

# CHALLENGE



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## Transit Workers Fight Racist Attacks:

# Bankers Squeeze Billion\$ from Debt Scam

**NEW YORK CITY, May 24** — Transit workers, students and other riders are under attack from MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) bosses:

- They're cutting train and bus service;
- They laid off 250 station agents in early May despite a court injunction to delay layoffs until the MTA holds public hearings;
- They've announced over 3,000 more transit worker layoffs; and 600 non-union administrative employees have already received buyout offers;
- They're threatening to eliminate student Metro Cards (free fare cards)
- They're threatening to eliminate workers' raises;
- Their CEO Jay Walder and the bosses' media have labeled transit workers' hard-won benefits of overtime pay and sick days as "abuse."

### Blatant Racism

These layoffs, service cuts and smears are particularly racist because they're concentrated on city transit workers, riders and students who are overwhelmingly black, Latino and immigrant. And they're added to racist unemployment, officially already 19% among the city's black men, nearly twice the "official" overall city 9.8% unemployment rate. In contrast, Mayor Bloomberg guaranteed no layoffs this fiscal year for cops, mainly white, who defend the capitalist rulers' laws and exploitation.

### Fighting Back

Angry workers want more action than the TWU (Transport Workers Union) Local 100's court suit that delayed some layoffs. Besides daily afternoon protests in front of MTA boss Walder's residence at 105 Duane Street in Manhattan, more than 1,000 militant transit workers broke out of police pens at a May 4 union rally to march and demonstrate at MTA headquarters 15 blocks away. Workers ready to break rules and unite with working-class students and riders are on the right track. But more militancy alone isn't enough.

At the root of the problem is the capitalist system that drives bosses to kill and exploit workers for profits. Rivalry between imperialists in the world's most powerful capitalist nations is forcing bosses globally to exploit "their" own workers more viciously than their competitors. In NYC this competition drives banks and politicians to squeeze nearly one-fourth of the MTA's budget for profits through "debt service" paid to wealthy bondholders, amounting to \$2 billion interest per year.

The MTA's new Chief Financial Officer is none other than the ex-Bear Stearns banker, Robert Foran. He helped create the MTA's current budget "gap" when he engineered a deal to more than double the MTA's debt in 2000 ("Private Promoter for Transit Debt," NY Times, 5/1/2000).

### Ultimate Solution: Revolution

The bosses will run the show until the working class buries their racist profit system with communist revolution. The Progressive Labor Party aims to up the ante in the class struggle, forging unity among workers, students and soldiers to eventually overthrow the capitalists and build a communist society free of racist class exploitation.

One obstacle to this goal is the conditioning of many workers by politicians, union honchos and bosses to accept these "leaders" as the "lesser evil." That is, the layoffs, service cuts or fare hikes always turn out to be less than the bosses first announce, giving the politicians and union hacks the opening to say they "fought as hard as we could" and claim "victory" for holding off the worst cuts.

We're encouraged to deal individually with whatever crap rolls downhill. But it's all a scam designed to keep us from taking mass collective actions like picketing, slowdowns, physical confrontations and strikes to shut the city down. None of these actions guarantee workers will win their reform demands. But, along with a communist outlook, they can help create the mass fighting communist movement here and worldwide needed to win workers' power. Then workers won't have to ask bosses for a damn thing because we'll be running the show. ☺

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## Puerto Rico: Mass Student Strike Hits Budget Cuts

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, May 26** — Over 62,000 students have been on strike here since April 21, shutting down the universities on the U.S.-controlled island. The students are fighting budget cuts and rising unemployment. The militant strikers have occupied several campuses and are constantly confronting the police.  
(more next issue)



# BP Oil Spill Kills Workers, Environment: Bosses' Energy Rivalry Murdering Millions

British Petroleum's (BP) bosses murdered 11 workers and caused untold ecological damage when a BP oil rig blew up in the Gulf of Mexico last month. As usual in industrial disasters, profit-driven cost-cutting proved the immediate cause. Texas A&M drilling expert Gene Beck "said BP's encasement design called for only partial coverage of casings deep in the well. Cement did not reach the bottom of the next-largest casing in high-pressure areas, a decision Beck called 'shocking.'" (Los Angeles Times, 5/23)

But the blowout highlights only one of the dangers to our class from the oil barons' reckless pursuit of maximum profits. The very existence of BP's Gulf rig stems from U.S. imperialism's need to control world energy supplies by force in the face

of increasing competition. Millions of working-class Iraqis and Afghans have already been killed in the capitalists' struggle over oil and gas. Expanding offshore drilling, however, signals U.S. rulers' plans for far deadlier conflicts.

## Offshore Drilling Helps Pentagon's Anti-Iran War Plans

Just three weeks before the BP blast, Obama had announced "the expansion of offshore oil and gas exploration...in the mid- and south-Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico." Obama pointedly chose a military installation, Andrews Air Force Base, for his speech, declaring, "We are going to need vital energy sources to maintain our economic growth and our security...so that we are no longer tethered to the whims of what happens somewhere in the Middle East."

Obama meant preparing for nuclear-arming Iran's countering a U.S./Israeli attack by closing off the Straits of Hormuz, the planet's most important oil chokepoint. Tehran could shut off shipments of millions of barrels of oil should there be a U.S. or Israeli strike at its nuclear program. U.S. bosses must also prepare for the longer-range possibility of Iran's ally China — its number one oil customer — sending its growing blue-water navy to the Straits to protect its supplies.

Obama's offshore initiative meshes with arch-imperialist John Kerry's and Joe Lieberman's U.S. Senate bill to boost offshore oil, domestic coal and nuclear energy as potential wartime alternatives to Mid-East oil and to build up the U.S. strategic oil reserve. Evidently, war-bent U.S. rulers see 11 oil workers' deaths in the Gulf; the recent deaths of 29 miners in West Virginia and two more in Kentucky; and a potential replay of the Pennsylvania 3-Mile Island nuclear meltdown — inherent catastrophes under capitalism — all as "acceptable" casualties.

## Liberals Rehabilitate Warmaker Halliburton

Obama may indeed make occasional renegade BP (see box) "pay" for the Gulf spill, as he's promised, by compelling it to follow U.S. imperialism's war agenda more closely. But BP subcontractor Halliburton, just as guilty of homicide for its flawed cement work, seems to be getting off scot-free on a "just-following-orders" defense. "Halliburton...worked according to BP's design." (LA Times article) Besides its oil business, Halliburton builds and services U.S. mili-

tary bases worldwide. Liberals once loved to attack ex-Halliburton CEO Dick Cheney. Bush's VP, but with liberal Obama in the White House, criticism of the firm has died down.

