Klan in blue kills Jemel
FIGHT RACISM

CHICAGO, November 18—In the early morn-
ing hours of November 11, the racist killer klkops murdered another member of our class. The Klank-in-blue opened fire on 26-year-old Black security officer Jemel Roberson at a bar in the Chicago suburb of Robbins, while he was actively trying to diffuse a fight that had broken out at the location.

Jemel tragically joins the ever-growing list of workers legally lynched by the racist klkops. These sexist and racist thugs can’t be reformed. No more can they be trusted to serve and protect the only way to permanently end racist police murders – and achieve true justice for Jemel and countless other victims – is to join and build the international Progressive Labor Party (PLP) as the force to crush capitalism with communist revolution!

Guilty of being a Black armed worker under capitalism

To his many loved ones, the racist murder of Jemel at the hand of the Midlothian Police Department has been completely devastating. Those closest to him have described him as a “gentle giant,” and devoted father, brother, uncle, and boyfriend. He was widely respected by his fellow workers, and was a talented athlete as well as the organist for his church.

Jemel was hired security and attempting to subdue an armed individual who was threatening other people at the bar when the klkops responded at the scene and opened fire. Although their “of-ficial” report states that Jemel had no identifying markers that he was working security and that he was given multiple warnings to drop his weapon, other workers are challenging their racist cover-up.

According to other workers at the scene, Jemel was clearing wearing a cap and a sweatshirt that had the word “security” clearly written on them. They also claim that “not even five seconds” passed before the klkikop entered the room and shot him. The racist murderer was so reckless that another cop present was heard to openly criticize the one who fired the shots (Chicago Tribune, 11/16). Despite Jemel wearing security clothing and having a legal license to carry a gun in the state, he was instantly perceived as a threat and gunned down.

This murder of an armed Black worker reflects in large part the racist profiling in the thoughts and actions of millions of klkops, but also reflects a deeper fear of a major threat to the bosses and capitalism. For all the bosses’ fascist rhetoric about the “sacredness” of gun ownership in the United States, the fact is that workers especially Black workers possessing weapons has always presented an inherent political problem for them. The ruling class wants to control all the guns, preferably in the hands of their cops. The ruling wants guns to control workers, not in the hands of workers. What the bosses fear most is a multiracial working class armed with guns and class consciousness.

Racist murders mean— we got to fight back!

Committed to building such a movement for communist revolution, a group of PL comrades and friends attended a vigil in Jemel’s memory the Friday after his murder. The vigil took place at his former high school, Lane Tech College Prep, on the north side of Chicago, and was organized by classmates and other school alumni.

Many of the speeches reflected a deep sense of shock and grief over the loss of Jemel. A group of his classmates had difficulty in even expressing the depth of the pain that they were feeling after his murder. They spoke on the racism and alienation that they had already experienced as a result of being a small Black student minority in a selective enrollment high school made up of mostly white students. After losing Jemel to the hands of the killer kops, they were handed another harsh treatment of feeling invisible and unwanted under capitalism.

Other Lane Tech alumni, friends of Jemel, and community organizations also made statements in his memory. One Black worker came to the microphone and made a clear call on the need to take action. He said, “We are in a war, and we need to choose sides.” Other speakers echoed the need to get organized to fight back against the racist bosses and their killer kops, but unfortunately stopped short of calling for mass multi-racial working-class unity as the most effective way to build that fight.

For our part, our small multi-racial group of PLers worked to make that message clear. We distributed our communist newspaper CHALLENGE, engaged in conversations and made a few contacts that we intend to follow up with.

We build this fight, for Jemel and workers everywhere

Justice for Jemel Roberson goes beyond getting his kkkop murderer fired and thrown in jail. Although these outcomes, in and of themselves, won’t lead to a world where working-class people everywhere can live a productive life in safety and dignity.

