

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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## THE FIGHT CONTINUES

# KCC STUDENTS FIGHT RACIST ATTACKS

**BROOKLYN, NY**—"What if PLP takes power and not everyone wants to live without money right away?" "If communism outlaws racism, how are laws enforced under communism?"

These were some questions our multiracial Progressive Labor Party (PLP) student study group's new comrades and attendees asked and discussed following our march against the racist KCC (Kingsborough Community College) campus police, administration, and the NYPD (New York Police Department). PLP and students are fighting them to drop the charges against Adrian, a student tackled by campus police, after being harassed by a racist student using the n-word (see CHALLENGE, 11/30).

Since then, the students have received a crash course in racist capitalism's state power. Since our last article, instead of dismissing and dropping charges against the student tackled by campus police, KCC is pursuing allegations made by the racist student and charging two student leaders with violating CUNY's (City University of New York) "Henderson Rules of Public Order," threatening penalties up to suspension or expulsion. This is another example in a long line of liberal and reform institutions siding with racism instead of the working class.

For the capitalists, militant antiracist fightback is the true "crime." As punishment, for three weeks students have faced combined attacks, from daily campus police harassment, to the lying of president Claudia V. Schrader, and confusing disinformation from the various campus administrative offices.

This pattern of racist harassment shows why this fight is about more than dropping Adrian's charges. If we lose this struggle, campus police will feel free to harass, assault and beat up ANY student they want.

Despite these attacks —or because of them— the antiracist club Common Ground has seen over 100 students express interest. Leadership of a core of militant, Black, Asian and immigrant women and men leadership is emerging. This growth under sharpening external attack has sharpened internal debates, and members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) have encouraged making time for addressing important questions. Rich ex-



*Exhibit A: the dangerous "public safety threat," a foam ball.*



*Exhibit B: students resist racist "ID check" and force campus police to retreat.*

changes that began over tactics and strategy have widened into debates over reform versus revolution, with the ultimate question of confidence in the international working class at the heart of it all.

### No more racist harassment!

As friends and students began joining us in greater numbers and gathering daily in the cafeteria, the campus police decided to brazenly harass those fighting back. On November 9, a half dozen campus police surrounded a group of club members and their friends, one of whom was bouncing a green foam ball while sitting (see "Exhibit A") and was told "this is not a playground," and "the ball constitutes a public safety threat." To everyone's shock, campus officers then declared that all stu-

dents who do not have class at the moment must exit campus immediately. The students sat defiantly and remained.

The following week, students were sitting and enjoying music through a speaker when another half dozen campus officers surrounded them, telling them "playing any music is banned on campus." This time, the students stood up together and confronted the police shoulder to shoulder. The campus police then repeated that everyone needs to go home and stated "it's time for an ID check, as CUNY students you automatically are subject to them" even though IDs are already checked at the

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## JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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# OUR FIGHT

- ★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.
- ★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

# Midterms mask liberal fascist agenda

In capitalist societies, elections like the recent U.S. midterms serve two critical purposes for the bosses. First, they resolve disagreements within the ruling class before the need to resort to violence. Second, they help to mask the true nature of the profit system—a capitalist dictatorship—and to keep workers tied to that system with the illusion that they can decide how it works.

The fallout from the November 8 elections reveals that ruling-class disputes—both within the U.S. and among the globe’s imperialist rivals—are becoming less and less controllable. The insurrection in Washington in January 2021 was a sign of things to come. As the U.S. economy deteriorates, as bosses in China continue to rise and authorities in Russia destabilize Europe, the U.S. bosses soon may be unable to rule in the old way. In a desperate attempt to save their failing system, they’ll need to turn to more open fascism as they move toward world war.

Over 100 million workers felt compelled to cast their votes in this capitalist dogfight, a near-historic midterm turnout. The rotten myth of liberal democracy remains a stubbornly powerful force. In reality, workers have no stake in the capitalists’ fight. All bosses routinely unleash racist terror on workers in the U.S. and worldwide. All are willing to sacrifice millions of our working-class sisters and brothers in wars to keep their profits and power. While the bosses and their media use lies and scare tactics to win votes for one side or another, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been organizing workers for over 50 years so that we can dump every one of these fascist capitalists, fake leftist or right wing, and run society for the needs of our class.

**U.S. rulers: both factions in disarray**

The election results exposed the volatility swirling around the U.S. ruling class. The bosses’ media were predicting a landslide victory for the Small Fascists, the domestically oriented capitalists who are fronted by Donald Trump and seek to organize mainly dissatisfied white workers. But while Republicans regained a majority of the House of Representatives, their margin was far narrower than projected. After catering to the erratic Trump for the last six years, the Small Fascists are in disarray. This time around, his endorsed candidates lost most of their high-profile elections (CNBC, 11/9). Rupert Murdoch, the Small Fascist owner of Fox News and the Wall Street Journal, labeled Trump the Republicans’ “Biggest Loser” (WSJ, 11/9). Meanwhile, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, a more disciplined racist and sexist, easily won reelection. Though DeSantis spouts the same garbage as Trump, he seems more reliably committed to sustaining the illusion of “free and fair” elections.

Meanwhile, the Big Fascists of finance capital, mostly Democrats who aim to organize the multiracial working class to fight for U.S. imperialism, retained their slim control of the U.S. Senate. But a closer look reveals that their position is far from secure. In House races nationwide, Republicans outpolled Democrats by more than three million votes (Cook, 11/9). The Democrats lost support among Black and Latin voters (CNN, 11/9). Their Racist-in-Chief, Joe Biden, is 80 years old and without a clear-cut successor for the presidential election in 2024.

**China and Russia: more advanced fascism**

By contrast to the disunity and dysfunction of the U.S. ruling class, China President Xi Jinping deals ruthlessly with renegade bosses or workers who step out of line. He routinely expels members of China’s fake “Communist” Party. In 2021, three of the largest Chinese tech companies were investigated for “graft.” After Alibaba chairman Jack Ma took issue with the state’s

criticized financial regulations, he was temporarily blocked from putting his company on the Chinese stock market (Washington Post, August 2021).

In Russia, critics of Vladimir Putin tend to end up in jail or dead. In August, when Lukoil chairman and Ukraine war critic Ravil Maganov reportedly fell from a hospital window, he became the eighth Russian energy executive to die ‘mysteriously’ this year (CNBC, 9/2). Both Xi and Putin understand that they must impose rigid discipline on the ruling class to maintain fascist control over the working class.