The bosses care nothing for workers' lives or the environment. Exxon Mobil, the top corporate beneficiary of U.S.-led genocide in Iraq, recently had the courts cut 90% of its "punitive damages" for its 1989 Exxon Valdez catastrophe, from \$5 billion down to \$500 million. Meanwhile, the Rockefeller-controlled company netted the highest profits in capitalism's history.

As with the Exxon Valdez, there is sure to be a broad and sincere outcry against those responsible for the Gulf spill. But don't count on Obama to force them to make amends. Only the working class can sufficiently punish the war-making, earth-ravaging billionaires for their crimes. Only communist revolution would make workers' safety and environment primary in the production of workers' needs.

Building a mass PLP internationally among especially industrial workers, soldiers and youth in the shops, unions, barracks, schools, churches and the communities, is the only sure road to that future, the ultimate goal of our Party. ☸

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## OUR FIGHT

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

★ **Only the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.**

★ **Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.**

★ **While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.**

★ **Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. Everyone will share in society's benefits and burdens.**

★ **Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit black, Latino, 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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### Why Articles Are Not Signed

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.



## PL'ers Organize vs. Chicago's 'Healthcare Katrina'

**CHICAGO, May 24** — "This is our holocaust!" said one worker who was told by his supervisor to discharge a disabled undocumented patient to a shelter. The patient had no good family support and no nursing home would take him because they wouldn't be paid. The worker refused and has sought guidance from PLP. The Party has made modest gains organizing ourselves and co-workers to advance anti-racist positions against the most recent attack on our patients.

The governing board's latest scam, called CareLink, will force patients to pay a \$10 co-pay per clinic visit, on top of the \$4 co-pay for every prescription. For those patients that do have the means to pay, they will simply go elsewhere where the lines are shorter. But most of our patients, who can't even afford bus fare, let alone a co-pay, will be forced to stay at home or wait until they're extremely sick before coming in.

Eventually, patients will die and our public hospital, after losing its Medicaid money to the private competitors, will die too.

At the last few hospital Board of Directors' meetings, we've organized dozens of workers, nurses and doctors to speak out on the horrors unfolding in front of them. So far, however, there's been no mass opposition short of what we've organized. The doctors' union has written a letter of opposition but has not held demonstrations with patients and workers as previously.

To try to expand the struggle, we've created a petition to win our friends and co-workers to carry out a struggle within all four of the County Hospital unions. In our shop, we've linked these racist cuts

here at County and public health to the ongoing racist cuts in public schools and mass transit. We will be organizing a health care contingent to join a rally next week led by a mass organization within the teachers' union in which we are active.

The attacks on public services are being spearheaded by the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club, comprising Chicago's ruling class, including JP Morgan Chase executives and others from top businesses, media and universities who influence fascist policy here. They hand-picked the chairman of the hospital governing board. This corporate "public-private" partnership is the face of fascist healthcare.

Currently, Chicago is the nation's most segregated city. For the last 20 years, 3,000 more black people die every year than whites because of racism. This was before the current attacks on public health! This next round will continue this "Healthcare Katrina" and Obamacare will turn what once was a "public option" for poor folks into a pay-for-service facility, a skeleton of its former self as gaunt as the AIDS patients on the wards. Our undocumented brothers and sisters will be denied care altogether.

Our Party collective here will continue our activity inside and outside the unions and continue the fight against passivity as well as opposing this fascist onslaught. We clearly have our work cut out for us, but have had some modest growth in our collective over the last year and are committed to this fight! We will continue to update our struggle in the pages of CHALLENGE. ☪

## Nurses Stand Up for Patients, Tell Off Bosses

The tension between fear and anger is intense at Stroger Hospital in Cook County. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurses were outraged to learn that the Board of Directors planned to start charging our patients a \$10 co-pay for every clinic visit after discharge. These nurses often donate bus fare for parents to visit their critically-ill newborns in the NICU. How will they come up with \$10 for Follow-Up Clinic and another \$10 for Eye Clinic the same day, when they can't afford bus fare?

Fear is widespread since the Board carried out its first of three rounds of layoffs. But anger won over fear briefly in February when two nurses and a doctor showed up to support a colleague and his students when they used the "public comment" section of the Board meeting to denounce the racist service cuts at County. Even though the Board has black and Latino Directors, their actions are clearly racist because of their devastating effect on our patient population, which is 80% black or immigrant.

More layoffs loom and, even though a few NICU staff take CHALLENGE, the largely immigrant workforce often see being associated with communists as too risky. They know that, more often than not, when there's a fight against the administration to defend the patients or workers, the communists in PLP are somehow active in it. Up to this point, no staff member except one doctor had stood up to denounce the Board's racist actions.

Recently, as the Board's staffers set up the meeting room, NICU nurses from the night shift started taking their seats. By the time the "public comment" period began, over a dozen staffers from the unit were present; nurses, doctors and nurse practitioners, along with a few staff from other units. Maybe it was the confidence provided by this show of solidarity. The whole night shift was there, which helped the two staff nurses stand up and tell the Board to their faces exactly how their decisions were endangering patients' lives.

This was a small but significant step. A dozen people were won at some level to take actions that were perceived as putting their jobs at risk, to help the working-class families we serve. This will move these nurses a step closer to seeing the important role of our Party in the struggle for a better life for workers.

*Red Hospital Worker*

# Bosses Profit While EMS Workers Battle Burnout by Racist FDNY Brass

**NEW YORK CITY, May 17** — Recently members and friends of our PLP club distributed 100 CHALLENGES over a three-hour period at a city hospital here at the Emergency Department entrance's ambulance bay, and in the patient waiting area. We sold several copies to hospital workers changing shifts and taking breaks. Some of our best discussions occurred with the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics bringing patients into the hospital.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) staff here has been engaged in bitter struggles against both the hospital administration and the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) which runs the EMS. A few EMS workers had copies of leaflets they had written collectively following the suspensions of several of their coworkers on flimsy or fabricated grounds.

We learned a bit about the history of the EMS system, its working conditions, and, like the rest of the working class, the all-out racist attacks on the standards of living of both EMS workers and the patients they care for.

In New York, the fire suppression and EMS 9-1-1 systems are run by FDNY; FDNY's EMS branch accounts for about 70% of the 9-1-1 ambulances in the city, with "voluntary" private hospitals comprising the remainder. They respond to an average of 3,300 calls per day throughout the five boroughs. St. Vincent's hospital in Manhattan's West Village, a Level One Trauma Center, recently shut down, costing the jobs of five 24-hour 9-1-1 ambulance units, employing 60 full- and part-time EMTs and Paramedics, along with the jobs of the rest of the hospital staff.