For that future, we need to connect racist police murders, deportations, unemployment, and imperialist war to their common root of capitalism, and build the struggle for international communist revolution as the only solution to wipe these anti-worker attacks from the face of the earth. It’s no simple task, but for us, it’s the best possible way to honor fallen working-class heroes such as Jemel.
Workers have no side in bosses’ civil war

The bitter U.S. midterm elections exposed the all-out battle within the U.S. ruling-class—and how far the bosses’ various factions may go in order to take their side in the battle for the future, and to wage war for fascism and war. Both sides are attacking the liberal democratic trappings of capitalist dictatorship, from the U.S. Senate and Supreme Court to the vote-counting process itself. President Donald Trump called the ballots in Florida “massively infected.” The rulers’ mainstream media are worrying that the U.S. has “arrived at a moment of a very real crisis” (nationalreview.com, 7/31). The New York Times’ Paul Krugman warned of “a growing crisis of legitimacy for the U.S. political system” (11/8). As U.S. bosses fight among themselves, China’s more united imperialist rulers are positioning themselves to overtake them economically and militarily, from Africa to Latin America. As the Times noted, in a five alarm package of articles on China: “An isolated, impover- ished backwater has evolved into the most significant rival to the United States at the fall of the Soviet Union (11/18). From aggressive tariffs (taxes on imports) to rising tensions around Taiwan to a near collision of reli- gious values in the Middle East, the two superpower- ers are charting a collision course for global conflict.

In periods of crisis, in order to close ranks against outside enemies while bringing workers at home to the two main factions may be willing to go as they please. In mid-November, in Pasco County, Florida, inves- tigators “seized 110 illegal weapons including a rocket launcher and two functional pipe bombs... and indict- ed two men for the crimes” (wftv.com, 10/27). More generally, the number of terror-related in- cidents were a recent analysis of the data by the news site Quartz, 30/31). More generally, the number of terror-related in- cidents were a recent analysis of the data by the news site Quartz, 30/31). More generally, the number of terror-related in- cidents were a recent analysis of the data by the news site Quartz, 30/31). More generally, the number of terror-related in- cidents were a recent analysis of the data by the news site Quartz, 30/31). More generally, the number of terror-related in- cidents were a recent analysis of the data by the news site Quartz, 30/31). 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Nurses strike, gives bosses a taste of workers medicine

CHICAGO, November 16—Over 30 Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) from the University of Illinois Hospital (UIH) officially went on strike yesterday, asserting their right to a living wage differentials, education level, and profession. As this is the elitism that saturates health care under capitalism, means understanding the contradictions that weaken working-class unity, and then taking active steps to overcome them to build international workers’ power. To this end, comrades in PLP will continue to organize within unions, in the workplace, and in the neighborhoods to win more workers to communism, a system that values the contribution of all workers and puts our needs first.

We salute to the University of Illinois LPNs! Your work is important, and your multi-racial fightback is, too! ☑

Dont’ f all for bosses’ traps. Reject union misleaders, elitism

Although this comrade was applauded for this statement, the reality is that the state of working-class struggle is a long way from taking any kind of legitimate offensive against the capitalists and their system. A large reason for this is an over-reliance on the role of unions under capitalism. More often than not they follow a toothless legalist strategy to try and enforce a contract, or even worse, dictate workers down the path of dead-end electoral politics to put another one of the bosses’ tools in place.

Many of unions’ “militant” actions are nothing more than publicity stunts that try to deceive their members that they are taking action on their behalf. In fact they are well-planned in advance with the excuse that they were being “disruptive” and that there wasn’t enough space in the boardroom.

Another short picket took place the following day, again on the lawn in front of the hospital. A number of the chiefs focused on the “second-class” status of LPNs as compared to registered nurses (RNs) and the racism and sexism character of the bosses’ disregard of their contributions to patient care. A number of UIH LPNs gave personal testimony on the bullshit about their key role in patient care. A number of UIH LPNs gave personal testimony on the bullshit about their key role in patient care.

A comrade from PLP who works in another local hospital, took the mic to express solidarity, emphasizing the need for workers to unite across workplaces under capitalism as the only real way to begin building our power in the face of the bosses’ attacks.

That of other workers. But this just works to hide the fact that our labor is connected and we can only fight back effectively when we organize across trades to shut down entire hospitals, schools, and other industries.

Communism connects our struggles

To fight for communist revolution and the complete destruction of racist and sexist capitalism, means understanding the contradictions that weaken working-class unity, and then taking active steps to overcome them to build international-workers’ power. To this end, comrades in PLP will continue to organize within unions, in the workplace, and in the neighborhoods to win more workers to communism, a system that values the contributions of all workers and puts our needs first.

