



CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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Workers don't need license to fight back!



NEW JERSEY—Led by undocumented workers and youth, 200 protesters demanded what governor Phil Murphy had promised last year but (like the racist opportunist he is) never delivered: the basic access to drivers' licenses. This protest exposed the hollowness of liberal politics and the potential for a workers' movement with international communist influence. Progressive Labor Party fights for the idea that a system that uses borders, a ruling-class creation, to rob and terrorize workers deserves to be abolished.

Racist Murphy had preyed on the legal capitalist-created torment of undocumented workers and youth. He had made the point of licenses for the undocumented working class a part of his election campaign; today 500,000 in New Jersey alone still live under the threat of deportation every time they are stopped by the police for driving while undocumented. These workers refused to accept Murphy's lies.

A PL'er talked about their experience of crossing from Mexico into the U.S with their family, highlighting the repressive nature of the U.S. border patrol. They finished with the chant "Las Luchas Obreras, No Tienen Fronteras!/The Fight Of The Workers, It Has No Racist Borders!" The hundreds of workers present embraced the chant.

Working inside the Cosecha Movement

The march, organized by the Cosecha Movement, gathered workers from ten cities in Columbus Park, in the city of Trenton. From there we marched from this mostly Black, Latin, and Asian neighborhood to where the politicians have their offices. This is the fourth and largest march that the Cosecha Movement has organized in Trenton since January, 2018, and shows the determination of the workers to escalate our fight against the capitalists and their state government to win this much needed reform!

Workers have drive for mass antiracist movement

Cosecha is a national U.S. grassroots organization that is coordinating reform campaigns around the needs of undocumented workers. The organization hopes to win workers to eventually unite around a nation-wide strike to achieve citizenship reform, which many workers believe will provide them with permanent protection from racist deportation. Marches are growing in numbers, with collective leadership. For this march, more families with children from more cities came. Taking

inspiration from what a small but militant group of workers from New Brunswick contributed to the last march, more youth participated in preparation for and during the march and rally. Workers in each of the different cities made and sold traditional tacos, coordinated local festivals, partnered with various cultural events, organized yard sales, donated clothing, and held countless gatherings in homes and churches from June to September to raise funds.

These organizing activities encouraged new workers to come with us. And with the funds raised from these activities, we acquired six buses for workers from the different cities to converge at the rally in Trenton.

Politicians turn away workers, workers turn towards CHALLENGE

At one stop along the march, a mother gave a compelling speech: "Today I, because of [drivers' licenses] I am here, because my son needs treatment and I have to travel to another state. I want all of you to grow conscious that this is a need. Not for luxury. Because it is a necessity."

When we finally arrived at the state house, some politicians walked past and ignored the rally, and workers began chanting, and jeering at them.

The workers' decision to take to the streets is a political victory - a literal step forward. In turning to the masses and youth in preparing for the struggle, the workers built the confidence to physically assert their growing power on the streets. And yet this is only a glimpse of what a small group of construction, agricultural, cleaning, household, factory, and professional workers, undocumented, documented, and citizen workers are able to collectively achieve.

Along the way, more than 400 CHALLENGES in English and Spanish were sold or distributed, along with a pamphlet about the need to read and engage in discussion about solidarity with other workers' struggles, including the need to smash racist borders.

Getting on the road to revolution

The exposure to communist ideas in CHALLENGE is key. No laws or politicians, or even a

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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.
- ★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?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. 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

China’s drive toward fascism

In late September, Meng Hongwei, a Chinese security chief and the president of Interpol, the international police organization, flew to China from his home in France—and disappeared. On October 7, Interpol announced he had resigned his position after a “watchdog” for China’s arch-capitalist “Communist” Party reported online that Meng was “‘suspected of violating the law and is currently under the monitoring and investigation’ of China’s new anti-corruption body, the National Supervision Commission” (foxnews.com, 10/7).

As imperialist powers China, the U.S., and Russia prepare for World War III, they need more intense fascism, both to control and attack the working class and to discipline their own ruling classes. With its one-party system and significantly state-owned economy, unconstrained by the charade of electoral “democracy” or presidential term limits, the Chinese rulers have a head start on the rising fascist U.S. bosses—a potential advantage in the global conflict to come. President Xi Jinping is imposing unity from above in a public crusade against corruption, acts of Small Terrorism (versus the Big Terrorism of the state), and political disagreement. Meng’s arrest sent out a flare that even the Chinese Gestapo is not safe:

The appeal by Meng’s wife for justice and fairness echoed pleas from the families of scores of people who have fallen out favor from the Chinese Communist Party under President Xi Jinping’s rule. Some of them might have been pursued by Chinese authorities under Meng’s watch as vice minister for public security.

Such targets, who have been subject to arbitrary detention and made unexplained disappearances, include pro-democracy activists, human rights lawyers, officials accused of graft or political disloyalty and the estimated one million ethnic minority [Uighur] Muslims.... [see CHALLENGE, 9/26].

Xi, China’s most powerful leader since Mao Zedong, has overseen a harsh crackdown on civil society that is aimed at squelching dissent and activism among lawyers and rights advocates. He has also used a popular and wide-ranging anti-corruption campaign to boost supervision of the party and as a powerful weapon with which to purge his political opponents (foxnews.com, 10/7).

