

CHALLENGE



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SCHOOL COMMUNITY UNITES FIGHT POLICE TERROR!

BROOKLYN, APRIL 1 — Working-class anger raged this week at our school as students, parents and teachers united against an attack on a student by both school “safety” cops and New York City cops.

The incident began last Thursday on March 26, as students were on the line to pass through metal detectors to get to class. One student was wearing a pair of glasses fastened with a straight pin to replace a missing screw, as he’d done for several weeks. The school cops told him the pin was a weapon and made him remove his glasses so they could confiscate it.

When the student reached for his glasses, three agents tackled and handcuffed him. After one agent claimed she’d been elbowed in the face, the student

was issued a summons for assault. When school security released him, he went to the principal’s office to write a statement about what had happened. As he was writing, several cops — not the school cops who are under the command of the New York Police Department (NYPD) — entered the office. They stated they were arresting him for assault, pushed past the principal, slammed the student’s head into the table and handcuffed him again.

‘Students, Not Prisoners’

While this attack is particularly disturbing, it reflects a pattern of racist police terror that we have been struggling against for a long time. Last fall, we held a town hall meeting to demand an end to police harassment of

our students as they leave school every afternoon. We also protested after the non-indictments of the police murderers of Mike Brown and Eric Garner.

After this latest incident of police terror, our student government and Parent Teacher Association sprang into action once again. Student government members, who were helping at parent-teacher conferences that night, quickly produced a button that read, “We are students, not prisoners.”

‘We Will Not Be Intimidated!’

By the next afternoon, we organized a protest during Friday’s early dismissal. An integrated group of parents, teachers and students picketed in front of

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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

War in Iran: Sooner or Later



"Peace is an extension of war by other means," said U.S. strategist Anthony Cordesman, referring to Barack Obama's shaky nuclear deal with Iran (Center for Strategic and International Studies website, 3/30/15). The agreement, which calls for Iran to scale back its nuclear program in exchange for a relaxation of sanctions, is a move toward war. While the deal may represent a temporary thaw in hostilities, the fact remains that U.S. bosses remain locked in an increasingly deadly struggle with China and Russia — the main backers of the Iranian regime — for control over the Middle East's vast energy wealth.

At the same time, U.S. capitalists are fighting among themselves over how best to curb Iran's influence in the Middle East. What they fear most is the encirclement and isolation of Saudi Arabia — the grand prize of U.S. imperialism for its oil fields — by Iran and its regional allies.

As the inter-imperialist conflict intensifies and the U.S. inevitably wages a broader war in the Middle East to protect its vital interests, workers will be the cannon fodder. The international working class has no stake in this capitalist competition. Our only solution is a communist revolution led by the Progressive Labor Party.

Buying Time

For the dominant wing of U.S. capitalism, Obama's Iran deal is a ploy to buy time until the bosses are ready for all-out invasion. When John Bolton, former UN ambassador under George W. Bush, wrote a New York Times Op-Ed column titled, "To Stop Iran's Bomb, Bomb Iran" (March 26), he was attacked for "criminal stupidity" by Harlan Ullman, a senior adviser at the Atlantic Council, a finance capital think tank. Ullman is no pacifist. He co-authored the Pentagon's "Shock and Awe" doctrine that guided the U.S. invasion of Iraq — and slaughtered thousands of civilians — in 2003. This doctrine stipulates the use of overwhelming force to undermine the enemy's will to fight.

Shock and Awe ultimately failed in Iraq because it did not anticipate the scale of anti-U.S. backlash, now exploited by the Islamic State (ISIS). But the U.S. bosses will do their best to apply the lesson of Iraq to Iran. As Ullman noted,

"We will have to take out a good portion of their air defenses and other conventional forces, and that is going to get a retaliatory series of strikes by Iran... We need to know what that's likely to be, and how we're able to deal with it, before we make a decision to go to war" (Newsmax, 3/27/15).

U.S. Capitalists Prepare for Onslaught

U.S. rulers are nowhere near prepared — politically or militarily — to take on Iran. But they are working on it. The Council on Foreign Relations, the leading think tank for U.S. imperialism, outlined a strategy that the hair-trigger Bolton would admire. Should Tehran drag its heels in shutting down its nuclear program on Obama's terms, the Council laid out a scenario for action:

In week one, the Security Council or the alliance of the willing would demand that Iran verifiably reverse itself within no more than two weeks. Failure to comply would result in week three's suspension of all interna-

tional commerce to isolate Iran's economy...Week five would bring the cessation of all commercial air and maritime travel to Iran to further isolate...Week seven, the partners would implement a Cuban missile crisis...Then, in week nine, the United States would lead air strikes to destroy all suspected nuclear sites...until Tehran opened its territory to international inspectors authorized to eliminate all nuclear contraband.

In preparation, Obama is beefing up anti-Iran firepower. As the Wall Street Journal reported, "the Pentagon has upgraded and tested the largest bunker-buster bomb in the U.S. arsenal...that could destroy or disable Iran's most heavily fortified nuclear facilities should a nuclear deal fall apart" (4/3/15). But doubts persist about the megabomb's effectiveness in destroying sites buried under mountains. Air Force generals concede that a successful hit would require the long-shot maneuver of "guiding two or more of the bunker busters to the same impact point, in sequence" (Wall Street Journal). In response, Obama is preparing for another plan. He has initiated a trillion-dollar modernization of the U.S. nuclear arms arsenal.

The dispute over when to bomb Iran — now or later — is already shaping the 2016 presidential race. Ted Cruz, the GOP's first announced candidate, has enlisted Bolton as an adviser. Jeb Bush, whose father and brother both led genocidal Middle East oil wars, has fallen afoul of pro-Israeli Sheldon Adelson, the arch-Zionist U.S. billionaire who wants to blast Iran tomorrow. Bush is following the counsel of James Baker, the ExxonMobil and JPMorgan Chase heir who applauds Obama's more measured approach and favors an eventual massive land war over air strikes. In 1991, as George H.W. Bush's secretary of state, Baker helped lead the 750,000-troop effort to "liberate" Kuwait for British Petroleum and Exxon. In 2007, advising George W. Bush, his Baker Institute engineered the bloody Iraq "surge" that Obama called a success "beyond our wildest dreams." As for Democratic hopeful Hillary Clinton, she voiced skepticism about Obama's latest maneuver by noting that "the onus is on Iran" (Washington Post, 4/5/15).

