Workers and Youth Fight Killer KKKops

CHICAGO, August 6 — “My son is only four years old and he’s already seen two murders!” said an angry young black mother. She and two other black women witnessed the police murder of 18-year-old Aaron Harrison (A-ya) the night before and described it as a modern day lynching. She told PLP, “We saw him smiling as he was outrunning the police, with his shirt off and arms in the air. Then we saw the cop just stop and shoot. We thought it was a warning shot until we saw him fall on the ground. He was still breathing but when the cops handcuffed him and turned him over that’s when we saw him die. He was looking right at us.” Everyone in the community said that Aaron was unarmed.

Workers Jobs Are Worth Fighting For, All Around The World!’”

“Buying American” and “saving the U.S. auto industry” has led the workers in the U.S. to be bombarded with the山水 of U.S. jobs. Tens of thousands of Arab and Muslim immigrants have been rounded up, harassed at work and at airports, and watched by the police under the guise of “Homeland Security.” This increased police state is used against workers — especially the working class — to attack workers and union leaders. The same workers who were just watching your banner on the wall, “American Jobs Are Worth Fighting For!” I would make just one suggestion. It should read, “American Jobs Are Worth Fighting For, All Around The World!” The room burst into applause. The same workers who were just “pledging allegiance” were enthusiastically applauding a call for international solidarity.

Recently, a German auto worker was invited to address a UAW regional conference. The conference opened, as all UAW meetings opened, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the bosses’ flag and the playing of the bosses’ national anthem. In the German worker’s two minutes, he recounted the recent Opel strikes in Europe, saying, “I was looking at your banner on the wall, ‘American Jobs Are Worth Fighting For!’ I would make just one suggestion. It should read, ‘Workers Jobs Are Worth Fighting For, All Around The World!’”

The bosses will use patriotism and nationalism on the one hand, and internationalism on the other. Patriotism represents the bosses’ outlook, is pushed by the union leadership and is misleading the workers to increased poverty and wider wars. Internationalism represents the workers’ outlook, is fought for by our Party and will lead the working class to the seizure of power and communist revolution.

“Buy American” and “saving the U.S. auto industry” has led the UAW leadership to help the bosses eliminate about 100,000 jobs and jobs at GM, Ford and Delphi while passively agreeing to healthcare cuts for retirees and the recent Delphi contract slashing wages over $10/hour.

During the past decade, Boeing has shed tens of thousands of workers in the name of “buying Air Bus,” their giant European competitor. These Boeing workers have been replaced by tens of thousands of unorganized workers, mostly immigrants, in large and small sub-contractor factories in southern California earning $9/hour, without health insurance.

Millions of undocumented immigrant workers live and work in the most oppressive conditions, under threat of immigration raids and mass deportations. They have been accused in the mass media and many union halls of “stealing U.S. jobs.” Tens of thousands of Arab and Muslim immigrants have been rounded up, harassed at work and at airports, and watched by the police under the guise of “Homeland Security.” This increased police state is used against workers — especially the working class — to attack workers and union leaders. The same workers who were just watching your banner on the wall, “American Jobs Are Worth Fighting For!” I would make just one suggestion. It should read, “American Jobs Are Worth Fighting For, All Around The World!” The room burst into applause. The same workers who were just “pledging allegiance” were enthusiastically applauding a call for international solidarity.

The following afternoon, a local preacher organized a small rally in a neighborhood park. PLP distributor Kate talked to a local community leader who fought the police when Aaron was murdered, to organize a presentation to hold Mayor Daley accountable on police terror. He was looking right at us.” Everyone in the community said that Aaron was unarmed.

The streets filled with angry friends and family members. The police began taunting them by laughing and shining their lights in their faces. One police sergeant said, “What, you don’t like the new streetlights we put up in the neighborhood?” He was referring to the police spotlight shining down on Aaron’s dead body! They let him bleed to death for 2-3 hours even though there is a major trauma center just a few blocks away. The cops never called the coroner. Instead they threw his dead body in the back of the paddy wagon, still handcuffed, “like he was a piece of meat.”

This blatant racism makes many black youth not only hate the cops but also refuse to join the military as cannon fodder in the bosses’ oil wars. Hundreds of angry workers and youth fought back, throwing bricks and bottles and whatever they could find at the police. They flattened the tires of 20 police cars and flipped over one car with the cop still inside. Some cops were sent to the hospital.

Nationalism and patriotism are the dominant ideas in the world, especially since the reverses of the Russian Revolution in the 1950’s.

Continued on page 2

PLP CONFRONTS MINUTEMEN IN CHICAGO, page 3

Suggested Donation U.S. $.50

Communist Internationalism:

Red Flag, Not the Bosses’ Flag

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The room burst into applause. The same workers who were just “pledging allegiance” were enthusiastically applauding a call for international solidarity.