Four days before the news broke on Meng’s fall from grace, world-famous actress Fan Bingbing, the highest-paid celebrity in China, was fined \$129 million for tax evasion “and other offences” (bbc.com, 10/3). Xi was sending another message: The rich are expected to contribute their share to China’s war plans and ambitious national projects for global dominance, namely the one Belt and Road infrastructure initiative and Made in China 2025, a bid for supremacy in robotics, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and cybersecurity, among other tech sectors. Though U.S. President Donald Trump is imposing tariffs on more than \$250 billion in Chinese imports, China has shown no signs of backing down from the escalating trade war or its ambition to be the world’s number-one economy. As Chinese Commerce Minister Zhong Shan noted, “The U.S. should not underestimate China’s resolve and will” (Bloomberg News, 10/9).

China’s rising militarism

One aspect of rising fascism is the funneling of massive resources into military forces and equipment, a prelude to inter-imperialist warfare. In April, China deployed its first ever “Made in China” aircraft carrier. In the last decade alone, it has built more than 100 warships and submarines (Asia Times, 9/10/18).

In taking on the U.S., China’s bosses may choose not to go it alone. Last month, China staged its largest joint military exercise with Russia, which “has the largest [nuclear] arsenal of any country and is investing heavily in the modernization

of its [7,000] warheads and delivery systems” (icanw.org). The exercise coincided with the Eastern Economic Forum attended by Russia, China, and Japan (Economist, 9/6).

Fasicsm strikes the Internet

According to the September/October issue of Foreign Affairs, the U.S. main-wing bosses’ authoritative publication, “the United States has ceded leadership in cyberspace to China.” While reaping “the economic, diplomatic, national security, and intelligence benefits that once flowed to Washington,” China’s rulers are also molding an Internet “that guides public opinion, supports good governance, and fosters economic growth but also is tightly controlled so as to stymie political mobilization and prevent the flow of information that could undermine the regime.”

One hallmark of fascism is ideological control over information—or disinformation—to serve the nationalist, racist agenda of capitalist bosses in crisis. At the same time, the Internet provides unprecedented power and reach for surveillance of workers and any capitalists who aren’t with the program. As Foreign Affairs notes:

Over the last five years, Beijing has significantly tightened controls on websites and social media. In March 2017, for example, the government told Tencent, the second largest of China’s digital giants, and other Chinese technology companies to shut down websites they hosted that included discussions on history, international affairs, and the military.... Officials ordered telecommunications companies to block virtual private networks (VPNs), which are widely used by Chinese businesses, entrepreneurs, and academics to circumvent government censors.... Beijing also announced new regulations further limiting online anonymity....

In an even more Orwellian move, authorities have rolled out a sophisticated surveillance system based on a vast array of cameras and sensors, aided by facial and voice recognition software and artificial intelligence. The tool has been deployed most extensively in Xinjiang Province, in an effort to track the Muslim Uighur population there, but the government is working to scale it up nationwide.

Workers in China fight back

Despite the fascist onslaught from the Chinese state, which has fought to bury real communism since the defeat of the Cultural Revolution in the 1970s, workers are not taking their oppression lying down. In response to a broken system that reserves decent health care for the wealthy, desperate patients and their families are rebelling at hospitals and clinics. Attacks on doctors “are so common that they have a name: ‘yi nao,’ or ‘medical disturbance’” (New York Times, 9/30).

As living and job conditions in China worsen for hundreds of millions of workers, a new surge of student activism is beginning to challenge the fake-left Chinese ruling class. These struggles are bringing together generations of Marxists, showing the potential for an organized communist movement in China. In Huizhou, a group of recent university students converged from across the country and “attempted to put the party’s stated ideals into action” (NYT, 9/28) by organizing mistreated factory workers.

Carrying portraits of Mao and singing socialist anthems, they espoused the very ideals that the government fed them for years in mandatory ideological classes, voicing grievances about issues like poverty, worker rights and gender equality — some of communism’s core concerns (NYT, 9/28).

As more than 50 activists were arrested for the heresy of putting these ideas into practice, they began singing “The International.” Even in the hostile soil of today’s China, communist ideas will not die. The Progressive Labor Party looks to build our revolutionary organization worldwide. and especially in the face of rising fascism. Join us!🇵🇷

Students fight racist college diploma scheme



HAMMOND, October 1 – A local university that serves mostly working-class and international students has seen a dramatic surge in fightback over the past few weeks. In response to the university bosses’ racist lies and indifference to their needs, hundreds of students and supporting faculty have built a struggle to challenge the bosses’ power.

Comrades and friends of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) have been in the thick of this fight, building working-class support and helping push revolutionary communist politics. Collectively with other anti-racist, anti-sexist fighters, we are fast learning that life’s most important lessons are taught in class struggle!