**“Protecting democracy” = building fascism**

In the U.S., as the Big Fascists prepare for World War III against their imperialist arch-rivals, they are doing what they can to convince a broad section of the working class to join a mass patriotic movement. After failing to guarantee women’s right to abortion, they used the Supreme Court’s sexist decision to overturn Roe v. Wade to convince angry workers to vote for Democrats. Moreover, the Big Fascists unleashed the FBI to investigate the 2021 attack on the Capitol and the Jan. 6 Committee to charge at least 955 people in one of the most documented crimes in history (Insider, 11/22). This same legal beast will also be used on progressive fighters against capitalism.

Not only that, their pleas to “save democracy” from Trump and the Small Fascists drew millions to the voting booths in November, resulting in the second highest midterm turnout among 18-to-29-year-olds over the last 30 years (The Hill, 11/9). Always ready to hide their racism behind identity politics, they are bragging about the record number of Muslim candidates elected (Guardian, 11/26). These maneuvers represent a deadly trap for workers!

The Big Fascist liberals aren’t the lesser of two evils—they’re the greater evil. From Bill Clinton to Barack Obama to Jim Crow Joe Biden, Democrats are the architects of racist mass deportations and racist mass incarceration. They’ve deployed racist drone bombings across Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. Behind their crocodile tears and phony shows of compassion, they are callous mass murderers.

**There is no lesser evil; fight for communism!**

For the international working class and the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party, the chaos engulfing the U.S. ruling class is both a great danger and an enormous opportunity. The bosses will continue to fight among themselves and ensnare millions of workers who are won to support one side or the other. But we also have the opportunity to show that capitalism offers us nothing but death and destruction—and that workers have a communist alternative. It’s an opportunity to point out that voting for one lying, racist politician or another every two or four years has nothing to do with real political power.

Workers will gain real power only when they smash the profit system and control every aspect of society, as they did after the two great revolutions of the 20 century. In the Soviet Union and China, politics was part of everyday life. Workers made historic advances in healthcare and education without ever going to the polls. They created a new society without campaign slogans or political stooges and parasites. Unfortunately, the Soviet and Chinese communist parties kept facets of capitalism, a mistake that ultimately led to the reversal of their tremendous gains on behalf of the working class. PLP celebrates the history of communist achievements, recognizes past mistakes, and organizes for a communist revolution that will sweep away capitalism and its illusions of democracy. Join us!☛



# Communist provide leadership for public health



## PLP led discussion takes on racist inequality

**Boston, MA, November 30**—Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends attended public health conferences to present antiracist and communist messages to thousands of public health workers.

The pharmaceutical bosses and their genocidal state once again chose to put their profit over workers' lives in the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, murdering millions of workers around the world. Government officials, politicians, and pharmaceutical companies have assaulted the public's health through racist "vaccine apartheid," denying lifesaving Covid-19 vaccines to millions around the world—specifically South Africa, where several doses were exported to Europe (New York Times 8/16/21)—refusing reproductive health services to women in the U.S., and spending billions on the war in Ukraine.

We are too used to this profiteering, money-grubbing, capitalist system. Under communism, not only vaccines for all, but health care for all would be implemented immediately. Millions of lives saved virtually immediately. But capitalism demands profits be put first. What a sick system! Join the fight for communism.

The American Public Health Association (APHA) includes 25,000 members. It proclaims to be the voice of public health but maintains strong ties to the Democratic Party, undermining this mission.

For 40 years, Party members have presented talks, written policies, organized demonstrations, and succeeded in winning passage of resolutions opposing police brutality, racist research, and imperialist wars, and marched against ICE (Immigration Control Enforcement). These activities have raised the profile of PLP in APHA while creating opportunities to meet and collaborate with other members and struggle with them to become revolutionaries. At this year's conference, we continued this activity distributing hundreds of flyers against sexism and a special APHA CHALLENGE pamphlet urging members to join PLP.

## Policy on global vaccines and treatment for Covid-19

This year PLP led the campaign in the APHA to pass a policy to provide Covid-19 vaccines, tests and treatments to the world. Over a dozen Party members and colleagues developed a policy statement demanding free, universal vaccination. Currently, the drug companies that produce the vaccines in the U.S. refuse to allow other countries to have the technology to produce their own, leaving many countries unable to vaccinate more than 10 percent of their populations. This not only imposes a death sentence on people in lower income countries, but it also endangers everyone by generating new forms (variants) of Covid-19 that are highly

transmissible and harmful. Limiting access to medications like Paxlovid and monoclonal antibodies also endangers the health of our class, the working class and increases the risk of "long Covid-19," a syndrome that creates severe disabilities. Meanwhile, the U.S. government has lifted life-saving services like moratoriums on rent and mortgages that allow people to stay housed. The policy, "Intellectual Property and Profits Limit Global Vaccine Access" was passed after nine months of work with our comrades and led to opportunities to discuss communism, socialize and plan for the future.

## Communists sharpen discussion at alternative public health conference

The APHA failed to provide Covid-19 safety requirements this year, so dissident members launched the virtual People's Public Health Program. This program opened the door to many more revolutionary and antiracist presentations that were not acceptable to the APHA leadership. They are now available on YouTube.

The PLP presentation "Covid-19 Protection NOT WAR" opposed U.S./NATO and Russian imperialism for killing workers for profit. The presentation denounced Joe Biden's capitalist strategy of supporting the war in Ukraine with \$65 billion dollars instead of supporting the global prevention and treatment of Covid-19. The speaker called on attendees to join PLP and the revolutionary fight for communism. Several attendees cheered this radical presentation and one commented: "This is a profound question." Debates over strategies for revolution ensued. In contrast, the APHA leadership supported U.S. war aims by screening a photo of a Ukrainian soldier with his gun in the opening session of the meeting.

Members of PanEndIt, a disability group with which PLP works presented on equitable education for students with disabilities and the fight to amend Section 504 of the 1973 Disability Act. Another PLP member described the dangerous practices promoted by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) and CDC (Center for Disease Control) and the labeling of people as mentally ill when the anxiety and depression many people experience are normal reactions to capitalism. The capitalists recommend screening adults for anxiety. We say, to improve public health, destroy capitalism!✊

# Capitalism fails 48K striking student-workers

**Berkeley, CA, November, 14**—Four union locals of the University of California striking workers (UAW) representing 48,000 Graduate Student and Postdoctoral workers walked out of the 10 campuses of the University of California (UC). This is the largest student-worker strike in U.S. history as it enters their third week. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members have joined picket lines in Berkeley and Davis - passing out leaflets, distributing copies of CHALLENGE. We joined about 500 workers and students who militantly marched over a mile from 1 ½ miles from campus to the University President's \$6.5 million mansion in a fancy Berkeley neighborhood.