According to the EMS crews, since 9/11 the

FDNY brass has turned FDNY into a "paramilitary" organization with a strict chain of command, and has set their sights on pushing the higher-paid hospital-based crews out of the system. The reason? EMS is an important source of profits.

Every ambulance ride, whether treatments are administered or not, is billed to either private insurance or Medicaid. They can easily net over \$1,000 per patient if oxygen and basic diagnostics like vital signs are taken. For a hospital, Labor and Delivery and EMS are two of the most lucrative sources of revenue. EMTs and Paramedics see none of this.

Starting pay for municipal EMTs working for FDNY is around \$33,000 a year; hospital-based EMTs make slightly more, with Paramedics in both systems making even slightly more than that. Most EMS workers, especially those with families, moonlight at other hospitals part-time, easily working 60-80 hours per week.

One of the EMTs told us that, to afford his mortgage, car payments, and provide for his children, he works overnight tours only to jump into his car, drive to another borough and work a morning-to-afternoon shift, sleeping "for a few hours" in the evening before getting into his car and working overnight again, Monday through Friday.

This worker's routine was not unusual, as we discovered. Another EMS worker gave us one of their leaflets which attacked the racist FDNY brass and hospital administration and called on EMS workers to unite with all hospital workers and patients to demand better working conditions and healthcare.

Unfortunately, many EMS workers have been burnt out by this racist capitalist system's years of

attacks. Many who worked during the 1980s and 1990s saw their communities become literal war zones as the ruling class flooded the streets and homes of black workers with crack cocaine. The EMS workers we spoke with and who took CHALLENGE were mostly black, Caribbean, and Latino.

Some of the younger workers have avoided burnout, and are involved in local community organizations providing GED and health classes as well as classes for young mothers ages 12 to 22, along with basic literacy. Others have planned solidarity dinners with staff from St. Vincent's hospital; we plan to assist these workers every step of the way with more CHALLENGE sales, helping distribute their literature, and linking their struggles with those of their international working-class brothers and sisters.

While we were warned that some of their coworkers were openly racist and "basically Nazis," and may obstruct our efforts to organize there, we reassured them that they are not struggling alone. Our PLP club will continue to make new contacts. We will use CHALLENGE to sharpen the struggle against the racist FDNY brass and swindling hospital bosses alike.

We have been discussing how the U.S. bosses' war needs will dictate more racist hospital cutbacks and closures, among escalating attacks on the working class in every other country. We have pledged to step up our organizing efforts.

If there are any other comrades and friends who are EMS workers — or know any — in any country, we encourage them to write for CHALLENGE and share their struggles and experiences. ☪

# Reform, not Revolution, Governs 'Refugee Camp' at Queens College

**QUEENS, NY, April 30** — Since April 26, Queens College students have been living in a simulation refugee camp on the main quad of the campus to "raise consciousness about the dire situation that refugees all over the world currently face." Living for a week in tents made of plastic and wood, "CAMP PEACE," as it was named, focused specific attention on the conditions of refugees in the Sudan, Zimbabwe, the Congo, Haiti, and Palestine.

There were games, open-mic entertainment, food, and a series of lectures by current and former Queens College professors and students, including a PLP comrade who discussed the current political conditions and struggle in Haiti. The intention of the camp was to raise money to send 10 refugees in the Congo to college for one year, the sum of which would be matched by the president of Queens College.

One obstacle for the main organizers of the event was the inclusion of Palestinian refugees as a focal point for the camp. Many of the organizers of the initial group, Queens College STAND, a student anti-genocide coalition, in fact refused to be part of the event, resulting in a split in the group. The detractors, many of whom are directly involved in pro-Zionist groups at Queens College, argued that the inclusion of the Palestinian National Flag would be considered as sympathy for terrorism, an absurd accusation that reveals the extent of blind pro-Israeli sentiment on campus.

Despite the explicit racism of the pro-Zionists, the organizers of the event failed to see how the question of competing nationalisms, Israeli and Palestinian, fuels the crisis of refugees in the world: nationalism and capitalist expropriation of whole populations, resulting in the refugee camps, go hand in hand.

Although the objective of the CAMP PEACE (an acronym for "Creating Awareness for Migrating People by Promoting Equality through Action Cooperation and Education") did not have a revolutionary outlook, emphasizing peaceful and educational solutions to the global refugee crisis, it did spark interest in the problem of globalization as the underlying causes of refugee populations.

PLP members participated in the events, bringing anti-capitalist and communist politics into the forefront of discussions and lectures. This encouraged and attracted many students who simply saw the refugees as a "natural" part of the "Third World"—not a direct result of the capitalist system which thrives on dispossession, dislocation, and super-exploitation of such populations. As a result, three of the participants of CAMP PEACE, including two of the main organizers, attended the PLP May Day celebration and are getting CHALLENGE regularly.



Much work is needed to be done on our campuses to move students beyond the reformist illusions of "peaceful" solutions to murderous globalization and capitalist crises. We need to build PLP in such groups so that student organizers can create more of these events, to expose not only the horrors of refugee camps, but also to build the dedication and commitment needed to destroy the capitalist system with communist revolution. We cannot "reform" the system that produces these conditions. ☸

## While Chicago Union Hacks Moan and Groan Rank-and-File Lead Fight vs. School Cuts

**CHICAGO, May 20** — The announcement of another round of cutbacks to Chicago public services has outraged the working class. The city recently laid off 1,000 public transportation workers and hundreds of public health workers. Now local bosses plan to lay off 3,660 public education workers which will result in class sizes of 37.

Most Chicago schools are highly segregated, with white students extremely over-represented at selective enrollment schools. Due to the racism of capitalism, 71% of Chicago's African-American students attend the virtually all-black schools most neglected by the system. These students will be disproportionately harmed by larger classes, just as they have borne the brunt of poverty, poor health care and substandard housing.

The Chicago Teachers Union's (CTU) impotent leadership has moaned and groaned about these impending layoffs and has even gone "so far as" to propose a resolution stating that the union is opposed to them. Union members, however, are ahead of the leaders and possibly will boot them out of office in June.

The possible victor, CORE, Caucus of Rank and File Educators, has taken leadership within the union to fight the cutbacks. CORE has exposed the city's lies about not having the money to avoid cuts. The caucus got the CTU to call for a massive rally on May 25, involving parents, students, other unions and community groups, as well as CTU members.