Multiracial Unity against Admins’ Lies

Purdue University Northwest (PNW) is a smaller satellite campus of the much larger and highly-endowed Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. The PNW distinction reflects a recent merger of Purdue Calumet of Hammond, IN and Purdue North Central of Westville, Indiana. Both of these satellite campuses traditionally served as commuter campuses for working-class and non-traditional students, including many Black and immigrant workers. However, many top-down, anti-working class decisions from the university administration have alienated these student populations and made the university less accessible for them in recent years.

Case in point, since the merger PNW students were promised that they would receive a standard Purdue University diploma upon graduation. But on September 28, the chancellor sent an email to students stating that their diploma would in fact be different to the one received by students at the main Purdue campus. And just like that, a decision that could have serious consequences for graduates’ futures was shoved through with little to no input from students, faculty, or alumni. In response to the bosses’ shady decision, a petition began circulating to keep the Purdue degree at PNW (which 18,000 students and supporters signed), and students planned a protest to occur on the following Monday.

The protest, organized by a multiracial collective of Black, Latin, and white working-class students, turned out over 650 students and supporters from both campuses to push back against the bosses’ racist slap in the face. The action lasted about an hour as students began with chants and speeches in an open area between two main buildings. Students and supporting faculty and staff – some who

serve double-duty – marched to the administration building where they soon found out that the chancellor did not show up to work that day. Students were demanding answers, and shortly after the action ended, an email was sent from the chancellor announcing an “open conversation.”

At that conversation, the chancellor admitted that PNW’s advertising has been a “bait-and-switch” all along; admitting that he has always felt “uncomfortable” with the idea that PNW was selling Purdue degrees.

Fight Racist Attacks in Education with Communism

The racist university bosses made this change in a primarily Black and Latin neighborhood, where over 28% of the Black population has dropped in the last year. Recently, at a Black Student Union cookout, when asked why there has been a decrease in Black student enrollment, one university stooge admitted to the university trying to attract more Latin students in order to receive federal funding. This same racist also said “kids from Gary, Indiana just don’t go to college” -- only reinforcing the racism that exists in higher education.

The truth is, all colleges and universities under capitalism foster and push these types of racist, anti-working class lies because their main purpose is to reproduce pro-capitalist, individualist ideology among the masses. Under the guise of “higher learning,” they serve to groom the next batch of capitalist bosses from the student body, stifle any real development of critical thinking for the majority, and charge astronomical tuition fees before throwing young people out into a highly competitive and cutthroat job market.

As communists, we fight for an education system that meets the needs of the international working class, not those of the bosses. Learning from the advances in education made in communist revolutions in Russia and China in the 20th century, we will make education free, accessible, and meaningful for all workers. Using our state power, we will completely erase any racist, sexist, and anti-scientific garbage in our schools and develop lifelong collective learning as the means to further liberate our class.

The Fight Continues

Students are planning to meet the Board of Trustees directly on October 12 at their meeting at the main campus in West Lafayette. We will come at the trustees with our sharpened understanding of our power as a multi-racial, multi-gendered fighting force. Working-class students united, will never be defeated!✊

Workers don’t need license to fight back!

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nationwide strike like Cosecha calls for, can provide “permanent protection” and/ or end the anti-immigrant racism capitalism relies on, no matter how many millions of workers might support it. Workers live in a dictatorship of capitalism- what reforms we do win are ultimately taken back when it suits the capitalists. However, when communists participate in these mass reform movements, which attract other strong working class fighters, these relationships can powerfully develop class consciousness.

Workers united across the world as a class by one party - PLP - are capable of transforming these energies for reform into a revolution for workers’ power. We do it by struggling for these reforms while introducing communist politics to the workers we meet, and showing the futility of attempting to reform capitalism.

Liberalism: main danger to working class

Liberal politicians, on the other hand, attempt to deceive workers into believing capitalism can be reformed, while channeling their struggles into the opposite direction- support for one or another sector of the genocidal, imperialist U.S. ruling class.

- In 2009, liberal Deporter-In-Chief Barack Obama failed to pass a comprehensive immigration bill, which he promised within his first 100 days in office. Militant reform struggles led by “Dreamers” - undocumented youth fighting for access to higher education - began exposing Obama’s hypocrisy and empty promises.
- By April 2011, Obama’s approval rating suffered drastically among Latin workers (Gallup 12/2014).
- In June 2012, Obama signed into law the immigration executive order Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

By the end of 2014, the nature of liberals like Obama’s service to the bosses’ increasingly fascist system was even clearer. While breaking deportation records, Obama’s administration illegally awarded a one billion dollar contract to Corrections

Corporation of America (now known as Core-Civic) “to build a massive detention facility for [immigrant] women and children seeking asylum...In 2015, the first full year [of the contract], CCA — which operates 74 facilities — made fourteen percent of its revenue from that one center while recording record profit” (America’s Voice, 10/12).

Today, the declining U.S. imperialist bosses’ reliance on the private prison industry continues to grow while the bosses’ latest mouthpiece, Donald Trump, has terminated DACA.

While the bosses’ plans for undocumented youth in the U.S. are unclear at the moment, communists in PLP will continue to learn from, struggle with, and forge international fightback by bringing workers together from across Cosecha and other movements, and continue to advocate our own plans and fight for nothing less than workers power - communist revolution!✊

Capitalism in Crisis! Colombia prepares for fascism

COLOMBIA, October 10—Ivan Duque, the representative of the interests of US imperialism, landowners and big capital, became the president of Colombia. In his development plan he wants to impose a package of harmful reforms against workers, ordered by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and backed by the bosses' business agenda.

