

# CHALLENGE



THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

volume 43 no. 24

November 30, 2011

suggested donation \$.50

## Nationwide Fascist Assault

# Occupiers Resist Bosses' Raids

**NEW YORK, November 15** — At one o'clock this morning, a thousand cops made a mockery of capitalist "freedoms" by raiding the Occupy Wall Street encampment here in Zuccotti Park. The lower Manhattan raid was apparently coordinated with those in more than a dozen other cities, as the bosses used their state power to attempt to squash the Occupy movement nationwide. As Oakland Mayor Jean Quan told the BBC, "I was recently on a conference call with 18 cities across the country who had the same situation."

The NYC fascist cops arrested more than 220 protesters, forcibly evicted the rest, and confiscated or destroyed their belongings. Six reporters were also arrested, and other media and legal observers were barred from witnessing the attack. The cops then staged their own occupation of the park, forcing protesters onto the sidewalks around it.

Hours after the cop invasion, the New York State Supreme Court ruled that protesters must obey the "park rules," even if those rules were concocted after the protests began. This shows how the bosses use the cops and courts to crush any opposition. This is their "democracy," a dictatorship of the capitalists where the "1%" (the bosses) do whatever they like, while the "99%" (the working class) face police brutality and arrests if they resist. Meanwhile, the hypocritical capitalist media painted the protesters as hooligans who were abusing their "first amendment rights" — a stark contrast to their fawning treatment of the Arab Spring, when the U.S. bosses sought to maintain control of Middle East oil by forging ties with the new rulers there.

The New York bosses' aggression, however, has failed to break the fighting spirit of the OWS activists, mostly young workers and students. Hours after their forced eviction, they were back in Zuccotti Park (though without



sleeping gear, which was barred by billionaire Mayor Bloomberg), renewing their protest against Wall Street.

The weakness of the Occupy movement is that its leaders—many of them beholden to the Democratic Party — stand for electoral and legislative reform of capitalism. This thinking plays into the hands of the rulers, who need to funnel workers' anger into a vote for one capitalist politician or another.

Several PL'ers joined today's struggle, distributing CHALLENGE and calling for the overthrow of this rotten system that makes the 1% rich by exploiting the 99%. Our call for communism, a society where the working class rules, was met with much interest, with many rank-and-file protesters open to new ideas about how to combat the racist inequalities of capitalism. ☺

## Oakland Workers Swell the Protests

# General Strike Hits Capitalist Horrors

**Occupy Oakland:**



**CAPITALISM CAN'T BE FIXED!**

**WE need REVOLUTION!**

- \* abolish the wage system
- \* production for need

**REAL COMMUNISM!**

Progressive Labor Party [WWW.plp.org](http://WWW.plp.org)

**OAKLAND, November 16** — The Occupy movement continues to explode here. After, the November 2 General Strike briefly closed the Port of Oakland, protests continue and are focused more sharply on the devastation that capitalism brings to the working class. Front and center are the issues of economic inequality, institutional racism, and the need for international unity to link our struggles with those of workers around the world.

The intensification of Occupy Oakland was sparked by the general strike, which was a great step forward from earlier events. It aimed, if still symbolically, at shutting down the whole capitalist economy. A march that started under a "Death to Capitalism" banner temporarily closed several downtown Oakland banks. Teachers, the most visible group of unionized workers at the strike, brought students to the protest.

Some schools also shut down, and hundreds of students marched at Laney Community College to challenge racist inequalities and corporate control of education.

Medical workers, particularly in the California Nurses Association, had already mobilized to support the first-aid needs of the encampment in what is now called Oscar Grant Plaza. The multiracial participants were young and old, students and workers, marching together in social groups of families or friends. Conspicuously absent from the general strike were contingents organized by unions or mainstream churches and community groups. While the rank and file of these groups turned out, participation by the Alameda Central Labor Council was limited to serving food.

The general strike ended in a march of 15,000 to shut down the Port of Oakland, with the sympa-

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# Imperialist War, Profit-System Poverty Are Worst Forms of Child Abuse

## Obama Sheds Fake Tears Over Penn State...

Hypocrisy drenches Barack Obama's denunciation of "heartbreaking" child sex abuse at Penn State: "Our number-one priority has to be protecting our kids." This phony concern comes from the commander of a United States war machine that routinely slaughters children and other civilians abroad, and whose system consigns millions of children in the U.S. to lives of poverty, hunger and premature death (see box).

What the U.S. president really seeks to protect is the far-flung sources of profit for his capitalist masters. Even as he calls for national "soul searching" over Penn State, Obama gives the go-ahead to atrocities against children in the oil-rich Middle East. While Yemen, for one example, is running out of oil, it borders Saudi Arabia's unmatched reserves and harbors anti-U.S. Islamic movements — enough to make its people a target. As Salon.

## 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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CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. One Year: \$15. Six months: \$10. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, November 30, 2011. Volume 43, No. 24

com reported, "Slightly more than two months after he was awarded the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, President Obama secretly ordered a cruise missile attack on Yemen, using cluster bombs, which killed 44 innocent civilians, including 14 women and 21 children, as well as 14 people alleged to be 'militants'" (11/12/11).

### ...While U.S. Drones Kill Kids

Naturally, capitalist rulers don't want us to know how many children they murder in their profit-driven wars. "We may never know how many," the government-owned British Broadcasting Corporation reported last month in reference to civilian casualties in the U.S.-led Libyan oil grab that ousted dictator Qaddafi. But some damning figures do emerge. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism at London's City University "has identified 56 children reported killed in drone strikes during [Obama's] presidency" (8/11/11). And these were in Pakistan, a U.S.-bankrolled "ally."

Young people face even more horrific conditions in Obama & Co.'s declared war zones. UNICEF, the United Nations' children's agency, calculates that Afghanistan is the worst place in the world to be a child. One in five does not live to see a sixth birthday. (The death rate for young children there is 199 per thousand, as compared to 2.5 in Singapore.) Most of those deaths are from curable childhood diseases and malnutrition, compounded by war, which makes proper health care inaccessible.

Children, so dear to Obama, freeze and starve in Afghan gutters while well-fed U.S. contractors survey pipeline routes and mineral sources. UNICEF regional communications chief Sarah Crowe told CNN last January, "It is very hard to put a hard-and-fast figure to the number of children dying from hypothermia alone on Kabul's streets."

"Extreme poverty, having lost a parent, being trafficked or displaced ... may have forced them on to the streets where they would be deprived of their most basic needs (decent food, health, immunization, protection) and exposed to the extreme cold of Afghan winters." In one incident, airborne U.S. "liberators" didn't bother to distinguish boys gathering firewood from arms-toting insurgents. They killed nine innocents in a single raid last spring.

