

CHALLENGE



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Students, Parents, Teachers Fight School Bosses' Racism: INTEGRATE, DON'T SEGREGATE!

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BROOKLYN, NY, January 11 — "They say cut back, we say fight back!" "Separate is never equal!" These were just two of the many chants that over 300 militant students, teachers and parents shouted while picketing outside the John Jay HS campus.

It preceded a public hearing on the racist Department of Education's (DoE) proposal to pour millions of dollars into installing a new, "selective school" within our building, catering to the mostly-white, middle-class Park Slope neighborhood. These are millions that could have been used all along to improve the four existing schools in the building. The "selective school" will segregate incoming white students from the current black and Latino school population

Our chants grew louder and our numbers mounted in a block-long picket line, joined by workers from a nearby hospital. Drivers honked their support. Students and teachers from many other city schools answered the call to protest the racism and continuing re-segregation of public schools. PL'ers have played a leading role in this struggle to win everyone to understand the DoE actions as a racist attack on the predominately black and Latino student population in the building.

The Phony 'Proposal'

Over the last two weeks the entire school community has been organizing for this day when the DoE is legally obligated to carry out the farce it calls "public hearings." But when it first sent its cronies to inform everyone about its proposal to install the new school in the building, that very night the DoE had already hand-picked the principal to head up this new school. She e-mailed her current school staff that she was leaving them to lead this new Millennium Brooklyn. Some "proposal"!

After learning about the DoE treachery, we took the limited time available to organize people in the school building to see that even though a decision seems to have been made, we must still stand up and fight racism. Everyone agreed and sprang into action to get the entire school building, the sur-

rounding community and everyone else we know to attend the rally and meeting.

The school building was abuzz. Teachers planned lessons around racism and segregation; debaters wrote speeches and announced it at their tournaments. One problem was that some students were taking a state exam that very day while the other students would not be attending school.

Overcoming All Obstacles

That obstacle was overcome collectively: by teachers hosting pizza and sign-making parties for the students taking the test; by the after-school program hosting a volleyball game between alumni and the current volleyball team, drawing many students back to school. Throughout the day students, teachers and school staff were united in preparations for the evening activities.

Another victory was won when the year-long tension between the after-school staff and teachers slowly eroded as we all united in the interest of fighting racism alongside the students we both care for daily.

As the volleyball game ended, a Party teacher invited everyone to come to the rally and hearing. Everyone grabbed signs they had made and others took ones they liked as they left the gym. Most of the students had never attended a rally and were excited to be picketing, chanting against budget cuts, racism and segregation and to unite with their teachers and parents. We then marched into the hearing chanting and carrying signs as students and teachers signed up to speak.

'How do we spell racist? D-O-E!'

As this occurred PL'ers began leading the chant, "How do we spell racist? D-O-E!" Parents', students' and teachers' speeches outlined how the DoE has neglected the mainly black and Latino high school for years. While most focused on the current four schools, others described the DoE's history of racism at the building's original John Jay HS. One panel member attempted to reprimand the audience for chanting and then booing the panel as the hearing began. This same flunky stated his position as a member of a community education board in the district. This drew further boos because undoubtedly this group has been a tool of the DoE's segregation plans.

Amid the crowd's anger, a PL'er declared that the situation facing the school cannot be solved under capitalism; that no politician or Board of Education can solve the problems of failing schools; and that the system was inherently flawed because the future it "offered" students worldwide was unemployment and imperialist wars. The PL'er then read the last paragraph of the article in the pre-



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Capitalism Is Cause of Violence

Tucson Gunman Murders 6;

U.S. Imperialists Murder Millions

Capitalist politicians of all stripes are falling all over themselves to capitalize on the Tucson shootings and boost their popularity. Obama responded to the sickening massacre with sickening hypocrisy. At a memorial service there, he called for "more civility in our public discourse." Meanwhile, Obama commits barbaric mass murder for the benefit of his liberal, imperialist bosses. As Obama spoke of "healing," the U.S. war machine he heads was busy maiming and killing. Since Inauguration Day, Obama's escalating Afghan war has slaughtered 2,002 civilians, most along a U.S.-planned pipeline route.

Jared Loughner murdered six people. But Obama & Co. perpetuate atrocities far more deadly against workers in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Millions have died so that Exxon Mobil could gain access to Iraq's biggest oilfield. Pilotless drones, Obama's preferred instrument of terror, target villages in Pakistan and Yemen.

Obama commands secret U.S. death squads called Special Operations forces "in 75 countries, compared with about 60 at the beginning of last year....Plans exist for preemptive or retaliatory strikes in numerous places around the world" (Washington Post, 6/4/10). So it was particularly stomach-turning when assassin-in-chief Obama exploited the innocence of nine-year-old Tucson victim Christina Green.

To sugar-coat his imperialist masters' widening war agenda, Obama talked of "forging a country...worthy of her gentle, happy spirit." In other countries, however, U.S. attacks regularly incinerate and dismember children Christina's age.

Mad Loner or Tea Partier; Capitalist Ideas Prodded Gunman

Shooter Loughner's motivation may have been influenced by the Tea Party side of the deepening split among U.S. capitalists. It pits bosses who profit directly from U.S. imperialist wars against those who don't. The former need higher taxes and greater regulation, centralized in Washington, to wage coming, larger conflicts with Iran, China and Russia. Globally-focused, and mainly Rockefeller-related, banks like JP Morgan and oil giants like Exxon Mobil and Chevron lead this faction.

Increasingly violent Tea Party rhetoric could well have enlisted Loughner as an anti-big government foot-soldier after his rejection by the imperialist U.S. Army. Then again, he may be out of his mind.

In either case, the fault lies with the profit system. And both factors are probably at play here. Domestic capitalists engender Tea Partyism among smaller bosses and workers who see themselves as allies. But in a larger sphere, capitalism's "every-man-for-himself," "dog-eat-dog" competition promotes an ideology of profound individualism. Especially among unemployed workers like Loughner, individualism can quickly become social isolation, a breeding ground for mental illness.

War-Making Liberals, Needing G.O.P Support, Shift Tucson Guilt From Palinites to Psychosis

At first liberals openly blamed Tucson on Tea Partyism. Ex-senator Gary Hart co-authored the Clinton-era Hart-Rudman reports that predicted 9/11 and urged full U.S. mobilization for world war. Hart whined:

"Political rhetoric used by politicians and the media has become more inflammatory....Today we have seen the results of this rhetoric" (Huffington Post, 1/8/11).