They include health, economic, and tax reforms, reducing taxes to big capitalists and increasing taxes on the products of the family basket, dismantling all the subsidies to the humble people, reforming the labor code, increasing the retirement age and permitting wages below the minimum. This will end the little job stability and the achievements we made with fight, sweat and blood.

They will dismiss teachers and close schools privatizing education to guarantee the application of these measures. They will not hesitate to continue applying police brutality and state terrorism through paramilitary groups and anti-restitution armies, criminalizing social protests, killing more than 300 social leaders and anyone who opposes them.

Electoral politics=support for class for enemies

This reactionary pol was elected in the last election with 10,365,000 votes won using a nationalist campaign of slander, threats, falsehoods, corruption and vote buying misinformation with anti-communist warmongering propaganda, driven by the media RCN and Caracol. This was noticed in the consciousness of many proletarians who, with their political and ideological ignorance, end up supporting their class enemies.

Gustavo Petro pacifist candidate of Social Democracy, got 8,029,000 votes, appeared to be a good potential for supporters who want to change their lives and are tired of paramilitary terrorism and the right-wing dictatorship. Unfortunately they believe in the bosses' electoral promises that sound good in theory, but in practice are set against our needs



Thousands of students across the country will be on strike on October 10 against capitalist crisis of public universities. Student condemn President Ivan Duque whose new budget has more money for war but not for education. Such is the nature of capitalism.

defending private capitalist property, and wage slavery.

Communism, the only solution

The bourgeois class takes advantage of the setbacks, and corruption of left-wing candidates, turning them into a disaster for the proletariat making these policies lose credibility in our class, imperialism will not let this system of new socialisms practiced in Venezuela, Brazil and Nicaragua prosper. Even though they demoralize the struggle of the workers.

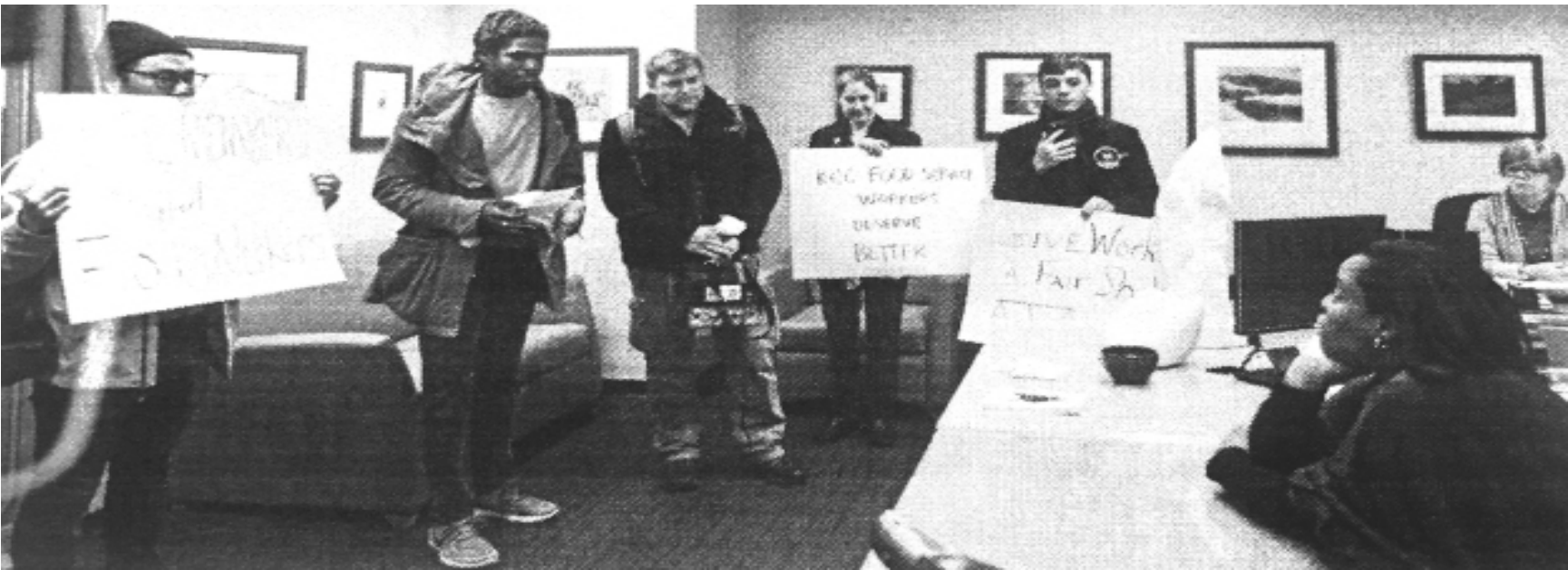
These warmongering bosses think that their failed bourgeois democracy and fascist terror will be able to stop the unity of the working class, but they are wrong, because many proletarians in the world are uniting in the construction of an interna-

tional communist movement to put an end to oppression and capitalist exploitation.