Workers of the World, Unite!

Regardless of which wing of the ruling class prevails in defining U.S. policy in Iran, the working class will pay the price in the bosses' fight for war-driven profits. Sooner or later, U.S. bosses will need ground troops to consolidate their oil interests in the Middle East. Using racism and nationalism, they'll do their best to win millions of working-class youth and workers to fight and support that war.

The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party has a different plan. We are organizing workers in the U.S. and worldwide to turn imperialist war into a war for communist revolution — and to smash the capitalist system for all time. On May 1 and May 2, PLP in the U.S. and around the world will commemorate May Day, marching for a society that will abolish imperialism, racism, sexism, poverty, and unemployment. We celebrate the power of the working class to one day run society in our collective class interests. Join us!✪

Spring Communist School

Youth Take Lead Building for Revolution

NEW YORK CITY, March 30 — The 2015 communist school was like every PLP communist school in that it provided an opportunity to learn from and to teach each other. But this year was special because it may have been our youngest in terms of the ages of those who attended. The school was mostly comprised of elementary, junior, and high school students. We learned the most from these students that weekend.

After hearing a criticism from them about their group's conversation being too simple, we struggled to improve it, to add to the content and analysis of the group. This goes to show that we should leave no one out of the revolutionary struggle and should not limit our organizing — we need the entire working class. Every worker and youth is able to understand communism. The school was an inspirational event for all (see letters on page 6).

The first night everyone naturally came together in the way only comrades do. And even when an issue arose regarding a certain bourgeois card game which some students were playing — and unsurprisingly had extremely terrible politics — the problem was highlighted, the criticism was made and the students switched to another game which was just as fun. Problem solving with communists is an efficient affair.

The next morning the collective came into action; the breakfast crew woke up before everyone else and made a delicious meal. After that, like clockwork, the cleanup crew tidied up. The communist school is an affirmation of the value of collective living, a small look into what the world we are fighting for might look like.

The first workshop discussed was the basics of

capitalism, but in particular the mechanisms of surplus value as well as the ways that bosses divide workers against each other. The group transformed into an envelope factory. Four comrades transformed into envelope workers and the rest of us, save two bosses, were unemployed, watching the terrible game of capitalism unfold. The “bosses” stole the labor value of every worker, exploited all of them and paid back in wages only the smallest percentage of the actual value that was produced. Furthermore the bosses also paid Black and women workers less, refused to pay undocumented workers at all and fired anyone who was dissatisfied with their wage, replacing them with someone from the crowd of unemployed.

After the workshop, which discussed the likeness and difference of slavery and wage slavery, two high school students taught us about the crisis of overproduction. Some important things that arose were that in order for capitalists to survive they must both exploit workers as much as possible and sell as much as possible. The problem for the bosses is that they sell mainly to workers, who are the very ones they exploit and many can't afford the very products they produce. This leads to a crisis of overproduction, leading to factory closings and mass layoffs.

A concept arising from the discussion that followed was of the redefinition of “necessity.” Capitalists are constantly wasting workers' creative minds, creating new things for us to waste our money on. They change how society works around these things in order to make them seem like a necessity. For example, smart phones: they are ridiculously expensive but everyone has one and society has been so tightly wound around their ex-

istence that it's difficult to function without one. Smartphones are made to be indispensable for workers, the bosses design them to break or become obsolete to impel people buy the next model. A larger example of the push to subordinate the working class to the needs of the capitalists: in the 1950s, the rulers built the suburbs and the interstate highway system to make cars an even greater necessity for workers.

After lunch, we went into the more hopeful and inspiring portion of the day: envisioning what communism will look like. We redefined the concepts of family, education, art, culture and the destruction of race and gender roles. We also envision what it would take to defend the revolution. We learned that education would involve everyone, both students and teachers, healthcare will be based on preventative measures and art and culture would be more communal and public. Ultimately the world would be a much more beautiful and collective place; every comrade would take care of each other.

Everyone at this school was reminded of why we're fighting for communism, why we've dedicated our lives to the struggle against capitalism. The liberation of the working class, and the fight for a dictatorship of the proletariat is a fight for a better world, a world that prioritizes human life. This communist school reignited us with an understanding of what we have to overcome and imparted a vision for what the future could hold. We all have something to contribute to the fight against oppression and we all will add to the vision of communism. But it won't happen unless we unite and fight, so join us and fight for communism!✊

Workers, Students Unite in Wage Struggle



HARLEM, April 1 — Twenty-five Columbia University (CU) students, along with some City University students and fighters from the local St. Mary's church, marched to the McDonald's on 125th Street and Broadway, and rallied today. Workers there are demanding a wage increase to \$15 per hour. By exposing the racist bosses and their drive for profit, there is potential in this struggle to win students and workers to fighting for a communist world.

Worker-Student Solidarity

This action was in alliance with the national campaign by United Students Against Sweat Shops (USAS). Under nationwide pressure, McDonald's has agreed to a measly \$1 above minimum wage hike. This increase doesn't even apply to 90 percent of its stores, which are franchises. The new CEO of McDonald's, Stephen Easterbrook, just got a base-pay increase to \$1.1 million, while his predecessor Don Thompson will rake in \$3 million in cash for “consulting services.” And his predecessor, Jim Skinner, raked in \$10.2 million cash upon retiring in 2012. Meanwhile, the average wage slave at a fast-food restaurant makes \$18,880 per year.

CHALLENGES were distributed. Two workers from St. Mary's spoke about their experiences fighting racist employment. Students cheered! A retired teacher recalled the victorious 1968 student-and-worker struggle

to prevent CU taking over a park in Harlem.

A larger action, involving students from the whole city, is planned on the CU campus on April 15, beginning with a march from City College at 3 PM.