### Targeting of Children Is Genocide

Obama's fellow liberal and predecessor, Bill Clinton, followed Bush Sr.'s invasion of oil-rich Iraq with something far more deadly: embargoes on food and medicine. UNICEF estimates that these embargoes "killed 500,000 children under five years of age...from malnutrition, diseases for which cures were available but medicine in Iraq was not and poor health at birth due to prena-

## Obama's Racist Profit System Also Murders Youth in U.S.

Capitalism's domestic war on children means:

- The U.S. infant mortality rate ranks 34th in the world in infant mortality, behind Cuba, Croatia, Greece, Portugal, Spain, and the Czech Republic (2011 UN World Population Prospects Report);

- Black children are twice as likely to be born premature, and more likely to die in infancy (UCLA Prof. of Obstetrics and Public Health Michael Liu);

- In 2010, 22% of U.S. children, more than 16 million, lived in poverty (U.S. Agriculture Dept.);

- In 2009, 33% of black children lived below the poverty line, as compared to 11.9% of white children;

- Fourteen million children face hunger or the risk of hunger;

- Three million children experience hunger on a regular basis, forced to skip meals and go without food for entire days;

- Clinton's racist welfare "reform" makes black women three to four times as likely to die in childbirth as white women;

- The profit-induced, racist "true" unemployment rate of 22% (and far higher than that for black and Latino workers) has tens of millions of children living in jobless families, many of them ousted from homes with unpaid mortgages.

Obama's "number-one priority" doesn't seem to be protecting these kids.

tal effects on mothers" (John Tirman, *The Deaths of Others*, Oxford University Press, 2010). Denis Halliday, the UN's assistant secretary general at the time, accused Clinton of "a policy that satisfies the definition of genocide." Bush Jr.'s Iraq re-invasion, sustained by Obama, added live fire as a major cause of Iraqi child mortality. And despite Obama's recent withdrawal claims, U.S. troops are by no means abandoning Iraq, not after Exxon Mobil recently bet the ranch there with a \$50-billion investment in the vast West Qurna oil field. In a Pentagon-backed, "just-try-and-stop-us" move, the company is now drilling in Kurdistan without approval from Baghdad. On top of that, Exxon has seized control of the water infrastructure needed to pump out Iraqi crude.

Last month it was revealed that Obama is aiming his indiscriminate, terrorizing drones at strategic Somalia at the Horn of Africa, the command point for major Middle East energy export routes. Somali girls and boys may very well be subsidizing Exxon's bottom line with their lives. The slaughter will end only with the demise of the capitalist system that perpetuates it — and with the communist revolution that our Party is building. ☺

## From Hitler's Nuremburg to Penn State Rallies, Bosses Pervert Sports for Fascist Ends

Hitler publicist Ernst "Putzi" Hanfstaengl must be smiling in his grave at the most visible reactions to the rape of working-class boys by a Penn State football coach. A former Harvard football cheerleader, Putzi returned to his native Germany and helped the Nazis to use sports' crowd-steering potential as a deadly political weapon. Fresh from the Harvard gridiron, Hanfstaengl helped Hitler orchestrate the 1930's Nuremburg rallies that brainwashed masses of German workers.

As Putzi's Boston cousin John Sedgwick wrote, "When Putzi played some of the rousing football marches from his Harvard days, he had Hitler fairly shouting with enthusiasm. 'That is it, Hanfstaengl, that is what we need for the movement, marvelous,' and he pranced up and down the room like a drum majorette" (Boston Magazine, 2005). Putzi wrote fresh marches for Hitler and credited triumphal Harvard football fight songs for inspiring his invention of the Nazi "Sieg Heil" chant. It translates to "Hail Victory," not far from "Ten thousand men of Harvard gained victory today."

More recently, Putzi's beloved "team spirit" motivated Hitlerite Penn State student demonstrations in support of pedophile protector and on-field Fuhrer Joe Paterno, who essentially ignored

the rape of a 10-year-old. Penn State has been billed as a "super college," an institution that produces exceptionally educated students. But from recent evidence, it is turning out people with blind loyalty to a football program that amasses \$50 million a year with a win-at-all-costs philosophy—and which sheltered a predator of children since the late 1990s. For many students, the chief concern was that Penn State not be labeled a "child-molester" school, a stigma that might damage the value of their degrees after graduation.

At the same time, the capitalist rulers used sport-oriented school loyalty to organize a football game-day stadium prayer fest on November 12, when Penn State lost to Nebraska. Authorities seized the opportunity to preach a pro-government, "call-the-cops-and-trust-the-courts" mentality. But the capitalist U.S. government is not in the business of saving children. It kills them ceaselessly, in vast numbers.

We have a better response to Paterno-gate—one that supports our real team, the working class. Our touchdowns will come in exposing and attacking the service of universities like Penn State to U.S. imperialism through ROTC and war research, two agents of child abuse on a global scale.



# Fight Mass Layoffs, Racist Murders At Chicago Hospital

**CHICAGO, November 10** — “Whose hospital? Our Hospital!” It would take more than the few snowflakes that flew around the group of demonstrators in front of Stroger Cook County Hospital to chill them out. The little group was made up of family and friends of David Moreno and County Hospital workers, along with some community residents. The Stroger workers were angry about the 1,800 layoff letters the hospital had just sent out. David’s family was protesting the hospital’s plan to transfer him to Oak Lawn Respiratory and Rehab Center, a sub-standard nursing home.

Another County patient, who was also dependent on a respirator to breathe, had quickly developed complications at Oak Lawn and died a few weeks ago. The county administration, instead of carrying out a thorough investigation of the facility, was getting ready to send David there. A group of hospital workers, with encouragement from David’s family, held a noisy picket line to expose this murderous plan on October 13th. Though the hospital backed off, they have not given David or his family any commitment to provide ongoing quality care. That’s why his cousin insisted on organizing another demonstration.

## Anger Overrides Fear

Meanwhile, the hospital bosses made layoff threats, stirring up anger and fear in hundreds of workers. The hospital is already dangerously understaffed. For some workers the anger overrode the fear and they demonstrated. Many more showed their support in other ways.

On the weekend before the action, the consequences of understaffing were exposed. A patient cut his catheter inserted in a central vein, and bled to death unobserved. By the time he was discovered and a code was called, it was too late to save his life. The nurse assigned to this patient also had to care for six other patients. Having seven or more patients is not unusual at Stroger Hospital. Research shows that more than four patients per nurse is strongly associated with higher death rates. The bosses deliberately understaff Stroger because we care for mostly uninsured black, immigrant and white working-class patients who have no alternative source of health care. The administration’s racist understaffing leads directly to patient deaths.