Our party PLP is led by rural and urban workers and students that struggle to build communist consciousness with a long-term revolutionary work style to create a communist society without bosses or profits, without racism or politicians introducing revolutionary consciousness and fighting the lying influence of the bourgeoisie.

With our revolutionary program we are doing mass work educating the masses in the ideas of collectivity and proletarian internationalism, only with the strengthening of the international PLP our communist party, can we get out of this swamp of capitalist electoral fraud, crushing these fascists and defeating the ruling class with the communist revolution.☸

Kingsborough fighters expose Goldstein and co's true racist colors, again!



Supporting cafeteria workers, students and staff protest inside of the KCC president's office.

BROOKLYN, October 6—"Honestly I didn't think that the leafleting against Goldstein would accomplish anything or even get a reaction. I was wrong. Those leaflets really scared the administration - it's freaking them out, and now they're going to respond." A sympathetic Kingsborough Community College (KCC) faculty member recently related this to a member of the Progressive Labor Party. The racists fear direct, mass confrontation and at KCC, they are getting it!

Last spring, a group of students, faculty and workers came into possession of hundreds of extreme racist, sexist social media posts by KCC administrator Michael Goldstein. Goldstein shared Facebook posts that said Islam "executes gays,

chops off heads and stones women." Another shared post said "Confederate veterans are American veterans." Still another questioned "politicians who protect illegals who rape and murder." In response, about 1,500 leaflets were collectively produced, printed and distributed around campus calling for Goldstein's termination. Phone calls were made to the Human Resources office and Chief Diversity Officer to complain. Some students even discovered where Goldstein's office was, and slid the leaflets under his door!

Students, sympathetic faculty and staff and some PL'ers found out recently that Goldstein has been removed from his position as KCC's Director of Public Relations. The stripping of his formal

power - and his embarrassment to the administration - is a partial victory for the student-led anti-racist forces at KCC! The administration continues protecting him by shuffling him around, and it will take mass struggle to drive racists like Goldstein out.

Racists show their colors

Now the racists have responded. In an article on a rightwing website Goldstein claimed the leafleting is part of a systematic campaign of anti-Jewish racism against him. Also, around two dozen

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Charity can't deliver clean water to segregated NYC high schools



Protecting working class children from lead poisoning is not a priority for a U.S capitalist class in disarray and decline. The lead water crisis that has poisoned workers from Flint, MI to Newark, NJ has hit New York City's school system and the local ruling class has no real plan to protect children here from ingesting this toxin at thousands of water fountains and sinks across the five boroughs.

Over the summer, the Department of Education (DoE) inspected the fixtures that funnel water to our children daily. Instead of accurately checking the lead levels, the water was allowed to run for long periods of time, which allowed a lot of the lead to be flushed out before measurement. These bogus 'tests' have 'proven' that the water which 1.1 million kids drink is 'safe.' However, even by their own admission, the DoE admits that their safety inspection did not involve switching out lead plumbing fixtures with non-toxic alternatives (WNYC, Aug 2018).

Hot on the heels of the DoE's summertime water inspection subterfuge, locally-based capitalist Sarah Kauss (CEO of S'well bottles) decided to donate over 300,000 bottles to provide every high school student in the city with a re-usable S'well brand water bottle. The liberal political establishment is pushing for a youth campaign to "BRING IT" which "challenges New York City students to reduce waste through advocacy and activism." By their estimates if each high school student in the city foregoes disposable water bottles waste will be reduced by up to 54 million plastic bottles (NYT 9/18).

Such 'activism' – where crises that capitalism makes necessary are viewed as results of 'individual' choice – is a type that liberal mis-leaders like NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio champion. They would have our youth believe that racism in our schools comes from 'microaggressions' that we carry out against each other as individuals, not from a 'school choice' system that has for decades cast schools with too many Black youth as undesirable.

Consumption of bottled water has exploded since the 1970s and is a major contributor to plastics production and pollution. Today's mounting plastics crisis was entirely predict-

able decades ago but the pursuit of maximum profit has meant cities have been built up with no plans to supply quality water to workers who live there. Under communism access to clean water would be treated as a true human right. It's beyond a doubt that the unbelievably huge portion of society's wealth which imperialists have poured into arms races and war since the 1970s could have, by now, provided workers worldwide with access to clean water in an environmentally sustainable way. We have needed communism for a long time.

On top of a festering lead crisis, New York City students endure a long-running segregation crisis. Racist policing of Black and Latino youth mean that they pass through a metal detector/scanning procedure to enter school each day. (see letter). These students are routinely prohibited from bringing any liquids into school. They will be forced to fill their environmentally-friendly S'well bottles at water fixtures fed by lead pipes while their more middle-class white and Asian peers are free to bring their bottles to school with water that is (perhaps) safer.

Speaking of the rise of her company, Kauss once proclaimed:

"We'll be a billion-dollar company," she says. "It's easy. I know what to do now. We have the people and the processes in place, and the market is just there." The alternative? "We could just be a \$50 million company," she says, "but that seems kind of boring." (Inc. Magazine, July 2016). The iron rule of capital, which spawns imperialist rivalry and requires racism to divide and super-exploit the working class, has positioned Kauss to solve the 'easy' problem of creating a billion-dollar company."