Unite Under One Banner of Communism

The CU students were from the campus Student Worker Solidarity group, which supports campus workers in their struggles against benefit cuts and other abuses. The students recognize the importance of building student-worker solidarity on campus and in the neighborhood. This is especially important as racist CU is involved in a new massive expansion into Harlem, which has cost housing and jobs in this mainly working-class Black and Latin neighborhood. CU not only made false promises to provide jobs and job training to local residents, but also backed the massive police raids on local housing projects in which 103 young people were arrested in June 2014. Most still remain in jail.

There has been a lot of student organizing at CU recently: calling for divestment from private prison investments and polluting industries; opposing mass incarceration and sexual harassment; and fighting for justice in Palestine, among other issues. The potential for a movement grows if these different groups unite, with workers on and off campus.

All issues need to be viewed as functioning aspects of capitalism that cannot be solved in isolation or within the system. This system needs racism and sexism in order to super-exploit and divide workers. It also needs prisons to intimidate and control those whom the system drives to desperation or rebellion. No amount of reforming and restructuring can eliminate the bosses' drive for profit, and universities' drive for indoctrinating students to accept a world with profit.

There is no such thing as a “fair wage.” Capitalism cannot survive without paying the lowest wages that workers will bear to make profits. By definition, a wage is the leftover part of total value returned to workers as income after most of it has been stolen as profit by the bosses. Furthermore, \$15-an-hour is certainly not enough to live on! We don't need bosses to run the system. In fact, the parasitic bosses need workers to survive. Imagine a world where workers make the decisions, without being motivated by wages or profit: communism.

Workers and students must make a life-long commitment to fighting capitalism. They must strive for a communist revolution to have hope of overcoming the injustices they so deeply care about. Marching on May Day on May 2 will help them see that masses share and embrace this egalitarian vision.✊

Students, Workers, Parents, Fight Racist Attacks

Continued from front page

school, demanding justice for the attacked student and the removal of scanners from our building. Over the weekend, parents met to organize observation of scanning for the following week. That Tuesday (3/31) we rallied outside the building's student entrance, where scanning takes place. Students linked the cop terror at their schools to murder of Black, Latin youth throughout the country. One student boldly stated in response to the increased presence of NYPD that morning, "we will not be intimidated!"

Officials Seek to Pacify

Throughout the week, suited officials from school cops and the NYPD were in and out of our school, trying to "solve" things by pacifying the protesters rather than improving the treatment of students or removing the metal detectors. At lunchtime Tuesday, in the wake of our second protest, four officials met with students to listen to their concerns about security.

Their "listening" consisted of trying to convince students that they need scanning to protect them. But most students see through this racist rhetoric. They know that only a small percentage of New York City schools have scanning, and virtually all of them are predominantly Black and Latin.

Neither the Department of Education nor the NYPD have any interest in removing metal detectors from our school, a mainly Black and Latin school in a mainly white, well-to-do neighborhood. They have a vested interest in keeping our students intimidated and forcing them to leave the area immediately after school.

As we left school for spring break Thursday (4/2) afternoon, we learned of the officials' intended solution for our school. The school's head cop and the three agents involved in the attack are being transferred to other schools, but not disciplined or reprimanded in any way.

Some may see this as a victory; we made enough noise for the racist NYPD bosses to want to placate us. But the school cops in question will be free to attack students at their next school, and the ones who replace them here will have the same training and agenda. These cops are used to intimidate and criminalize students. That will change only when we destroy capitalism and the cops with communist revolution.

The real victories are the lessons we have learned and the relationships we have built. Over the years, our school has struggled against police terror, budget cuts, and the co-location of an "elite," exclusive school in our building. Out of these struggles we have grown, and our fighting forces are stronger and more integrated than ever. This week we stood up to the system with a group of parents, teachers and students. We are men and women, young and old, Black, Latin, Asian and white. Now it is our job to turn this group for school reforms into dedicated fighters for communism!✊



Indiana Leads Attack on Working Class

After weeks of vocal protest, Indiana Governor Mike Pence has begun to walk back his bigoted "religious freedom" law, which sanctioned refusal of service to customers based on their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Sexist Attacks

Members of the homosexual and transgender population are frequently targeted in sexist campaigns for violating gender norms. Forced to the margins of society, these people make easy targets to enforce the sexist order. Their persecution in Indiana will reinforce the persecution of women while dividing a potentially united working class.

Women are always targeted by the sexist anti-abortion movement. On March 30, under a 2014 amendment to the state criminal code, a judge in Indiana sentenced Indian immigrant Purvi Patel to 20 years in prison for having a miscarriage and abandoning her stillborn fetus (NYT, 4/1). This year to date, 235 bills have been proposed around the country to limit abortion rights. Many seek to criminalize pregnant women as well as doctors and clinics that provide for women's health (RHRealityCheck, 3/31).

The attack on women is often intertwined with racism. In an atmosphere of surging anti-immigrant racism, Indiana has chosen Purvi Patel and Chinese immigrant Bei Bei Shuai to test the new law's limits precisely because they are Asian immigrants. Once precedent is set with these prosecutions, the attack will be extended to all women.

New Southern Strategy

Governor Pence's attack is an extension of the Republican Party's "Southern Strategy," a 50-year-old campaign to appeal to the most reactionary elements in capitalist society. The strategy uses racist and sexist attacks on the working class to roll back the social safety net while escalating police violence in poor neighborhoods.

Capitalism needs scapegoats for the misery caused by their system. This is the ultimate goal of the Southern Strategy: white workers fighting Black workers, men fighting women, native-born workers fighting immigrants, straight people fighting gay people.

In 1981, Republican strategist Lee Atwater summed up the strategy:

"You start out in 1954 by saying, 'n-----, n-----, n-----.' By 1968 you can't say 'n-----'—that hurts you. Backfires.

So you say stuff like forced busing, states' rights and all that stuff. You're getting so abstract now [that] you're talking about cutting taxes, and all these things you're talking about are totally economic things and a byproduct ... is [that] blacks get hurt worse than whites" (New York Times, 9/25/07).