This reflects the contradiction within the working class between patriotism and nationalism on the one hand, and internationalism on the other. Patriotism represents the bosses’ outlook, is pushed by the union leadership and is misleading the workers to increased poverty and wider wars. Internationalism represents the workers’ outlook, is fought for by our Party and will lead the working class to the seizure of power and communist revolution.

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Workers Jobs Are Worth Fighting For, All Around The World!”

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The Farewell to Alms, by Gregory Clark

At first glimpse, Clark's book seems to signal the next phase of a clever, profoundly pro-war, anti-communist, racist ideological campaign.

While only the book's introduction is publicly available now, online, the liberal media have the full text and are mounting an early free publicity campaign aimed at the Fall school term. As U.S. rulers (with their British allies) war for control of the Middle East and crack down on workers at home, what we see of "Farewell" leads to two false and deadly conclusions: Anglo-American geneticists and sociobiologists argue that wealth and poverty stem from inherited, perhaps genetic, traits.

"Clarks proves" his point by focusing on the vast exploitation in wealth, in a few very countries, caused by the Industrial Revolution strongly promoted in a few countries. To begin. In the last 200 years, he says, not because British capitalism, but because British capital, colonialism was on the rise, because British nobles had lots of children, who thus passed on a gene pool bigger and better than that of, say, the less fertile Chinese or Japanese lords. "The embedding of bourgeois values in the culture, and perhaps even the genetics, was for these reasons the most advanced in England" (Intro, p. 13) Using "perhaps" is scholarly sleight of hand. It lets Clark promote racist genetic determinism, without, in the eyes of academic hair-splitters, technically hanging his hat on it.

IGNORES IMPERIALISM, SLAVERY, CLAIRS MENTIONING COMMUNISM

Clark unabashedly and unscholarly cheersleads for the profit system, "growth in capitalist economies since the Industrial Revolution strongly promoted in this area," Clark writes. ("The long-term benefits of modern capitalism are clear," p. 14) No longer, evidently, has he heard of the subservience of blacks to the plantations or the lives of the colonists who produced cotton for the slaveowners. And children who weaved in England's "titanic mills." In fact, in his book's introduction, subtitled "A Brief Economic History of the World," Clark never even mentions slavery, imperialism or colonies. And he seems to be about communism or even socialism. The Times' reviewer, while suggesting "seeking balance" from other academics' comments, completely ignores even remotely Marxian refutation of Clark's absurdities.

Clark's book wouldn't be so dangerous if it were merely a distortion of remote history. But its introduc tion today looks like a dressed-up, Anglo-American version of Hitler's "Mein Kampf," a manifesto of racial superiority. In explaining the contrast between mainly white Australian society's affluence and mainly black sub-Saharan Africa's poverty, Clark speaks of "pervasive cultural advantages" (p. 17). According to that logic, U.S. oil giant ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP and Shell have a moral right to dominate the Middle East's oil. Clark even echoes Maltshe's "1970's claim" that helping the poor was counterproductive.

The Times' arch-imperialist columnist Nicholas Kristof (8/9/07) gladly refers to Clark, who "argues that conventional aid can leave African countries worse off than ever." Clark champions "middle-class values of non-violence, literacy, long work, hard home working, and a willingness to share." But hold these words to a mirror and read what Clark sees in society's enemies: violence, illiteracy, idleness and wastefulness. These are the very charges that racist U.S. rulers have lodged for centuries against black people, immigrants, and the working class in general.

"The only antidote to this poison" Communism fights for the international solidarity of the whole working class. Communist revolution will smash all borders. Our Party operates on these principles, as we build the movement for the seizure of power. In the banner of "Workers of the World, Unite!" We fight to turn these wars into a revolution for communism — the dictatorship of the proletariat. This fight requires a mass Red Army led by the communists/PPL.

Communism means working collectively to build a society where sharing is based on need. We will abolish work for wages, money and profit. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the notion of race.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women workers.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one party.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers everywhere must become communist organizers. (Ch 8: 14"

This week's CHALLENGE is a three week special.

Continue from front page

and the Chinese Revolution in the 1960s. It was nationalism, in the form of supporting "national liberation" and uniting with "good" bosses that undermined and reversed those revolutions. Material conditions, the growing war of inequalities, trading with "good" capitalists, etc. — had to be justified politically to workers, leaving them ideologically unprepared to oppose the growth of new "red" ruling classes.

COMMUNIST INTERNATIONALISM: THE ONLY ANITIDOTE TO THIS POISON

Communists fight for the international solidarity of the whole working class. Communist revolution will smash all borders. The Party operates on these principles, as we build the movement for the seizure of power. PPL raises the banner of "Workers of the World, Unite!" We fight to build a mass international PPL across all borders. From New York City to Oaxaca, from L.A. to El Salva dor, from Colombia to Pakistan, wherever PPL exists, our revolutionary, communist politicians are the same, whatever the language.