Her naïve, ostentatious and self-serving campaign to expand her firm's visibility and help 'fix' a plastics crisis that clogs the oceans of the globe has run up against the hard reality of segregation in New York City schools. Only liberation from the rule of capital through a communist revolution gives us a shot at clean water and integrated schools for all.✊

We are students, not suspects!

Every high school student in New York City received a free metal S'well water bottle. This was an initiative to eliminate the single-use plastic water bottles. The highly-policed and over-surveilled high schools with metal detectors, in New York City force their predominantly Black, Latin and Asian, low-income students to dump out their water bottles before entering school premises. This effectively denies clean water to nonwhite students. Denying students their right to bring water and drinks from home forces them to drink the lead-contaminated water present in many of the city's public schools. The inability of these students to get through school security with their water bottles lies at the intersection of three of the city's structural, unresolved problems: the policing and criminalization of Black and Latin students, segregated schooling, and lead contaminated water in "more than 33,000 water fountains" in New York City public schools (WNYC, 3/6).

WNYC, a New York City public radio station, completed an analysis finding that despite the city's claims of replacing all lead contaminated fixtures, only 20 percent of schools have been notified of the water being safe to drink. Despite the dangerously high levels of lead being found in school pipes, not all students have the right of bringing their own water to class.

The denial of students to bring their own bottles of water to classes feeds into the racist and anti-working class violence students are subject to in the city's public schools. Students are not only stripped of their autonomy but also criminalized under school security and surveillance technologies. This creates a hostile, unsafe environment not conducive to our student's education. It is harmful to their mental and physical health. Students should not be suspects in their own schools. This inequality and denial of the basic right to clean water is a critical sign calling us to fight back against school housing and segregation.



LETTERS

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

My high school class speech: fight for what's right

I am a high school student in the tenth grade and I'm taking Global History. This year my teacher started out by giving us a project. The class was divided into assigned groups—(a) people who believed that enforcing the war on drugs was the only way to help control violence in Mexico, (b) those who wanted to legalize drugs as a reform to end the violence, (c) and those who believed a revolution was the most beneficial solution to ending the violence in Mexico because changing the whole system would be the only solution. I was assigned to advocate for legalizing drugs. Part of the assignment was to stand in front of my peers and convince them that we could rely on the Mexican government to make this reform to improve the lives of workers.

As I was sitting down to write my speech the night before, I realized that I was really upset that I would receive a grade for trying to convince my classmates of something I really disagree with. I knew that if I did what I was asked to do, I would have to say that the Mexican government was good and that capitalism was the fix.

So I decided to possibly sacrifice a good grade and give a speech about what I really believe. This is what I wrote and presented to my class the next day:

"I would first like to start out by saying that I do not at all agree with the idea that our system only needs a couple of tweaks in order to prosper. It shocks me that some people in this class are being forced to argue that the war on drugs was okay and find evidence to back that statement up. I realize that it is always good to see and recognize all the arguments that people have made in the past, but the proposal that keeping a capitalist system the same and starting a revolution against it to make life better are made out to be both equally reasonable arguments, infuriates me. One of the arguments I am supposed to speak about is legalizing drugs and making them more accessible. All this is doing is encouraging people to cope with the corrupt system they are forced to live under, and that is no fix. The only true solution is a revolution. Although that is what I am supposed to be advocating, I will not stand here and try and convince my peers that we should settle on a system that exploits us, whether it's in Mexico, or in this country. Daily, I am forced to navigate through a system that I disagree with, like walking through racist metal detectors, so this is not about me trying to be difficult. When I finally get the opportunity to speak out about our society, it's my responsibility to share my true beliefs with my peers. I will never conceal my true thoughts and contradict my morals for the sake of a grade. I have no issue with voicing my opinion and will gladly continue to do it throughout the year. Because of these reasons, I feel uncomfortable reading the paragraph I was assigned to write out loud and will politely ask for it not to be. Thank You."

After reading this aloud I looked up and noticed that some of my classmates were confused and others were shocked and their jaws dropped. Then my teacher stood up and clarified to the class that I was protesting by refusing to do my assigned work and instead was advocating for revolution. Then the class clapped.

Later, we were asked to vote to see what option we thought was best and unlike his other classes, in mine almost every student voted that a revolution was the best option.

This helped me see that speaking up is really important to do. How will people learn about revolution if we stay quiet about it? How will the working class know what is best for us if the bosses' opinions are the only ones we hear? It is our job to advocate for what we think is right.

At first, I contemplated not reading this to my peers because I was afraid of the consequences, like a low grade. But I realized this was a small



price to pay and know that others have paid a much higher price, like their lives, for standing up against capitalism. In the end, this was an immensely impactful learning experience for me. I was lucky to have my teacher's support in the end and I did get a high grade. He told me he appreciated that I turned my protest into a learning opportunity for all students.