We salute to the University of Illinois LPNs! Your work is important, and your multi-racial fightback is, too! ☑

NEW JERSEY, November 10—More than 65 workers, students, teachers, and community members from Puerto Rico, New York and New Jersey convened at this year’s Progressive Labor Party college conference about internationalism and smashing borders. Those in attendance represented immigrants from West Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Black, Latin, Asian and white students and workers born in the U.S. Along with the help of more experienced communist fighters, a new and younger group of working class organizers led this conference and committed to spreading the Party’s ideas as we organize for communist revolution (see page 7 for letters).

Break down concepts, break down borders

A new comrade opened the conference, high-lighting the importance of breaking down the meaning and power of concepts like working class internationalism, exploitation and fascism to reach a newer people being introduced to communism and PLP. There are no borders for capitalists as they span the globe fighting wars and looking to exploit workers and raw materials. Meanwhile, workers are held prisoners by these same borders, and used as cheap labor and cannon fodder in the bosses’ wars. This conference focused on building multiracial unity to smash all borders.

The panels that followed linked historical, communist-led working class fightback against capitalist oppression to three modern day struggles where PLP is active. The conditions arising from imperialist intervention in Yemen and Palestine have sharpened the class consciousness of community college students in New York fighting against racism on their campus. Similarly, the imperialist interventions in Latin America and the Caribbean have left working class people in Puerto Rico with a crumbling infrastructure and massive insecurity. This has produced the forced migration of undocumented workers to places like New Jersey, where they are forced to drive without a license and are in constant danger of state violence.

Same enemy, Same fight!

Given the chance to choose internationalism or nationalism through the panel presentations and the small workshop discussions, many in attendance were especially driven by the connections made between the students from the Middle East and the workers from Puerto Rico. One of the students from Yemen described the horrible details of famine that forced her family to migrate, while another student from Palestine described concentration camp-like conditions in that nation. One worker from Puerto Rico was involved in PLP’s October Brigade, a summer project meant to initiate a new wave of international communist struggle. This worker warned that the government slogan of “Puerto Rico will rise again” was just a message to capitalist investors. The government has no interest in investing in the workers of Puerto Rico so they can live and thrive again. He also explained how many workers and children have been drinking contaminated water, died from lack of medical access and at the hands of the state by isolation and suicide.

After the conference, many who have not yet joined PLP expressed how inspired they were by our young leadership and the commitment to put our revolutionary Communist Party in the hands of the world’s working class by fighting for an internationalist outlook. They shared the desire to go back and continue organizing with the communist fighters and friends in the Progressive Labor Party—learning together in both study groups and local organized struggles. ☑

College conference breaks borders
Migrant caravans
Worker unity only solution to smash bosses’ racism

TIJUANA, Mexico November 20—Some of the first migrants from the current Central American exodus are arriving in the border city. U.S. imperialism and its Mexican capitalist lackeys have welcomed them with more xenophobia, racism and obstacles. Only the international working class, following the PLP leadership, can organize a future for our sisters and brothers. In Tijuana, in unprecedented acts, the right-wing National Action Party (PAN) mayor Gastélum has used the media to encourage protests and xenophobic and racist attacks against the migrants. This achievement represents a great danger for the international working class. It is a bosses’ victory in their constant battle to keep us divided.

Our victories will be accomplished by confronting and crushing all expressions of anti-immigrant racism. In fact, there were protests and actions of solidarity with the migrants, but they have to grow and strengthen to be able to beat the racists.

Communists in the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) say that workers migrate because of the same reasons as facing a capitalist made tragedy. That is why we organize to change this criminal system. The PLP in Mexico organized a collection of food and clothes for the migrants in the caravans, but mainly we have taken them our communist alternative: revolutionary politics in the form of literature demonstrating the need for workers’ power to overthrow all the capitalists.

The bosses’ racism and nationalism are capitalist strategies to hide exploitation and dispossession. Workers and migrants are being used to carry out these crimes in the major regions of the world where the great waves of migrants come from: Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Migrants try to find a better place to live with dignity, but with the capitalist economies’ crises and the imperialist wars that they cause, this is becoming more and more difficult. The caravans of migrants trying to find a better place to live have arrived in the heart of U.S. imperialism. Here KCC students who attended the Conference describe what they did.

Always bring a crowd
On Thursday, a student’s expensive laptop charger went missing during lab. Her friend said she witnessed who took it, maybe by accident. No one wanted police involved, but the office in charge of the lab completely ignored the students’ request to look into it. We discussed it and eight students and faculty supported the student by walking back to the office and demanding that phone calls be made and the issue followed up. We said we’d return and follow up the situation next week.