There is something profound about the chant “Whose hospital? Our hospital!” Of course under

capitalism so-called “public” hospitals like Stroger are not controlled by the working class, although workers make up over 80% of the population. A Board of Directors led by the former CEO of the Tupperware Corporation, Warren Batts, oversees all management policies and controls all hiring and firing. The hospital cops at this “public” hospital routinely tell demonstrators they have to move because they are on “private property.”

## A Communist Hospital

What would a workers’ hospital look like? The closest to this came in communist-led China in the 1960s, before capitalism was reinstated in that country. In a remarkable book published in 1969, English surgeon Joshua Horn described ward rounds where patients and housekeeping workers participated along with nurses and doctors.

It was not unusual for a nursing student or an orderly to criticize a doctor’s decision, especially when they sensed that the expert didn’t have enough confidence or was afraid to take on difficult challenges for their patients. In those days administrators in Chinese hospitals also did manual labor like cleaning the floors one day a week so they would not forget what life was like for ordinary workers.

A true workers’ hospital led by communists would exist to serve workers. Sadly, those days are long gone in China where patients now can only get health care by paying cash and nobody talks back to the all-powerful head doctor.

Back in Chicago the enthusiasm in our picket line was so high that loud chants continued for over an hour. After the demonstration a dozen participants, mostly David’s family and friends, stayed for a meeting in the hospital cafeteria to plan the next steps.

The fight for workers’ jobs, unfortunately, is



held back by widespread fear and total inaction by the unions who say, “As soon as we get our contract settled, we can look into other issues.” Since when is saving patients’ lives “other issues?”

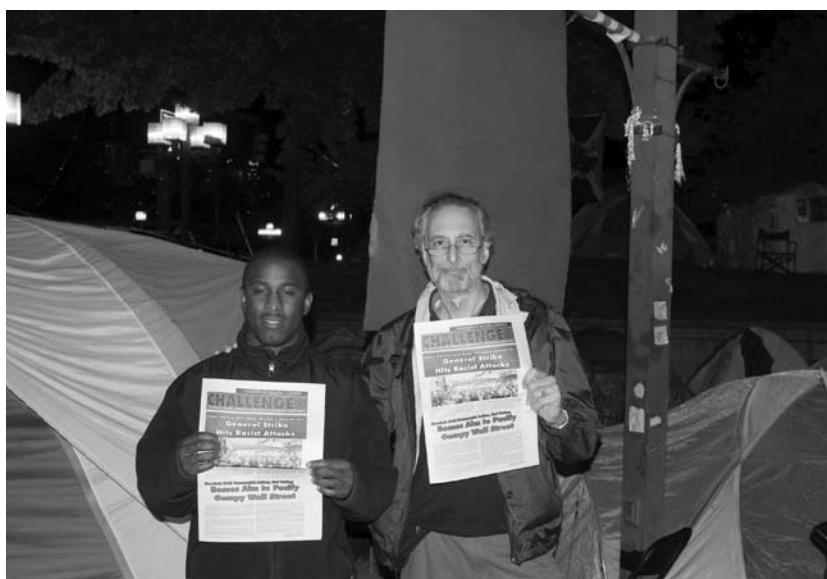
## Fight For Patients’ Needs

Hospital workers need to force the union organizers to fight for the needs of the patients, which include, more than anything, increasing, not cutting, the staff. “Whose hospital” is not a side issue. It is THE issue. Either the hospital serves the working class — patients and hospital workers — or it serves the bankers and their politicians.

We need to keep building the multiracial unity of patients and workers to fight for better care and better jobs at the same time. Members of Progressive Labor Party and friends at Stroger are trying to do that by continuing the fight for David Moreno, including calling for union support in this struggle.

This hospital, like all hospitals and every other industry, will only really serve the working class when workers run society. That will only happen after a communist revolution puts workers in charge of the government. In the meantime we will fight every attack and continue building the Party that can lead that revolution, the PLP.☺

# Raising the Red Flag At Occupy Baltimore



**BALTIMORE, November 14** — A Progressive Labor Party tent is now part of Occupy Baltimore at McKeldin Square. On our second night there, a red flag was mounted high on a light pole near PL’s tent. Some of the occupiers, who have stayed at the square overnight for many weeks, inquired about the flag’s meaning. PL members replied that it stands for communism. They explained that red is the communist color, in honor of the thousands whose blood was spilled when the Paris Commune — the first time workers took power, in 1871 — was attacked and defeated by capitalists.

The PL’ers pointed out that these Communards took bold steps toward equality. They made a rule, for example, that leaders could have no more resources than ordinary workers, and that leaders could be immediately recalled if they failed to serve the working class. At the end of this conversation, the

folks who asked about the red flag were respectful and pleased. They saw the flag as a worthy addition to the occupation.

## ‘When We Fought the Nazis, You Had Our Back!’

Earlier on, PL members had given three revolutionary communist speeches at various occupation events. After one of those speeches, a listener approached a Party comrade, gave him a big hug, and said, “You may not remember, but ten years ago when we fought the Nazis, you had our back!”

One issue of CHALLENGE has been widely distributed at the occupation. With our tent, and more ongoing PL participation within the movement, CHALLENGE will certainly be read by many at McKeldin Square. To up the ante, the Baltimore PL club recently made plans to organize a Party-led, communist study group session at the occupation. Young comrades have taken the responsibility to make this happen. Our planned topic will be how to defeat the 1%. In other words, PL members will be winning workers and youth closer to the understanding that violent revolution is necessary, and that the communist PLP must be built to provide leadership in that struggle.

One of the occupiers, who has been sleeping at the square since the beginning, volunteered to help Party members put up the red flag. This friendly neighbor said he had no problem putting up a communist flag because our perspective, he said, is the most conservative point of view among Occupy Baltimore activists.

In reality, the opposite is true. Fighting for communism is actually the most revolutionary, winning strategy. This conversation served as a reminder that the death of the old communist movement has left many workers, students, and soldiers discouraged. They think communism can’t work. But PL has looked carefully at the strengths and mistakes of the old communist movement. We have learned much from the heroic experience of those who came before us. Without question, the working class and its revolutionary Party will sooner or later smash capitalism and build a truly egalitarian world!☺



# Public Health Workers Turn Up Heat vs. Bosses' Racist 'Care'



**WASHINGTON, D.C., October 31** — Almost 200 public health workers, Occupy D.C. activists, and District of Columbia workers rallied and marched, attacking capitalism and racism and demanding jobs and health care for everyone now. After leaving the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting of more than 12,000 public health members, these workers surged onto the streets of Washington chanting, "Out of our silos, into the streets! Public health workers turn up the heat!"