In the future I may not be so lucky getting an honest teacher who supports real learning and student initiative. Whether or not I got a good grade, I was able to educate my peers, and myself, which is something that no grade, no matter how high, could have done. I believe that if something is important enough to you, pursue it, no matter what the outcomes may be.

★★★★★

Voting is a farce

Our PLP club in New York is circulating a flyer related to the upcoming elections here in the United States of North America.

In this flyer we pointed out that the "vote is a farce" that will never fight against capitalism, the true cause of all the bad things that happen in the world. These elections try to hide the racist character and the genocidal wars that imperialism promotes to seize basic resources and the domination of territories at the hands of the Allied bosses in their misdeeds.

In our club, we are very active and aware of the reality, but when approaching friends of a non-profit organization, where we are activate, we feel great concern since most of them do agree with these elections, because they believe in the lesser of two evils, that being the "democrats", that they will solve their problems. They do not understand that both Democrats and Republicans are the same coin with different faces.

Finally, we invite all the workers of the world to read and distribute our newspaper, Challenge and fight for a world free of exploitation and racism. The mentioned flyer distribution is happening in friendly communities of the Party.

★★★★★

On the job talk: Republicrats guilty of deportations

I've been having conversations with clerical and custodial workers at my library job. I've been trying to get to know the staff, who are mostly Black and Latin. We've briefly had conversations

about current events, mostly about gentrification, which is on the rise in this particular neighborhood where we work. While we were bonding over how tough it is getting to make ends meet, we started discussing the rise of hate groups in the surrounding areas and the rise of fascist attacks on workers under Trump's racist administration. I commented that this was nothing new: it wasn't just Trump, since both sides play on workers' fears of immigrant labor. I said that Democrats are also guilty of this. My co-worker agreed and said, "Yeah, look how many people Obama deported." When I gave my co-worker the actual statistic, they commented that there were no politicians or mainstream media speaking up for immigrant workers at that time. Then I steered the conversation to then-president Bill Clinton's 1994 crime bill that increased the mass incarceration of Black and Latin workers. This is why many didn't trust Hillary Clinton when she was running for president. I said that presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama laid the foundation for president Donald Trump's current policies and that Democrats are not as innocent as the media wants us to believe. The politicians are basically telling us to pick our poison. We both laughed in agreement. This is just one of a handful of co-workers who I will be getting to know better and eventually turning conversations like these into collective actions.

★★★★★

Trumpeting of great economy conceals capitalist failure

President Donald Trump's boasts about the "great economy" are applauded by the media's constant acceptance of what are really phony reports of the "lowest unemployment rates" — especially "for Black and Latin workers." These are totally biased figures manipulated by the government's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The BLS headline jobless U-3 rate of 3.9 percent counts as unemployed any worker who has been looking for a job within the four weeks prior to the survey. (For Black workers, that figure is 6.6 percent). After that, workers who have been unemployed for more than a 4-week are dropped from the jobless figures, and become labeled "discouraged workers" — the U-6 rate, now nearly 8 percent — which never sees the light of day. And for Black workers that rate is double, 16 percent. Actually jobless figures for Black youth 18-24, the unemployment rate in most major metropolitan areas approaches 50 percent.

Finally, those unemployed for more than a year are dropped from the labor force figures altogether. The ShadowStats firm has computed that total jobless rate at 21.4 percent. And none of this includes workers on welfare who would seek jobs if they could afford day-care for their children. Nor does it include 1.5 million workers enslaved in the bosses prisons who if released, would swell the jobless figure even higher.

And as far as "prosperity" for the working class, there are the several million workers who, unable to pay their mortgages due to being jobless, lost their homes beginning in the Great Recession of 2007-8. Not to mention the lost wages during these extended periods of unemployment and the unpaid wages for all the work done mainly by women in raising their families.

So the real nature of the "great economy" for the working class overall, and its special oppression of Black and Latin workers, is a far cry from "prosperity."

Only the overthrow of the capitalist profit system, on which unemployment, racism and sexism is based and thrives, and the building of a communist society that abolishes profits, bosses and the divisiveness of the wage system, can free the working class from all this exploitation.

★★★★★

Kavanaugh appointment reflects deep divisions in the ruling class



Protest against sexist culture of capitalism

The appointment of the sexist liar Brett Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court exposes the true nature of a “representative democracy”, a system where workers are excluded from any influence in decision-making. President Trump, who lost the popular vote by over 2 million people, chose the nominee. It was reviewed by the Senate, which has two members from each state regardless of the size of the state. The Supreme Court contains 9 members appointed for life who are the final decision makers for the entire judicial branch. Compare the grip of this tiny number of people over the lives of 300 million workers in the U.S. with the vast opportunity for all workers under communism.

Communism is a system where direct participation by workers is essential; where workers play a continuous active part in every aspect of running society, and where the first obligation of leaders is the development of new leaders, not keeping a grip on power. What a better world we can build.

Courts Are Battle Ground Between Capitalist Factions

The courts are part of the bosses’ state apparatus. They exist to give a stamp of approval to the laws that keep the bosses in power over the working class and fill the prisons with our class brothers and sisters. They are also a place where the ruling class fights out their differences. Most Supreme Court cases are disputes over business and banking issues having nothing to do with workers.

