friend of mine is one of the hardest-working, most determined young people I know. Tragically, her mother died when she was young and her life has not been easy. Yet she's worked hard and well as an Emergency Medical Technician. She would like to go to college and get her degree, but it's been difficult for lack of money and time. When we talk about a new society — a communist society — we're talking about one where everyone has the right to a life-long education, to decent housing, to proper food and health care. These won't be commodities for sale; they will be basic human rights. Socially-needed work will be shared, to give everyone the opportunity

to learn and to teach. Racist and sexist practices will be abolished, and we'll erase those capitalist-created lines called borders.

There will be two May Days this year in New York City. The first will be on Friday, May 1, and it will demand some worthwhile reforms. But in the end, all reforms to capitalism are inadequate bandages on a system of festering wounds. The Progressive Labor Party understands that radical surgery is necessary. The following day — Saturday, May 2 — PLP will lead a rally and march in Flatbush, Brooklyn, to put forward our vision of the classless, egalitarian society so urgently needed by the workers of the world. Join us!✊



## 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

### Israel: Leading example of capitalism's Ills

NYT, 3/16 — [Israeli] Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [s]...real purpose of that speech [to the U.S. Congress] was to distract the Israeli electorate with saber-rattling bombast...from...economic discontent...

...Israel has experienced a dramatic widening of income disparities. Key measures of inequality have soared; Israel is right up there with America as one of the most unequal societies in the...world....

...The share of Israel's population living on less than half the country's median income — a widely accepted definition of relative poverty — more than doubled to 20.5 percent...between 1992 and 2010. The share of children in poverty almost quadrupled to 27.4 percent....Both numbers are the worst in the advanced world by a large margin....Children growing up in such families will surely be placed at a permanent disadvantage....

...There is an extreme concentration of wealth and power among a tiny group of people at the top....According to the Bank of Israel, roughly 20 families control companies that account for half the total of Israel's stock market....

...Israel does less to lift people out of poverty than any other advanced country....

Meanwhile, Israel's oligarchs owe their position...to...gaining control of businesses that the government privatized in the 1980s — and they...retain that position...by having undue influence over government policy, combined with control of major banks....

...Netanyahu...[is]....an advocate of free-market policies; he has a...penchant for living large at taxpayers' expense, while clumsily pretending otherwise.

### U.S. racist mass imprisonment generates a public health catastrophe

NYT, 11/27/14 — When public health authorities talk about an epidemic, they are referring to a disease

that can spread rapidly...like the flu or tuberculosis.

But...the term [is] useful in understanding another destructive, and distinctly American, phenomenon — mass incarceration. This four-decade binge poses one of the greatest public health challenges of modern times, concludes a new report...by the Vera Institute of Justice.

...People in prison are among the unhealthiest members of society. Most come from impoverished communities where chronic and infectious diseases...are present at much higher rates than in the general population. Health care in those communities also tends to be poor or non-existent.

...Being locked up — ...often involves dangerous overcrowding and inconsistent or inadequate health care — exacerbates these problems or creates new ones....[In] the criminal justice system.... the collapse of institutional psychiatric care and the surge of punitive drug laws have sent millions of people to prison, where they rarely, if ever, get the care they need....More than two-thirds of inmates have a substance abuse problem, compared with about 9 percent of the general public.

Common prison-management tactics...turn even relatively healthy inmates against themselves....People held in solitary confinement are up to seven times more likely than other inmates to harm themselves or attempt suicide.

The report also highlights the “contagious” health effects of incarceration on the...communities more of the 700,000 inmates reach year will return to. When swaths of young, mostly minority men are put behind bars, families are ripped apart, children grow up fatherless and poverty and homelessness increase. Today 2.7 million children have a parent in prison....

...Laws...keep punishing people after they have been released from prison, like denying public housing and food stamps to those with drug felony convictions.

### U.S. capitalism became powerful and rich on the backs of slaves

NYT, 104/14 — Edward Baptist[s] “Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism” [is] an examination of both the economic innovations that grew out of the ever-shifting institution of slavery and the suffering of generations of people who were bought and sold....

Mr. Baptist shows the ways that new financial products, bonds that used enslaved people as collateral and were sold to bondholders in [U.S.] and abroad and enriched investors worldwide. He also emphasizes viciously enforced slave labor and migration. The cotton boom led planters to sell slaves — one million moved from old to new slave states from the 1790s to the 1860s. Productivity...came through punishment....

...His book casts unreimbursed labor as torture and Southern plantations as labor camps....He quotes exchanges between planters about the sexual exploitation of enslaved women....[In] a Maryland county...about 10 percent of enslaved people 16 to 25 were sold in an 18-month period....

...“The expansion of American capitalism [occurred] on the backs of enslaved human beings....In forced migration, survival was a kind of resistance in finding ways to stand in solidarity with each other and to write stories about themselves to say: This is a crime....”

“...Slave owners put mortgages on slaves as they bought them. Britain had abolished slavery, but you can essentially buy slaves by buying...those bonds....”