They marched to the Verizon Center sports arena, where a Verizon worker attacked the company's attempts to strip retiree health benefits from the contract and lay off thousands of workers as their CEO enjoyed record-breaking pay. Stopping at the Clark construction site for the new City Center luxury development, a community activist blasted Clark for denying jobs to D.C. workers and called for unity among all workers to oppose capitalism.

This march attracted people out of a bold and growing anger at capitalism among public health workers. Speakers at today's rally exposed the system's racism, calling for a health care system that provided quality care for everyone regardless of immigration status. (Undocumented immigrants are not even allowed to buy health insurance from the new health insurance exchanges.) Speakers attacked capitalism and racism, decrying both Obama and the Republican Party sideshow. A Progressive Labor Party doctor called for the overthrow of

capitalism and urged people to make revolution possible, saying, "You know you want it!" PLers distributed over 50 Challenge-Desafios.

The rally was organized by the Health Disparities Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Public Health Association (MWPCHA), with more than a dozen people planning its messages, speakers, and chants. The committee called on public health workers to return to their roots of building a social movement to ensure healthy conditions for all. It urged them to "reject capitalists and their politicians, who use cutbacks and racism to strengthen their profitability and competitive edge. Build a worker-student-professional movement for change."

PLers have been active in this group for seven years, battling local government around the HIV/AIDS epidemic and organizing for jobs, housing, and health care for the most oppressed groups in the city. The march represented a significant effort to increase our militancy and connect with workers' struggles around jobs and health.

Several people new to the revolutionary movement joined others the next day at the annual "Troublemakers' Breakfast." We discussed APHA policies and PL's Haiti and Israel/Palestine summer projects, and planned for ongoing public health struggles within APHA and against capitalism around the country.

Inspired by international rebellions and the Occupy movements, there was more discussion at this year's meeting about fighting back. After a session on the uprisings in Egypt and Wisconsin and by the Occupy movements, 60 people left the session and marched to the Occupy D.C. site with a message of solidarity and \$300 for its first-aid work. These activities inspired many to continue organizing within APHA to raise anti-racist policies and communist ideas that could lead to a real revolution — one that brings the working class to state

power.

## PL Organizing Efforts at APHA

PL members also organized within APHA to pass anti-racist policies. We initiated a resolution condemning the Secure Communities policy, which the Obama administration mandated for all states. Secure Communities requires local police departments to turn over the records of everyone arrested for anything to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE), which then processes undocumented immigrants for deportation. MWPCHA activists took the lead in preserving references to racism in the interim resolution, which passed with overwhelming support. At one meeting on immigrant healthcare, a PL speaker was applauded when she said that she approached anti-racism from a communist perspective.

APHA members also presented resolutions to support the Occupy Wall Street movements and to condemn the closing of health centers performing abortions.

PL members attended two sessions on Palestine where the main speakers were doctors from Palestine, Israel, and the U.S. we had met on our trips to the area. It was wonderful to renew these warm friendships and to arrange to see them again on our upcoming visit. After the talks, we were able to raise our advocacy of a single communist state in the region, pointing out the need for workers from Palestine and Israel to unite and overcome nationalism. In another session, we heard a speaker from Egypt point out that Mubarak's downfall did nothing to change who holds power there.

While APHA sponsors inspiring and thought-provoking sessions, its leadership doesn't fight for its principles. It's an organization that talks the talk but doesn't walk the walk. Its president gave a stirring speech at the opening session, calling for everyone to attend our rally, but never showed up or sent anyone from APHA's leadership. Like most professional organizations, APHA is tied closely to the political system, especially the Democratic Party, and has no intention of rocking the capitalist boat in any way.

It's up to us to organize a revolutionary movement among its members. ☺

## Occupy Oakland

*continued from front page*

thy of many in the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), a union with militant communist roots, and the trucker sub-contractors who haul the cargo. The ILWU has led job actions against apartheid, and in April it marched in solidarity with state workers in Wisconsin to protest union-busting there. Three years ago, the mostly immigrant and non-unionized truckers helped shut down all California ports on May Day over the issue of immigrant rights. (One trucker took our poster and CHALLENGE during the general strike, and asked why we had not come at 6 a.m. to really shut the Port down.) This collective history was a big reason that Occupy Oakland focused on Oakland's economic center, the Port.

### A Step Toward Waking the Sleeping Giant

PLers spent the weeks before and after the General Strike bringing the Occupy movement to our jobs, especially at transit. Alameda-Contra Costa Transit (AC) and MUNI workers joined us at the noontime activities on the day of the general strike. The absentee rate doubled at one garage in Oakland. During the rally, we talked with coworkers about the strategic importance of mass transit workers. As one worker put it, "Transit workers move the Bay Area economy just like the ILWU in the Port." Several spoke on an open mike. One ended his speech: "When I say workers, you say power!" The chant of "workers' power" echoed throughout the crowd.

As we marched to the Port, we had a long discussion about communist economic and social relations. One Municipal Transportation Agency (MUNI) coworker asked us, "what do you mean, abolish wages? How can we live without money to buy things?" Wages represent our enslavement by the capitalists; they distort our relationships with other workers and the working class as a whole. Under communism, we won't need money to fulfill our needs. We will produce and share according to need and commitment.

At a monthly Union meeting of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), PLP members made a motion to donate money to Occupy Oakland. We argued that workers have the Occupy movement to thank for refocusing anger away from public worker pensions and toward the 1%, the finance capitalists who are attacking all of us. The motion failed because the union is broke from paying lawyers (instead of organizing workers' action) to fight

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## Recent California Developments:

- Racist police terror remains in the spotlight, with marches for justice for Oscar Grant, the unarmed young black man who was executed two years ago by a transit cop, and to protest the military operations planned for shutting down the camps of demonstrators. Mayor Jean Quan and the Oakland City Council manipulated last week's fatal shooting of a young man near the downtown Oakland encampment in an attempt to justify their cops' clearing the Occupation from Oscar Grant Park (with dozens of arrests) early on Monday, November 14. But other encampments fed marches back to the Plaza, where new General Assemblies were held.
- On Veterans Day, vets marched to the police station to protest the attacks on two Iraq War veterans: Scott Olson, whose skull was fractured by a projectile shot by the police, and Kayvan Sabehgi, who suffered a lacerated spleen after the cops beat him while he was walking alone in central Oakland. The vets linked this brutality to racist unemployment and the long history of racist and criminal police actions against black, Latino and immigrant youth in Oakland. As one vet who spoke at the demonstration put it, "I did not serve and protect you, the 99%. I protected corporate America's profits around the world."
- The general strike inspired and escalated existing battles on California campuses to protest the banks, budget cuts, and racist inequality. Police attacked protesters at the University of California-Berkeley, brutally dismantling a tent camp there. In response, Berkeley faculty and students called a campus-wide strike on November 15, with a march (joined by Occupy Oakland) of 2,000 through the city and a rally at Berkeley High School. In solidarity, students at several Cal State campuses have staged walkouts. Cal State faculty voted to strike two campuses that serve the black and Latino communities in the East Bay and Los Angeles. The UC regents canceled their November 16 meeting for fear of being confronted by the Occupy movement.
- A march on Wells Fargo Bank protested profiteering by private-sector immigrant detention centers around the country. Bilingual chants emphasized the racist attacks on immigrant and black workers.
- Other marches have focused on the devastation of public services. These actions dovetail with a confrontation between the Oakland Board of Education and a group of parents, teachers and students who oppose the closing of five public schools.
- Workers and community groups are continuing to organize to challenge evictions and prevent bank foreclosures. In Stockton, California, the Occupy movement has shut down several banks.



# 'Smash Wall \$treets' Cops, Courts and Capitali\$m

## Los Angeles: PLP Exposes Rulers' Racism

**LOS ANGELES, November 5** — PL here helped plan a teach-in at Occupy LA titled "Building Working Class Unity – Racism and the Economic Crisis." We discussed the racist nature of capitalism and argued that racism is the main ideological tool the U.S. ruling class uses to keep working-class people divided and unable to build enough power to fight back. If we are going to build a revolutionary movement to destroy capitalism, we are going to have to start by addressing racism.

We also provided examples of specific forms of racism, such as the recent rise of anti-immigrant policies like the Secure Communities program, which checks prison inmates' legal status to increase deportation rates. Other examples included the media's role in building anti-Arab racism and the historical nature of anti-black racism which was key to the birth of capitalism and continues to be critical to the survival of the system.

We held the teach-in at a

space occupied by the People's University Collective (PUC) which is organized by high school teachers in Los Angeles. Participation at the teach-in was good and led to sharp discussions over the racist nature of the system. The teach-in ended with many asking "What do we do next?" Several friends from our schools and workplaces attended the event, which impressed the PUC organizers who recently asked us to come back.

The teach-in on racism is a step forward in PL's work at Occupy LA. The teach-in also took place a few days after PL helped initiate and lead a march against police brutality in solidarity with the students and workers in Oakland, California who have been under attack by the police (see CHALLENGE, 11/16). The next steps will be to figure out how we can better use our actions at Occupy LA to win students and workers to the idea that we need a Party organization like PL to lead our working-class sisters and brothers in the fight for communism.☺

## Gary: Unmask Profit System's Inherent Flaws

**GARY, INDIANA, October 29** — Today a multi-racial group of nearly 30 demonstrators gathered in downtown Gary, Indiana for the second week in a row to show solidarity with the growing Occupy movements that have been developing all over the world. In a city like Gary, that has suffered racist capitalist oppression and neglect for decades, such a turnout is definitely a step in the right direction.

Despite its political limitations, the Occupy movement has been useful because it allows workers to recognize their collective power. The crowd was multi-racial and included people of all ages. During both demonstrations, there were a number of younger activists involved, several of whom were experiencing their first exposure to working-class struggles. It was also encouraging that activists from other cities in Northwest Indiana attended the Gary rally, because racist stereotypes often keep workers away from Gary.

Several PL'ers and friends attended the rally. Our militant signs and chants were well received by the group and observers. After rallying near a major intersection for over an hour, the group held an assembly, discussing

a practical political direction for the group and future actions. Several local reform groups were represented, but when the subject was broached the collective decided to remain separate from MoveOn, the national pro-Obama group and continue to host weekly demonstrations.

Although participation is limited so far with the Gary campaign, we can turn a bad thing into a good thing. For example, while the organizers of Occupy movements in big cities like New York and Chicago put forward goals like "Destroy Wall Street," the workers coming to the Gary demonstration have a more tight-knit connection and can express more specific grievances against capitalism, such as lack of jobs or health care. This gives us the opportunity to struggle with them over the inherent flaws of capitalism on a useful one-to-one basis.

As with the rest of the Occupy movements, there is still much work to be done to pose a serious threat to capitalism, but with Occupy Gary we have the opportunity to build a base among some of the most exploited members of the working class.☺

## Rutgers: 'Why should Wall Street exist at all?'

**NEWARK, NJ** — "Occupy Rutgers! Occupy Newark! Occupy the world!" These words rang throughout the Rutgers University campus. This was the first rally as part of the Occupy movement that is sweeping across the U.S. and many parts of the globe. Students at this multi-racial working-class campus have plenty of concerns. Tuition is high; student debt has skyrocketed; the financial aid office is poorly organized and abusive; graduating students face the worst job market in many years.

Some students just keep sloggong on, not daring to think about the larger implications of the situation they face. But the Occupy movement is attracting students who insist on seeing the big picture, and doing something about it.

There were a number of these new activist-students, a community organizer from the People's Organization for Progress (POP), and a Marxist professor who described herself as an "unreconstructed 60s radical," delighted to see students in motion once again.

There are real strengths of the Occupy movement that can be extended and deepened:

Occupy calls into question the sanctity of private property and the law. Why should Wall Street exist at all? Why should capitalist-run governments dictate where and when people express their political views?

The slogan of "we are the 99%" has the advantage of overcoming the divisions — between employed

and unemployed, U.S.-born and "foreign-born," as well as among different "races" — upon which capitalism thrives.

More occupiers recognize the great majority of workers in the United States designated as "middle class" are in fact working class. As one speaker at the rally asserted, to cheers, "The notion that we are all 'middle-class' is bull\*\*\*\*!"

While the level of energy at the rally was high, there needs to be sharp political analysis of the potential pitfalls of the Occupy movement. These include:

An inadequate analysis of economic inequality that focuses on issues such as the under-taxation of corporations and very wealthy individuals. While it is true that the bosses get away like bandits, contributing less than ever to the public, the fundamental basis of inequality is the exploitation of labor.

The need to understand that capitalism is a system of class rule, not just an "economic" system that can be corrected or controlled through a supposedly democratic "political" system. Capitalism is, as Marx pointed out, the dictatorship of the owners of the means of production.

While the Occupy movement is fraught with peril, readily open to misleadership by the liberals in the ruling class using electoral politics, it has prompted many young people to think deeply about the real reasons for poverty, racism and war.☺

## Boston: 'Occupy the World'



Boston Occupiers attack NYPD raid.