In a communist society we won't need capitalists who perpetually squeeze us for more work and less pay. We don't need the market competition that forces our living conditions down and down. In a communist society we can work as human beings to provide for one another's needs - not for a wage.

Over the last 50 years graduate students have taken on more and more of the undergraduate teaching responsibilities and research while being paid as part-timers. There are fewer future tenure track positions to look forward to - so workers are fighting back. This need to strike reflects the growing crisis of capitalism worldwide as inter-imperialist rivalry intensifies. The capitalists' moves toward war dictate the intensifying economic and political control of key institutions like UC.



## Students and workers band together in solidarity

Graduate students now teach a larger percentage of first- and second-year undergraduate classes and low-paid instructors teach many upper-level ones. Full Professors now teach one graduate course, advise doctoral students and do research. Some beginning Academic Student Employees have a base pay of about \$23,000 for what is technically a 20-hour work week but with preparation and grading it ends up being 40 hours/week or more. Then they must find time for their own studies and research. Some departments cover graduate student tuition and fees - for domestic students only - which raises compensation to \$37K to \$40K.

They are demanding to be paid a minimum living wage of \$54K with increases tied to the spiraling cost of housing.

Wages are the same statewide, but housing costs are nearly double in high rent urban areas like Berkeley and Los Angeles than in Merced. Not to mention capitalist development is happening internationally while the profit-driven system and infrastructure of the old world crumbles. This turnout on the picket lines and the support of undergraduate students and professors shows tremendous working class solidarity. This type of unity illustrates the power of the working class which could be used to overthrow capitalism and replace it with a worker-owned, worker-controlled communist society. There are demands for local transportation passes and childcare subsidies. All student workers are demanding more support for international students whose tuition/fees are triple or more than domestic students. There are 10 or more picket lines at the Berkeley campus that are being supported by workers all over the Bay Area. Garbage truck drivers have stopped pick-ups and UPS drivers stopped their deliveries.

These examples of class solidarity and fight-back is a glimpse into the egalitarian world that workers can win if we continue to fight and build for it! Only communist leadership and learning can get us there! ✊



Remembering The October Revolution:

# Over a century of communist celebrations



Workers and PLP gather to learn from October Revolution.

**CHICAGO, November 19**—Over 50 multiracial workers and youth gathered in a local fieldhouse for our annual October Revolution celebration, marking the monumental seizure of power by the working class over a century ago. For years, our collective has held a social event in which we honor the communist Bolshevik Party and the millions of workers and soldiers who overthrew the capitalist bosses across the former Russian empire.

This year’s theme was “Commit to the Working Class.” In this temporary period of low class consciousness and struggle, rotten capitalist ideas such as nationalism, racism, and individualism still hold sway. Communists need to be at the forefront of winning workers internationally to commit to our class interests and to build Progressive Labor Party (PLP) as the only way to win a communist world without capitalism’s violence and exploitation.

In 1905, the Bolsheviks took heavy losses after a revolutionary uprising gave way to widespread oppression from the bosses’ state. Yet, by maintaining their resolve and rebuilding their forces, were in a position to lead the workers to take power in a massive country twelve years later in 1917.

Even when our working-class forces are small, the decisions and actions that we make today

count. Events like our October Revolution celebration are small but necessary steps that the Party and working class must take to prepare ourselves and grow to the level where we’re in a position to seize power once more.

### Collectivity and commitment to the working class

Behind every well-executed event there is always plenty of collective effort and organization behind the scenes. Our local events committee planned for months to develop a program that was educational and inspirational while also interactive and fun. Red balloons, banners with communist slogans, inspirational quotes and revolutionary artwork decorated the room. We made the political decisions to encourage masking and Covid-19 protocols to promote safety for all workers in attendance.

To kick the event off, a comrade emcee told some jokes and gave context about just how influential the October Revolution was. For the first time in history, the working class held power and collectively organized society! Workers in areas as far away as Mexico, India, and Vietnam gathered valuable lessons to apply to class struggle in those regions.

Next came another comrade with a powerful reading of communist poet Langston Hughes’ “Good Morning, Revolution,” a fiery poem with the message of building revolution as the best way to fight back. This was followed by a short film clip of the period in Russia between 1905 and 1917, highlighting the key moments where the Bolsheviks and the working class were able to take advantage of a capitalist system in crisis to build their movement.

After a rousing performance of the Italian antifascist song “Bella Ciao,” a veteran comrade inspired many in the crowd with the keynote speech. Throughout, he reflected on his decades of experience committed to the Party and the working class and how revolution is a lifelong struggle:

*Being embedded in and serving the working class is the best thing you can do with your life. The Bolsheviks knew that as does our Party. We will have our ups and downs, our advances and retreats, but if you are committed to the workers, they will teach you to have confidence in them. They will strengthen your resolve, maintain your revolutionary optimism, and improve your morale* (see page 7 for full speech).

We switched things up right after with our own version of a communist game show, “Who Wants to Be a Revolutionary?” where workers at each table in the fieldhouse discussed among themselves the responses to trivia about the October Revolution. Finally, we concluded our program with the singing of the communist anthem “The Internationale” in Spanish and English and ended the evening sharing a bounty of delicious food and socializing.

### Communist ideas are our weapons

The capitalist bosses are powerful, but they are not invincible. The October Revolution will always inspire our Party and workers around the world because it proves that it is possible for our class to defeat our enemies and run society.

In this period, our revolutionary communist ideas, including CHALLENGE, are our weapons. When we commit ourselves to the working class and antiracist, antisexist culture takes hold, a communist future is not far off.✪

## The New School

# Student-workers on strike vs crisis-ridden system



Workers and Students rally for better pay for teachers.

**NEW YORK CITY, November 23**—Since November 14, the union for the Part-Time Faculty (PTF) representing 2,600 teachers ( 87 percent of the entire faculty of the New School) has been on strike because the administration refused to meet their simple reasonable demands for higher wages and better benefits. Many full-time faculty and students quickly joined the PTFs, canceling classes and issuing statements opposing crossing picket lines (physical and digital).”Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members are joining these striking workers, bringing a strategic revolutionary message of the need to struggle for communism.

The City University of New York’s (CUNY’s) 30,000-strong Professional Staff Congress (PSC)

that includes PLP members issued a statement of solidarity, stating that the PSC is proud to stand with them and urges all CUNY adjuncts to sign the No Scab pledge. The strike is happening just two days after 48,000 academic workers of the University of California system launched their own strike, and about one year after the second strike called by graduate student workers at Columbia University in 2021 which lasted for ten weeks before the demands by the union were met. Adjuncts are organizing broadly. PTFs at Howard University in Washington D.C. faced down the administration last year and won gains with a strike threat.