We must bring these politics into the class struggle, and sharpen the fight against our own ruling class, bosses, capitalists and their state apparatus. Our greatest hope of international solidarity is fighting our bosses and school administrators where we are, and to organize inside the movement. Simultaneously, we must reach out to support workers fighting worldwide, whether it's shipbuilders in Mississippi, GM workers in Russia, Toyota workers in the Philippines, agricultural workers in Mexico, textile workers in the Oaxaca, or miners in Chile or South Africa.

PPL recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of the 1967 Detroit Rebellion against racism (see page 8). That armed uprising of mostly black workers was not only the most significant anti-racist action of our time, but by forcing U.S. imperialism to divert troops headed for Vietnam to Detroit, it was a key factor in the greatest acts of international solidarity with the heroic Vietnamese workers and peoples.

Patriotism ties the workers to the ruling class. But these two classes are not the same. Some must work to eat while others live off our labor. A farmer in Oaxaca, an auto-worker in Germany, an oil worker in Venezuela and an unemployed youth in Detroit, all have more in common with each other than with their own bosses. The international working class must sell our labor power to "I am Mexican," "I am German," "I am American" does not reflect who we really are or the world we live in.

The fact that auto and steel can be produced and sold everywhere has shrunk the world and increased the ability of auto, steel and aerospace workers to reach around it. By chasing the globe for markets and cheap labor, the bosses are bringing us closer together and as Marx said, creating their own grave-diggers.

But no matter how many graves are dug, the bosses will never jump in on their own. They will have to be pushed in, buried and have a new world built over their graves by revolutionary workers, soldiers and youth, led by a mass international PPL. As the world's imperialists sharpen their daggers against each other, and wider wars loom, opportunities for fight against imperialism are growing.

The Farewell to Alms by Gregory Clark
LOS ANGELES, CA, August 13 — The first three weeks of PLP’s Summer Project involving 50 students and teachers went well toward industrial, transit, garment workers and students, has been a huge success. Volunteers gained a deeper understanding of PLP’s ideas and appreciation for the potential of CHALLENGE to become a beacon for the industrial working class. In order to effectively prepare for wider wars against imperialism, the U.S. ruling class must reindustrialize and use increased racism against black and immigrant workers to super-exploit many more workers — including white. With the growing subcontracting shops in California, the South and the Southwest. We saw the need and potential to bring our revolutionary communist anti-racist politics through CHALLENGE sales to our brothers and sisters.

A comrade who gets out about 300 CHALLENGES per led a discussion in a study group about distributing the paper and asking for donations, with the understanding that PLP is the communist party of the working class and CHALLENGE is the workers’ paper. He explained that in his experience workers generally like CHALLENGE when we get it to them. From this, we all took the distribution of the paper and asking for donations more seriously.

The workers’ response to CHALLENGE has been great. Over 3,300 workers have bought the paper, 1,600 of which have started making $9/hour. When the work- ers started pushing for a ran, jobs bosses issued “No Match” letters to 8 of the lead ers. These letters state that the social secu- rity number a worker is using doesn’t match his/her name, even though they have been working here for years! The workers were told if they didn’t have a “good” number a worker is using doesn’t match they would be fired by August 10. This was clearly racist and sexist harassment against those organizing for a raise. The 8 walked out and everyone followed.

The bosses responded by changing temp agencies and replacing the strikers with black workers. At the same time, local nationalist immigration rights groups moved to lead the struggle. “10 de Marzo” is waging a media campaign against “No Match” letters while the Workers’ Collaborative tried to negotiate for the workers. One of their organizers told the strikers that they would surely win because the bosses were replacing them with black workers, “who are lazy and slow.”

PLP’s presence was felt by the strikers from beginning to end. We weren’t going to allow the bosses and the nationalist mislead ers to pit black and Latin workers against each other and turn this strike into a mini-ethnic conflict. We held a meeting where activists talked about the need to expose the bosses and the temp agency as racist strike-breakers and to win over the immigrant strikers to reach out to the black workers crossing the line. If we could link racist attacks against immigrants to the racist cop killing of Aaron Harrison (see arti- cle on front page), we could win workers on both sides of the line to see themselves as allies in the struggle against racist terror.

At a meeting with a group of strikers and supporters, a draft flyer was approved and a plan was made to leaflet the workers cross- ing the line the next morning. Meanwhile, the misleaders were negotiating an end to the strike. As part of their “talks,” they called off the picket line for the next morning.

In spite of this, immigrant strikers and black, Latin and white supporters reached out to the black workers crossing the line. Almost all of them took fliers. Once the flier started circulating inside, some workers came out to get more copies to take back in side. One worker, who had just dropped her daughter off for her first day of work, pulled over to talk. “I knew something had to be up,” she said. “They never hired black kids here before.” She said she was one of a few black families in a mostly Latin neighborhood and took a stack of fliers with her. She also said she would talk with her daughter.