Democrats quickly joined the game. In 1976, president Jimmy Carter vowed to protect "ethnic purity" in the U.S. and to oppose any mandate to integrate federal housing, a stand that helped him win the presidency. In 1992, Bill Clinton took time off from his campaign to fly back to Arkansas and personally oversee the execution of Ricky Ray Rector, a mentally handicapped Black man. The gambit helped to swing a large portion of the white vote and enabled Clinton to "end welfare as we know it" as president. In 2009, Barack Obama, feeding the myth of a "culture of poverty," castigated Black working-class youth for "aspiring to be the next LeBron or Lil Wayne" rather than scientists or engineers (Reuters, 7/16/09).

The U.S. bosses' effort to roll back the gains of the civil rights and labor movements has taken different forms over the last forty years. Black and Latin workers are gunned down in the streets by racist police — 111 people were murdered by police in March alone — or railroaded into a vast system of concentration camps. The U.S. prison and jail system, with more than two million inmates, holds the largest incarcerated population in the world.

During the economic crisis that began in 2008, 90 percent of U.S. workers have seen their income decline (EPI, 2/20/15). As banks were bailed out, workers lost their homes in record numbers. As the business community received record tax breaks and handouts, union membership has continued to decline. As salaries for top university administrators grow at a record pace, tuition hikes have created more than \$1 trillion in student debt. Workers are rightfully angry, but it remains an open question as to who they will blame for their troubles.

Mike Pence may have overstepped with his religious freedom law, at least for now. Pence has deferred to his masters in the Indiana business community by demanding revisions to put a humanitarian face on the law. But workers should not be fooled. Only a united working class can hope to challenge the capitalist class. Only a communist analysis can give us the tools workers need for unity.✊

'Katyn Memorial Day': Anti-Communist Fraud

April 13 is "Katyn Memorial Day." This is the day that Polish nationalists, and anticommunists everywhere, commemorate the alleged murder by the Soviet Union of 22,000 Polish prisoners of war in April to May 1940 in the Katyn forest.

And IT DID NOT HAPPEN!

This is an anticommunist lie. It was invented by the Nazis in 1943, and taken up by all the capitalist powers during the Cold War.

In 1990 to 1992 two fanatic anticommunists, Gorbachev and Yeltsin, "admitted" Soviet guilt.

I believed it myself for a few years. Then for a longer time I believed that "We just can't know — there's too much conflicting evidence."

But now we know that this story simply cannot possibly be true. Much of the evidence

for this conclusion is only available in Russian. One English-language article was published in August 2013:

"The 'Official' Version of the Katyn Massacre Disproven? Discoveries at a German Mass Murder Site in Ukraine."

<http://sdonline.org/62/the-official-version-of-the-katyn-massacre-disproven/>

No communists or pro-Soviet people made the discoveries that utterly disprove the "Katyn" story. Polish and Ukrainian archeologists did that. They found things they never expected to find, and certainly hoped no one would ever find.

And now they are keeping quiet about it. Yes, the Poles, the Ukrainians, and the Russians too, are keeping this secret. This, the biggest World War II-related discovery of the past several years, is simply hushed up, a real

"conspiracy of silence."

"Katyn Memorial Day", April 13, is a good day to tell the world:

"Stalin and the Soviets Are Not Guilty of Killing The 22,000 Polish POWs! They are innocent!"

This isn't going to stop the anticommunists. Of course not! Since when have anticommunists cared about the truth?

Capitalist Poland has spent at least \$500 million on hundreds of memorials all over Poland, and three of them in Russia. They aren't going to allow a little thing like historical truth spoil their wonderful anticommunist orgy!

So we should do our best to spoil it for them. Today is a good day to tell the world:

"The so-called 'Katyn Massacre' Is An Anticommunist Fraud!"

Spread the word!✊

Striking Oil Workers Open to Communist Ideas

I've been going to the B.P. Amoco picket line about every third day. I am a member of the United Steelworkers (USW) but not of their local. Other supporters from other locals have also come to the picket line. The striking refinery workers really appreciate this worker solidarity that brings into view the bigger picture of the struggle facing the working class as a whole. Like one picketer pointed out, "It is easy to honk your horn as you pass by, but it's something very different to stop and picket in bitter cold weather."

The oil industry in 2014 made over \$90 billion in profit. The workers know the history of Rockefeller and Standard Oil and know that they are up against a ruthless set of bosses. For example, the first demand the company made to the union was for it to cease being the bargaining unit of the workforce!

The refinery is loaded with outside contractors who are crossing the USW lines and are minimally qualified. Some of the contractors are union members, but their leaders claim that they have to honor previous contracts to do certain jobs. The USW is playing by the rules laid down by the bosses.

The USW has produced a sign reading "Solidarity is Strength." But the most obvious example of solidarity is the strikers themselves. All the strikers meet at the union hall right across from the plant. They are assigned particular

gates to picket. Drivers drop off and pick them up as needed. Hot food is always available at the union hall and canned goods are stockpiled there. Rank-and-filers put on a fundraiser of music and raffles to raise funds for the fightback and raised hundreds of dollars. Speakers called for keeping their rights and dignity on the job and won't go back without it.

The workers speak of the refinery being understaffed and unsafe. Often four workers are assigned to a job, two working 12 hours and the other two working 12 hours as their reliefs. But if someone takes off, the other two-crew members have to work 18 hours to cover for the missing crewmember. Morale and safety go out the window. Twenty-seven refinery workers have been killed and hundreds hurt in the past five years. Close calls are a frequent occurrence. They work with



highly explosive gases and chemicals. One fellow said that he has worked 12-hour days for 19 days in a row (see Red Eye, page 7 on bosses' risking workers' lives)!

The strikers are open to communist ideas. One worker upon learning that CHALLENGE was a communist paper said

that, "I have some communist leanings and I will check this out." Many good discussions were held and contacts made. A strike is a good opportunity for workers to see who are their friends and who are their enemies. We will stay involved and make communism clearer to these striking refinery workers. ☪

40th Anniversary of Boston '75 PLP Smashed Anti-Busing Racists

This summer marks the 40th anniversary of the Boston Summer Project, the first such project held by the Progressive Labor Party and its Party-led mass organization, the International Committee Against Racism (InCAR).