Since it has the final say, battles over the make-up of the Supreme Court have occurred throughout U.S. history and always reflect conflicts within the ruling class. Every one of these fights over the court has been between one set of racist murderers versus another.

President Franklin Roosevelt, for example, was frustrated with the Supreme Court in the 1930s. At that time, the issue was also a split between an isolationist, anti-regulation wing of the ruling class and the then emerging global, imperialist Rockefeller wing. The Rockefeller wing wanted far more regulation of business and banking to hold onto its power. They also needed more control to allow them to make rapid decisions. They anticipated a future of U.S. imperialism launching wars across the globe. The Rockefeller wing won and held power for over 60 years.

The modern battle over control of the Supreme Court began in 1982 with the formation of the Federalist Society. (NPR 6/28/18) This group of extremely conservative and libertarian lawyers and judges has grown into a forceful voice supporting the interests of the domestic section of the ruling class (see CD Editorial 9/24). That wing has targeted control of the judiciary as a strategy for competing with the larger more entrenched main wing capitalists (NPR 3/14/18).

These domestically oriented bosses wish to cut the size of the federal government, slash all regulations, and pass a huge tax cut for the rich. The 91 judges Trump has nominated came from a list prepared by the Federalist Society (Chicago Tribune Oct. 2018). The Federalist Society now dominates large sections of the federal courts. With the Kavanaugh appointment they are now the dominant section of the Supreme Court.

The main wing of the ruling class is equally aware of the need to control the Supreme Court to try to hold onto their dying empire. During Obama’s first term there was an effort urging Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to retire so she could be replaced by a younger person. She refused (The New Yorker Sept. 2018). Ginsburg, a liberal media icon, is herself a big racist who won’t hire Black law clerks (National Law Journal 2/1) and publicly attacked Colin Kapernick for kneeling (NY Times 10/11).

Then in early 2016, Justice Scalia, a member of the Federalist Society, died suddenly. Obama had his chance. He nominated Merrick Garland, but the Republicans refused to hold hearings to appoint him. The seat was saved til after the 2016 presidential election and the choice went to Trump.

The bosses obviously won’t say that they are fighting to control the courts to keep themselves in power. Instead they cynically use our hatred of sexism and racism to try to get us to fight their battles. When it appeared that Kavanaugh was sure to be appointed, the Democrats revealed the name of Christine Blasey Ford who credibly accused Kavanaugh of sexual assault and unleashed the honest passion of millions of anti-sexists to take Kavanaugh down. This was a corrupt ploy on their part. These same liberal Democrats defended the serial sexual predator President Bill Clinton in the 1990s. They launched vicious attacks against the White House intern Monica Lewinsky, and several other women who had been abused by Clinton. Well known feminists of that time, like Gloria Steinem (The Atlantic 11/13/17) and women poli-

WHO IS BRETT KAVANAUGH

The main qualification to become a Supreme Court Judge is loyalty to the bosses. Brett Kavanaugh graduated from Georgetown Preparatory School, an elite all boys Catholic school that groomed its students for Ivy League colleges (Independent, 9/18/18). He then attended Yale University and Law School. While in law school he joined the conservative Federalist Society.

After Yale, Kavanaugh jumped into politics working for the Ken Starr who was leading investigations of then President Bill Clinton. (NYT 8/20/18).

Kavanaugh was part of the legal team defending George W. Bush in the battle over the 2000 presidential election where the Democrat Al Gore won the popular vote. The case went to the Supreme Court who gave the election to Bush (Miami Herald 7/9/18).

In 2003, Bush nominated Kavanaugh to be a federal judge. Democrats felt he was too loyal to the domestic wing and held up his appointment until 2006. As the fight within the ruling class heats up, every institution is being enveloped by the battle. Georgetown Prep and Yale were reliable breeding grounds for the main wing Rockefeller bosses. Yale has produced five U.S. Presidents. Now these institutions are also caught in the bosses’ dog fight.

ticians like Maxine Waters (House of Representatives 12/18/98), openly defended Clinton just like Trump defended Kavanaugh.

In 1991 President George H. W. Bush nominated Judge Clarence Thomas, the most conservative of all the Justices, because he felt he needed a Black man. During those Senate hearings Anita Hill reported being sexually harassed by Thomas. It was two liberal Democrats, then Senator Joe Biden and Senator Ted Kennedy, who led the vicious, sexist attack against her. Just as with Kavanaugh, the woman was traumatized and the nominee became a Supreme Court Justice.

Don’t vote! organize against sexism!

Brett Kavanaugh is a horrific sexist. But voting for the corrupt liberalism of the Democrats will not stop sexism. Only women and men workers fighting side by side against the bosses’ sexist division of the working class and the capitalist system that breeds it will lead to equality. Capitalism is steeped in sexist culture as we saw daily in the defenses of Kavanaugh and the Democrats exploitation of sexual assault victims. Sexist culture supports the capitalist profit generated by the gender wage gap, the super-exploitation of women and the added burdens they take on as mothers and caregivers. The Democrats are loyal to the same capitalist system as the Republicans. None are friends of workers.✊

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