Later that day, the strike ended today at the Cygnus soap pack- ing plant. There are only 120 workers; all immigrants, mostly women, many undocumented and 90% are temporary workers who have worked there for years. None are in a union. Most are open to PLP.

Cygnus packages soap for Lever Bros., Target, Walgreens and many hotels. The wag- es and working conditions are lousy. Most workers were making $6.50/hour while tech- nically working for a temp agency. The small percentage of “plant” workers aren’t doing much better. One woman with 15 years had just started making $9/hour. When the work- ers began pushing for a ran, jobs bosses issued “No Match” letters to 8 of the lead ers. These letters state that the social secu- rity number a worker is using doesn’t match his/her name, even though they have been working here for years! The workers were told if they didn’t have a “good” number a worker is using doesn’t match they would be fired by August 10. This was clearly racist and sexist harassment against those organizing for a raise. The 8 walked out and everyone followed.

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U.S. capitalists are in a desperate fight to get the upper hand in their competition with rising Chinese bosses and others that need Mid-Eastern oil. As economic conditions deteriorate, the United States will seek to reverse its role as a globalizer and start a new cycle of imperialist war.

Build an Anti-Racist, Class-Conscious International Movement

Fool me once, shame on you! Fool me twice, shame on me! We don’t want to build a movement that aids the U.S. government’s attempts to militarize the world’s poorest people. We want a movement for peace! That means preparing just in case the bosses’ imperialist agenda goes down a different road.

Parliamentary socialism never serves the interests of the working class. Nationalization was invented by the capitalists to fool workers into fighting for the bosses’ interests. National security is equal to the bosses’ security. We have more in common with the U.S. banks than the U.S. banksters that run the oil companies and every other major employer — or the generals and politicians that faithfully represent their interests.

Racism stands with nationalism as powerful tools in the bosses’ bag of dirty tricks. Indeed, racism has historically been used to justify capitalist invasion as well as undermining working-class and most militant fights against imperialism.

On the other hand, anti-racist rebellions produced the sharpest anti-imperialist and most militant fights against imperialism in the Armed Forces to date. From the unruly black, Latin and white sailors on the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk and Constitution that rebelled against the brass’ racism and deployment to Vietnam to the nationwide demonstration outside the 1968 Democratic National Convention (killing) an officer, anti-racism has been the leading edge of GI resistance.

Join and Build the Revolutionary Communist Party

Veterans, soldiers and workers can never be at peace with this system. The imperialist drive to maximize profits will lead to more and bigger wars. Since the beginning of the 20th century, the bosses have been dividing and re-dividing the world to the benefit or another capitalist. They’ve split rivers of our blood in this violent competition.

Every capitalist must class or die. Imperialism will never be benign or humanistic. The only way to end end imperial wars is to tear out capitalism by its roots with communist revolution.

Soldiers and vets can play a key role in this process. By uniting with workers they can help lead a movement to turn the bosses’ imperialist wars for profits into a war for workers’ power. Let no more die for the bosses’ imperialist nightmare.

Who’s Stealing from Whom?

LOS ANGELES — “Whoever steals a pair of blue jeans will be fired immediately, and could be arrested,” they say. “No one is going to steal the cows!”

In many garment factories, the bosses’ security guards search purses and backpacks, supposedly to make sure workers don’t “steal” the clothes they produce. History’s biggest thieves are accusing their victims of stealing regularly “every day! So, who’s stealing from whom?”

For example, at the factory where workers produce Lucky Brand and Yanuk jeans, the guards for the pants come from a cutting service. The manufacturer has invested the capital, the material, what he paid for cutting them, and for transportation, an average of $10 per pair.

However, the unchecked connections are by the street practically Brazil. After they have no use value. But when the workers see the pieces together, they “magically” become something useful — finished products which do have use value. They can fill our need to clothe ourselves. Only we workers can, with our labor, add this value.

With this use value the pants can also be sold on the market. They now have exchange value because they can be bought with money. In the stores Yanuk jeans sell for $139 to $167. Lucky Brand from $90 to $132.

The Worker Adds The Value, But Who Reaps Almost Everything?

The manufacturer pays the garment boss (the subcontractor) $9 per completed pair. Let’s say the subcontractor’s cost for each finished pair is $5, — $3 in wages and the rest materials and transportation. The subcontractor’s profit is then $4 per pair. In normal times we produce about 15,000 pairs per week, netting $60,000 profit per week. Meanwhile, the 200 garment workers who produce all this wealth receive, collectively, about $30,000 per week. The bosses make $3 million a year and all the rest of us together only earn $2.34 million.

What does his $3 million profit come from? From that part of the value that we’ve added to the pieces for which the boss does nothing. That’s what Karl Marx referred to, he called it “surplus value.” This is the great secret of how the capitalists have become rich: stealing from us. And they have the nerve to call us thieves.