Forty years ago, Boston was one of the most segregated and racist cities in the country. The ruling class of Boston profited greatly from dividing workers along racial lines and many white workers bought into the racist ideas pushed by the politicians. It was dangerous for Black workers to enter all-white neighborhoods like Charlestown and South Boston. Black families who moved into white neighborhoods were attacked. Schools in Black neighborhoods were woefully underfunded and overcrowded; schools in working-class white neighborhoods were not much better. Racist covenants by white homeowners banned sale of homes to Black families.

For years, Black parents and community organizations had fought for better schooling for their children. It was found that the city of Boston had engaged in a deliberate, systematic pattern of segregation of its public schools. Therefore, in 1974, Boston was ordered by a federal judge to desegregate its schools by busing Black children to schools in white neighborhoods and vice versa. Immediately, racist city council members Louise Day Hicks and Albert O'Neil organized a group called ROAR-Restore Our Alienated Rights, (which was more accurately nicknamed Racists on a Rampage) to protest the busing order. During the 1974-75 school year, ROAR organized mob violence against Black children bused into South Boston.

PLP decided to organize a project in the summer of 1975 to combat this blatantly racist violence. It began with our May Day march in Boston where we were physically attacked by a group of racists and soundly defeated them. Then the Party

and InCAR sent more than 125 people from all over the U.S., mostly students, to Boston for the summer. Our activities varied. Some organized an anti-racist summer school for Black children who had lost considerable schooling due to a year of racist attacks. Others enrolled in courses in community colleges to spread ideas of multiracial unity. We held daily rallies against ROAR's racist ideas and collected thousands of signatures on a petition calling for multiracial unity, an end to mob violence and quality, integrated education for all. We went on the offensive against the local racists by fighting them physically again and again. There was a constant tension that permeated the city. By the summer's end, we so weakened the power of the racist anti-busing movement that ROAR was defeated.

Then in September 1975, PLP and InCAR members rallied to greet Black children on the first day of school. The cops pushed us into a crowd of racists throwing stone at the kids. PLers turned their bullhorn on the racists with a message of multiracial unity.

For many, Boston '75 was a defining moment in our lives. For some it marked an increased commitment to fight for a communist revolution. Even for others who are no longer members of Progressive Labor Party, it was a time of political commitment and activism that we can look back on with pride.

Today, capitalists are still building racist terror to prevent workers from uniting. We invite all antiracists to join us in celebrating May Day 2015. It is especially important now to learn about that movement since the ruling class rewrote history, and expunged the blatant racism of the anti-busing movement from the record. ☪

KKKops Kill Again

NORTH CHARLESTON, April 8 — Still another racist cop killing! Yesterday, a white cop here shot an unarmed black man, Walter Scott, 50, in the back eight times after a traffic stop for a broken taillight on his Mercedes-Benz.

The murder was shown on a video taken by a bystander. The video showed Scott, trying to flee the murderous cop, 15-20 feet away, falling after the eighth shot and "for several minutes...remained face down with his hands cuffed behind his back" after he was shot (New York Times, 4/8).

Scott's family lawyer said, "He has four children; he doesn't have some type of big violent past or arrest record. He had a job; he was engaged. He had back child support and didn't want to go to jail for" that (NYT, 4/8).

This working class city in South Carolina, the state's third largest, has a population of 100,000, 47 percent black and 37 percent white. The police department is 80 percent white.

Scott's brother said, "This just doesn't sound right....How do you lose your life at a traffic stop?"

But in the U.S., if you're black you're a target for any racist cop who's part of a police force that's enforcing terror against the working class, especially against black workers.

That every same *day* throughout the United States, Ethan Noll, David Cody Lynch, Paul Anthony Anderson, and Justus Howell were murdered by the cops. As of today, kkkops murdered 313 people this year alone. That's one murder every 7.4 hours.

For too many names, for too many murders of workers — we got to fight back. For a communist world — we got to organize with PLP. ☪

LETTERS

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

PL Communist Youth School: 'Amazing'

The following letters are from PLP's communist youth school. See article on page 3

Something that really stood out this weekend was the workshop discussions. The readings and questions chosen were engaging and laid bare the way capitalism fails the working class and how communism is the only system that can address that and win. Discussions among young and old, Black, white, Asian, Latin, new and experienced really deepened those conversations.

It was so exciting to discuss and debate our visions of communism in a real, materialistic way.

★★★★

It was great interacting with young and old and the idea of what communism would look like in the future. All doubts were answered in our community where children weren't discouraged, but encouraged. A multiracial group of people partook in contributing their ideas to shape a better future and demolishing individualism, racism, nationalism, sexism, and any injustices which the system tries to make us blind to.

★★★★

My weekend went great. I'm glad that I learned new stuff, such as communism. And I would love to learn more. I love the fact that everyone was friendly. It took me out of my comfort zone, but I loved the atmosphere here. I'm really shy and just to know that people don't judge here makes me more comfortable. I still have a lot of questions to ask about communism. But I'm really sure I will become a communist when I'm older, maybe even now (if I can). Everything I learned this weekend was very interesting. And I would love to be a part of this fight to make our world better. And that fight is for communism.

★★★★

I've been around the Party for a while now, but I haven't had the chance to come to the communist school until now. It exceeded expectations! It was amazing to see people of all ages, races, and genders getting along and treating each other as equals. Seeing people living communally makes me confident that a worker-led world under communism is possible! I am re-energized for May Day and can't wait to bring all my friends and see my comrades again.

★★★★

I really enjoyed this communist school. Working together, preparing meals, cleaning, and participating in discussions really shows the potential that workers have to transform society.

As a single mom, it was refreshing to have so many people help with my daughter throughout the weekend so I could participate in the political discussions.

The youth, as always, are so inspiring. Seeing them embrace the Party's ideas is refreshing and gives me both confidence and hope in the future.

★★★★

I've been here three times and this was the best one so far! I loved both workshops but the first one was the

best. It was very exciting to learn about surplus value and how slavery is basically still happening but in a more secretive way.