But a week later, Frank Rich, the top Obama-watcher at the liberal rulers' New York Times, said (1/16/11), "Let's stipulate that Loughner was a 'lone nutjob.'" The war-making liberals' backtracking stems from their need to win over, not alienate, Republicans who made big Congressional gains in November.

Yet, despite calls for civilized debate by the dominant U.S. capitalists, their crimes justify working-class anger that goes far beyond rhetoric.

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.

Giffords No Friend of the Working Class

When a crazed gunman shot Gabrielle Giffords, a third-term Democratic Congresswoman from Arizona — amid capitalism's global wars and economic catastrophes — what should a worker think? Is Giffords "one of us"? She has a reputation of being a liberal and is hated by her more obviously right-wing opponents. But she is an honorary co-chair of Third Way, a think-tank that seeks a middle-policy ground between "left and right," essentially seeking to unify the ruling class. In fact, Third Way is run by Wall Street financiers and is no friend of the working class (<http://thirdway.org/trustees>).

Giffords is not on our side in the class struggle. She has been complicit in crimes against the working class. She has voted for every funding bill for the wars in the Middle East and has supported the escalations. She has contributed to the racist atmosphere against Latinos by fighting to secure the border with Mexico (but not with Canada!) against immigrant workers under the guise of preventing drug smuggling. She has added to the racism that is implicit in blaming all immigrant Latino workers for drug criminality, though only a few percent of those who cross the border are involved in drug dealing.

When one of Arizona's other two liberal Democratic Congressmen, Raul Grijalva, called for a boycott against Arizona in response to the legislature's passage of S.B. 1070 — the racist bill that requires that all cops profile Latino workers and demand their documentation — Giffords opposed doing anything to hurt Arizona business profits. She is, herself, a small-business owner.

ric. On top of their murderous assaults of workers overseas, U.S. rulers enforce 30-million-plus unemployment, wage-cuts for those still employed, reductions in every form of social service, and the highest rates of arrest and imprisonment in the world.

Racism enables and worsens this onslaught. Black and Latino workers and youth suffer double the jobless rates; lower wages and incomes; the worst social service cuts in healthcare and schools.

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Remember the 'Hinckley-Jodie Foster' Farce?

The current Tucson shooting resembles the media dance that followed John Hinckley's failed assassination attempt on Reagan in March 1981. Initial reports pointed to political and economic motives. Hinckley had neo-Nazi ties, and his family owned an oil and gas company that had begun to suffer severely from Reagan's recent abolition of energy price controls. But U.S. mainstream media soon broadcast Hinckley's deranged obsession with the actress Jodie Foster. Then, as now, the main U.S. rulers sought to paper over serious disputes at home in order to appear united in the face of global imperialist rivalry. Reagan's oil price drop aimed at reducing profits for, and impoverishing, the oil-exporting Soviet Union.

Today, the U.S.'s ruling Obama-Rockefeller crew needs to show internal unity against rising external foes like Iran and China. Thus the press now tends to portray Loughner as a madman rather than forerunner of an armed insurrection.

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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NYC's Blizzard: Bosses' Racist Snow Job

NEW YORK CITY, January 14 — The city of New York, or anywhere under capitalism, does not give a damn about you unless you're rich. The blizzard that struck New York City Sunday, December 26, was a disaster for the Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and a disaster for EMS is a disaster for the working class.

I am an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) working in the FDNY 911 system in Brooklyn. During the blizzard my partner and I were stuck in our ambulance for over 11 hours while we listened to another EMT over the radio have a mental breakdown. He'd had a patient dead in the back of his ambulance for over 15 hours. The FDNY ordered them not to abandon their vehicle in spite of running out of diesel fuel and heat.

The dispatcher cut off his transmissions to us so we could no longer hear him, but my partner asked, "How could the city screw this up so bad?"

By Monday morning, there was a backlog of officially 1,300 911 calls, with response times to critical calls (heart attacks, asthma attacks, etc.) around three hours and non-critical calls 12 hours. Unofficially those numbers are meaningless — city firefighters were empowered to pronounce patients dead after 20 minutes of CPR with EMS never responding.

Exhausted Workers Battle Blizzard, Bosses Take Off

After a total of 27 1/2 hours, my partner and I were relieved from our ambulance by fellow co-workers who carried shovels, food and water to us. We hiked to the hospital we are stationed at and our bosses were nowhere to be found. The person whose job it is to develop contingency plans reassured us that if we needed office supplies, we could call him. Luckily for us, the nurses at the hospital shepherded us into the emergency room where we could finally sit and get some rest.

That night when we awoke and ate proper food most of us went back out to work overnight to dig out ambulances that were still stuck, relieve other exhausted crews and get back in the streets. Even though nothing was plowed, we attempted to chip away at the backlog of thousands of 911 calls.

While out at 3 AM on Tuesday morning, we responded to an MTA bus operator who had been trapped in his bus since 8 PM on Sunday. I opened an emergency window with a claw hammer, and helped the dehydrated, weakened but angry bus operator to our ambulance. During that time he had only a 12 oz. bottle of iced tea, no food and no heat save for a blanket.

When he called the MTA to tell them he'd been rescued by EMS, his supervisor demanded to know why he abandoned his post and told him to go back and sit by the bus. The bus driver looked down at his frost-nipped feet we were treating, laughed and hung up on him.

Housing projects and working-class neighborhoods didn't see snowplows until Wednesday. Following the bus operator we were sent to a call in one of the larger housing projects in Brooklyn and became hopelessly stuck. Sunrise was still a few hours away but dozens of workers from the projects descended on our ambulance to help dig us out.

We ended up stuck one more time. The next morning, Thursday, another ambulance parked nearby and we exchanged crews. Upon returning to the hospital and preparing to hike home for the first time in three days, our bosses stood in the door offering handshakes and thanks "for your ordeal."

People died during this blizzard because they were poor, lived in the projects and the city government didn't care. Our ordeal? The entire working class has an ordeal — capitalism. We don't need handshakes for cleaning up the bosses' mess. We

need workers' power and to achieve that goal, we need to organize at our workplaces, our communities, and our schools.

Workers Don't Need Bosses to Run Society

As a communist in the Progressive Labor Party I attended the Summer Project in New Orleans in 2005. We saw for ourselves the racist difference between the Lower Ninth Ward and Bourbon Street. New York and New Orleans — two cities in the richest, most powerful capitalist country on the planet whose workers are nothing more than dollar signs to the bosses and who died like animals trapped in their homes.

In the meantime Obama's Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Shaun Donovan, plans to privatize the Red Hook projects in Brooklyn, home to over 12,000 black and Latino workers. If the bill passes Congress it will pave the way for demolishing projects city-wide. The capitalists do not care how many black or Latino workers have to die because in their racist view what matters is maximizing profit and cutting costs like city services.