How Much Do The Manufacturer And The Garment Boss Get?

The manufacturer’s cost is $19 per pair: $10 for the cut pieces, and another $9 paid to the garment boss (subcontractor). He then sells it to the store for $59, or a profit of $40 per pair. So $15,000 pairs per week gives him $600,000, or about $31 million per year.

The store-owner sells each pair for about $132, leaving him with $72 profit per pair. Selling 15,000 pairs weekly brings in $1,080,000, or $56 million a year.

Thus, the three bosses together — the subcontractor, $3 million; the manufacturer, $31 million; and the store-owner, $56 million — steal more than $1 million a year (less the manufacturer’s and store-owner’s costs for rent, utilities, wages and taxes). How many millions of dollars do the rest of the garment bosses steal from the tens of thousands of Los Angeles garment workers?

Workers Don’t Need The Bosses Or Their Profit System

The bosses are only interested in exchange value. The clothing we produce has a lot of use value, but if the bosses can’t sell it, they would rather throw it away. That’s why millions of people worldwide don’t have enough to eat. Their own production produces tremendous use value but, under capitalism, he can’t play it to starve. That’s why every year over 54 million people globally die of hunger.

Our labor power makes the earth produce food, it makes steel and concrete into bridges, roads, buildings, houses and weapons, material into clothing, and metals into useful tools. We add the use value, which fills humanity’s needs. We don’t need exchange value, which enables a handful of capitalist parasites to condemn billions of our class brothers and sisters to hunger and death. We can put use value instead of exploitation or money that this criminal, racist, murderous profit system imposes on us.

We need a system based on use value, a system that produces to meet the needs of the international working class. A system without bosses, profits or wars for profit — communism. To achieve it, we must unite and join and build the Progressive Labor Party, so that we can start a new cycle of working-class imperialism with communist revolution. Read and distribute CHALLENGE, PLP’s newspaper. Join and build the Progressive Labor Party, so that we can bring this new world into being.
With the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanist

Bosses’ Long-Term Negligence Paralyzes NYC Subways

NEW YORK CITY, August 8 — Today an area of the city has been turned into a “frozen-zone” for most city dwellers, as major subway stations were closed over an hour of torrential rain paralyzed the subway system for over an hour. In 2004 an early morning storm caused similar problems. Still the city did not fully prepare for the crisis. Ultimately they cited their own internal failing and deterioration — a lack of maintenance of bridges and tunnels connecting the five boroughs and neighboring suburbs. The Brooklyn Bridge received a “safety” rating of only 2.9 on a 7-point scale, yet no plans exist for any work in the bridge in the near future.

An important aspect of this criminal negligence is the fact that a sizable majority of the subway-riding public and the transit workers themselves are black and Latino, and the racism of the bosses makes them even less concerned about their workers’ plight.

People wandered aimlessly from station to station searching for transportation and information. Muffled and incomprehensible announcements over public stations lamely suggested that workers were “frozen” on the trains. With the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan running over $300 million a day, the bosses have little interest in solving these problems.

With the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanist- running over $300 million a day, the rul- ers will have to try to squeeze the working class even more to find the hundreds of billions a city like New York needs.

The six miners who have been trapped in a coal mine near Huntington, Utah, for eight days at this writing (Au- gust 14) face death as a direct result of the collusion between the bosses’ government and the coal bosses. Once again, capitalism’s profits are first, workers’ lives last.

This murderous act follows close on the heels of three fatalities in an Indiana mine, adding to the 56 deaths since the Sago disaster 19 months ago. We will see how the hoopla and “official con- cern” following Sago, nothing has been done to avert more such deaths.

The CEO of the Crandall Canyon Mine, Robert Murray, cunningly blamed an “earthquake” for the mine collapse. But scientists at the University of Utah Seismograph Sta- tion said the recorded movement in the area was not a quake but rather “consistent with a mine-type collapse.” In the last 12 years, half a dozen other mine collapses have caused similar seismic waves.

The fact is, the coal industry has been issued 325 citations for safety violations since January 2004. The mine owners were ordered to pay over $150 million in penal- ties. But the Mine Safety and Health Ad- ministration (MSHA), true to form, worked hand-in-glove with the bosses, does little to enforce these regulations and allows the bosses to go their merry way killing miners in exchange for part-time jobs.

In this case, just last month inspec- tors had cited the mine for violating fed- eral rules “requiring” at least two separate passageways be available for escape in an emergency, the third time in less than two years the mine had been so cited. No won- der. Bush’s first appointee to head MSHA had served as general manager of the En- ergy West Mining Co. right there in Hunt- ington.

The criminality of the mine owners and their government are clear in the absence of emergency communications equipment, the lack of adequate escape provisions, the bosses’ refusal to give miners adequate emergency oxygen supplies and the insuffi- cient system for mobilizing rescue teams.