★★★★

I enjoyed this weekend because I got to see some familiar faces and also meet new people. I always enjoy hearing people's ideas and viewpoints on communism, capitalism and other topics that relate to it. This was my first retreat and I enjoyed myself.

★★★★

The communist school was amazing, not only because of the communist content but the people. They are genuinely good people and it felt amazing to meet and connect with comrades. The workshops were beautifully led. Living together went smoothly because we all took responsibility. And most importantly we had fun. Whether it was playing games or dancing, we had fun. I love everyone here, and I am looking forward to building this Party and getting ready for May Day. It's going to be lit [exciting]!!

★★★★

As a teacher and communist, the most wonderful thing to see is when our young people get serious about changing the world for the better. At this communist school, one of my former students did an excellent and exciting job of leading one of the discussion groups. And another student, active in the school club for which I've been an advisor, loved the weekend and is now seriously thinking about joining Progressive Labor Party. These are profound and heart-warming developments!

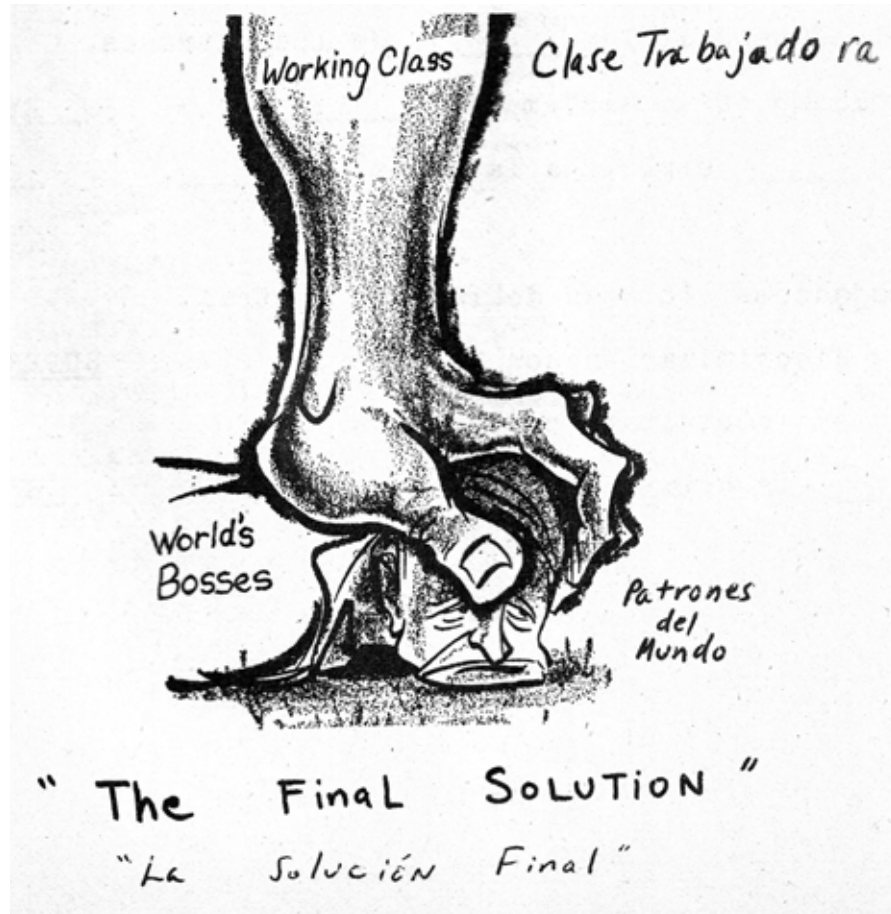
★★★★

This weekend was another great experience for me because every year I come, the learning gets better and it opens up my thoughts. Communism has and will have such a great effect on the communities.

As a student I will invite a few of my friends to May Day. And also give them a quick look on my experiences about attending May Day in the past.

★★★★

I had my doubts about coming to this retreat but I



am very grateful that I was given this opportunity. Instead of spending another weekend at home alone, I spent my time gaining knowledge about a topic I was still somewhat unclear about — communism! It was amazing to see how a common struggle among workers could bring so many people together. Everyone, young and old, took part in our discussions (which were led by young students) and helped out with work that had to be done (cooking, cleaning, etc.). This weekend showed us all that if we can live as a community for 3 days then we can do it for even longer (forever).

★★★★

My weekend at the Spring Retreat was AMAZING! I got the opportunity to reconnect with old comrades and meet some new ones. The workshops were very insightful and allowed us to expand our minds. I had an awesome time here and I will definitely do this again! It gave me a taste of what a communist society would be like and I like it a lot.

★★★★

Like every year, this PLP youth camp was amazing. Learning, cooking, cleaning, dancing, was done collectively. The participants ranged in age from eight to decades upon decades old, and everyone participated. The discussions ranged from how bosses make surplus value from exploiting workers' labor to how health care under communism would be figured out collectively for the benefit of all. The youngest group could not believe that the American Girl dolls they love so much only cost \$3 to make but are sold for over \$100!!! The best part of the weekend was hearing plans for how to make this year's May Day March the biggest and best yet.

★★★★

I had the best weekend ever! There were amazing workshops that consisted of amazing content. I was lucky to have been a workshop leader and have such an engaging discussion with my group. The knowledge each individual had was shared amongst the group; everyone was enlightened! The best part of the retreat was that there was a natural connection between everyone. There was no outsider here. There is no outsider in the Progressive Labor Party EVER. Join PLP and fight for what's right. We are strong

continued on page 7

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LETTERS

Continued from page 6

when we are unified. Be a part of the unification.

★★★★

This weekend like every other Communist School has been an experience in communist living and learning over the course of the weekend. The most inspiring thing was the level of understanding and analysis that our youngest elementary and middle school students showed. This young future leadership, even myself, really shows that we will continue to fight strongly for an egalitarian world. A communist world.