This is what fascism looks like. It is the essence of capitalism, and not a single part of the capitalist system can escape it. In Haiti, Pakistan, Western Europe and other areas, the workers were hit much harder and had to work for much less. As a PLP member, I struggle for my co-workers to connect each of these crises with the conclusion that the system must be smashed.

There was no question that we cared for each other like no one else would, certainly not our absentee bosses! That is how I know we can win. It's modest but that's a seed for our future society. It can help workers understand the need to join the Progressive Labor Party and smash this racist system.

Red EMT

Integrate, Don't Segregate!

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vious issue of CHALLENGE and stated that only communism can solve these problems. He invited everyone to get a copy of the paper, which was widely distributed throughout the protest and hearing.

Then a councilman tried to answer the PL'er, saying, "I'm not trying to defend capitalism, I only speak honestly about what I feel." He attempted to buy off the crowd by adding to the DoE "proposal" all the demands the students and teachers made about bringing in the new school.

After that the DoE's District 15's use of racism to divide the working class was on full display. They brought in parents of autistic children who the new school would potentially serve to argue for the DoE's racist plans. Parent after parent used their children to justify the racist "proposal." However, one speaker said the blame should fall squarely on the backs of the DoE for driving a wedge between two needed groups, the black and Latino students it has neglected for years and the special ed students who lack other school options.

Other teachers and community residents exposed the DoE by pointing out that all neighborhood parents can send their children to the schools already in the building, asserting that the DoE is obligated to provide the schools with more aid to help meet student needs.

The struggle is continuing. Teachers and students have already been attacked for confronting racism. As CHALLENGE goes to press, our forces are gearing up for the January 19 hearing where the DoE makes its decisions about this "proposal" and many others city-wide.

Class Struggle Still in Session

PL'ers and friends will be there to bring the message that capitalist education and the whole

system is failing students, parents and teachers worldwide. Amid this class struggle, teachers and students have been receiving a lesson no capitalist classroom can teach.

The DoE racist attack against the teachers and students who are leading the struggle has sharpened in one school in the John Jay building. The Assistant Principal and the heavy-handed principal called one teacher into their office, saying they didn't like the "tone" of the rally, to try to intimidate the teacher to stop organizing with students. This principal has hauled students into her office to interrogate them ever since the community has begun fighting the segregation. But the stu-

dents have only responded to this principal with a stronger will to fight.

The students who've been leading the way have already come one step further, having joined a PL study group. PL'ers who are fighting alongside these workers and youth are using this struggle as a school to build communist ideas and raise class-consciousness. We have laid the groundwork for over five years with the people involved to see communism as the alternative to this current rotten system.

The class struggle is still in session! (More next issue.) ☪



Bangladesh: Unite to Defend Striking Garment Workers

(Editor's note: PLP members protested in front of the Bangladeshi Consulate in NYC in solidarity with the garment workers. They also passed out the flyer which provided information for the article below.)

BANGLADESH — On July 29, 20,000 of Bangladesh's roughly 3.5 million apparel workers — 90% women — brought their garment factories to a halt and marched through the capital city, Dhaka. They demanded an increase in the minimum wage from 3,000 taka (US\$40) to 5,000 taka (US\$72) per month. This fight-back needs the support of the working class worldwide.

Rent and food prices have doubled in the past five years, leaving both rural and urban workers desperate. The government's Home Minister Shahara Khatun warned: "No one will be spared if found to be involved in creating unrest in the garments sector." She echoes the infamous statement by former President of West Pakistan — Yahya Khan — in 1971, referring to Bengali workers at the outset of the bloody Bangladesh Liberation War: "Kill three million of them and the rest will eat out of our hands."

History proves that a boss is a boss no matter their skin color, "nationality," or native language.

The fascist response of the governing socialist party, the Awami League, has been one of mass arrests and terror. Hundreds of workers have been injured during clashes with cops. Thousands more have been arrested and face torture and the threat of reprisals against their families unless they cooperate and identify strike leaders. Among these prisoners is Babul Akhter, the director of the Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers' Federation; Montu Ghosh, an outspoken attorney for the Garment Trade Union.

The government has revoked legal status of the Bangladesh Center for Worker Solidarity (BCWS).

It also prosecuted the leaders of this organization. Fittingly, of the 345 Ministers of Parliament (MPs), more than 30 MPs of the Awami League are factory owners.

The current outbreak of struggle has been simmering for months. In February, 2010, 21 workers perished in a blaze in Gazipur, in the industrial belt of Dhaka. This set off months of sporadic strikes, road blockades, and battles with the cops.

With garments making up 80% of exports, Bangladesh is the world's third-largest garment exporter, after China and Turkey. Workers labor for 60 to 100 hours per week. The bosses pay them an average of ten to fifteen cents per hour, while selling the merchandise for at least 300 percent profit. Even the workers' demand for \$72/month is not enough for a living. Because of the devaluation of the taka, the real value of their wage is even lower.

The women in these sweatshops, of whom 90% are girls ages 12 and up, face both physical and sexual abuse. In addition to factory work, they face double exploitation at home: 40% of women are married before the age of 15; 90% of women give birth at home and 86% of these give birth medically unassisted.

Despite the proliferation of women's groups, NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and voting, women are mainly confined to child-rearing in kutchra (handmade from tin, bamboo, or mud) huts with no toilet, little clean water and infrequent electricity.

The organizations may provide temporary relief to some women, as they aren't taught that their poverty is the direct product of capitalism. Bangladesh, the most densely-populated country in the world, is in essence a giant reserve army of labor for the garment and seafood industries providing super-profits for U.S. and European imperialism.

These conditions mirror those of their working-class brothers and sisters in countries all over the world. In Bangladesh, however, the workers are fighting back! Their militant example must be supported; by weakening the imperialists from wherever we are, we can strengthen the fight-back there. But final victory will only happen when this battle for a wage increase is transformed into a battle against the wage-system itself — a terrifying prospect for the bosses, who fool the workers with misleaders.

These honest and battle-hardened workers must steel themselves against, and expose, the apologists: misleaders within their own unions and liberal politicians who are trying to divert the class struggle into scams of "living wages" and "micro-credits." The bosses will make promises to some workers in order to continue exploiting all workers.

Workers in Bangladesh don't need credit, they need power — where the working class runs society.

We are one international working class — an injury to one is an injury to all.

We salute the heroic workers in Bangladesh!