Meanwhile, the United Mine Workers union, allied with the Democratic Party and their constant “promises” to fix the situation, has been betraying miners’ struggles for decades and has helped the owners keep most of the industry non-union. The starting pay in the non-union Crandall Can- yon mine is $8 an hour. Three of the trapped miners are Latino immigrants. Thus, the owners take advantage of anti-immigrant racism to pay poverty wages to ALL min- ers, white as well as Latino, and thereby reap super-profits.

Miners, historically one of the most mili- tant sections of the U.S. working class, must draw on their tradition of armed struggle with the coal barons, combined with the leadership of communist ideas, and organ- ize to fight to get rid of the profit system that sends them to an early grave.

NEA Teachers back PLP Attack on Electoral Circus

PHILADELPHIA, PA, July — “Our responsibility as educators is to provide a better education for all our students than the work- ing-class students,” said a young comrade in a speech to the NEA Convention here. “To do this we must unite with every left force to stop the bosses’ attacks on public education, to demand that the NEA leadership demand world imperialism to stop its war in Afghanistan and withdrawal from Iraq leaving no so-called ‘bases’ behind, and to demand the need to fight against racist unemployment among black and Latino teachers.”

We will also active in the PLP’s special-interest caucuses, raising the struggle against Democratic Party politicians, against pacifism and to support workers’ struggles. This led to making several contacts, (including Japanese teachers — see CHALLENGE 8/15/07) and strengthening ties with friends we had known for many years.

We had a forum contrasting the liberal idea of “saving” working-class students from the military with the communist plan of winning our students as comrades to lead the revolutionary struggle by entering the military. Our literature reflected this important difference, the leaflet about the DREAM Act said that the immigrant students the bosses want to recruit to the Army are capitalism’s grave-diggers, and that we welcome the challenge to win them to organize the Party in the military. Between mass and hand-to-hand distributions, NEA delegates took 800 CHALLENGE and nearly 8,000 leaflets.

IDEAS LEAD TO ACTION: TEACHERS TAKE ON A RACIST

In the context of our efforts to fight for the most left ideas and to build ties with other comrades, we and our friends had a dramatic struggle in the California Caucus against an anti-immigrant racist from Fontana. When he used dehumanizing, racist language to attack immigrants, comrades rushed to the microphone to object. When Caucus misleaders shut down our comrades instead of attacking the respect of other delegates, who, because of our lead- ership in waging class struggle in our local, state, and na- tional union meetings, are coming closer to Progressive
Israel: ‘Finishing what Nazis started’?

Thousands of holocaust survivors, many still with the number given to them by the Nazis tattooed in their arms, protest in front of the office of Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister of Israel. Dressed in the uniform and the yellow star that they were forced to wear inside the concentration camps, these old survivors protested the harsh economic situation they suffer today.

Of the 250,000 survivors still living in Israel, 180,000 received the funds from the Zionists and the Red Cross, and live in poverty below the poverty level. Most of them are of Russian origin and don’t even get the 125 Euros a month Germany provides to camp survivors. Many of the survivors have already gotten back to live in Germany where the monthly compensation is higher and medical care is free.

The protest denounced the “insulting” raise of 20 dollars offered by the Israeli government to “the most needy ones.” Speakers at the protest accused Olmert of a “biological solution” and of “trying to finish what the Nazis started.”

The Zionist government tried to stop the protest which included thousands of supporters. The situation for survivors in Israel is actually worse than in most European countries. Throughout the years, Israeli government has actually kept some 700 million Euros from survivors and their descendants. This money is part of the recovery of the loot stolen by the Nazis from Jews during the 3rd Reich.

Olmert, fearing the political impact of this situation, said that the survivors will be dis- cussed, while at the same time trying to dismiss the issue as being just politics. The “politics” that he really wants to talk about is not how much Israel gives the heirs of the Zionists who collaborated with the Nazis (like the Judenrat) and later founded the state of Israel. They care very little about the victims of the Holocaust, and have used their memories to cover their own atrocities against Palestinians. As Yosif Cherni, an 82 year-old survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto and Treblinka said: “vendor, the state is denying the Holocaust.”

An Anti-Zionist reader

PL’ers, CHALLENGE Get ‘Fantastic Reception’

The following is from a comrade who came from another city to participate in the LA Summer Project and wrote to his CHAL- LENGE readers upon returning home.

Dear CHALLENGE Reader,

I just returned from the Los Angeles Sum- mer Project. It was a fantastic experience! Another PLP member and I were reinvigorated by the people we met and the activities we involved in. We plan to improve our political activity here based on those experi- ences.

Many young people participated. Some gave leadership to the project, organizing leaflet distributions and CHALLENGE sales and led a study group I attended. I discussed a CHALLENGE article and the importance of the revolution of the working people to adjust the money we distribute to the workers to help for their production. We realized that we need to struggle to make donations an important part of distributing CHAL- LENGE.