Faculty and teachers are being driven into the ranks of the oppressed working class by capital-

ism’s multiple financial crises and are fighting back. Full-time faculty are being replaced by untenured, precarious and low-paid professors, while at the same time tuition and student debt has risen, all because the U.S. ruling class aims to lower spending on higher education. The only way forward for these and other workers is building a movement to overthrow the profit-hungry capitalist system which treats teachers, other workers and students like expendable garbage.

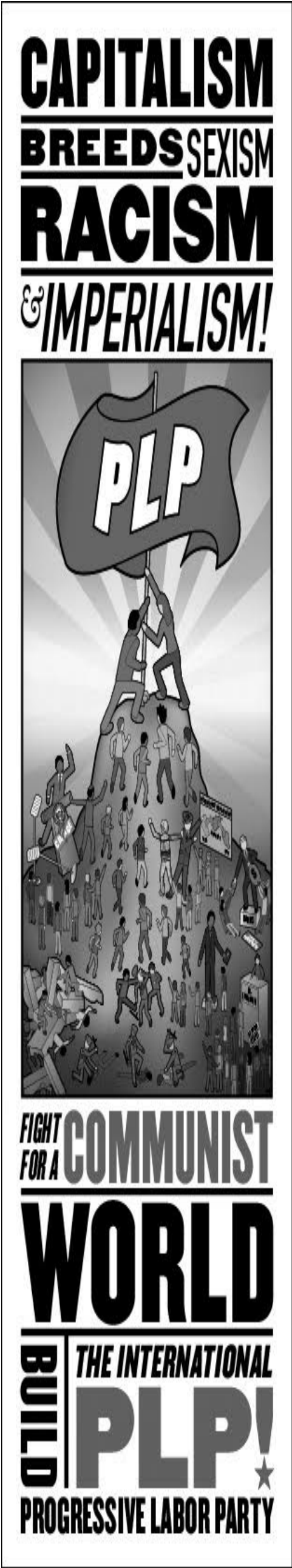
The New School was founded a century ago with a progressive, social justice mission, at least on paper. Today’s administration has abandoned even the pretense of this mission. The university’s negotiation team walked away from the bargaining table, leaving a so-called “last, best and final” offer that included a seven percent raise this year and a 2.5 percent raise in the following eight years, which could be translated into barely 1 percent raises per year for the incoming 9 years, not even a negligible improvement of the low-pay situations for PTFs given the four-year wage freeze since 2018 and today’s all-time high inflation. The same “final offer” gives the university unlimited authority to hike out-of-pocket costs for the health plans and cut 1/10 of the faculty at Mannes, its music conservatory, from the health plan altogether. The university’s offer will perpetuate and even worsen the precarious situations many PTFs are facing.

Today’s wave of faculty strikes may well be a historic moment when the intensifying class war includes proletarianized academics en masse. Shut it down, and shut it tight! Join workers globally on the road to communist revolution.✪



# Reds vs. Eviction Part 4:

## Working-class children bear racist brunt



The following is part four of a seven-part series reprinted and lightly edited from the communist newspaper *Daily Worker* in September-October, 1932, written by famous communist Mike Gold.

Workers here are referred to as *Black* instead of the original “*Negro*” to reflect our antiracist principles as well as the linguistic shifts that occurred over decades of antiracist class struggle.

Communists have a long history of fighting against racist attacks on our class. One such fight was against landlords and evictions. In the early 1930s, amid Jim Crow segregation, a Great Depression with record unemployment levels that sank the working class—particularly Black workers living in the urban industrial core—into deeper poverty and despair, the Communist Party in the U.S. (CPUSA) was fighting for revolution inside U.S. borders. This period was a golden age of class-conscious fightback when communist ideas were popular and gripped the imaginations of the working class. Under the leadership of the CPUSA, workers organized militant housing councils, tenant unions that led bold actions that weakened the power of profit gluttonous landlords.

Today our class is in a different period marked by increasing volatility. We are choked by record-high inflation, rent hikes, food price gouging compounded by stagnant wages, high unemployment, and an eviction crisis worsened by a still-raging global pandemic. Though the CPUSA is a shell of its former self, decaying into a toothless, reformist party, its history provides valuable lessons for us today.

This series highlights this antiracist revolutionary fightback and contains kernels of working-class wisdom.

In past issues “Reds vs. Evictions” covered the story of Claude Lightfoot a communist activist and author who, like so many communists before and after him, was brutalized by the klan in blue for fighting against racism. In this issue’s edition we look at how that same police terror was hurled at working-class children.

### Chicago PD, a bunch of racist thugs

The workers’ children in the Raymond Public School were starving. Many fainted daily of hunger in the classrooms. The nearby Unemployed Council decided to organize a demonstration. October 13, last, some 500 children of the ages of five to 10, assembled before the Council, intending to parade before the United Charities at 46 and Prairie, with banners demanding food and clothing.

At 46 and Michigan three police cars drew up; the cops rushed at the children, cursing, punching, smashing their clubs into young frail bodies. Yes, cops do such things!

Lightfoot and nine others, several Black and two white comrades, were arrested and herded into the Bull Pen, a room packed with 75 other prisoners, the result of raids on gambling dives and speakeasies. Here they were held for three days without being booked.

“But we kept up a wonderful spirit during that time, singing the old revolutionary songs all through the nights, and improvising new ones.”

### A dramatic trial

There was a dramatic trial. The state shrewdly designated a Black assistant on the State’s Attorney staff as prosecutor. “There will be bloodshed on our streets this winter,” he orated, “if these Moscow agitators are not locked in the Bridewell.”

Albert Goldman, the fearless attorney for the International Labor Defense, made a most moving reply. “Yes, there will be bloodshed, unless economic conditions change, unless the naked are clothed, the hungry fed, and police do not stop beating in the heads of men who are only asking for the right to live.” The Judge handed out the maximum sentence.

Lightfoot had no more than been taken from the court of capitalist justice when Lieutenant Barker of the Chicago police entered his cell, offering him again his freedom if he would return to the fold.

“I am no damn traitor,” was the young Communist’s brief answer.

Captain Stege of the police came in to add pathos to the capitalist side of the argument.

“Young man,” he said, “I want you to promise me sometime, to visit the fields of Gettysburg. There look at the tomb of my grandfather who died that colored people like you might be his equal.”

“Yes,” answered young Lightfoot, “if you will visit Boston Common, to look at the statue of Crispus Attucks, a man of my race. He was the first to fall in the revolution. He died that your ancestors might be free from England, while Black workers like us remained in slavery.”