Workers of the world unite to smash sexism, racism, and imperialism! ✪



Tucson Gunman Murders 6; U.S. Imperialists Murder Millions

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Because of racist discrimination, such as racial profiling and stop-and-frisk laws, blacks and Latinos also comprise 70% of the 2.4 million in prisons. They are forced into slave labor, which nets hundreds of billions in super-profits for the bosses.

Many have pointed out that there is little done in this society to prevent mentally-ill people from killing, even when they are widely recognized as dangerous to themselves and others, as Loughner was. He easily bought the automatic pistol two months earlier and the ammunition on the morning of the shooting.

There was no help available for his mental illness or for thousands of others in similar straits, largely because of the legislature's cuts in mental health benefits. And these cuts flow from the hundreds of billions the ruling class spends on the imperialist wars in the Middle East and to maintain over 700 bases worldwide, including 13 floating aircraft carrier bases.

If anyone is to blame for the Tucson killings, it's the entire state apparatus and the capitalist class that owns it, lock, stock and barrel.

Workers Need to Take Aim at the Capitalist System

Shooting individual politicians, let alone innocent bystanders, can never help the working class in any way, let alone gain workers' power. Such acts only serve to help the rulers justify a much stronger police state.

The various capitalist camps want us to take sides over Tucson. We should support our own side, the working class. Our best hope lies in organizing for the ultimate destruction of capitalists of all stripes. That is the revolutionary, communist Progressive Labor Party's ultimate goal. These are the ideas that PLP members and friends must advance in every mass organization and in every class struggle in which we are immersed. ✪

Mount Fight vs. School Bosses' Cover-up of KKK Racism

In December just before the beginning of my son's charter school's winter break, there was a horrific drawing found in the office. This drawing illustrated a bunch of KKK's, crosses burning and one of the only two black teachers on campus being lynched. This first-year teacher is well liked by the students and other teachers, which confused us. Who would do this? Why? What was their purpose? But, the most important question we asked ourselves was how we are going to utilize this incident to organize parents, teachers and students to fight against racism in their school and in their communities.

The school is comprised of 99% Latino students who are continually bombarded by the mainstream media with the idea of brown vs. black. This idea, according to the U.S. bosses, has been successful at violently separating black and brown youth in inner cities. What the youth at this school are not being told is that multi-racial unity will give them power to fight against the bosses, racism and sexism.

As soon as the targeted black teacher saw this, she shared it with a multi-racial group of teachers. They talked to the administration to show them that they were disgusted by the drawing and saw that there was a dire need to talk about the dangers of racism in our school. Some of them put together some ideas on how to implement this in the curriculum, be it an assembly, a series of events or even a topic that could be covered during homeroom. The administration consists of three women: one white, one Armenian, and the other Latina. They gave us the run-around. They refused to fight racism and said that simply reprimanding the student would be

the solution. They didn't want anyone to fight back, even questioning the ability for all teachers to present such information to their students. They went on to share their irrelevant stories about how they have been personally discriminated against by being called a "b*tch" or told "f*ck you" by students. They were trying to convince us that teenagers are teenagers and they do mean things to the faculty all the time, and that blatant KKK racism was no different.

The young teachers in a small, non-unionized, charter high school fear being reprimanded and even fired for not conforming to the administration's useless ways of approaching this issue. As parents we must support our teachers and students in our fight against this racist attack. My son has now returned from winter break and the administration was hoping that everyone would forget about it, but we have not. No one expected to get administration support, but we definitely can unite parents, teachers and students. We have begun talking to other parents and teachers about it and have asked for their input for a plan of action. We have found that there are some who support us and opportunists who side with administration.

We have seen that under capitalism, the school system will only serve the profit needs of racist bosses. The only way that we can truly serve our students and community is by getting rid of the bosses and their schools. This incident has provided our community with an opportunity to organize students and teachers for that purpose. Under a communist society, we will have true education for our students.

Red Parent

France: Fierce Fight vs. Lipton Bosses Is No Tea Party

MARSEILLES, FRANCE, January 4 — Nearly 200 workers at the Fralib factory in nearby Gémenos are engaged in a fierce fight to prevent the Unilever company from closing its plant here, which has been producing Lipton Tea for 118 years.

Unilever has just “bought the U.S. company Alberto-Culver for \$3.7 billion,” declared union steward Oliver Leberquier. “That’s proof they don’t have any financial worries.”

Last spring, the Fralib workers struck for nine weeks for a 200-euro/month (\$260) raise but were forced to accept the company offer of 16-euros/month (\$21), although they did win wage payment for three strike days, a week of paid holidays and a 1,200-euro (\$1,560) one-time bonus.

Meanwhile, in 2008 then-Unilever CEO Patrick Cescau raked in 4.7 million euros for himself — almost 400,000 euros (\$520,000) a month!

The workers have launched a national boycott campaign against the Lipton brand, and are sticking up 15,000 boycott posters nation-wide.

The workers are also thinking of taking over the factory and manufacturing tea bags themselves. They’re discussing a return to a traditional method of flavoring tea and herbal tea, and of buying ingredients from local growers again.

How much effect this campaign will have on the multi-billion dollar company remains to be seen. In October, the Fralib workers sent delegations to the seven Unilever factories where some workers walked off the job to talk to the delegations.

Direct strike action organized with the support of other Unilever workers across Europe might have a better chance of challenging the company, but the reformist unions, operating within the bosses’ system, are hardly inclined to organize such an action.

Unilever plans to transfer Fralib production to its Belgian factory where it can extract even more



Striking Fralib workers, spring 2010

profits than here, playing off one group of workers against another. Globalization of profits means death to workers.

Actually, said steward Leberquier, “The factory is profitable. The total labor cost, including company social security contributions, amounts to 15 eurocents per box of tea.” Each box retails for two euros. But capitalists always drive for *maximum* profits, to be gained by moving to Belgium.

Unilever France has been accused of cheating consumers by putting less tea in its teabags, and is cheating on taxes to the tune of 67 million euros a year (\$87 million) via a financial set-up in Switzerland. It is an Anglo-Dutch multinational and exploits 163,000 workers worldwide.

Unilever buys palm oil from suppliers that are

devastating Indonesia’s rainforests. In Latin America, the company continues to sell detergents containing phosphates, a serious pollutant. Hindustan Unilever uses racist TV ads for its skin-lightening cream. They showed depressed dark-skinned women being ignored by men and employers. After the women lighten their skin, they “suddenly find boyfriends and glamorous jobs.”