Fighting back is crucial, and it is to CORE's credit that they have organized, rallied, filed legal cases, spoken out and picketed against school closings, wholesale firings of black teachers, Iraq/Afghanistan wars, classes staffed for months by substitutes and many other important issues. Whatever victories CORE or others may win under capitalism,

however, must be temporary.

The U.S. rulers are moving full speed ahead to reduce education costs while intensifying the teaching of individualism, elitism, patriotism, racism, sexism and loyalty to the ruling class. They must do so to maintain their position as worldwide "top dog," which requires they join the worldwide "race for the lowest wages" and more, bigger wars.

Capitalism's plan is to "educate" the majority of workers to "choose" between the military, low-paid jobs, or being unemployed. Some will be prepared to serve other ruling-class needs: doctors, accountants, generals, etc. Capitalists like Bill Gates and billionaire "reformer" Martin Koldyke have plans to profit from their involvement in schools while promoting ruling class ideology.

As long as the capitalist profiteers are calling the shots instead of the workers, students will not get the education they deserve. If we understand that the system must be destroyed and replaced with communism, then we must fight alongside friends who want to reform capitalism while helping them see the limitations of that fight. Reforms do not lead to communism, but communists who promote PLP's ideas while involved in class struggle can lead friends to see that only revolution can end the horrors of capitalism. ☸

## 'Capitalism Won't Cut It': Only Communism Makes Workers' Safety Top Priority



With all the crocodile tears streaming from Obama, Senator Jay Rockefeller, governors and Mine "Safety" officials over the recent murder of 29 miners at the Massey mine in West Virginia, the killing goes on. Two more miners were crushed to death on April 28 near Providence, Ky., when a roof collapsed underground in the Webster County Dotiki mine, owned by Alliance Resource Partners of Tulsa, Okla. The company's assets total \$1.1 billion. Obviously, live miners are not one of its "assets."

Again the "safety" officials had cited a mine hundreds of times for safety violations, exactly 840 times for this one in the last 16 months, 214 of them in the first four months of this year. Federal and state inspectors issued more than 40 closing orders in those 16 months. But, as usual, nothing was really done to protect these two young miners, Justin Travis, 27 and Michael Carter, 28.

In fact, this mine was cited six times this year for using too few supporting bolts in the roof. These bolts are metal rods drilled into overhead rock layers to prevent roof collapses. So the "inspectors" keep citing the bosses and the bosses keep ignoring the citations and the miners keep dying.

CHALLENGE (4/28) was right on the mark when it said the "reforms" governing the mining industry "simply allow the mine-owners to literally get away with murder....The only way this carnage can end is for the miners themselves to run the mines, placing safety as the top priority. And that can only happen when a communist-led workers' revolution overthrows these blood-suckers." Right on...

This latest murder of two young miners is still another proof that reforming capitalism won't cut it.

A Comrade

# Colombia May Day: PL'ers Expose Union Hacks, Defy Cops' Attacks

**BOGOTA, COLOMBIA, May 2** — Colombians celebrated the International Workers' Day with huge demonstrations in the country's most important cities. They were larger than in previous years. Seventy thousand people marched here and more than two million marched nation-wide.

As usual, PLP carried our communist message to workers and political fighters, trying to develop closer ties, selling CHALLENGE and distributing more than 2,000 Party leaflets. We started the march chanting our slogans: "Who are we? Working class! What do we want? Solutions! What will we do? Revolution!" "Down with sexism, long live communism!" "One working class, one communist world, one Progressive Labor Party!" and many others against racism, wage slavery and the upcoming electoral farce. PLP led these chants.

We marched enthusiastically, carrying defiant signs, waving red flags and chanting our slogans, "If you want to change capitalism, don't vote; organize for communism!" "Against the fascist state: communist revolution!"

As usual, the sellout trade unions proclaimed their opposition to the government of the goon Uribe Velez, and their support for the candidate

Gustavo Petro, who represents their aspiration for bureaucratic posts and economic privileges for their leaders. Amid some young peoples' dances there were satirical skits ridiculing presidential candidates; signs denouncing murders and political disappearances, high taxes and the cost of public services; and opposition to U.S. imperialism's military bases.

Alcohol and carnival are never missing from some of these large demonstrations, particularly when organized by sellout trade unions bent on demonstrating their political backwardness. Unfortunately, they are often broken up by police repression, and by groups of anarchist youth who attend these marches for the sole purpose of confronting the cops. The ensuing chaos is characterized by rock-throwing, heavy banging and explosions, tear gas, water cannons and police rubber bullets that scatter protesters.

Undeterred, we continued marching, attempting to reach Plaza Bolivar with our chants but increasing chaos, and police harassment with motorcycles, cars and mounted cops prevented us from getting there. There were block-by-block confrontations around the Plaza that lasted several hours,

with more than 30 injured participants and 250 arrests.

We see that it's imperative to rethink the organization of this demonstration because electoral opportunists turn it into a carnival to defend capitalism. We support young people's militant actions, but without communist politics everything turns into spontaneity and negative experiences for the working class.

Decaying capitalism produces these reactions, particularly amongst the young, whose life of misery pushes them to take wrong paths that hinder their political development. We are attempting to struggle ideologically with many of these young people and workers and hope that in the not-to-distant future we can turn these demonstrations into practical schools for communist revolution.

We're committed to work even harder to take advantage of these moments to politicize and teach dialectical materialism to students, workers, youth, the unemployed and to the whole working class, to strengthen our party, PLP, internationally. We understand that this is the only way to put an end to this capitalist hell. Greetings to all our comrades of the world! ☺

## France: Immigrant Strikers Hold Fast to Demands, Win Mass Backing

**PARIS, May 20** — Today, a second round of negotiations with the French government on the "legalization" of 6,000 undocumented immigrant workers — on strike for seven months — indicates the government is dragging its feet on their demands.

The big corporations are pressing the government not to give in at a time when there's a big push for imposing austerity measures like the 10% budget cuts in all public services. They don't want any "exceptions" to this austerity as represented by the immigrant workers' demands. Estimates of undocumented workers in France run as high as 400,000, the vast majority of them having jobs.

On May 14, during the first round of negotiations, a multi-racial rally of 2,000 Africans, Asians and Europeans demonstrated support for the workers' demands. Over 60,000 people signed petitions demanding "legalization of all undocumented workers."

Following that first round, union negotiators said they would raise all the demands at the May 20 meeting — that of temporary workers, of women workers employed as personal care providers, of workers in the underground economy and that of the Algerians and Tunisians. No door has been closed. They pledged not to abandon anyone, saying, "Beginning right now, we have to widen this mobilization."