A young Caribbean student new, to communist ideas, and a PLP member had just been reading a CHALLENGE article together and talking about what it means to be a communist on a day to day.

We take matters into our own hands - and when we do, we bring a crowd!

Small struggles prepare us for larger battles
None of these struggles will end the war in Yemen, lift the siege of Gaza, end racist administrators or racist police terror. Not today! However if we build a communist movement, brick by brick, and struggle by struggle united we can put an end to these evils.

From small skirmishes for waivers to mass protesting for better wages and livelihoods, by armed or electoral political conflicts, or by religious conflicts. These problems are generated by the capitalists, because in addition to providing them with cheap labor, it ensures the division of the working class, which limits our class’ ability to fight and face the attacks of their system.

The expulsion of workers also allows bosses to control the territories over the land for the mines, the extraction of gas or oil, also of the lakes, forests and rivers, and the richness of the biosphere. Because of all this, capitalism will never be able to provide our class with a decent, and stable future. Only the working class can change our situation with a communist revolution. That way, we will crush all borders as well as all the racist divisions that separate us. Solidarity with the caravans! Crush anti-immigrant racism! Join the PLP!

KCC students, staff take the future into their own hands
BROOKLYN, November 21—At this year’s Progressive Labor Party College Conference, a PL’er told us “we lead by taking matters into our hands.”

Here KCC students who attended the Conference describe what they did.

All for one, one for all
On Monday morning, a freshman student came to our group and explained her problem. She’s a CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Program (ASAP) student like me, which means our tuition and books are covered. Because ASAP sends the checks to our home, this student didn’t find it strange that she received a notice.

Then the college called her and told her they had overpaid her ASAP and placed her on academic hold, preventing her from registering for classes. She organized a meeting for the lab and asked what it means to be a communist on a day to day.

First we went to Financial Aid. They tried to make it sound like it was the student’s fault for cashing the check. We asked to work out a payment plan; they said no. The money would have to be immediately repaid. The whole point of ASAP is to help students who don’t have money to pay for college. What happens when you receive a check but can’t pay the expenses? What happens when students who need ASAP have hundreds of dollars laying around for whenever the college makes a mistake? Next we went to the Bursar’s office. We were told there was nothing they could do, and told me to mind my own business.

Standing up is our business
After it was clear we weren’t going anywhere, the staff member took a waiver form and said “ok fine, let’s just do this.” Just like that, they wrote it off for half of the amount owed! While she still has to pay back half, why did we have to go through all that?

I asked them that, and I demanded to know how many other students this mistake had happened to? Will they all be receiving these special waivers? Why are academic holds placed on students, affecting their futures, when it’s the college’s mistake? And why is it our responsibility to account for the college’s money? They had no answer.

I didn’t just stand up because she’s my friend. I did it because this is wrong and more of us need to stand up. We discussed it with friends who read CHALLENGE and went to the conference. This student has to write a short essay as a part of the waiver deal. We talked about turning her short essay into an open letter protesting the college’s “mistakes,” and posting it around campus.

In addition, hundreds have died or been mutilated in the dangerous journey they make on the train known as the Beast. Others, get sick without being able to receive any kind of assistance. They do not receive aid because nationalism has encouraged the population to see the migrants as enemies, they are seen as the ones that take away jobs, and in effect, they work for less than the minimum wage and without social security, under the bosses’ threats of termination, or deportation.

Faced with the migration triggered by the crisis of their system, the capitalists and their government close the borders with their armies, police, their criminal bands and their borders, while foisting racist hatred against the migrants. For this, they use their media to blame them for the increase in crime, to steal from local workers the precarious and nonexistent to, to break the laws.

Working-class solidarity
But, in spite of this racist campaign, workers demonstrated their solidarity in the communities where the caravans have arrived. Despite the precariousness with which they live, people organize themselves to receive their class sisters, they prepare food for them, they give them accommodation, they also provide them with medical care and clothes and support them with transportation.

This solidarity can become an international-class consciousness to unite the workers of the world to fight against the cause of their problems. The capitalist system Migration is provoked because capitalism is an unequal system at the local and global level. In Latin America and especially in Central America, workers have suffered chronic and millenarian misery; it is a region that produces mainly raw materials and cheap labor, the precariousness and scarcity of work together with the violence of criminal groups has forced the migration of hundreds of thousands in recent years, mainly to the U.S.