...The commodification and suffering and forced labor of African-Americans is what made the United States powerful and rich....

...The drive for profit exacerbated physical punishment and forced migration....

... [They] connected the dots among plantation labor, London bankers and Northern factories, and the creation of Ivy League universities....

...The Bank of the United States (in which federal funds were deposited) was lending money to slave traders. Planters would mortgage their slaves to raise money, and those mortgages were sold to investors....Huge increases in cotton-picking...see due almost entirely to violence against slaves....

...Baptist had advanced the story by connecting “the day-to-day violence of plantation labor to the largest macroeconomic questions of the West's economic takeoff in the 19th century.”

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG



# Students & Profs Gear Up for May Day

**NEW YORK CITY, March 17** — Monday night, my friends and I had a dinner and discussion about sexism. This is part of a series of study groups for college students leading up to May Day. We began by looking at clippings from ruling-class newspapers. One “news” article was about pop-star Taylor Swift insuring her legs for \$40 million. Another was about the systemic starvation of women in India, a country where kids are shorter, smaller, and more likely to be malnourished than the world’s poorest countries: Congo, Zimbabwe, or Somalia.

We then watched clips of PLP’s “The Fight against Sexism” educational documentary. We learned that sexism is the super-exploitation of women and the gendered division by the bosses for profit. It also includes the brutal ideas and practices that justify this oppression. Some target culture and religion as the origin. We agreed that human nature is not the cause of sexism.

We searched for the economic foundation of sexism: class society. There wouldn’t be unequal gender division of labor without such things as private property and surplus value. What became “women’s work” was free and cheap. Now, we have the division between unpaid work and paid work, which is the root of sexism. Raising the

next generation of workers and sustaining family units just enough to be exploited is a lot of work, and saves the bosses a lot of money.

Today, sexism equals profit. Capitalism isn’t the birthplace of sexism, but it has intensified the super-exploitation and oppression of women. Sexism helps the bosses to make their money. It has become the lifeblood of capitalism along with racism and all the other ills that capitalism breeds.

We also watched a clip about violence against women during the depression of the 1930s.

This clip helped us target the root of domestic violence, and violence against women in general, such as cuts on health-care, food stamps, and other social services.

One student commented how just a couple of years ago, he thought he couldn’t be with a woman who made more money than he did. However, being around the Party and his life experience has taught him the importance of uniting with women. He noted that, “Now, taking care of the kids, massaging her feet when she gets home after work, I could do that.”

The final clip we watched was about how feminism cannot defeat sexism. While well-intended people who consider themselves feminists are fighting for the equality of workers regardless of gender and sexual orientation, we asked what solution does feminism offer? We can elect Hillary Clinton as president. Or we can equalize exploitation to the same level as men workers.

Or, there is a better alternative than feminism.

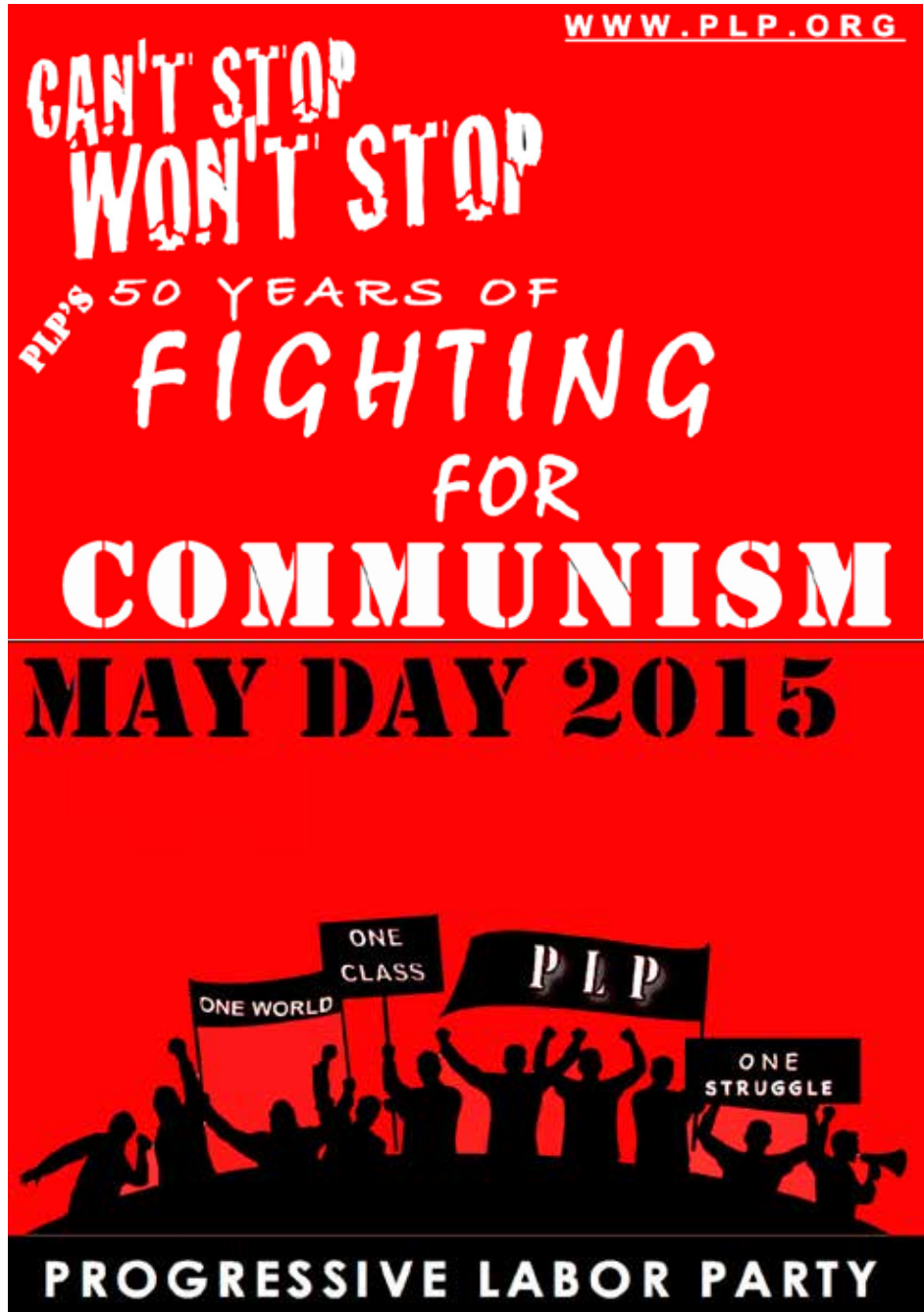
I don’t want to be associated with an ideology where Miley Cyrus, Bell Hooks, and Alexandra Kollantai can exist in the same sphere. A movement that could be diluted so that anyone no matter their class can identify with it, where the bosses can promote it, is a losing strategy for women workers. Feminism is a ruling-class movement that dilutes, muddies, avoids, or out-