The May 14 rally resulted from two days of mobilization by the undocumented workers' delegates, who contacted various groups of workers via text messages, e-mail, and visits to their residences.

A delegation of Austrian trade unionists attended that rally to show their support.

Following the Sarkozy government's defeat in the March 21 regional elections, it initially reacted by simultaneously evicting hundreds of undocumented workers from the occupied FAF-SAB premises and proclaiming that there would be no change in "legalization" criteria. (See CHALLENGE, May 5/12)

Many of the undocumented strikers work in the construction, restaurant and hotel industries. The approach of the busy summer season has put the squeeze on their bosses. On March 8, some — notably the bosses of smaller, economically weaker companies — broke ranks and signed a "common approach" text with five trade union confederations to pressure the government to change its position on "legalization." (See CHALLENGE, 3/31)

The bosses' government came under further pressure with the May 13 publication in Le Monde, the "newspaper of record," of a "com-

mon appeal" demanding "clear and objective criteria for the 'legalization' of undocumented workers." It was signed by dozens of trade unionists, association leaders, leaders of anti-racist organizations and intellectuals.

While the appeal calls for "equal treatment" of all undocumented workers of all nationalities to fight "social dumping," it is mainly a liberal bourgeois document. It argues that the bosses need these workers to do jobs "no one else wants to do," and that punishing these bosses would also punish their "documented" employees. Not one word about the racist super-exploitation of these workers or the way the bosses use "social dumping" — employing workers from low-wage countries, "legally" or "illegally" — to pit workers of different ethnic groups against one another.

Clearly, the force that has the bosses' satellites squealing is the workers' power to shut down production and profit-making. The best way for the undocumented strikers and their supporters to up the ante would be to persuade their fellow workers — both native-born and formerly undocumented workers — to join their strike.

Developing that kind of class consciousness — realizing that the boss is the common enemy of all workers, regardless of "race," "nationality" or "documents" — would turn the historic undocumented workers' strike into a school for communism. ☺

### Solidarity for Undocumented Workers



**PARIS, May 12** — Local workers opened their hearts and homes in solidarity to nearly 100 mostly black undocumented workers who marched from Paris to Nice demanding unconditional "legalization" for all undocumented immigrants, defying the outright racism of the bosses' mayors. ☺

## Times Square Bombing: Another Cover for Wider Wars?

The Times Square plot strangely resembles the "underwear" bomber attempt over Detroit last December 25. Both "masterminds" had upper-class backgrounds in their home countries. NYC terrorist Shahzad's father was Vice Air Marshal in Pakistan, where the military rules. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, of Christmas infamy, is the son of Nigeria's leading banker. Neither was seriously injured. Both sang like canaries when apprehended, fingering U.S. foes, the Pakistani Taliban and Yemen's Al Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula, respectively, as their backers. Both prompted U.S. military action and a media blitz. Thus, the possibility that Washington somehow aided their efforts arises.

### A Century of U.S. Invasions

While PLP completely opposes terrorism as a working-class weapon, there are millions across the world who justifiably hate U.S. imperialism. Historically, the U.S. ruling class has fabricated numerous false attacks in order to justify its wars:

- In 1876, to break the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty giving the Black Hills (Dakotas) to the Sioux tribe, President Ulysses Grant demanded non-treaty tribes return to the reservation late in the year, before they would have time to hunt enough buffalo to survive the winter. This became an excuse to attack the Sioux and seize the Black Hills, massacring thousands.

- On February 15, 1898, the battleship U.S.S. Maine blew up in Cuba's Havana harbor, giving U.S. rulers an excuse to declare war on Spain and seize its colonies in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines. When a reporter sent to Cuba told his boss, Press lord William Randolph Hearst, that he could not manufacture a story painting Spain as the culprit, Hearst famously wired back, "You supply the story, I'll supply the war!"

- In a 1933 speech, Major-General Smedley Butler, a 33-year Marine Corps veteran, declared: "I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle-man for Big Business....I was a racketeer...for capitalism..."

"I helped make Mexico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits

**continued on p. 6**

## Bangladesh: 150,000 Boat Workers' Strike Paralyzes Transport System



**DHAKA, BANGLADESH, May 16** — As world capitalism's economic crisis deepens, it's been intensifying its attacks on all workers worldwide. Workers, however, have begun fighting this capitalist onslaught, and one group here in Bangladesh has shown how to do it.

One hundred and fifty thousand boat workers struck for a wage increase on May 7. Rivers and canals are an important part of the Bengali transportation system. The striking workers paralyzed Bangladesh, and faced severe state repression because of it.

Many of their leaders were arrested, but the workers stayed united and fought back. They battled scabs, broke the bosses' laws, sabotaged the bosses' equipment and refused to knuckle under to the State's threat to revoke their work licenses. This show of solidarity is a shining example to workers everywhere of what it takes to try to win a strike.

The strikers were only able to win the promise of a wage increase, but got their union leaders released and retained their licenses. Of course, the State has previously broken its promise of a raise, but this is still a small victory in the class war. There are many more strikes occurring in Bangladesh and worldwide. However, winning a few crumbs — or, in this case, promises of crumbs — isn't enough, because only a communist revolution which smashes the whole wage system and has workers running society will end capitalism's intense exploitation. ☸

## A REAL Red May Day

May Day was an unforgettable day because it was a day of struggle, of clear objectives and a day of decisions, overall. We say that it was a day of decisions because a group of us workers in an organization had to decide between going to the Union Square demonstration or to another activity in support of a local politician, who was trying to divide workers and pull us away from the main activity. But group leaders and workers were uncompromising and convinced the whole group to participate in the Union Square demonstration.

On April 30 some comrades volunteered to get everything ready for the PLP May Day dinner. Another group of volunteers worked making signs and red flags.

When this great day arrived we met early in the morning to take the train. This short journey was energizing. Later people greeted us in the streets and cars honked their horns. In Union Square people showed their support as well, and many joined us, identifying with our slogans and revolutionary songs. Even from the stage they repeated our immigrant workers' slogan, "we're not criminals, we're workers!" For us, this was a small but great victory because we had a strong influence on workers' decisions to attend the May Day march instead of going to the other activity that didn't reflect the true spirit of the international working class.

After the march, the majority of our friends attended the PLP dinner where we enjoyed the cultural presentations organized by the youth of the Party. There were speeches, songs, testimonies and encouragement for the new friends to join the Party and to struggle together for the revolution. We also enjoyed the special dinner, and at the end we energetically sang the Internationale.