Migrants are part of the labor force that capitalists need to perform the worst jobs, the heaviest and the worst paid, which means super profits for the bosses. But that situation affects all workers because it causes a general decrease in wages and working conditions. Migration is a phenomenon that occurs between countries and within the same country. It may have a political or economic origin.

For example, in Mexico, thousands of families have been displaced from their places of origin by the violence of drug trafficking groups, by land conflict, by wars and livelihoods, by armed or electoral political conflicts, or by religious conflicts. These problems are generated by the capitalists, because in addition to providing them with cheap labor, it ensures the division of the working class, which limits our class’ ability to fight and face the attacks of their system.

The expulsion of workers also allows bosses to control the territories over the land for the mines, the extraction of gas or oil, also of the lakes, forests and rivers, and the richness of the biosphere. Because of all this, capitalism will never be able to provide our class with a decent, and stable future. Only the working class can change our situation with a communist revolution. That way, we will crush all borders as well as all the racist divisions that separate us. Solidarity with the caravans! Crush anti-immigrant racism! Join the PLP!

CHALLENGE • December 5, 2018

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November 9, Newark, NJ—150 protestors and supporters rallied outside of the Federal Building today, demanding the release of Jorge Chajon who has now been detained, for over a year now. At the tender age of thirteen, Jorge made the perilous trek from Guatemala to reunite with his family in New Jersey, accompanied by a caravan of 75 workers, fleeing the capitalist violence,that is all too pervasive in his home country. When he an-

November 9, Newark, NJ—150 protestors and supporters rallied outside of the Federal Building today, demanding the release of Jorge Chajon who has now been detained, for over a year now. At the tender age of thirteen, Jorge made the perilous trek from Guatemala to reunite with his family in New Jersey, accompanied by a caravan of 75 workers, fleeing the capitalist violence, that is all too pervasive in his home country. When he arrived here in New Jersey, he graduated High School, and had it not been for his immigration status at the time, he would’ve attended Rutgers University, he later married, and recently became a father to a little girl.

Despite sorting out his immigration status, and qualifying for DACA (Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals), Jorge’s status as a dreamer was brutally crushed when he was detained by ICE, costing him half a million dollars, and a 15 months in detention facing inhumane treatment. Today at our demonstration, many blamed the Trump administration for ongoing fascist policies. Yet criminal separa-
tion of children from parents within the borders of the U.S is part and parcel of decades of systematic U.S sponsored oppression in Cen-
tral America. Workers know that being even more benefits by dividing immi-
grant from “citizen.”

The fear of deportation of even more than 2.5 millions of Obama’s regime—drives wages low-
er for “citizens”, too, who are pitted against immigrants for jobs. What Jorge’s experience shows us is that the capitalist bosses can only offer workers nightmares not dreams of a better life. The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) stands in solidarity with Jorge Chacón’s family but takes a further step into the future. We rec-
gerant that figure, the most egalitar-
iwan has to combat policies like Reagan’s genocide in Guatema-
la’s of the 80’s and 90’s. The sense of violence Jorge and other workers in Central America red, and con-
tinue to fleeting end

The crowd today included members of Unitarian Universalist Faith Action, NJ Alliance for Im-
migrant Justice, Make the Road NJ and members of PLP. We held a banner displaying 2500 signatures demanding Jorge be released, and reunited with his wife, and two young children. Unfortunately our rally resulted in no justice (the hearing is postponed to November 20). His previous hearing was scheduled for June 26th, but ICE officials failed to show up to that hearing as well as a previous hearing!

Members of PLP and workers engaged in this fight say Enough to false promises! We vow to con-
tinue fighting alongside immigrant workers like Jorge to shut up about racism and these murders.

Over 100,000 people marched in Manhattan after a one-bedroom apartment costs $2000 a month. Yemeni refugees there are waiting for years. They’ve sold homes and businesses to survive and now are not able to get enough food and are drinking dirty water.

Comrades, we have to con-
tinue this fight. We are one of the international working class and we must destroy impe-
rialism! O

November 9, New York City—Progressive Labor Party participated in a mass march against the destruction and slaughter in Yemen. Although the protest was small, half the protesters blocked the doors of the Saudi Consulate, risking arrest. This form of radical protest led tens of thousands of New Yorkers to join in the protest. The Progressive Labor Party stands in solidarity with the victims of the genocidal war in Yemen, the Saudi government, the U.S., UK, and the UAE, who have killed more than 10,000 of our working-class sisters, brothers and children.