We are getting ready for May Day! More than 30 people, including many City University New York (CUNY) professors and students, came to Astoria, Queens for a spirited radical cultural event this evening. It was a collective effort: members and friends of Progressive Labor Party prepared delicious food for dinner, helped set up, and provided amazing performances. We sang revolutionary songs celebrating anti-racist and militant workers struggles, we listened to powerful anti-racist poems from a young artist whose book of poetry has just been published, and we listened to the virtuoso guitar playing of a young comrade.

We watched a phenomenal one-woman performance of a short play about the life of Harriet Tubman, the courageous abolitionist who escaped slavery, but then returned to the South thirteen times to liberate 70 other slaves via the Underground Railroad. Tubman was an important figure in the great 19th century struggle against chattel slavery. She was an ardent friend and supporter of militant abolitionist John Brown, and she helped him prepare his attack on Harper’s Ferry, which was the opening shot in what would become the U.S. Civil War that decisively crushed the country’s slave regime. When Brown was hung, Tubman declared he had “done more in dying, than 100 men would in living.”

Today the struggle is to end capitalist wage slavery and to bring to birth a new society that isn’t based on class exploitation and profits. That was the dream of Albert and Lucy Parsons, the radical leaders of the first May Day march in 1886, when 80,000 workers marched down Michigan Avenue in Chicago on behalf of the eight-hour day. They advocated the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism.

Our May Day rallies and marches this year will carry on the hopes and aspirations of the Parsons and the millions of others who have fought hard for a communist society, which is needed today more than ever, as capitalist crisis pushes down the living standards of workers everywhere, from Greece to South Africa to Mexico. A comrade urged every one at the event to join PLP on Saturday, May 2 in marching along Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn on behalf of revolution and a communist future. We collected money for the May Day dinner, and our friends said they were looking forward to May 2.☺



right rejects a class analysis.

If we believe in an anti-sexist society, fight directly for communism. No half-way houses needed! One student commented, “I never understood how you could marginalize your power [by labeling men as the enemy]!”

Now the most important question remains: how do we combat sexism? Fight against the cuts in daycare at work? Wage a campaign against the rise of sexual violence on campus? Join the fight against police murders? Target the enemy: the administrators, the politicians, the school and hospital bosses, the cops, the state? Develop women leaders to lead mass struggle? The people around the table had a lot to think about.

Finally, I looked around and noticed the international quality of the dinner. We had mostly Black students from the Caribbean and Africa. We also had some-

one from Europe and South Asia.

One student was someone we met just four hours ago through a friend on campus during a CHALLENGE sale. After the study group, he said, “I vaguely knew a teacher in high school who had these communist ideas like you.”

We quickly figured out who that teacher was. “If you come to our retreat next weekend, you will be sure to meet him,” we said.

This just goes to show how the work our high school teacher did a decade ago had a profound effect on this youth, enough to identify communist politics years later through a chance encounter. Thank you to PL teachers who plant deep roots in working-class youth, for their work continues to bear fruit years later.☺

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