★★★★

The Communist School was without a doubt one of the most inspiring and enlightening experiences of my life. To discuss communism in an environment full of some of the most insightful people I have ever met was a privilege and a pleasure. Before coming, I was full of doubt. Although my rational mind had already accepted communism as the only real solution to our ailing world, I had no experience on which to base my beliefs. Now, I believe. In the Communist School, I see a future worth believing in, worth fighting for, and I cannot wait to continue the fight.

★★★★

Seeing the young new faces at this weekend's camp was exciting — working with them and getting to know them was a privilege!

In two days' time, we saw shy young women transform from believing they had nothing to say to articulate, assertive leaders. By the end, watching them volunteer to stand up and explain their vision of communism and their reasons for fighting for it were inspirational.

This is just a glimpse of how communism transforms lives. If we can do this in three days, imagine what we will do when the working class has power.

★★★★

Everyone was friendly and helpful. The event was very

organized and the readings were interesting. I am looking forward to the next Communist School.

★★★★

I was excited to come to this year's Communist School because of my experience during the one we had last year. And indeed, I wasn't disappointed. My happiness was on fleek [in the state of perfection] this weekend.

I was amazed at the level and depth of the conversations that took place among comrades of every age. The kids and high schoolers in particular blew me away with their ability to understand what's happening around the world. The future of communism looks bright when we look at the younger generation. As usual, I was amazed at the collective nature of the school.

★★★★

My favorite thing about this weekend was meeting new people and learning new things. This was a great experience for me and I learned a lot of new things. It really helped me see how bosses and companies are. To change the way things are, we are just going to have to take this really seriously. I feel like one day the company and bosses won't be so mean and we will finally be able to live happily and peacefully.

★★★★

This retreat was something amazing. I had a lot of fun and a grand time understanding how this world works. I had always said, "Who wants to go to school all day every day until 7 pm for 16 years. Then for the rest of their lives after school work till they die to keep food on the table to keep a house over their head to 'survive'. That's crappy. I don't want to survive, I want to live." But I never fully understood why things were the way they are until this school. And you know what, I'm happy I did it. People need to learn about what communism is and that it isn't what the bosses make it seem. I was one of those people that thought, "communism is bad." But that is not what it is. Its focus is to further human lives, enjoyment, and further knowledge. The system we live in now where we all compete against each other instead of working together isn't working for us. It's just filling the greed of people who have more than enough.

★★★★

Pakistan

Continued from page 8

ern Baluchistan province, Pakistan's largest, the coal miners are targets for local capitalist-backed terrorist groups, and hundreds have been killed with not a single arrest made by the local or federal police. These terrorist groups kill workers to disrupt coal production and hurt the profits of the rival capitalists that own the coal mines.

Women Workers Must Lead

While working-class women can be legally killed for not consenting to marry, domestic workers are essentially chattel slaves expected to fulfill the sexual desires of their bosses. Every day boss-owned newspapers carry the stories of barbaric acts of torture and sexual assault against domestic workers. Yet workers will not find a single news article in the capitalist press about any punishment of these culprits, because under capitalism, the rich may do whatever they want to do with their "servants."

This entire system is built around the exploitation of the working class, and none of these working-class women, or any of the millions of workers in Pakistan, will ever find justice under capitalism. PLP is making CHALLENGE the source of news for workers here, and the harder the bosses exploit us, the more of their own grave-diggers they make. Our steady growth is a sign that workers will not tolerate this forever, and our struggle to build a mass Party continues.☺



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

U.S., Israeli rulers share technology that kills immigrants and Palestinians

Mondoweiss, 3/20 — Technologies that Israeli firms developed to enforce Zionism in Palestine are being imported to the U.S.-Mexico border to sustain the disenfranchisement of Mexican and Central American immigrants whose livelihoods have been wiped out by U.S. neoliberal economic policies....

...Towers...are being erected by the Israeli weapons giant Elbit Systems, whose Texas-based subsidiary won a \$145 million contract with the United States Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection to install a system of "Integrated Fixed Tower systems" in Southern Arizona. This is the latest piece of Israeli technology to be imported — the Hermes 450 drone already patrols southern Arizona skies. The drone is a major component of Israel's unmanned arsenal whose destructive capabilities...in the Gaza Strip... which killed 2,319 and injured 11,000 Palestinians [last year].

Over the last two decades...the United States government has transformed the southern borderlands into migrant killing fields....

"The death and suffering that we continue to see today is a direct result of the policy of deterrence by death," [Maryada] Vallet [coordinator for No More Deaths] said. "While Congress can't agree on legalization for immigrants, killing them at the border has long been a bi-partisan effort...."

Deterrence is foundational in Israeli policy vis-à-vis Palestinians. The Dahiya Doctrine — named for a Beirut suburb that Israel flattened in 2006 — explicitly demands disproportionate force to be wielded against civilian populations and infrastructure as collective punishment.

Chicago cops top NYPD stop-and-frisks

Chicago Tribune/WGN-TV, 3/24 — Chicago police made street stops at a far higher rate last summer than New York City cops did at the height of their...stop-and-

frisk policy....

Chicago police stopped African-Americans at a disproportionately higher rate than...whites, especially in predominately white neighborhoods....

...More than a quarter of a million stops took place from last May through August....

...New York City police made about 192,000 stops... during the same four-month period in 2011, the year it recorded its highest number of stop-and-frisks....The rate of stops in Chicago averaged 93.6 per 1,000 people, more than four times New York's highest rate of 22.9 per 1,000 people the [ACLU] report said....

African-Americans were most often singled out for stops — typically individuals walking or standing on street corners....Over the same four months last year... police stopped 182,048 African-Americans, 72 percent of all street stops. Yet African-Americans made up about 32 percent of the city's population....

Chicago police stopped African-Americans at even higher rates in the Jefferson Park police district...15 percent of the time even though they made up only 1 percent of the population.

Oil bosses gas strikers 'just like in Ferguson'

Antimedia, 3/23 — More than a month has passed since employees across the nation walked out of refineries, citing concerns about industry-wide disregard for employee safety....

The Emergency Notification System, or ENS, at Houston's 700-acre LyondellBasell refinery is a warning system installed to notify workers of medical emergencies, fires and vapor releases....to protect...from potentially hazardous chemical vapors.