**ROXBURY, MA, October 19** — The leaders of the Pizza and Politics student club at Roxbury Community College went down to Occupy Boston and were excited to see that people in the U.S. are waking up to the reality of class oppression. One sign at the encampment said so much: "They call it the american dream because you have to be asleep to believe it".

Too many of us have been asleep for too long. The students decided to make the next topic for the club discussion "Occupy Wall Street, Occupy Boston, Occupy the World." They invited some activists from Occupy Boston to come and speak about the goals of the movement. The activists explained the collective way the encampment is being organized and how it sees itself as building a better world. PL'ers raised the idea that in order for that humane community to flourish and spread all over the world the working class

needs to seize state power and make the decisions for the society.

Otherwise OWS will either be smashed by the police or co-opted, like the rebel movement was in Egypt. The discussion moved from communism to consumerism to the role of education. It reflected the refreshing openness of the Occupy Wall Street movement, where big questions are being discussed and communist ideas are welcomed by many. However, everything changes, and the Occupy movement will either be won to the left or to the right. It will either become a tool of the Democratic Party or it will move the masses into class struggle — supporting strikes, confronting the police, and fighting foreclosures and evictions. By distributing our literature and raising our ideas, PL'ers and friends of PL are trying to take full advantage of this opportunity to move OWS to the left.☺



# LETTERS

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

## Latino Immigrant Workers Challenge Wall St. Tycoons

With drums and cow bells setting the beat, more than 300 workers and students began a 10-mile march from Upper Manhattan to Zuccotti Square, the Occupy Wall Street encampment. The people in this march, a majority of whom were Latino immigrants, were the opposite of the Wall Street tycoons. These are people who have experienced the loss of jobs, evictions, lower wages, police brutality, racial discrimination and budget cuts that have increased the size of their children's classes.

When they chanted, "The banks got bailed out, we got sold out!" you could feel their sincere anger. As we marched to Presbyterian Hospital, to City College, to 125th street in Harlem, to Columbia University and continued down Broadway, people joined the march. At one bus depot, a dozen drivers stood on the corner and applauded the marchers chanting, "We are the 99%!" The transit union (TWU) had a contingent in the march, as did LIUNA, the laborer's union. All along the way, passers-by and small shop owners gave us big smiles, raised fists and encouraging words.

While OWS has its strengths and weaknesses, positive development has been made. More and more people are realizing that we don't live in a democracy, that people with tremendous wealth control the government and its policies. The economy is not democratically run. The capitalists make all the decisions about what and how much to produce, where to produce it, how many workers to hire, when to lay them off, who gets loans and who doesn't, and many other decisions.

The people who control the economic life of a country and who make hundreds of billions of dollars a year will use their vast fortunes to control its politics. That's what makes them the ruling class. They rule the entire system, and that won't change until there's a revolution. We invited marchers to join a communist study group to discuss these issues more fully.

*Red Marcher*

## Communist Ideas Can Move the World's Masses

We, as PLP, have been meeting to study our practical experiences since 1992. We have talked about understanding communist ideas has helped us to organize the suffering masses of the proletariat. Here is where we find the strength to take the power away from the capitalist bosses.

This was an analysis made by various comrades in our meeting. With this analysis we better understand the necessity of recruiting to our Party.

We must learn how to fuse building a base and distributing CHALLENGE. Although here in our town we've overcome illiteracy, many still don't know how to write well. Our job should be to help the masses overcome the ignorance the bosses force on us.

The working class in El Salvador will destroy capitalism. We will set out with the ideas of communism. We love it as much as we love culture itself because it was born from nature. Through these ideas we can easily arrive at the needed understanding of the revolution. We already know that communist ideas can move the thoughts of the masses of the whole world.

One of our main proposals is to improve the work for revolution. Let's think about the contradiction between those dying of hunger and the rich bosses in charge. When the ruling class opens the doors for imperialism to kill massive amounts of workers, it shows their deep weakness when they have to buy workers' votes.

I want people to reflect. The rich have only misery to offer the poor while imperialism offers them war! I say goodbye with those words.

*A comrade from El Salvador*

## Strength of Youth, Wisdom of Old Changes the World

The world is asking for us. To obtain big changes we must take advantage of the weaknesses of the global economy of capitalism. We must be willing to put our lives on the line for communist revolution. We need fighters. What changes the world, is the strength of the youth and the experience of

the old. Our actions make us a growing communist team.

We know the job isn't easy but we have to do it. We must develop techniques to recruit new members. For example, by forming CHALLENGE study groups we can choose who is determined to fight and join our Party.

The working class needs an organized group with a great ability to use each member as a resource. People say the best way of knowing if fire burns is putting your hand in it. This world requires men and women determined to fight to change the world. My apologies to the religious, but fanatics are no good for this because we have to learn to manage this world with the brain, not with the heart. If we don't understand this we cannot change the system. Each one of us has to give something of ourselves to the organization because as we contribute, we can grow. If not, we have to move aside and let others do it.

To the editors of CHALLENGE: let's find growing techniques that allow us to organize the world and the revolution!

*Comrade from Central America*

**CAPITALISM  
BREEDS SEXISM  
RACISM  
& IMPERIALISM!**



**FIGHT FOR A COMMUNIST  
WORLD  
BUILD THE INTERNATIONAL  
PLP!  
PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY**

## Haiti: A History of Fighting Back

Working-class passivity is changing in the face of deteriorating conditions. Class conflict and social turmoil have begun to surge to levels not seen for decades. We can take the recent example of Greece, where workers and students are on the streets every day, enraged at how the bosses are getting them to pay for their financial crisis. Similar situations are taking place in Spain, Egypt, Chile, and the list goes on.

The world is entering a period of sharpening class struggles that will only be solved by workers organizing under one communist leadership.

This past summer, workers, students, friends, and members of the PLP participated in three simultaneous Summer Projects: one in Mexico, the other two in Haiti and Israel/Palestine. I participated in the project in Haiti.

Conditions for workers in Haiti are ghastly. It is a day without a job, an everyday scramble to

turn something, anything, into money. People line the streets to hawk mangoes, plastic water bottles refilled with juice, phone cards, hand-me-down clothes, anything that can be sold or traded with people as poor as themselves. Devastation from the earthquake is omnipresent.

In spite of all this, workers here — like their counterpart brothers and sisters from around the world — understand that fighting back against these exploitations is in their interest. During my stay, I was able to meet extraordinary young and not-so-young workers. They understand the need to fight back and create a better world. Haiti has a wonderful history of fighting back. How to go about doing it was another question.