Unifying Unilever workers globally against this racist, exploitative boss would be a big step towards organizing for a revolution that would wipe out this oppressive capitalist system. This goal requires communist leadership, quite contrary to the reformist unions who mislead workers into limiting their struggle under the bosses’ rules.✪

Hitlerite Racism Looming: Battle Cops At French Fascists’ Convention

TOURS, FRANCE, January 15 — Over 3,000 anti-fascists demonstrated against the national convention of the fascist National Front here today. A coalition of 30 trade unions, associations and “left-wing” political parties called the rally.

Several hundred police protected the fascist convention at which National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, 81, was replaced by his daughter, Marine Le Pen, 42.

As the rally ended, hundreds of demonstrators threw paving stones, cans, firecrackers and smoke bombs at the cops. The latter used tear gas, rubber bullets and two water cannons against the anti-fascists while a helicopter buzzed overhead. Six people were arrested.

One big weakness of today’s demonstration was that the reformist trade unions and phony “left-wing” parties did not mobilize black or Arab workers and youth. The overwhelming majority of the protesters were white.

Jean-Marie Le Pen is a multimillionaire. He owns two estates worth about 7.4 million euros (nearly US\$10 million) and half of a champagne company. Clearly, Le Pen or his daughter can’t be on the workers’ side.

A January 12 opinion poll indicated that 22% of the people in France say they agree with the Front’s racist ideas. Half of those polled felt “there are too many immigrants in France,” and almost half said

Muslims “have too many rights in France.”

Clearly fascism is growing here, including support for an alliance with the Front among people who sympathize with French president Nicolas Sarkozy’s UMP party, a figure now at 43% within that party.

Since 2007, Sarkozy has adopted National Front positions in order to win fascists to join the UMP, such as last summer’s campaign to round up and deport Roma people. While Sarkozy boasted this would kill the National Front as an independent party, the poll showed Sarkozy’s policy has generated more support for fascist ideas within the UMP.

For the ruling class, this is a win-win situation. Faced with the continuing need to repress the working class and to deepen “racial” divides in a time of high unemployment (now at 16.5%), the ruling class does not care if the fascists join the UMP or the UMP joins the fascists, so long as fascism grows overall.

The poll also indicated that, following the defeat last fall of the movement against upping the retirement age, the entire country has shifted to the right. Responsibility for that defeat lies mainly with the reformist trade union leaders, who led the movement into the dead-end of widely-spaced national “days of action.”

Only communist leadership can organize the

multi-racial unity of the working class to put us on the road to revolution, and get rid of the fascists and their ruling-class masters once and for all.✪



LETTERS

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

British Miner Still Fighting

(This letter from British miner Peter Holden was sent to two PLP members and is a follow-up to the article appearing in the last issue of CHALLENGE. — Ed.)

Thank you both very much for your Christmas wishes and card. I'm afraid the struggle for dignity, truth and justice still remains and is ongoing.

The whole working class is under attack by the Government here (Tories/Liberals). The students have been demonstrating against the rise in tuition fees, while hospital, schools, pensioners and the disabled are all under attack!

The government is blaming the Labour Party for the current situation, to justify the horrendous cuts they're putting into force. This will only affect the working class, not the rich.

What a great achievement to have a newspaper, CHALLENGE, with thousands of supporters around the world. Excellent!

I have multiple sclerosis and am in a wheelchair, but I keep my spirit up and try not to let it get me down. I'm still the Secretary of the "Betteshanger Social Club & Community Centre," which was the "Betteshanger Colliery Social Club." We have struggled and refurbished the building.

I hope this letter finds you both in good health. Please give my regards to all the comrades in the U.S. We will never forget the tremendous support you gave to the miners in the historic strike of 1984/85.

Peter, Ex-Sacked and Victimized Kent Miner

Bosses' Hospital Closures: Racist Death Sentence for Workers

The Cook County Commissioners are closing two of the three public hospitals — Provident and Oak Forest — serving Chicago-area residents, and converting them into clinics. The new county president, Preckwinkle, says she will cut over 20% of the budget, which includes Stroger Cook County Hospital. All this means more layoffs and more deaths due to lack of access to health care for many unemployed and under-employed workers, most of whom are Southside black and Latino residents.

At a recent meeting, many workers and patients confronted an administrator who answered few of the many concerns they raised. People described how private hospitals have turned them away due to lack of insurance. They were referred to Oak Forest and Provident and/or Stroger Hospital, which is inaccessible for many in the South suburbs who have no car.

The whole department of a doctor was abolished as well as other medical services that patients have relied on. A former delivery driver said he was referred to Stroger for cancer treatment, but after a year trying to get help, he gave up. He was finally able to get help at Oak Forest.

The Commissioners have appointed a board of health professionals and businessmen and women to administer the cuts. (The chairman is the former head of Tupperware.)

They held public hearings where over 1,000 people denounced the cutbacks. However, the bosses are still planning to carry out their racist plans to save money on the backs of mostly black and Latino workers as well as many white workers depending on these facilities.

PLP has actively opposed the cuts and is supporting a nurses' strike vote. But the unions, including SEIU and AFSCME, have done little to organize the workers against the racist cuts. Their lack of leadership reflects their disregard for the workers.

The unions have given millions from our dues money to politicians, who are our enemies, working hand-in-glove with the billionaires. Black and Latino politicians who front for the bosses are racist because they're attacking mainly African-American, Latino and Asian patients and healthcare workers. Communists must organize workers to fight the cuts and layoffs and demand that Oak Forest and Provident stay open, with a strike if necessary.

A Hospital Worker

French Government Harasses Haiti Quake Victims

A coalition of civil liberty groups has commemo-

rated the first anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti by condemning the conditions the French government has created for refugees trying to enter France from that ravaged country. A few days after the quake, the government had promised to ease their entry. The coalition published a text titled, "The victims are not welcome in the country of selective immigration."

It said their treatment was "scandalous"; "there is a yawning gap between what was promised and what has been done."

The government said it would ease the issuing of visas and the conditions for reuniting families and that deportations would be suspended. BUT within a few days, the windows in the prefectures for the refugees were closed and the conditions for reuniting families were never eased.

Since the earthquake immigrants from Haiti have had a harder time than other foreigners. Despite the earthquake damage, which worsened the ability to obtain identity papers, the French embassy in Haiti maintained discriminatory requirements, enabling it to reject most visa requests. The French government requires a series of documents which can only be obtained from Haitian government archives that were destroyed in the earthquake.

Thus, attempts to circumvent the French government's legal barriers have run aground (see CHALLENGE 1/19). Seventy-five immigrants who arrived from Haiti on December 23 and 26 were immediately detained in airport waiting zones after arriving on transit visas for Bénin. Upon arrival, they all demanded admission to France under the right of asylum. Then they were admitted temporarily while filing a request at the prefecture to stay.