Many of the protesters were demanding justice for Eric Garner. When- ever these murders take place, Progressive Labor Party members form a committee to get justice for Eric Garner. When- ever these murders take place, Progressive Labor Party members form a committee to get justice for Eric Garner. When- ever these murders take place, Progressive Labor Party members form a committee to get justice for Eric Garner. When- ever these murders take place, Progressive Labor Party members form a committee to get justice for Eric Garner. When- ever these murders take place, Progressive Labor Party members form a committee to get justice for Eric Garner. When- ever these murders take place, Progressive Labor Party members form a committee to get justice for Eric Garner. When- ever these murders take place, Progressive Labor Party members form a committee to get justice for Eric Garner.

One of the things we’ve learned participating in these movements in the last few years is that more often than not the police are people talk about the fact that the murder, that the killing, that the whole judicial system and police, fail to realize justice. Racism and the resultant “justice” system formed the basis of the profit system and cannot coexist without them.

The working class must take power under a mass community party or any minor change or re-
form can reversed. Bringing workers and students to that level of understanding is our job as mem-
bers and friends of the Progressive Labor Party.

Solidarity with Ramsey

Share his story! Let us show Ramsey that he is not alone. In a recent phone conversation from prison, Ramsey said:

“...Thank you guys a lot for keeping my head levelled and sending me ideas and options to let me think another way rather than falling into a trap of situations that happen here. I appreciate that people are still here and bear with me. I tell multiple people that when they write me and ask me what can they do. How can they help? They ask me if they can send me anything, I just tell them that I’re good. I would rath-
er you just keep my story in the limelight and share my story before anything.”
Internationalism is a verb

During a recent trip to the U.S. East Coast, there were a lot of factors that made me and my coworkers consider that we're under a political and economic globalization for working-class movements, as opposed to a "uniting" under the bosses' nationalism: the on-going migration of thousands of workers from Central America, making their way through Mexico to the U.S. border; and a handful of conversations we had to start the conversation with many about how to really make change for the international working class.

I was also reminded of the heroic example put forward in the 1930s of the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War, to an excellent historical article on the back page of CHALLENGE (11/21). To them, proletarian internationalism would come down to the question of solidarity: these comrades from all over the world uprooted themselves entirely, risking their lives for the cause of fighting the growing fascist movement spreading across Europe at the time.

Today, as hundreds of the migrant workers arrive in Tijuana, Mexico and other cities along the U.S.-Mexico border, where they are met with not only to have their tires burst by the heat and then running for their lives. The fire burned a field area every minute.

Of course there have been many heroic stories of nurses and others evacuate neighborhoods and patients to safety (including the uncle of my co-worker) from the Feather River Hospital in Paradise. Dozens of community groups and churches have raised money, food and clothes for the tens of thousands who became homeless.

California wildfires: workers demand safety

California wildfires used to be years apart, but now dozens of them together each year. The northern California working-class hamlet of Paradise was completely devasted when a fire that started on Thursday, Nov. 8th. Nearly the entire town of Paradise with a population of 26,000 was incinerated in about a day and a half. The neighboring town of Magalia, population 11,800, has been evacuated. About 700 people are still unaccounted for. This is the deadliest wildfire in California history.

The number of deadly wildfires in California has risen dramatically in recent years. Earlier this year wildfires destroyed parts of the northern Central Valley city of Redding and several towns in the coastal mountain areas of Mendocino and Lake Counties. Last year large parts of Santa Rosa and Napa were devastated.

The Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa and the Camp Fire again have been fueled by arcing PG&E (Pa- cific Gas and Electric Co.) power lines too close to drought-stricken trees. However the major cause has been climate change. The warning of fossil fuels over the last 150 years. It is now nearly Thank- giving and we haven't had rain since April. Some of us are old enough to remember the 1962 World Series being rained out in early October in San Francisco. Generally spring comes earlier and fall comes later these days.