I was able to participate in communist ideological struggles in "small schools." For three weeks, 60 or more people came on a daily basis to speak, share and learn about the current and past crises, about struggles past and present, and about the urgent need of fighting for a communist world — where the dictatorship of the working class, communism, can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people.

During my stay there, alongside my fellow workers in struggle, I learned how to be an organizer. I was taught to have an unbelievable trust that the working class one day will get rid of a system that, in its relentless drive for profits, does not mind leading the working class to wars, fascism, poverty, diseases, starvation and environmental destruction. All that is so relevant in Haiti.

*A Haiti summer project volunteer*

## Stop Racist Evictions in Palestine

A resolute struggle led by the al-Aju Palestinian-Arab working-class family of more than 100 people (including many children), along with Jewish and Palestinian-Arab activists from all across Palestine, has temporarily turned back a racist attempt to evict the family from their homes. The family has lived in a compound of run-down shacks near the eastern entrance to Ramle, Palestine since being forcibly removed in 1948 from their ancestral land in the nearby town of Lydda (Lod today) by the IDF (the Israeli army).

During the last year, the family has been at risk of eviction from its home in Ramle by the Amidar public housing company which claims ownership over their land. Amidar plans to sell this land to the highest bidder for for-profit real-estate development — at the expense of the working-class al-Aju family. In April and July 2011, Amidar went to court to get a warrant for the eviction of the al-Aju family, who were branded as "squatters."

In October 2011, Amidar retroactively increased the family's rent, creating a "debt" of 130,000 Shekkels (around \$35,000). Due to this "debt," the al-Aju family's banks accounts were seized and frozen, and they were left with no money even for their basic needs such as food.

The family asked the Ramle municipal welfare department for help, but the welfare bosses refused to give them any assistance, showing that under capitalism (when push comes to shove) the state only serves the interests of the bosses. In court, Amidar's racist lawyer said that "this is our [the Jews] land and the Arabs should be thankful for us letting them live on it." This is the true face of Amidar — racist, capitalist apartheid.

Many dozens of additional Jewish and Palestinian-Arab families all across the 1948 territory are faced with similar eviction attempts by Amidar, which is trying to privatize its holdings and sell them to real-estate tycoons. At the same time, Israel's Minister of Housing, Atias, expands his home in the Har Nof neighborhood of Jerusalem without a permit, and this is done while many working-class families all over the country are facing the danger of losing the roof over their heads!

We will continue our struggle to make the Amidar public housing company erase all the "debts" that it claims the al-Aju family owes it and permanently stop its eviction attempts against its tenants all across the country. We will not allow the rich few to get even richer at the expense of the roofs over the heads of working-class people!

*Palestine Red*

**continued on page 7**

PO Box 808, Brooklyn, NY 11202



## Pakistan: Back Jailed Working-Class Leaders

**FAISALABAD, PAKISTAN, November 11** — Workers here are calling for solidarity actions and support for six union leaders who have been sentenced to a total of 490 years in jail. They were arrested in July 2010 during a militant strike of power loom workers, and later charged under anti-terrorist laws. To date 13 union leaders are facing charges of “terrorism.”

The U.S.-backed fascist Pakistani government is increasingly using the threat of “terrorism” to try to silence the working class, hoping to crush the rising workers’ movement. But workers are fighting back, in the factories and fields, in the public and private sector (see CHALLENGE, 9/5).

Power loom workers here struck in 2010 after a break-down in negotiations with the bosses, demanding an increase in the minimum wage already announced in the government’s 2010-2011 budget. When government officials, factory owners, local politicians and the media labeled the strikers “terrorists,” it so angered other workers that they ignored a police ban on public gatherings and joined the picket lines.

Over 100,000 workers marched through the streets here, shutting down Pakistan’s third largest city, despite being fired on by the police and armed thugs hired by the textile bosses.

As we work to build strike actions and the solidarity of other workers, we introduce PLP’s ideas into our struggle. Workers are receptive to our idea that militant reform is not enough, that we cannot eliminate this exploitation without getting rid of all the bosses and their capitalist profit system. We are building an international Party to fight for a communist revolution and a communist society where production will be for the benefit of the working class, not for bosses’ profits.✪

## Oakland

*continued from page 4*

the financial capitalists. We did, however, raise \$340 from individual workers. It was an example of the class-conscious platform we are advancing in the union elections.

### We Teach and We Learn

On the day of the General Strike, PLP members and friends marched as a contingent with flags, posters and chants. We distributed hundreds of CHALLENGEs.

The call for communism leads to talk about what it takes to make a revolution, and what we need to do next. A typical response came from one young black man: “You can’t get more upfront than that.” He took the CHALLENGE and gave us contact information. Another said, “That’s right, capitalism has to be overthrown,

we need a different society.” Similar responses followed from many younger workers and students.

We also learned from others. For example, we modified one of our chants to make it more international and militant:

*‘Black, Latino, Arab, Asian & White,  
United for Equality We Must Fight!’*

Even more so than the budget cuts, Occupy Oakland has opened doors for political struggle at a local high school. One teacher helped a younger teacher conduct a teach-in on unemployment and distribution of wealth. After the General Strike and arch, a student told others at the school that she liked the poster her teacher was carrying. As a result, another teacher asked about the poster (see front page).

As this struggle advances, we will continue to bring lessons and experiences from the Occupy movement to jobs and community organizations.✪

## LETTERS

*continued from page 6*

### U.S. ‘Heroes’ Are Hired Killers

A member of a study group and I had long exchanges with four or five people at Zuccotti Park while getting out 500 papers. Almost everyone, from tourists to people dressed in business attire, took the paper after only reading the headline (“Bosses Aim to Pacify Occupy Wall Street”), thoughtfully nodding.

One young lady from Cuba, who said she’d been here since age 7, told us right away that she knew all about Marxism and that her parents had left Cuba without a backward glance because her father had been very outspoken against Castro. Her parents had warned her not to come to the park because it was full of terrorists. She saw that they were not.

Another man was sweeping debris with his own broom and dustpan. He looked to be of retirement age and told me he’d been a seaman and then a restaurant worker and came there every day for five to six hours to clean up. He said the only terrorists were Bush and Bloomberg. The people the U.S. honored as heroes were hired killers, he said, and these people in the park were the real heroes. He had trusted Obama but was now 100% disappointed and would tell him what he thought but couldn’t afford to discuss this over dinner with Obama at \$10-20,000 in the same company that Bush had kept. He was from Greece and said ancient Greece had called itself a democracy but had slaves; I said U.S. capitalism had the same kind of democracy and had been founded on slavery. He went on to talk about when Greece had a man in the leadership who called himself a communist but only dictated orders. I said how the communism we would fight for had to be understood by millions of people through struggle and discussion.