Black workers, like workers everywhere, have to break through many crooked paths of illusion before they reach the broad highway of revolutionary thought.✪

## KCC students fight racist attacks

Continued from page 1

front gate. The students raised their voices and told them off, and the campus police retreated.

We are organizing a defense and political counter-attack to build on our growing support, campus and CUNY-wide, distributing dozens of CHALLENGES, and we’re developing new young communist leaders along the way.

As long as we live under the dictatorship of the capitalist class, workers will be subject to racist and sexist attacks. The bosses and especially their liberal lapdogs preach the all-class unity garbage of “we’re all one community” on one hand, while protecting racists on the other and allowing military recruiters on campus to enlist soldiers for widening imperialist wars. But ultimately, it will take building a mass PLP—and a Red Army—to destroy racism and capitalism once and for all, which can happen only if all of us become mass organizers and lead mass antiracist struggles. And this struggle has the potential to become one!

### A single spark can become a fire

Meanwhile, a four to one majority of delegates in the union representing 29,000 CUNY faculty and staff, the Professional Staff Congress (PSC), passed a resolu-

tion supporting KCC’s students, declaring “an injury to one is an injury to all.” While the resolution was being debated, some self-proclaimed progressive KCC faculty delegates issued ineffectual pleas for “more time to investigate.” A Black delegate from another campus responded from the floor “we’ve been ‘investigating’ this for 400 years, it’s time for action” and voted “yes”!

With each study group raising important questions, our new comrades are recruiting even more outstanding antiracist fighters and especially strong Black and immigrant women into the struggle. They are working through sharp political questions and learning to manage sharp disagreements while under increasing state attack. Under communism we will immediately outlaw racism and attack racists with the power of the Party. Despite these challenges, the dark night of imperialism will have its end and these students prove workers can run the world! Their experiences today are planting the seeds of a movement of millions of workers we have not yet met but share their hatred of racism and life under capitalism. As more students fight back and dare to envision a workers’ dictatorship and a bright communist future, the closer the day is when they will lead us there. JOIN US!✪



# LETTERS

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

## Andor: Greater than the sum of its parts?

I just finished watching the new Star Wars series *Andor* on Disney Plus, and I have to admit that I was pleasantly surprised. For a science fiction franchise that usually leans on the deeds of individuals with supernatural powers to save the day, this new show seemed surprisingly class-conscious.

It emphasized the collective and covert methods of “ordinary” persons to organize under fascism, often at great risk to their safety. The cast is multiracial, and women are seen giving courageous leadership in every episode. To be honest, to watch the show reminded me of reading about the inspiring deeds of the Red Orchestra, the communist-led partisans that were organizing across European cities when the continent was occupied by the Nazis.

But then again, *Andor* was produced by Disney, a bonafide capitalist “empire” if there ever was one, so I kept asking myself: what’s the catch? I think that answer lies in showing some of the leadership making cold and calculated decisions to sacrifice freedom fighters to guarantee the growth of the young Rebellion. In doing so, the writers lean into anti-communist tropes that revolutionary leaders are generally just as corrupt as their capitalist counterparts and the best thing that the working class could hope for is some kind of vague “democratic” middle ground between fascism and communism.

Only time will tell what kind of lessons about revolutionary struggle get told in upcoming seasons of the show, but I’ll definitely plan on viewing it with a critical communist lens. If other CHALLENGE readers have seen this show, I’d be interested to hear your opinion

## Radiation IS harmful in low doses

The letter in the November 16, 2022 CHALLENGE “Radiation, harmful only at high doses,” accepts the ruling class view on radiation. and says, “We live on a radioactive planet” and that radiation is not harmful in low doses. Not so!

This author fails to distinguish between types of entry of radiation into the body. External radiation poisoning can kill, as in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or burn the body. Internal radiation enters the body by inhalation of irradiated dust doesn’t kill or injure immediately but causes DNA and cellular damage. External radiation injury involves gamma rays. Internal radiation poisoning causes much more cellular damage than can be calculated from external exposure. Internal radiation damage comes from alpha and beta radiation. Alpha particles have 625 times more energy than gamma rays, and beta rays also have more energy than gamma rays. Since gamma radiation can leave the body and alpha radiation can’t, the latter is more damaging.

When the author says “we live on a radioactive planet,” it’s true that Earth has radon and that radiation naturally reaches Earth from cosmic rays, but the body is built to handle this radiation with robust repair capacity. The body is NOT built to handle the 1,400 new man-made radionuclides from atom bombs, nuclear-powered ships or plutonium factories. The Atomic Energy Commission (now the U.S. Department of Energy) and other authorities tell us that low level radiation is safe. This is a lie! In fact, nuclear submarine personnel have increased rates of cancer; babies of X-Ray technicians have increased birth defects, etc. The author of the letter claims that after the meltdown in Chernobyl, it was found that people had doses of radiation “to the thyroid that were a tiny fraction of the doses used in nuclear medicine to save lives.” This is untrue! Chernobyl fallout caused increased thyroid cancer (Busby, 2022). Medical radiation also causes cancer. There is a large literature on low dose radiation causing cancer, birth defects and other harm.

The research on radiation in both epidemiology, invitro and in laboratory animals indicates that radioactive agents inside the body create damage to DNA and other adverse cellular effects (Busby, 2022). Busby presents evidence “that atmospheric nuclear testing in 1959-63 caused the increased global cancer epidemic that began some 20 years after the fallout.” Internal adverse effects

from radionuclides inside our bodies are not detected with the external dose devices. Not surprisingly, all the research sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency and its fellow agencies in the countries using nuclear technology have a vested interest in confusing the public to force acceptance of continued nuclear power plants, atomic powered ships and atomic weapons.

Busby, Christopher. 2022. “Ionizing radiation and cancer: The failure of the risk model.” Cancer Treatment and Research Communications 31: 100565.

## Critical the cult of the individual and voting

The article in the November 30th issue of CHALLENGE on Stalin was excellent and timely given the renewed attempts by the U.S. and European bosses to attack Stalin. The article said so much with the line “The reason the capitalists hate Stalin is because he helped lead a revolution that threw them out of power”.

What people do (or don’t do) does make a big difference. As the article documents, Stalin made an enormous contribution to the working class. He gave leadership on how to fight the bosses and have the will to win even in the face of massive counter attacks and setbacks. That leadership set the tone for the communist movement.

There are two criticisms I have of the article as well. First, when we write about the old movement, particularly when we’re writing about Stalin and Mao it’s important to point out that they fostered the cult of the individual. The cult of the individual ended up being devastating to the movement as it gave a backward idea about leadership and when Stalin died it left many members paralyzed and not trained to help develop the line. It was then impossible at that point for the members to correct the Party and get it back on the path towards communism.