This was a genuine Red May Day as never seen before. We took a big step towards our final goal of building a communist revolution.

*Manhattan Red Worker*

# PLP Exposes Bankers' Robbery At N.J. Rally of 35,000

**TRENTON, NJ, May 22** — A version of the following leaflet was handed out at a rally of 35,000 workers and students opposing state budget cuts here:

All over the world, capitalists are using control of governments to impose "austerity" programs on workers. As the world-wide depression deepens, cuts will increase. Whether Republican (Christie) or Democrat (Patterson), whether Socialist (Greece's Papandreu) or Conservative (Britain's Cameron), politicians follow the dictates of bankers and bondholders.

In 2008 and 2009., at least 45 U.S. states imposed serious budget cuts. This will only accelerate in 2010 and 2011. Under the banner of "sharing the pain," the racist cuts are part of a developing fascist labor policy. Control of workers is needed to guarantee bigger profits and to prepare the population for more sacrifice as wars between imperialists develop.

The politicians say the cuts must take place because of "falling revenues" and overly generous pensions and benefits for state workers. "Falling revenues" are caused by fewer people working, fewer people buying things, more business shutdowns and all mean less money coming in to the state. But mass racist unemployment is a product of capitalism in crisis. Big banks and hedge funds speculated in mortgages in order to make billions, causing the housing crisis, which then led to a credit crisis and record layoffs.

### Sweet Deal: Bankers Create Crisis, Then Profit Off Ruin They Caused

To "save the economy," these same banks got trillions in taxpayer money. The bankers have used this to garner record profits. In the first quarter of this year — the four biggest U.S. banks went 61 straight days in which they each raked in tens or hundreds of millions every day (NY Times, 5/11/10).

When there is a state "budget deficit," the banks sell bonds for the state, collecting millions in fees. The bondholders, many of them super-rich, collect huge amounts of interest on

the debt. Christie's Fiscal 2011 budget lists debt service at \$1.9 billion. But examined more closely, the actual total debt service is almost \$3 billion, or 11% of the budget!

The big bankers don't have to worry about the state defaulting on these bonds. They have friends in state government like Robert Grady, managing partner at Carlyle Group and Christie's Chairman of New Jersey's Council of Economic Advisors, and Jon Corzine, former Goldman CEO and former Governor. Grady wrote Christie's inaugural speech justifying repealing the millionaire's tax: "If you tax them (the rich), they will leave."

To insure the banks don't have to pay out on the default insurance, the state "has to restructure" the debt. So the bankers get paid again to put the taxpayers deeper in debt later on. And the bankers must make sure that interest payments keep rolling in. In order for NJ to be "creditworthy," state services and state workers must be cut drastically. This is the real source of the austerity program being imposed by the Christie administration.

### Bosses' Politicians All The Same

Because they are as much beholden to capitalism as the Republicans, New Jersey Democrats have no answer to this thievery. Their plan is to "soften the pain" a little and make a deal with Christie. So state workers' pensions and benefits earned through struggle, programs for the disabled, legal services and tax credits for the poor and General Assistance will be sacrificed to the moneymakers.

The working class should not live at the mercy of a system based on profit for a tiny minority of bankers and bosses. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) says that workers, students, and soldiers must unite as a class to overthrow those who use their economic and political control to shift the burden of this crisis to us. Only a communist revolution can end the horrors capitalism has in store for our future. ☸

## Times Square Bombing: Another Cover for Wider Wars?

*continued from p. 5*

of Wall Street....I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912....I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

- In August 1964, looking for an excuse to escalate the war in Vietnam, the U.S. government reported "attacks" on two U.S. ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. President Lyndon Johnson then labeled North Vietnam an "aggressor" and Congress passed the infamous "Gulf of Tonkin Resolution," giving Johnson a blank check to escalate the war. In reality, both U.S. ships were launching commando raids on North Vietnam. Years later, the government admitted the "attack" was complete fiction.

- On April 28, 1965, President Johnson invaded the Dominican Republic with 23,000 troops to crush an attempt by the constitutionally-elected Juan Bosch government to regain power. A U.S.-backed right-wing military junta had overthrown Bosch. Johnson claimed he was "protecting U.S. strategic and economic interests."

- In October 1983, the Reagan Administration claimed Grenada, a small Caribbean republic, was "building an airport" large enough for Soviet planes to use to attack the U.S. mainland, and that U.S. medical students at St. George's Medical School in Grenada were "in danger." The U.S. then invaded, overthrew and impris-

oned the government, and seized the island. The claims were later exposed as completely false.

- On December 20, 1989, President George H. W. Bush sent 27,000 troops and over 300 military aircraft to invade Panama, supposedly to "safeguard U.S. lives, defend 'democracy' and 'human rights' and combat drug trafficking." The troops shot into residential buildings, killing over 3,000 civilians, later buried in mass graves. Actually, for years Bush had been a friend of Panamanian dictator Noriega who once had been on the U.S. government payroll. The real reason for the invasion was the increasing influence of Japanese banks using Panama as a financial launching pad for investments in Latin America, long regarded as a U.S. domain.

- On July 25, 1990, U.S. ambassador to Iraq April Glaspie told Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that the U.S. had "no opinion on Arab-Arab conflicts, like your border disagreement with Kuwait." With this "O.K.," on August 2 Saddam invaded Kuwait. The U.S. quickly used this as an excuse to send over a half-million troops to the oil-rich Middle East, establishing huge permanent bases in the region.

- In March, 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq, claiming it had "weapons of mass destruction," (WMDs) though United Nations inspectors had insisted this was untrue. In 2005, the British press published a document from the office of the British Prime Minister proving the U.S. was using the WMD allegations as an excuse to invade Iraq. No WMDs were ever found. ☸

# Communist Revolution vs. Obamacare

continued from p. 8

Vincent's in NYC.

## Health Care Reform?

The Patient Prevention and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was passed this spring under Obama and was heavily supported by liberals. It demonstrates how the drive for profits sabotages the efforts of well-meaning reformers and misleads workers. Despite rhetoric to the contrary, the ACA does not restructure health care in a major way since insurance companies will continue to collect premiums and control coverage for services.

Under the ACA:

- Each state will set up an insurance exchange with a range of options and fees.
- Undocumented workers are excluded.
- Many workers who will still be paying large co-pays will lose access to many types of health care, as "comparative effectiveness research" will justify limited access to procedures and medications.
- Promised gains in coverage for uninsured workers will be offset by cuts in Medicare.
- Access to primary care for many will be limited since many more providers will be needed to guarantee timely appointments.
- Specialists will refuse to see patients from plans with lower reimbursements — an example of rationing under ACA health reform.
- Subsidies to help low-income workers will be too small to allow a worker's budget to cover insurance so workers would then have to pay

finances to the government for not having insurance.