The most important part of the Project is organizing with workers and building on the list of perhaps 40 factories with anywhere from 100 to 5,000 workers at each factory!

Eighty percent of outsourcing is not over- seen right here in the USA and LA is a leading area for this industrialization.

At a plant we went to we had a fantastic reception. The workers rolled down their car windows on the way in, took a leaflet and a paper, listened to what we had to say and often donated money. I’ve been selling CHAL- LENGE for over 20 years among farm workers, garment workers, bus drivers and at colleges, and I’ve NEVER seen the kind of reception we get at this factory.

I encourage all of you comrades and friends to partici- pate in this Project and other such projects in the future. These workers are very open to our ideas and since indus- trial workers are the backbone of the economy, it’s crucial that we organize them.

I want to thank those who donated money to help pay for the Summer Project.

Lauds Garment Struggles; Querries Outcome

It was very exciting to read about the recent struggle in a garment factory! It seems like this sharp class struggle was built on a deep foundation of ties with other workers. It is always great for the party when comrades learn the kind of coordination among workers to step up in struggle against the boss like these workers did. I was wondering, when I read the article, what happened to the original issue of the boss docking pay for those who did not clock in and out properly. Clearly the main victory is the workers’ solidarity and left ideas built dur- ing the struggle whether the boss gives in or not, it would help the workers understand the lessons of the struggle better if we had a little more detail about its re- sults. Based on whether the immediate struggle was won or lost, how did the workers react? I’ve been involved in struggles where our demands were met and struggle where they were not, and I think that changes what and how workers learn from their experience. I look forward to an update.

A curious comrade

DESAFIO Brings Politics into ESL Class

In teaching English as a second language, we find DESA- FI0 a useful tool. We point our articles in Spanish and English about the struggle and when visiting students’ homes, getting to know them better. We find the immi- gration bill classes demanding a knowledge of English can incorporate the theme of “good enough” into our class. I get good reaction that we can give students an “good enough” in class. In fact, most classes in languages drill on grammar and don’t inspire confidence in speaking ability. Sometimes, we make humor of the irregularities and encourage people to talk about their experiences. Then the conversa- tion turns to how capitalism sets up many barriers to a better life for us all.

In reality, teaching useful English along with the poli- tics about jobs and daily life is more practical. While we take seriously our ability to convey communication skills, teaching with DESAFIO fosters fewer illusions in us teach- ers, too, about “helping the less fortunate” and gives the right priority to communist ideas.

(Although, we have also found it useful to supplement CHALLENGE/DES0 with texts which are cheaply available second-hand such as “Side by Side” by Steven Molinsky and Bill Bliss and “The Oxford Picture Dictio- nary” by Norma Shapiro and Jayme Adelson.]

We got out notices for free classes in buildings in the block of our church and still make home visits in a large apartment complex. Delivering papers, we learn of per- sonal problems, such as their children sick in the home countries — where it is impossible to visit and safely re- turn to the US. One of us attended a fertility clinic in order to provide translation. This same teacher was asked to be a witness for a marriage license. Holidays and BBQs are celebrated — teachers and students with families far away, but happy company together.

ESL outreach has expanded to day laborers waiting for work in “muster zones” throughout our state. Here we meet up with other volunteer teachers from churches and immigrant rights groups, whom we will get to know much better. We use flip charts of color copies of pages from the Spanish-English dictionary. We provide tools like hammers and tape measures, practice useful phrases such as “does the job provide lunch?” and — when har- assment by the police is absent — discuss articles in DE- SAFIO.

The process is creative — sometimes we sit on a tree stump or a milk crate. There is much humor, when we all pronounce each others’ words wrong. The jokes are ripe with puns and homonyms — we locals are sometimes a bit “loco.” We can honestly say that we’ve learned more about the people from eight various countries than we have taught them.

NJ Red ESL Teacher

Fighting Anti-Israeli Racism on Front Lines

I recently replied to a letter from a cousin (printed in the last issue of CHALLENGE) where I explained that if all soldiers cared about was survival they would rebel and go home. I explained that I thought soldiers were more worried about being punished and losing rank and pay if they rebelled against the war. In response my cousin sent me this letter:

Hey, how are you doing? I got your letter today. Every- thing is going as good as it can be here — I am still alive. I hit my first I.E.D. [improvised explosive device] the other day. It rattled me pretty good. I am fine with no injury except for headaches.

Your letter really resonated with what I’ve been strugg- ling with the most. Lately I’ve been feeling like this is pointless, soldiers are getting shot or blown up on a daily basis. Everyday someone comes to tell me that they’ve been blown up or in a firefight. Still people do not refuse

continued on next page
to fight. What sharper contradiction is there than that? It is definitely more about the UCMJ (uniform code of military justice), article 154 (a common reprimand) and pay and rank loss than about surviving. But it also may have to do with how they look at themselves: as the saying goes, death before dishonor.