The second criticism is that in a couple of places the article talks uncritically about using voting to make decisions inside the party. Voting is a bad way to make decisions. We believe in communist centralism and the idea of from the masses to the masses.

# GLOSSARY

## COMMUNIST TERMS

### Fascism

Capitalism’s response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

### Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

### Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They’re willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

# Fighting racist police terror: It’s a lifelong struggle

I was part of a group of 18 people who turned out to confront racist KKKop/Corrections Officer, murderer Dion Middleton, on November 16, as he appeared on murder charges for the racist killing of 18-year-old Raymond Chalusant and then fleeing the scene this past July. The bosses’ court showed how afraid they are of working-class rebellion when court officers surrounded the family and supporters and warned us to stay away from Middleton as they prepared to escort him, flanked by armed bodyguards, into and later out of the courtroom. We barely contained our contempt.

We are working on an article for the next issue of CHALLENGE with an updated analysis of the case, but to provide some perspective, I thought to share some of my personal experience from a life of confronting KKKops.

My first experience with racist police terror came in 1986 in the middle of the Eleanor Bumpurs case, an elderly disabled Black woman who was gunned down (with a shotgun!) by KKKops in her own apartment. As a young man, I remember being stunned by the viciousness of the cops against a 67-year-old woman clearly in emotional distress. In the days before cell phone videos and social media, our main weapons of publicizing these cases were street protests, leaflets, and many

copies of CHALLENGE.

But it was in 1992 when racist police terror became something personal. I came to know a young mother, María Salim, whose 14-year-old son, Eric Reyes, had just been executed by an off-duty KKKop William Proulx (I’ll never forget that name) in East Hartford, CT. The Salim family had moved there to attempt to escape the violence of life in the city of Hartford. Proulx stalked young Eric after the boy ran away from a juvenile detention center, executing him in a parking lot with his personal gun, and let him bleed to death on the ground.

I helped lead a yearlong campaign to bring Proulx to justice and expose the racist capitalist system that caused it. Hundreds of Eric’s neighbors signed a petition we distributed condemning the murder, and our demonstrations exposed the murder as an integral part of this racist capitalist system. We also tried to provide support, comfort, and friendship to a family whose lives had been shattered. When his mother sued the town, I witnessed the bosses’ racist state kick into high gear to stalk and torment Eric’s family. They spread false pro-cop stories in the major press, staked out the family’s home, and followed his mother around town, even arresting her on trumped up charges. The capitalist state made life hell

for the family and left a lifelong trauma that haunts them to this day.

20 years later I was personally involved in another campaign against a racist KKKop shooting when the 20-year-old brother of the former student council president at the school where I taught was murdered by KKKop Ramysh Bangali as he was fleeing an armed robbery in the Bronx. Instead of protecting Reynaldo from the criminals, police gunned down the victim! We protested in front of the police station every week, one for each year of Eric’s life, but the cop was never charged, and once again, a family was left traumatized.

Black and Latin youth are the main targets as the bosses’ system terrorizes the working class to prevent rebellion over the conditions they have created in the name of their sick profit system.

Over the last 36 years, I estimate I’ve directly participated in over 20 campaigns against KKKops murdering Black and Latin people. As a moving antiracist song puts it, there are “Too Many Names.” This is a lifelong struggle. Just as racist terror is the front lines of the bosses’ rising fascism, our fightback against these crimes must be the frontline of our fight for communism, to expose the bosses’ racist state. Hasta el final (Til the end)!

# October Revolution Celebration: commit to the working class!

The theme for tonight's Great October Revolution event is "commit to the working class." the Progressive Labor Party stands on the shoulders of the great Bolshevik revolutionaries and we strive to emulate their strengths and avoid their weaknesses.

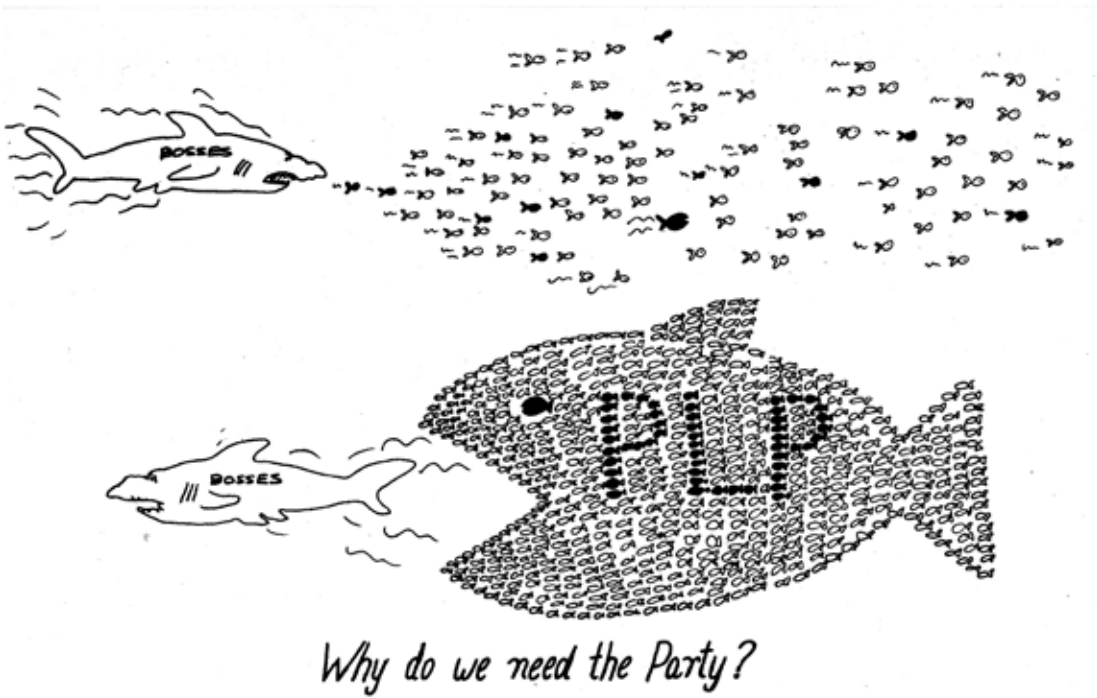
The Bolshevik Party's commitment to the working class was strong: (1) they organized among rank-and-file soldiers to turn the guns around during the First World War to make revolution. (2) They armed themselves and workers for insurrections following strikes to battle for political power. (3) They used their newspaper Iskra, as an organizing, propaganda, and unifying tool amongst workers. And (4) they fought against tactics that divided workers like racism, sexism, and nationalism.