Millions of redwoods, pines and firs have died from drought and practically explode when sparked. Even the few wet only seize to build upon the dry grasses to fuel these fast-moving fires. Hot off-shore "Santa Anna" winds that are now more common in the fall rapidly spread these fires that could have been controlled years ear- lier. Another factor is that more people have been moving to rural areas like Paradise because workers can't afford the cost of living in urban areas. Twenty-five percent of the population of Paradise is elderly compared to fifteen percent nationwide.

The capitalists not only profit before the environment but they don't prepare workers to evacuate from these fast-moving fires. Most of the people have no emergency warnings or plans to evacuate neighborhoods. There were horrific im- ages of people trying to get through the flames only to have their tires burst by the heat and then running for their lives. The fire burned a football sized field area every minute.

One world, one class, one Party. Smash the bosses' borders!

President Trump, one of the most conservative presidents in history because of capitalism and nothing is being done. So many countries are going through the same process because of capitalism. Change must happen. Always.

I agree with abolishing capitalism, but I don't think it would be possible for it to happen unless something like World War II occurs. That would completely destroy the country and economy and then the idea of communism even happen- ing would be easier to spread. The United States is built and born with capitalism and has been that way since it's birth. So it would take a lot more than conferences and events to abolish this capitalism.

We are proletarians!

The conference was a vibrant discussion against nationalism as we embrace international- ism. The speaker set the tone with her opening speech. She painted clear lines for those in the room who may have been unclear on tiling back. And one might think the threat of climate change could paralyze us the same way. But the 1950s were actually paralyzed by anti-communism, not nuclear threat. Yes, the fires of climate change threaten us, but we have a choice. We can fight back, and fight all the way.

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College Conference Letters: ‘Ready to Commit’

Ready to commit
My experience at the college conference was a piece of the puzzle that had been missing—a piece that allowed my emotions to speak more clearly as the facts continued to present themselves. So many things that I had not realized. I could not ignore that. What spoke to me the most was the workers’ current situation in Puerto Rico. Hurricane Maria’s lasting effects hit home. The cargo trucks were filled with supplies and still are being withheld from the working class. Supplies to this day are still needed for the working class in order to survive.

I was informed that it took 25 days after the hurricane for water to be delivered to the rural areas of the island. It is not at all shocking that this is the case. Nevertheless, it was a reminder that capitalism is and will always act in the interest of keeping themselves in power. I was challenged on many levels, particularly the steps needed to build a pro-labor movement in movement. I came to the conclusion that I was ready to commit to the revolution. I am ready to commit to speaking up on the injustices of this capitalist system.

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Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers.


The latest Jim Crow: billon$ from e-carceration
NYT, 11/11 — “The New Jim Crow” —…a system of legal discrimination and segregation…[was] born in this country because of the war on drugs and mass incarceration.…

Many…current reform efforts contain the seeds of the next generation of racial and social control, a system of ‘e-carceration’ that may prove more dangerous.…

What’s taking the place of cash bail may prove even worse. In California, a presumption of detention will effecttively replace eligibility for immediate release.…And increasingly algorithms are helping to determine who should be caged and who should be set “free.”

...These advanced mathematical models — or “weapons of mass destruction”...are based on factors that are...highly correlated with race and class, but are also significantly influenced by perssasive bias in the criminal justice system.…

If you’re set “free” from a brick-and-mortar jail and your departing fee is higher than your income, you're more likely to be strapped with a new kind of debt. You're more likely to default on your debt, and be arrested for defaulting on it. You're more likely to be caught in this cycle, and more likely to be caught in this cycle again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again. You’re more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt, and more likely to be caught in this cycle of debt again.
California wildfires kindled by capitalism

Wildfires are regularly occurring natural disasters whose effects on workers are worsened by the neglect of capitalism. Throughout the state of California, over one thousand workers are still missing and at least 80 have been found dead in the Camp Fire in Northern California and the Woolsey and Hill fires in Southern California. Over 11,000 homes, including the majority of the town of Paradise, have been destroyed and the fires have not been fully contained.

Under communism, we would organize the working class to plan in advance for and respond collectively to the damage and destruction that ensue from natural disasters. Instead of “everyone for themselves,” our motto would be “mobilize the masses to act together.” Most of all, we would preserve and protect our environment from exploitation for profit, and design scientific policies based on the interconnectedness between a viable natural environment and human progress.