- With the goal of containing costs while nominally expanding coverage, the regulation of insurance companies' service will be like the government oversight of Wall Street — next to nothing.

Insurance companies generate their profits by collecting premiums from the working class and providing as little health care as they can get away with. They deny payment for hospital days and keep the entire working class on hold to settle bills and get referrals. PLP organizers have heard thousands of such stories during the year building up to health care reform and still the insurance companies were handed the prize of another 30 million customers!

## Class Struggle And Health

Healthy lifestyles will be possible as we build a society that provides all workers with the care they need, with no need to generate profits for hospitals, drug and insurance companies.

We have learned from past upheavals in society that class struggle can improve health. The Soviet Union made health care available to all, while attacking poverty and racism and saw rapid improvements in health outcomes. Chinese workers attacked major health issues and eradicated schistosomiasis, destroyed the narcotics trade and developed mass education with local "bare-foot doctors" during their communist period. As capitalism returned to these countries, these improvements in workers' lives are being reversed and health outcomes are deteriorating.

Many workers who were disappointed in Obama's wars and Wall Street bailouts still believe in him because "he got us health care." But during the health care reform debates of the last year, rhetoric about improving the quality of care and broadening access disappeared and cost control soared to the top. What we got is a program that the insurance companies love far more than the working class ever will.

In addition, health care reform is being used to mislead sections of the working class into attacking black and Latino workers who will be covered under the ACA. The capitalists are building an increasingly strident racist movement — the current Tea Party'ers — that attacks immigrant workers. The racists portray the ACA as taking away good benefits from deserving white workers, cutting well-earned Medicare benefits and giving benefits to the supposedly undeserving poor. White workers need to stand with black and Latino workers to demand quality health care for all.

Workers have not won health care reform by electing Obama. We did not build a mass movement that forced concessions from the bosses — the bosses themselves reorganized the health system through the ACA to increase their profits! It is time to give up illusions that any capitalist restructuring of society will help the working class, particularly during an economic crisis. We need not spend our energy on trying to tweak this health care reform or telling Obama how to "regulate" the insurance industry. We must continue to build a mass, multiracial revolutionary movement to fight for better health care and to destroy the bosses' system. ☛

## RED EYE ON THE NEWS

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

### Gov't again lets profiteers pollute

GW, 5/14 — An expert panel that advises the president on cancer said last week Americans were facing "grievous harm" from chemicals in the air, food and water that had largely gone unregulated and ignored....

"To a disturbing extent, babies are born 'pre-polluted'," the panel wrote....

About 80,000 chemicals are in commercial use in the US, but federal regulators have assessed only about 200 for safety.

### Immigrants boost bosses' profits

NYT, 5/9 — To the editor:.... The fact is that American businesses, and therefore the local, state and federal governments, do not want to stop the flow of cheap, exploitable labor to America. Instead, politicians want to reap the economic benefit of "illegal" immigrants and, at the same time, assume a tough and patriotic posture.

### Oil co. regulators put profit first

NYT, 5/14 — WASHINGTON — The federal Minerals Management Service gave permission to BP and dozens of other oil companies to drill in the Gulf of Mexico without first getting required permits from another agency... despite strong warnings from that agency about the impact the drilling was likely to have on the gulf....

Those scientists said they were also regularly pressured by... officials to change the findings of their internal studies if they predicted that an accident was likely to occur....

"M.M.S. has given up any pretense of regulating the offshore oil industry,"....

"The agency seems to think its mission is to help the oil industry evade environmental laws."

### Cops demanding sex: cases rise

NYT, 5/19 — Both cases started the same way, with a woman's complaint that she had been coerced into performing sexual favors for a police of-

ficer. The ensuing investigations reached the same alarming conclusion: These women were not the only victims....

A woman.... told investigators that Detective Sandino warned her that if she refused she would go to jail and lose custody of her children. After her release, she said, the detective told her he expected to have sex with her later and repeatedly called and sent text messages to her, threatening to arrest her again if she refused....

The Queens district attorney's office conducted an investigation. The office declined to prosecute the officer.

### Kids: Lots of TV = long-term ills

GW, 5/14 — Dr. Linda Pagani — who led a University of Montreal study that found that the more television that small children watch, the more negative the effect on their school performance — warns that the deleterious result of watching too much television doesn't wear off after first exposure. Toddlers who are exposed to hours of TV a day are more likely to become obese, inattentive and tired by the time they are 11 years old....

Television is being used as a stationary babysitter while human carers get on with other tasks....

Watching television in all but the most sparing quantity cements the idea that culture is something that is created for you rather than something that you have the power to create yourself....

Television can't be uninvented; the question is how... to use it for useful... ends.

### Somehow, capitalism isn't blamed

NYT, 5/18 — KHIMKI, Russia — Mikhail Beke- tov had been warned, but would not stop writing. About dubious land deals. Crooked loans. Under-the-table hush money. All evidence, he argued in his newspaper, of rampant corruption in this Moscow suburb....

His assailants... sought to make sure that he would never write another word. He lost a leg. Now 52, he is in a wheelchair, his brain so damaged that he cannot utter a simple sentence.

The police promised a thorough investigation, but barely looked up from their desks. Surveillance



videos were ignored....

In retrospect, the violence was an omen, beginning a wave of unsolved attacks and official harassment against journalists, human rights activists and opposition politicians around the region which includes the Moscow suburbs.... Rarely, if ever, is anyone held responsible....

The culture of impunity in Russia represents the most glaring example of the country's inability to establish real laws in the two decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union....

"The system will stop at nothing to break you."

### Boy Scouts take cue from church

GW, 5/7 — The Boy Scouts of America organization is fighting to keep secret thousands of "perversion files" on suspected child molesters after it was ordered to pay record damages over the sexual abuse of a former Scout. It has been accused of covering up decades of child abuse in order to protect the reputation of what is now a billion-dollar organization....

While the files were often used to remove child abusers from the movement, many were allowed to remain.... The Boy Scouts rarely alerted the police.

The Scout leadership said it was seeking to keep the files secret to protect the privacy of the victims and to guard against being sued for false accusations. It was "deeply saddened" by the abuse of Lewis, but would not comment further on the case because of continuing litigation.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

# Global Warming Part II

## Profit System Can't Reverse Environment's Destruction

### Part II

There are a growing number of new green businesses in the world, particularly in Europe and the U.S. Many of these may be profitable, but in order to end Green House Gas (GHG) emissions all other capitalists would have to tear down and replace any old equipment that pollutes and emits GHGs, and take tremendous losses in massive long-term investments.