The Bolsheviks understood the violent nature of the Tsarist and capitalist state. For example, after the first Russian Revolution in 1905, the Tsarist government brutally beat, tortured, jailed, and killed many thousands of revolutionaries. The Party's membership decreased, yet their commitment to revolution and the working class sustained them all the way to eventual victory, 12 years later, in 1917.

They lived through the historical experience of imperialist wars, first, in 1905 when Russia fought and lost to Japan, and then when the First World War broke out. In these mass slaughters of workers, the Bolsheviks pushed internationalism and urged soldiers to turn the guns around to make revolution. Unlike their political enemies, the Social Democrats throughout Europe, who had voted for war credits and had sided with their own country's imperialists. These were the liberals of that era, just like the Big Fascist liberals (the big finance capitalists and Democrats), they will pretend to be our friends, but they will always betray our interests to advance their own imperialist aims.

Learning from the Bolsheviks, the Party sent me and other young people into the military to recruit other soldiers and to learn how to use the weapons we needed for the revolution. This is vital work for the Party, and we are working to reestablish and rebuild it. Today, many Black and Latin workers facing the never-ending racist economic crisis of capitalism opt for the military as a job; we must be there with them building the Party.

For the Bolsheviks their newspaper Iskra was a collective propagandist, agitator, and organizer. It collectively promoted its communist ideas, it rallied the workers who read it, and it organized them into



battle and let the workers know what other workers were doing to expand revolutionary organizing. Similarly, we in PLP are trained to read, study, write for and distribute our revolutionary newspaper CHALLENGE.

The Bolsheviks like Joseph Stalin fought racism among Armenian and Azeri workers in Baku and organized against anti-Jewish pogroms (organized massacres). They did this because these divisions were used to weaken the workers' movement. As a young Latin man who had faced much racism in the U.S., I wanted to understand where racism came from and how to fight it. PLP instructed me in the ways of anti-racism and internationalism. We studied how racism is an essential aspect of the capitalist system as a major source of extra profits for the racist bosses. Also, we studied how nationalism was never progressive and could never lead to the liberation of the working class. As trained anti-racists, we demonstrated against racist police killings on the West and South Sides of the city. We led struggles against the Klan and other fascist groups to shut them down.

The Bolsheviks saw the importance of smashing sexism and to promote the leadership of wom-

en comrades and workers. Krupskaya, a Bolshevik leader, argued that if women were kept out of the political process, half the working-class army would be lost. Likewise, our Party fights sexism and seeks to develop women leadership in all its collectives, especially leadership collectives.

The Party has always asked its members to commit to the working class and like the Bolsheviks to embed ourselves in it.

Being embedded in and serving the working class is the best thing you can do with your life. We will have our ups and downs, our advances, and retreats, but if you are committed to the workers, they will teach you to have confidence in them. They will strengthen your resolve, maintain your revolutionary optimism, and improve your morale.

That's why we call on all of you to commit yourselves to the working class, or to recommit yourself and to strengthen your resolve to fight the racist, fascist, capitalist state and make communist revolution to build the world we need.....COMMUNISM! And like the Bolsheviks who were small, like us, follow the path to working class victory! Long live the international working class! Long live communism! Power to the workers!

## RED EYE ON THE NEWS...

### Weapons production ramps up for a long, cruel war

Foreign Policy, 11/16—As the war in Ukraine shows little sign of abating, Kyiv's Western partners are grappling with how to maintain a supply of arms and ammunition to Ukraine...without letting their stockpiles dwindle to the point that it could jeopardize their own readiness levels.

NATO is now discussing how to support members if their stockpiles fall below the levels needed to meet their defense obligations...But back in Washington, some former officials are wishing that the Biden administration and NATO allies had gotten the message sooner, and they want defense spending, which has boomed since Russia's full-scale invasion, to continue to spike for the foreseeable future.

Behind the scenes, the United States and other NATO powers have urged Western defense companies to bump up production...“What they say is essentially show me the money,” said Mark Cancian, who served as chief of the Pentagon's force structure and investment division until 2015.

“Their fear is that the war will end and the orders will end and they will end up with these expanded factories that don't have any orders to fill them.”

### As billionaires prosper, most U.S. workers live paycheck to paycheck

Lending Club, June/July 2022—More than half of the U.S. population — an estimated 150 million adults — currently live paycheck to paycheck, making it the most common financial lifestyle in the United States...in May 2022, 58 percent of consumers live paycheck to paycheck...Viewed over the last year... this share has been on an upward trend: The share of consumers living paycheck to paycheck has increased four percentage points from 54 percent in May 2021. Seventy-seven percent of those earning less than \$50,000 and 62 percent of those earning \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually were living paycheck to paycheck in May 2022, up from 72 percent and 53 percent, respectively, in May 2021 . Meanwhile, 36 percent of consumers earning more than \$100,000 per year reported living paycheck to paycheck in May 2022.

### Anti-Haitian racism now extends to all Black workers

Bloomberg, 11/21—As the Dominican Republic increases the deportation of Haitian nationals, Black US citizens risk being caught up in the sweep, the U.S. Embassy in Santo Domingo said. “Travelers to the Dominican Republic have reported being delayed, detained, or subject to heightened questioning at ports of entry and in other encoun-

ters with immigration officials based on their skin color,” the embassy said in an alert published over the weekend. The warning comes as the Dominican Republic has been stepping up the deportation of undocumented migrants from neighboring Haiti, as that nation is mired in gang violence and political instability.

### China outdoes U.S. as capitalist paradise

NBC News, 4/9—Three years ago, American entrepreneur Raj Oswal traveled to the Chinese city of Shenzhen on behalf of a client. He was so impressed that he stayed and started his own tech company...The former fishing village, now a tech hub known as China's Silicon Valley, has joined Beijing and Shanghai as the world's top three cities for billionaires, edging out New York for the first time this year. According to the Hurun Global Rich List, an annual ranking compiled by a private Shanghai-based company, Beijing is home to the world's greatest number of billionaires at 144, followed by Shanghai with 121. There are 113 billionaires in Shenzhen, compared with 110 in New York, while London came in fifth with 101.

Shenzhen's rise began in 1980, when it was named China's first special economic zone as part of the country's “reform and opening up” under then-leader Deng Xiaoping. That allowed the city to experiment with market capitalism in an effort to attract foreign investment.



# BIG FASCISTS DISCIPLINE YE

Multi-billion dollar sneaker company, Adidas, ended its nine-year relationship with Ye (formerly known as Kanye West) after the rap mogul made repeated anti-Jewish remarks. Ye praised Adolf Hitler and the Nazis while spewing toxic anti-Jewish racism during radio interviews and on his social media accounts. Twitter and Instagram booted him from their platforms, too.