The government has put them through this hassle even though it violated its own laws. Its promise from a year ago, to provide safe haven for earthquake victims, follows the government's general racist policies which have been directed against Arab and black immigrants from North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa who have been subjected to poverty wages and threats of deportation.

A Reader from France

Climate Change Spreads Diseases; Inherent in Capitalism

Diseases are spreading from the tropics to areas of the world farther from the equator where the oceans and air are steadily warming up. They're affecting new populations who don't have immunities to it. Plants, animals, and humans are all affected. The primary underlying cause is global warming, caused by greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas). Underlying this use of dirty energy is the profit system (capitalism), since fossil fuels bring tremendous profits, and profits always come before people.

Global warming causes more and more heat, humidity and rain, bringing mosquitoes, ticks, and other disease carriers. Malaria and cholera, among other diseases, are seen now in parts of Asia and Africa that haven't seen them before. Dengue fever, caused by a virus that is spread by mosquitoes and is sometimes fatal, has spread to the U.S. after being absent for three-fourths of a century.

Capitalism's inherent racist and two-tier organization produces disparity in the management and treatments of natural disasters. Hence, the poorest, the darker-skinned, suffer the most. To see this, consider the effect of the earthquakes last year in Haiti or in Chile, or the flooding of New Orleans by Katrina.

Bark beetles, also spreading farther from the equator, are wiping out forests from the Southwest U.S. to Canada. This type of change in habitat hastens the influx of disease carriers. The bosses around the globe have no plans or means to counter these looming epidemics, and the uneven distribution of health care resources again will increase racist oppression.

Global warming, by holding more moisture in the air until it falls in torrents, is causing more droughts in some areas and floods in others. Today's swelling rivers and extreme flooding in eastern Australia are attributed by climatologists to a strong La Niña. It is actually global warming that makes the violent weather events much more fre-

quent.

The high water, in addition to wiping out homes, is bringing crocodiles and snakes into the middle of towns. These floods will become everyday events as more and more glaciers melt and sea levels rise, flooding coastal cities, where hundreds of millions of people live. (See Scientific American, January 2011, p. 64, "Casualties of Climate Change.")

The capitalist governments of nations around the world twiddle their thumbs and, in order to escape responsibility for these crises, point fingers at each other, trying to gain advantage. Imperialist wars, such as in Iraq and Afghanistan, consume huge amounts of money and resources that could, in workers' hands, be used to develop clean energies, among other needs.

There is technology to use renewable and safer energy sources (such as water, wind, and biomass) but the bosses refuse. Meanwhile the bosses' media call for major cuts in Social Security and Medicare, but only trivial cuts, if any, in spending for war — misnamed "defense."

Any gains against the bosses will be won by the struggles of masses of workers, but they will only last until the bosses and their politicians take them back. Only a system run by the working class around the world, organized to satisfy our needs and not for profit, can drown the inhuman profit system in its own floods and save the planet for our children and grandchildren, let alone ourselves.

(See PLP's complete statement on global warming and its causes in THE COMMUNIST magazine, Winter 2010 issue, at www.plp.org).

Saguaro Rojo

Workers Hear 'Airport Red' on Tucson Murders

At the airport, many of my co-workers were shocked to learn of the horrific massacre in Tucson, Arizona. While some of us have political disagreements with the government, we agreed that terrorism by indiscriminately slaughtering everyone is not the way. It could kill innocent workers and children.

We sent out an email to the Tucson SEIU [Service Employees International Union] expressing sympathy for the injured. My co-workers reviewed a draft of the email before it was sent. They asked, "Why did he do it"? Clearly Jared Loughner is unbalanced, but I tried to explain that it is because of the fascist political climate in Arizona. It's filled with anti-immigrant racism, racist hate groups, and a fascist governor who cuts the budget by preventing working-class people from getting medical operations to stay alive. We know of one worker who died because of it.

This is fascism with racism being the cutting edge. I explained to an anti-Semitic guy that PLP correctly said racism, when carried to its "logical" conclusion, means not only the death of black, Latino and Asian workers, but white workers as well. This guy also had a connection to a racist anti-immigrant hate group called American Renaissance.

I told my co-workers that Arizona was like a bomb waiting to go off and that the mass murder was a reflection of conflict among the bosses for control of the Federal government. Loughner was a perfect proxy representing Arizona fascism, which is new-money bosses oppressing Latino workers in Arizona. Gifford and Judge Roll represented the federal government that is dominated by old-money Rockefeller bosses.

Many of my co-workers were surprised to hear a communist analysis like that. I told them massacres like this happen all the time in the Middle East because of different groups of bosses fighting it out over the dead bodies of Palestinian or Iraqi workers.

I explained the Progressive Labor Party is the only answer to stopping the mass murder of workers in the bosses' dogfights both in the U.S. and globally. We must rid ourselves of all bosses through communist revolution and have a communist society run by and for the working class. From Arizona to Palestine, fight for communist revolution!

Airport Red

An Anti-Racist Struggle Grows in 'Flatbush Gardens'

BROOKLYN, NY, December 29 — At a December retiree meeting of former city workers, "C" told us of a struggle our retiree group should support. She is a member of the tenants' association of "Flatbush Gardens." This is a sixty-year-old housing complex of some 59 buildings and over 10,000 tenants. Seventy members of Service Employee International Union (SEIU) Local 32BJ have been locked out by their employer, Renaissance Equity Holdings, since November 29, 2010. She told us that her tenant association had joined the picket lines already. They see a common interest in fighting a landlord who has been cited for over 7,000 violations in this housing complex.

Many of us knew of this complex when it was called Vanderveer Estates. The management company wants to attract more affluent white tenants from Manhattan. The name has changed but the rats have remained.

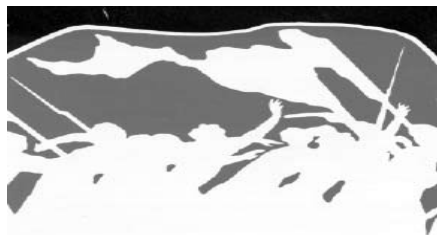
A group of retirees visited the picket lines to show solidarity and to get to know these workers. We learned that the workers' contract expired last spring and after they filed an Occupational Safety and Health Complaint in October, Renaissance locked them out. As is the experience of many workers, their boss is demanding a big cut (34%) in pay and reductions in family health coverage.

Many workers explained that they are tenants in, as well as workers for, "Flatbush Gardens." We were told that the union had filed an unfair labor

practices suit against Renaissance. We warned that workers can't rely on the bosses' system. We cited the Stella D'Oro struggle where, although the union "won" at the Labor Board, the bosses were not forced to comply with the order long after the struggle had ended.