Auto companies would have to start producing vehicles that run on a different fuel from gasoline — when it takes years to introduce such minor changes as airbags. Governments at all levels would have to make a general switch from private to public transportation, when it takes years to repave a beltway or build a subway. Cities and suburbs would have to be rearranged to make this possible, when it takes years to build a housing development. Heating and electricity for buildings would have to be powered by clean energy. And all the plastics and other materials that rely on oil as a critical ingredient would have to be replaced by other materials, either not yet invented or not profitable to produce.

Instead of these steps that capitalism can't make, various capitalist defenders propose technological solutions such as trapping emissions from factory smokestacks and dumping them into the ocean. Aside from the extreme expense of this process, what this would do to the oceans is unknown. Ideas such as these are thrown up as a smokescreen to mask the inability of a profit system to reverse the destruction of the environment.

Corporations like ExxonMobil, whose profits are based purely on producing the GHG-causing fossil fuels, are not about to see their businesses die. Through their control of the government by way of bought-and-paid-for politicians and intellectuals, they can delay any changes and continue to cause massive confusion about global warming. Concern for the environment is a long-term process that requires giving up the concept of profit in favor of satisfying human needs. Capitalism does not operate to satisfy human needs.

Competition to create new markets calls for a

continual stream of new products that have little to no use value to people. After all, how many different products can we actually need? Most new products are ones we have always gotten along fine without. Through massive and inescapable advertising, we are attracted to products like iPods, plasma TVs, cosmetics, clothing fashions, or giant SUVs.

The continual introduction of useless or harmful products increases useless consumption of resources and increases harmful dumping of waste, with accelerating destruction of the environment. As one of the original founders of the PLP once put it, "In order to continue to expand its profits, capitalism creates wants instead of satisfying needs."

There have been published studies of various business efforts in many countries toward sustainable energy and clean waste management, i.e., toward greening the economy or at least their own businesses. The studies conclude that these moves are necessarily extremely limited in scope and grossly inadequate to make any real difference (see [www.plp.org](http://www.plp.org) for complete article and sources).

The only way to prevent a continued increase in GHG concentration is to drop the rate of emissions completely to zero. GHG emissions are not the direct cause of global warming; the direct cause is GHG atmospheric concentrations.

In other words, in order to halt global warming and stabilize the average temperature around the world, it would require a complete cessation of all emissions of CO2 — zero, none, no more use of any fossil fuels at all. Energy production everywhere in the world would have to be mainly through means other than oil, coal, and natural gas.

According to the Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007 report, if global GHG emissions were to be lower in 2050 by 50-85% below those of 2000, there would still be a rise in global temperature by 2.0-2.4 C (3.6-4.3 F), and a rise in sea level by 0.4-1.4 meters (1.3-4.6 feet). But their estimates of the sea level rise take into account only the thermal expansion of the oceans. (i.e., the expansion of the volume of sea water in the world due to the higher temperature). They

take absolutely no account of the contribution from such amplifying feedback mechanisms as the melting of the Greenland and Antarctica ice shelves or any other glaciers in the world, which would make the sea level rise greater.

Conditions of world-wide depression and widening war make it even more unlikely that any significant portion of financial investment will be directed toward ending GHG emissions, particularly since it would require the destruction of trillions of dollars worth of existing plant and equipment, with massive losses to the businesses involved and a reversal of the expanding militarization by the various capitalist powers.

Inter-imperialist rivalry prevents any national bourgeoisie — whose position in the world economic market is threatened — from willingly complying with any agreement or treaty. One of the greatest, if not the greatest, obstacles to expenditure of the needed magnitude is the absolute need of each imperialist power, driven by international competition, to maintain and continually enlarge their military. The U.S. military costs almost as much as all the others in the world put together.

The military essentially runs on oil. According to the Energy Bulletin, the U.S. military is the single largest purchaser of oil in the world. "The Army calculated that it would burn 40 million gallons of fuel in three weeks of combat in Iraq. Retrofitting all the tanks, other land vehicles, ships, and planes to run on alternative fuels is simply prohibitive to the U.S. ruling class. U.S. rulers would force global temperatures through the roof before they would see their empire lost to rival imperialists. And this is just as true of all the other imperialist powers in the world!

In addition to continuing GHG emissions with its irreversible climate change and continuing wars for control of oil, so long as capitalism exists the world's working class will continue to suffer as well from wars for control of water and minerals, from exploitation, from racism, from sexism, and from poverty and disease. Misguided attempts to cure one of the symptoms while failing to remove the cause will not bring benefit the working class. ☛

## Only Communist Revolution, Not Obamacare, Can Insure Workers' Health

Communism is the only way to provide the working class with true health care unimaginable under capitalism. Though there are limits to perfect health, a growing scientific understanding will give the working class the tools to find new approaches to prevention and treatment of disease.

Communists will use these tools, as well as mass mobilizations, to build a society that will keep people healthy over their lifespan. But we cannot do this without an armed revolution to destroy the profit-maximizing system capitalism, which distorts every aspect of our lives and undermines the use of scientific discovery.

Obama's health care reform, far from bringing about broad improvements in health, is designed to cut health care costs to free up funds for imperialist wars and to improve the competitiveness of the U.S. Empire.

### Health And Racist Health Care

The profit motive and competition inherent in capitalism require companies to overwork, underpay and lay off workers whenever it's profitable. Black and Latino workers fare even worse in all the social determinants of health because of racism, which through mass racist unemployment excludes entire populations from receiving minimal healthcare.

Capitalist medical care can barely touch the damage done to workers by exploitation, pollu-

tion, poor nutrition, stresses of work and unemployment, continual war and most of all, racist and sexist oppression. Capitalist health care patches up a suffering working class providing capitalists workers just healthy enough to produce goods and services, and staff an army to guarantee U.S. capitalist interests globally.

Class struggle is the only way to gain significant reform, but without destroying the capitalist class these gains will be lost. Medicare was forced on the bosses by the movements of the 1960s, in-

cluding the civil rights and women's movements, and is now being sharply cut by the capitalists. Unionized workers won health care benefits, which are now under attack, for being, as the bosses say, "too generous."

Fighting racism is critical to fighting for health care for the entire working class. Students, professionals and workers have to vigorously organize multiracial unity against racist cuts that close clinics and hospitals which serve the poor, such as St.

*continued on p. 7*

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