The statements about breaking ties with Ye is hypocritical at best. It also demonstrates the tactics of the Big liberal Fascists: pretend to care about racism to distract from their systemic racism and exploitation, all while sewing division in the entire working class.

Black and Latin students and workers are spot on about Ye being reprimanded by a class of wealthy capitalists. However, that class is not limited to Jewish, white, or male; all shades and spectrums of the ruling class must be attacked.

The main wing of the ruling class prioritizes amassing finance capital internationally while trying to buy workers into the illusion of fairer exploitation. Ye's racist volatility is too dangerous for this section of the ruling class's plans for global domination. Instead, Big Fascist bosses prefer to work with artists-turned-billionaires like Jay-Z (Shawn Corey Carter).

## Adidas, a Nazi-loving company

Adidas cut ties with Ye not because they are any less racist but because spewing anti-Jewish racism is bad press and bad business. While the company declared "Adidas does not tolerate antisemitism and any other hate speech" (NYT, 10/22), the founding brothers Adi and Rudolph Dassler were members of the Nazi Party. They had joined around the same time as Hitler's ascension to power.

In 2020, at the height of George Floyd protests, Adidas workers filed a 32-page report outlining the racist culture at Adidas. "My existence at this brand is praised as diversity and inclusion, but when I look around, I see no one above or around that looks like me," said one employee (Insider, 2020).

## No one makes a billion looking out for others

The Washington Post, a publication owned by Amazon's own exploiter-in-chief Jeff Bezos, announced that he was interested in bidding on the NFL Washington Commanders with Jay-Z (Washington Post, 11/3).

In 2019, Jay-Z's company Roc Nation struck a deal with the NFL, to launch "Inspire Change" to allegedly combat social injustice and address the issues that Black and Latin workers faced.

In reality, it was a disgusting public-relations stunt to derail protests led by Colin Kaepernick and other football players protesting the murders of Black workers and children during the national

anthem. Jay-Z responded to the backlash: "we've moved past kneeling. It's time to go into actionable items" (Washington Post, 11/3).

Many Black and young workers took to Twitter to express their defense of Jay-Z's decision to cross the picket line of Chateau Marmont workers in their struggle against the racist capitalists there, alluding to some super bargaining power Jay-Z has that will surely result in some win for Black workers. Faith in a billionaire or a liberal misleader like Jay-Z is death for our class. Jay-Z is the same billionaire celebrity that sold out workers in Brooklyn to build the Barclays Center, an arena that's displaced hundreds of workers.

This is the same billionaire sponsoring classes to teach workers in Marcy housing projects in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood how to invest in another failing faction of capitalism, cryptocurrency. A local resident said, "If you want to do something, fix this place up," (The Guardian, 6/22).

## Celebrity culture, new opiate

Karl Marx said, "religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, the soul of soulless conditions. It is the opiate of the masses." For many workers today, celebrity culture has become that new drug.

Celebrities are pawns used by the ruling class to perpetuate capitalist ideology. In the case of Hip Hop, rappers are given deified status because their lyrical content and 'come-up' stories appeal to young Black and Latin audiences struggling to survive under capitalism.

Like the religious opiate, hip-hop celebrities like Ye and Jay-Z promise youth that if we just make the right moves, we too can have all the riches and pleasures. But there is a split between the Small Fascists and the Big Fascists of the ruling class, which is embodied by the difference between figures like Ye and Jay-Z.

## Ye and Jay-Z embody two sides of fascism

Ye offers young people disillusioned with mainstream liberal politics a way out and into the arms of reactionary ideologies like nazism.

But the bigger threat lies with yet-to-be-cancelled celebrities like Jay-Z, and their Big Fascist bosses, who gaslight and diffuse the rightful frustrations of the working class by pretending they are fighting racism "the right way."

Ye's reactionary politics expose the insincerity of the Big Fascists and their celebrity stooges. Over the last 50+ years, Ye and other rappers have been a public voice for that disillusionment.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and much of the southern states in the U.S. in the early 2000s, Ye took advantage of LIVE television to stand in solidarity with workers against the racist neglect of former U.S. President, George

W. Bush, saying to the shock of his co-host, comedian Mike Meyers, "George Bush doesn't care about Black people." This kind of sharp political analysis and tendency toward going off-script did not endear Ye to the Big Fascists, who require disciplined, liberal celebrities to placate the masses, not incite them.

Many have dismissed Ye's behavior as unchecked mental illness. That may be true, but that kind of analysis misses the political conditions that determine the form mental illness can take. Whatever personal issues plaguing the rapper, the course forward from the Katrina moment is clear: alienation drove Ye to the right, when it should have driven him left.

This is the bribe Small Fascists like Trump in America, Georgia Meloni in Italy, and Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil continue to offer the masses.

Those following Ye lack the political guidance of communism, which combats the alienating effects of capitalist terror and neglect with collective action, and proves that a free world is not nationalist, racist, sexist, but an egalitarian one run by and for and by the international working class.

## It's not just Kanye, Jay-Z, or Jeff Bezos...it's CAPITALISM!

Ye's ideas belong to the ruling class. He is worth close to a billion dollars, and nobody in possession of that much is a friend of the working class.

Neither the gutter racist, domestically-oriented Small Fascists nor the liberal, imperialism-oriented Big Fascists are acting in the interest of workers. However, PLP fights to win workers to the idea that it is the Jay-Z's of the world that's the bigger danger.

The ruling class has demonstrated that they dispose of celebrities like Ye when it suits them because they are trying to win us to fight for them in their brutal imperialist wars. Once upon a time, Ye was right: most Black workers know Republicans like George Bush don't care about them; they know enslaved workers escaping to the North were not freed from extreme racism nor super exploitation, and that corporations like Adidas are racist hypocrites.

But he is also unequivocally wrong: the enemy of Black workers are not Jewish workers or any other historical scapegoat of the ruling class.

Black workers won't go to war for a gutter racist like Trump or Bush or work until our feet bleed on a Nazi-run Adidas factory floor. Still, Black and anti-racist workers are vulnerable to the rhetoric of the Bidens and Jay-Z's of this world.

Progressive Labor Party rejects both ruthless factions of the ruling class. We have confidence that with communist ideas in hand, the working class will see through these lies and build a red army to smash capitalism and its ideological tools once and for all. Join us today!

### NEXT DEADLINE

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is the **Friday night of December 9**. Send to [desafio.challenge@gmail.com](mailto:desafio.challenge@gmail.com). For some guidance and house style rules, please go to [www.bit.ly/338ZJow](http://www.bit.ly/338ZJow)

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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