I was talking to a friend about how nothing is changing for the better. We said we are shooting more people and blowing up more houses and buildings, yet we are getting shot and targeted with bigger I.E.D.s. I told him it is never going to get any better because we’re killing the people we’re supposed to be helping. He agreed, but said there was nothing we can do. I talked about becoming a conscientious objector, refusing to go. He said you’d probably get an article 15 lose pay and people would look down on you. As long as I stay with the tank, I’ll be alive.

I talk to a lot of people about the same thing. Another friend of mine told me how his unit was in a firefight (one sided) where insurgents shot grenades and small arms fire at them. They replied with Bradleys, Strykers, and heavy machine gun fire until every weapon in their team was out. I was told that during the firefight, one insurgent carried his weapon across the streets with all its possessions on his back. He said “I hope that I made it better.” But I think it made it worse. Now there are more abandoned houses for the insurgents to hide weapons and stage from and they are more likely to get support from locals.

This week (I am writing this over a week’s worth of time) I struggled with racism in the army. I had to treat I.A. (Iraq Army) soldiers. One had severe burns and a missing hand. The other had his foot and both his arms blown off.

I treated both patients: stabilizing the burn victim while the other patient was crashing so fast we had to stick a central line into his chest and force fluid into him. Another infantry guy and I got them into a Bradley. I had the infantry guy crash so fast we had to stick a central line into his chest and force fluid into him. The infantry guy got out while I was still working on the guy who died, trying to revive him. The medics who work at the aid station just stood around doing nothing. The infantry guy was able to help grab the patient after his loss and told me that for an “American” the medics would be all over them to help. “The I.A. is doing the job out there. It has been me who kicked down the door and can observe the patient. It’s really screwed up that they stood around like that.” He said he wished he spoke Arabic so he could have told the I.A. soldiers how sorry we were that one of their guys died. Everybody he talks about the racism.

Even in Iraq today, the way we are handling the locals is one reason that our locals are killing each other. We say that we’re the good guys, yet they are treated like whores.

Big anti-war groups help Dems lie

...Green consumerism is another form of atomization

Dozens of new books seem to provide an answer: we rich and poor nations or they would have better remedies for

Big anti-war groups help Dems lie...
This was not a race riot. Black and white people participated together, not fighting one another, as thousands demonstrated, marched and rallied in the streets. Young people broke store windows and urged members of the community to help themselves to what they needed. The uprising was led by blacks who continued to face the worst racism and working conditions that U.S. capitalism had to offer. In addition, although youth participated in large numbers and often took the lead, adult workers and Vietnamese veterans played an important role.

Almost immediately, the cops cordoned off banks and pawnshops and banks, in order to protect the ruling class’ money and property, because that’s what the guns were. And the ruling class had good reason to be scared: many of the participants were veterans who had learned how to protect themselves.

This led to attacks on police stations: “Between 10 p.m. and midnight on the second, third and fourth days, the scene of battle shifted from the streets to police and fire stations. On Monday, July 24, within a 50-minute period, nine different police and fire posts in widely separate parts of the city were under heavy sniper fire. Some of the officers present described it as being under siege. The next night, the same thing happened again. The third day, it happened in at least 20 fights. “The dedicated revolutionaries were involved in gun-sniping and arson incidents seems certain.” (Locke, pp. 128-30).

Over the course of seven days, there were many more reports of sniper fire directed at cops, National Guardsmen, and members of the Army’s 182nd and 101st Airborne divisions. President Johnson had sent more than 10,000 federal troops to Detroit on Tuesday, July 25 when he learned that it had become clear that Detroit’s police force was completely unable to restore “law and order.”

Interestingly, politicians and religious leaders sent to pacify the crowds were not successful. Congressman John Conyers, a black reverend and two so-called community workers were directed at cops, National Guardsmen, and members of the Army’s 182nd and 101st Airborne divisions. President Johnson had sent more than 10,000 federal troops to Detroit on Tuesday, July 25 when he learned that it had become clear that Detroit’s police force was completely unable to restore “law and order.”

This political message of the latest and last Harry Potter book is that the only alternative to fascism is the cheerful acceptance of and loyalty to the capitalist system with all its inherent inequalities.

The book opens with the evil wizard Voldemort’s bid to rule the world by a revolt at the Ministry of Magic. There is an obvious parallel to Hitler’s rise to power and paranoid fantasies that exist today in the real world. The last battle features a united front of centaurs, thestrals, griffins, house elves, etc. After the battle, black wizards, with all its inherent inequalities.

This rebellion showed the potential for workers to take power. To make that a reality we need a mass PLP leading millions of workers, soldiers and youth to seek power with communist revolution. Then we’ll reap the full fruits of our labor.