In a modern twist of the bosses' racist tactics, Latino immigrants have been hired to scab on the locked-out workers who are, like the tenants, from the Caribbean. On the picket line, we had firm discussions about fighting scabs but not falling for the bosses' racist and anti-immigrant, divide-and-conquer tactics. After many good discussions, we promised to return with more workers and students from near-by schools to support this struggle.

Our retiree association has had good discussions about the reasons for the sharpening attack on government-worker pensions and benefits. We have talked about money being pumped into the war as international capitalist competition intensifies. Our efforts to support our locked-out brothers help us see the bigger picture of capitalism as the contradiction between the bosses and the working class. ✪



Korean War

continued from p. 8

quered Korea in 1910 with U.S. rulers' blessings, brutally turning it into a colony for 35 years. Japanese colonial and wartime atrocities were never-ending: slave labor, "medical" and biological experiments, forced "drafts" of hundreds of thousands into the Japanese military and combat, sexual slavery of 80,000 Korean "comfort women" forced to have unrelenting sex for years, as well as all the oppressions of ordinary fascist capitalism.

Cumings makes very clear why the North tried to reunify the Korean people and annihilate the collaborationist, fascist government of South Korea. Thousands of Korean guerrillas fought with the Chinese communist Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) against the Japanese fascists in Manchuria while thousands of traitors volunteered for the Japanese at home as well as in other war theaters. Kim Il Sung himself was a decorated guerrilla leader and returned to lead the Korean Workers' Party and government.

During the Korean War, Cumings reports that the South, jointly with the U.S., committed six times as many atrocities as those attributed to the North, which more likely were punishments meted out to fascists from the South.

Cumings does not present a communist analysis in his history. He dedicates the book to Kim Dae Jung, the South's president from 1998 to 2003, a "liberal" industrialist and a "better boss."

Cumings himself taught English

in a Seoul school for the U.S. Peace Corps. But Cumings's book says a NY Times review "is a squirm-inducing assault on America's moral [read genocidal — Ed.] behavior during the Korean War, a conflict that he says is misremembered when it is remembered at all. It's a book that puts the reflexive anti-Americanism of North Korea's leaders into a sympathetic historical context."

Of course, North Korea's recent leadership has adopted all the worst features of the old communist movement, especially including the cult of the individual, and oppresses its own population.

Cumings does cite the rampant U.S. racism in Korea. Almost all U.S./U.N. military and political leaders could not credit the Korean or Chinese military abilities ("they can't fight!") while racist slurs abounded, then and now.

But in December 1950, when the U.S. 7th Division reached Hye-san on the Yalu River bordering China, the North Koreans and the Chinese volunteers drove U.S. and S. Korean armies all the way back beyond the 38th parallel again.

Then the war ground down into a form of trench warfare where it remained through 2½ years of indiscriminate bombing and patrolling. No peace agreement was ever signed, and the parties remain in a state of war 60 years later.

Cumings's book is "a bitter pill for those who still have illusions about capitalism, especially Korean, Japanese and U.S. capitalism. ✪"

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

Bosses abuse U.S. day laborers

NYT, 1/10 — Day laborers in New Jersey suffer "rampant exploitation and abuse" by their employees, said a new Seton Hall University report.... About half of the workers interviewed for the study said they had received less pay than was promised, or no pay at all, for at least one job in the past year, according to the report.... More than 40 percent of day laborers surveyed told the researchers that their employers had failed to provide them with safety equipment...26 percent said they had been assaulted at least once by an employer.

"These workers are being robbed, injured and beaten with impunity".... These findings were roughly in line with those published in the National Day Labor Study, a comprehensive 2006 survey of day laborers around the country.... The report of wage theft was significantly lower in municipalities where established advocacy groups were fighting for the rights of low-wage and immigrant workers.

"It shows how much community organizing serves to diminish abuse"

Behind bargains, desperate workers

GW, 12/31 — Ask, as I often do, the retailers to tell you how they managed to make fashion [clothes] unprecedentedly cheap.... Funnily enough, the one thing they never mention is the workforce responsible for manufacturing the giant amount of fashion consumed annually... In the least developed countries, a report... gave workers there the inauspicious title of "most poorly paid in the world.".... Earlier this month riots broke out in garment factories in Chittagong and Ashulia,

north of Dhaka. For workers in such a risky situation to jeopardize their only source in income by protesting raises the question: how desperate are they.... female workers in particular find it hard to consume enough calories to sustain them through their working hours.

...On the whole, it is still remarkably easy for retailers and consumers simply to put garment workers out of our minds, dead or alive.

26 years for real job come-back?

NYT, 1/8 — Obama, in a speech at a factory in Landover, Md., accentuated the positive, which was a year of private sector job growth. "That's the first time that's been true since 2006," he said. "The economy added 1.3 million jobs last year."

Left unsaid, however, was the fact that job growth was not enough to absorb people entering the work force in the United States, much less to shrink the unemployment rolls.... The so-called real unemployment rate, which includes those workers who are discouraged or have given up looking for work, stands at 16.7 percent.

...The liberal-leaning Center for American Progress recently ran a calculation to see when, at the current pace, the nation would regain the number of jobs lost during the great recession. The answer was 2037.

Recovery talk hides system's rot

GW, 1/7 — The end of 2010 brought renewed Washington rhetoric about the U.S. economy "recovering".... The recovery noise distracts from a more basic failure of our economic system: its fundamental instability. Recurring "downturns" — which neither private nor government actions have ever managed to prevent — impose massive costs on society. They plunge millions of effective, productive workers into unemployment and personal,



family and community disasters. Governments tap the collective purses of their nations to rescue those private capitalists who were major contributors to the crisis and whose wealth insulates them from its worst effects. Then governments turn on their people to impose austerities... Like someone convicted of murdering his parents who demands leniency because he is now an orphan, corporate America demands... austerities on the grounds of excessive budget deficits. The media and politicians take those demands seriously, reminding us who controls whom.

...None of those actions dare to question, let alone address, how capitalism redistributed income and wealth in the decades leading to the crisis... Capitalism was like a train hurtling towards the stone wall of crisis. To return to pre-crisis capitalism risks taking our seats again on a similar train heading for a similar crash.