The ENS is also how strikers were able to keep track of the significantly increased rate of medical incidents when LyondellBasell brought in untrained [scab] workers to replace strikers....

In order to reduce the likelihood of striking employees continuing to report incidents LyondellBasell...implemented a new policy. ENS [warning] speakers near the front gate where picketers stand were disabled....

This can seriously endanger strikers and nearby communities, as vapor clouds can travel for miles before dissipating and often contain hazardous carcinogens. LyondellBissel has...threaten[ed] the health and

safety of employees even after they've left the plant, because...when the plant feels the need to flare dangerous chemicals, picketers can expect to be gassed without warning just like protestors in Ferguson.

Sadistic cops to prisoners: fight each other or suffer torture

NYT, 3/27 — San Francisco...sheriff's...deputies forced prisoners in[to]... "gladiator-style fights" for their own amusement....

...The deputies forced the smallest prisoner...who weighs 150 pounds to fight the largest prisoner...who weighs 350....

"It was a sadistic pleasure," Mr. Adachi [the public defender] said....this was like something out of "Game of Thrones."

The prisoners were told they would be rewarded with a hamburger if they won, but would be sprayed with Mace, severely beaten and transferred to dangerous housing quarters if they refused to fight at all.... Both men were injured in the fights but were told they would be beaten if they sought medical attention....

...The smaller inmate suffered fractured ribs.

Bail bond industry sucks profits out of poor defendants

Our Time.org., 3/13 — When someone is arrested... it can be...months until their trial date is set...If the defendant cannot afford to post bail, they must either use a bail bond service or stay in jail to wait their trial. America and the Philippines are the only countries in the world that use the bail bond system....

For example, let's say two people (one rich, one poor) are accused of the same crime. Bail is set for \$100,000 for each....The rich person pays the \$100,000, gets out of jail, eventually goes to trial, is found innocent and gets all of his \$100,000 back. The poor person doesn't have \$100,000. So he can either stay in jail (and probably lose his job and become even poorer), or use a bail bond service. The bond service charges him a non-refundable ten percent fee. So the poorer person pays the bail bond service \$10,000 (or gets all his friends and family help him do so), gets out of jail, eventually goes to trial, is found innocent and has lost \$10,000 that he will not get back.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Pakistan: Communism the Only Solution to Sexism, Poverty, Terrorism

PAKISTAN, April 7 — Capitalism's crisis here grows worse each day, with workers increasingly unable to meet their basic needs of survival. The bosses here are breeding more terrorism, sectarianism, racism, sexism, and nationalism to keep the working class divided. Meanwhile working people are on the streets demonstrating against shortages of electricity and natural gas, unemployment, terrorism, increasing prices, privatization and closure of factories. Capitalism is a catastrophe for the working class. In the midst of this, the Progressive Labor Party has been organizing in several industries and working steadily to spread our ideas among the masses.

Pakistan is the sixth largest country in the world, with 180 million people. The bosses here control the world's seventh largest military, with arsenals of modern tanks, planes and nuclear weapons. It has nuclear power, but there is no electricity from 12 to 22 hours a day, which is helping the bosses to make excuses about needing to lay off workers because of lost "productivity" during these outages.

Capitalism Forces Youth into Terrorism

The unemployment rate is about 10 percent according to government sources, but actually it is far more. High unemployment is pushing the poor people who see no alternative from crime and, in some cases, capitalist-financed terrorist groups. Most of the young boys who carry out the suicide attacks are from very poor families — many confess over the television to killing for 1,000 Pakistani rupees (10-12 USD) which goes to their families.

PLP is fighting hard to organize these workers and youth into CHALLENGE study groups and, eventually, a mass fighting movement and a mass working-class Red Army that will smash the real terrorists: the capitalist class!

The Violence of Poverty

Capitalist-backed terrorism is the tip of the iceberg of the daily violence workers face here. The 18.5 million farmworkers start their work early in the morning and finish at night for the "wage" of one piece of bread. They cannot even see calorie-rich foods that contain oil, sugar, or meat. Due to lack of medical facilities, the national infant mortality rate is about 76 deaths out of 1,000 live births. Those children who survive their first few years are vanishing because of malnutrition and environmental contamination. In the Sindh province, every day an average of 50 children die from these conditions.

Over 40,000 children are in forced labor because their families have no other option to obtain food. These kids work at workshops, brick kilns, hotels, loading docks and offices. For children who remain with their families, most do not have the natural gas needed to cook food because the available natural gas goes to the factories and into vehicles of rich people, driving up prices or creating a shortage.

Entrenched Sexism

In addition to the sexism of receiving lower wages with respect to male workers, women workers are routinely tortured, sexually harassed and abused, using the excuses of "religion" and "tradition." According to a recent research article, 90 percent of women are psychologically abused, 50 percent are physically abused, and 15 percent sexually abused.

In Pakistan, a woman can be legally killed if she desires to marry someone without the consent of her family, and the killers will be protected by the same "justice" system that allows infants to die and sends the children who survive starvation into slavery. Pakistan is proof that capitalism can never provide a decent life for women, children or men.

PLP combats sexism. We fight for women workers to be leaders of mass movements and the Party. Only communism — a system without sexist wage differences and unpaid labor in the home — can provide a worthy life for women workers.

Slavery Without Wages

Out of a total population of 180 million people, only two million industrial workers are employed with a set work schedule, and are eligible for health insurance, social security, old age benefits, educational benefits, and the right to belong to a trade union. Seventy percent of workers work on an informal basis with bizarre schedules, are entirely at the disposal of their employers, and can be fired at any time without notice. If workers become sick or injured and cannot work, they do not receive wages and essentially face a death sentence.

Coal miners, transportation and construction workers as well as domestic and daily-wage workers are especially treated the worst, and not even considered as human beings by the bosses. Coal miners work without safety equipment and use outdated technology with unsafe methods designed to maximize coal production. When a miner is injured or killed, no investigation is launched, and company bosses try to keep it secret. In the southwest-

Continued on page 7

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