A Paradise lost

While California boasts to be the richest state in the country, home to tech giants like Google and Facebook and the multimillionaires of Malibu, these blazes lay bare the inherent inequality of capitalism, especially in this state, as many poor workers have been reduced to refugee status in tent cities in Walmart parking lots much like our sisters and brothers in less developed countries. (New York Times 11/18).

Moreover, while the Woolsey fire turned around 100,000 acres into a smoldering hellscapewith its fast-moving fire, one neighborhood in its path was saved. It’s a gated community with multimillion-dollar homes of celebrities like musician Kanye West who called on private firefighters to save their $60 million mansion and many of the other houses in their neighborhood (Huffington Post 11/15).

Mainly retired workers on fixed incomes lives in Paradise. Most of them never received evacuation orders; those who did found gridlock as they tried to flee (Los Angeles Times, 11/14). This is the essence of capitalism—leaving workers stranded to die. We see this time and time again around the world—the earthquake in Haiti (2010), the tsunami in the Indian Ocean (2004), hurricanes Katrina (2005), Harvey (2017) and Maria (2017) in the Southern U.S. states and Puerto Rico.

For decades, workers have demanded safety

The Woolsey fire started near the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) and burned part of this nuclear waste contaminated site that has yet to be cleaned up (NBC News, 11/12). Workers who live near SSFL have been campaigning for decades for the government to clean up the site, not just because of the ongoing exposure to residents, but also because of the danger that a wildfire could pose by spreading hazardous chemicals in its smoke.

In the area surrounding the Camp Fire, workers have been wearing masks when outside to protect themselves. Despite the dangerous air quality, farm workers in Ventura County are forced to continue to work in the fields picking crops. Some farms even forced their workers to speed up the picking to avoid crops being damaged by the fires (LA Magazine, 11/15).

Workers douse fires for $2/day

For the other thousands of workers’ and their communities, these blazes were covered by over 9,000 firefighters including 1,500 incarcerated, mostly Black and Latin workers. These incarcerated firefighters risk their lives to make slave wages of two dollars a day, which only increases to $1 an hour when they are actively fighting fires (New York Times, 11/15). Even with the work experience, they cannot work as firefighters when they are released because of their criminal records.

Bosss don’t prioritize health of workers and earth

According to Cal Fire the causes of these fires have yet to be determined. Many people suspect that they were caused by power company equipment failures, which happened minutes before the start of each blaze. Southern California Edison is already facing a lawsuit stating that their negligence caused the Woolsey fire (Ventura County Star, 11/19). The county also reported issues with two high voltage power lines in the area where the Camp Fire started. (Sacramento Bee, 11/18).

Nevertheless, while it is true that forest fires are a natural phenomenon, and while the California energy corporations might have started these fires, the magnitude and intensities of these fires represent a much larger problem that has been ongoing for generations. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) was created in the late 1800’s with the sole aim of managing timber production and was the first government agency that hired university-educated agronomists and forestry experts as opposed to other government bodies that hired based on patronage. However, after the Great Idaho Fire of 1910, which burned three million acres and killed at least 65 workers, fighting forest fires was added to its mission. Nevertheless, in spite of its best intentions, the proponents of scientific forestry didn’t understand the role of fires as serving an important function in maintaining the health of forests.

For instance, shade-intolerant trees such as ponderosa pines, lodge pole pines, and giant sequoias require periodic fires to clear areas in which they can regenerate. Once fires were suppressed, these trees were overrun by trees like the highly flammable Douglas fir, which turned forests into potential giant tinderboxes. Coupled with the Great Migration west, which resulted in larger communities in forest areas, these government policies led to more people living in areas vulnerable to wildfires. With this movement, insurance companies added pressure on the USFS to continue a bad policy in order to protect their properties.

Over time, the USFS began to take on multiple missions that were often in direct contradiction representing the competing interests of real estate developers, wealthy homeowners, insurance companies, timber interests, environmentalists and aspiring firefighters. As a result, the decline in the USFS’s effectiveness now mirrors the decay in bourgeois political institutions like the U.S. Congress (Foreign Affairs, September/October 2014).

Burn capitalism, build communism

Under capitalism, the ruling class doesn’t care about whether housing is built safely in areas that are prone to fires, floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters. During times of crisis, the working class unites to help each other evacuate and to help each other rebuild. Under communism, natural disasters would be exactly that—natural. Under the leadership of the working class, we will build infrastructure and maintain natural areas to lessen the damage to neighborhoods and destruction of workers’ lives.

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