The freedoms from insecurity for the U.S. people remain a distant second priority — until mass action changes that.... To avoid the instability of capitalism and its huge social costs requires changing the system. That remains the basic issue for a new year and a new generation. Will they break today's version of a dangerous old taboo: never question the existing system.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

Only Communism Can End Capitalism's Horrors

(From a Young Communist in Haiti)

The history of capitalism represents unceasing struggles and wars enforcing all kinds of prejudice, discrimination and oppression. In this racist profiteering system, the human being is in a perpetual struggle to maintain his or her own humanity. In these struggles, various groups of oppressed people have come to agree on one thing: they're all victims of the same violence. Blacks: color racism; women: sexism; Jews: anti-Semitism; and so on.

World history and worldwide stereotyping have tried to dehumanize and condition these and other groups to regard themselves as "inferior" — the shame of the human species. Is it not these people, the alienated, who today continue to be grouped together, suffering the humiliations of this system?

Despite the great discoveries and great philosophical and scientific discourses on the human species, despite the great struggles of the oppressed in every field, these prejudices and oppressions still impose themselves, favoring the exploiters by inducing the exploited to believe they were born into the situation in which they've been placed.

Today, despite numerous declarations on liberty, equality, solidarity and respect for the human being, the different forms of discrimination still make themselves felt, and worse, are reinforced and intensified — against Arabs, Latinos, Haitians, Asians, the elderly and others. It's all too clear: if the capitalist system remains, it will become cannibalism. Despite all this oppression, this inhuman system manages to keep the majority of people under its yoke. How, with all this cruelty, has submissiveness remained widespread?

Conquer Division!

Division, hierarchy — these are the strengths of capitalism. It is divided and hierarchal, in institutions and in the family. Everyone feels themselves to be "different," and proclaim the value of their own status. Each lives off of others, without respecting social ties or close relationships, includ-

ing in the family. Work becomes servitude and this slavery is one of the great sources of division and conflict. Talk of the division of labor!

Today the group suffering all the humiliations of capitalism but which is also its strength is the working class, the proletariat. It comprises all the groups which throughout history have always been dominated, exploited and humiliated. What is left for us, except a breakthrough in consciousness about the sordid situation to which we are subjected?

Certainly by the division of labor, by political demagoguery, by religion, by the force of arms, by torture and by many other mechanisms, capitalism alienates and dehumanizes workers, dividing them, mistreating them, promising them "paradise," and torturing them by making them believe that one day soon they, too, will become owners.

If by force, a small group of the oppressors has managed to reach the point, in a few centuries, where they can keep the world in a state of poverty, war, inequality, hunger and fear, how much easier would it be for the vast majority to reach the point of making the world a place where everyone can live together, without distinction of color, gender, religion, age or wealth?

While possible, it will never happen while division rules everywhere, especially within the working class, which, if it remains divided, upholds the system. So what must we do?

The Proletariat Is the Crucial Class

Never will any struggle against capitalism attain communism without the proletariat. Instead of being dominated by the bourgeoisie, the proletariat can and must dominate them, to put an end to a society of classes. Such is the dictatorship of the proletariat. The proletariat is the worldwide engine of capitalism. It's from the labor power of millions of poor women, men, children and old people of different colors that the capitalists draw their profits.

When this exploited class becomes fully united and organizes itself in a party to struggle against capitalism, the world will breathe a new air. Unity, that's what we need! Communist revolution requires the unity of workers the world over. How do we get there?

Metaphysical thought has us believe that, like the fingers of the hand, the world has always been divided, and that it's impossible to establish equality. This is an obstacle to achieving communism, a society without classes. Furthermore, the capitalists don't hesitate to drench the world in workers' blood in order to protect their economies. These obstacles haunt workers everywhere.

For Living As A Communist, For A Communist Spirit

The communist party — PLP — must bring to the world's workers that strong hand enabling them to confront the oppressors who live at their expense. It must organize the revolution. Staying among the workers, learning from and teaching them is the Party's task. Human consciousness must become communist consciousness. The communist must be a worker and a fighter. He or she must champion everyone's existence, not just the individual's as the capitalists do.

The communist must hear the cry of all the oppressed, must always work for the revolution, must everywhere think action and act on thought. The world has suffered too long from the evil of capitalism; it must begin to breathe a communist air. Revolution, that's what we have to prepare for, starting now.

The workers won't move against the bosses without a real understanding of communism and revolution. Reaching them where they are, helping them understand communism and joining the Party is the task a communist spirit must accomplish. The destruction of the present system must be our aim, and its goal the international unity of the workers. Let us unite, workers and all those who are for communism! ☺

The Korean War: U.S. Genocide Killed Four Million

As hostility and threats of war continue to rattle in Korea (See CHALLENGE, 12/15), Bruce Cumings's new book, "The Korean War — A History," reveals a story that the U.S. media has long buried. Rather than the one painted by U.S. rulers as an "attack" by the North Koreans in June 1950, with the U.S. "coming to the defense of the 'democratic' South," Cumings relates a different picture.

Cumings argues that the war was a civil war, not an invasion across a border by one state against another. On who had started the war, Cumings says "intelligence reports were inconclusive." He reports that "there may have been a small assault" by South Korean troops across the [38th] parallel" which "the North met with a full" counterattack.

Korea had been artificially divided along the 38th parallel in 1945 by agreement between the USSR and the U.S. Cumings points to the hypocrisy of the U.S. and its United Nations pals for screaming "invasion" when the North moved across the 38th, but smiling and nodding as the "UN" forces crossed into the North across the same line. They conveniently "forget" U.S. war criminal President Harry Truman "rattl[ing] the atomic bomb at a news conference" on November 30, 1950, "saying the United States might use any weapon in its arsenal" in the war.

On April 6, 1951, Truman signed the order to use atomic weapons against

Chinese and North Korean targets, transferring them to the custody of the air force. Although Truman didn't use the A-Bomb in Korea (as he had on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, killing hundreds of thousands of civilians), nuclear weapons are today aboard the aircraft carrier George Washington in the Yellow Sea off North Korea.

The war was actually a civil war between a North that was led by those who had fought the Japanese fascists on the Chinese mainland during World War II versus a South dominated by collaborators with the Japanese. The latter had jailed "tens of thousands of political prisoners." Their "police worked hand-in-glove with fascist youth groups... [and] massacred their own citizens... [suspected]

of leftist tendencies," all "reemployed" by the U.S. occupiers "because they were needed in the fight against communism."

The anti-fascist leadership in the North was determined to rid all of Korea of these vermin.

Then a war raged across the entire Korean peninsula, continuing until mid-1953, ravaging the whole country, mostly from continuous carpet-bombing — high explosives and "oceans of napalm" — on the North by the U.S. Air Force.

Up to 4,000,000 Koreans were killed, two-thirds of them civilians.

Cumings shows why most Koreans, North and South, detest the Japanese imperialists who con-

continued on p. 7

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