One of our last conversations was with a student who had been raised in Youngstown, Ohio. He had just the night before told his friends that he felt he might have to give his life to fight for a better future for his children. He did not believe in voting since politicians could be bought. We met because he asked for a second paper and took ten more after our talk. We will keep in touch.

*Two visitors*

## 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*

### John Brown: Violence was needed

**NYT, 10/30** — “There was a Brown family conspiracy,” one of John Brown’s sons said, “to break the power of slavery.”

The Browns believed that...there was no greater sin...than the institution of slavery. So Brown’s father turned the family home in northeast Ohio into a stop on the Underground Railroad. And he turned his son into an ardent abolitionist....

Abolitionism was...dominated by pacifists like Garrison, who insisted that the evil could be destroyed by moral suasion. Brown didn’t agree. In 1837 he gathered together his wife and three teenage boys – the eldest...-- and asked who among them “were willing to make common cause with him in doing all in our power to ‘break the jaws of the wicked and pluck the spoil out of his teeth....’”

They got their first chance in 1856, when Brown and his boys joined the anti-slavery forces trying to prevent Kansas from entering the Union as a slave state. Brown’s vigorous defense of the free-state town of Osawatomie made him famous in the North, infamous in the South...Brown and four of his sons...killed and butchered five men, all of them violently opposed to abolitionism....“We were justified under the circumstances.”

Not long after that, Brown began to plot the Harpers Ferry raid. His plan was to...swoop down on the armory and seize as many guns as possible and then escape into the surrounding Blue Ridge Mountains, from which they’d stage hit-and-run at-

tacks meant to trigger a huge slave rebellion....Brown and his men took the armory easily enough but got no farther....A contingent of Marines finally put an end to it by battering down the armory’s doors, bayoneting two of the raiders and beating Brown senseless before taking him into custody....

Brown bravely embraced the death sentence handed him. He went to the gallows hailed as a martyr, his execution marked by an extraordinary outpouring of grief. “Living, he made life beautiful,” Louisa May Alcott wrote on the day he died. “Dying made death divine....”

[Author] Horwitz does his best...to avoid tying Brown directly to today’s politics....Still, it’s impossible to read [Horwitz’s] fine book without thinking about the modern-day Browns,...seeking righteousness in a fierce burst of violence, justice in the shedding of blood....The past and present have a way of fusing together.

### New Libya: step back for women

**NYT, 10/30** — In announcing the success of the Libyan revolution and calling for a new, more pious nation, the head of the interim government, Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, also seemed to clear the way for unrestricted polygamy in a Muslim country where it has been limited and rare for decades.

It looked like a sizable step backward for women...after the end of Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi’s 42 years of authoritarian rule....Abroad the reaction was one of dismay among allies whose military firepower ensured Colonel Qaddafi’s fall...

### Illegal sales-push of lethal meds

**NYT, 11/4** — The British drug company Glaxo-SmithKline said Thursday that it had agreed to pay \$3 billion to settle United States government civil and criminal investigations into its sales practices for numerous drugs....

The cases against GlaxoSmithKline include illegal marketing of Avandia, a diabetes drug that was



severely restricted last year after it was linked to heart risks. Company whistleblowers and federal prosecutors said the company had paid doctors and manipulated medical research to promote the drug....Critics of the settlements made with drug companies argued for stiffer penalties, including prison sentences for corporate officials.

### Poverty stats are a giant fraud

**GW, 10/14** — Utsa Patnaik, one of India’s most respected economists, pointed out: Per-head energy and protein intake has been falling for the last two decades as the majority of the population is unable to afford enough food....The government’s poverty line measures destitution rather than poverty....Patnaik explains that “hundreds of economists are imprecated within a vast global poverty-estimating structure with the World Bank at its apex, producing increasingly misleading estimates every year in glossy reports....”

This is the brave new world of globalization in which nothing is what it seems.... We may not have to wait too long before the [false] Potemkin villages of our own time...come crashing down.



# The Art of Working-Class Struggle: Teamsters Refuse to Buckle Under to Sotheby's Attack

**NEW YORK, November 9** — A deafening roar met the wealthy patrons as they stepped out of their limousines this evening and were escorted by nervous security guards into Sotheby's, the famed art auction house on Manhattan's Upper East Side. Forty-three art handlers — the workers who protect and transport paintings and sculptures worth millions of dollars each — have been locked out by the company since July. Sotheby's, which made a profit of \$774 million last year and pays its CEO \$70,000 a day, is demanding contract concessions from the workers. It wants to replace full-time workers with part-timers, reduce pensions and eliminate seniority in firing.

The workers are refusing to buckle. Tonight was the first evening auction of the season, with impressionist and modern art paintings on sale. About 150 workers and supporters stood behind metal barricades on each side of the entrance, with two giant inflatable rats nearby. Multiracial groups of Teamsters from several locals attended. They blew whistles and loudly chanted, "What's disgusting? Union busting!"; "We Are the 99%" and "Shame, Shame!" at the rich collectors and dealers who scurried into Sotheby's lobby.

Truthfully, none of the prosperous collectors seemed at all ashamed, only taken aback that people who work for a living might treat them so rudely and attempt to interfere with their evening of lavish spending. A wealthy collector paid \$40.4 million tonight for a landscape painting by Gustav Klimt — more money than all the handlers together will earn in a lifetime! Sotheby's receives a hefty commission for each artwork sold.

For hours, the workers continued to whistle and chant, while at least 50 security guards and an equal number of NYPD goons prevented the workers from invading the building, confronting the scabs, and stopping the auction. Five workers did get inside, sat down in front of the escalator, and refused to move until they were dragged out and



arrested. Some college students came from Occupy Wall Street to support the workers, who are part of the 99%, and to yell at the 1% (more accurately, the one-tenth of one percent) who crossed the picket lines. A class-conscious artist could have vividly captured this stark class divide on canvas.

As the protesters grew hoarse from chanting and angrier and angrier at the rich bastards who the police escorted into Sotheby's, it struck us that some day there will be no need for art auction houses, because paintings by Van Gogh and Picasso (who, in his earlier years, would have been on the picket line) should be enjoyed by everyone,

not stuck on the wall in a private mansion or fancy townhouse.

We can look forward to the day when we build a museum to hold the artifacts of capitalism, a record of the sweatshops, exploitation, inequality, racism, sexism and imperialist wars of this era. Our grandchildren will walk through the halls of capitalism past and wonder how humans could have lived this way, with so much injustice and misery. But the biggest room in the museum will be the huge Hall of Revolution that portrays how we swept capitalism, Sotheby's and their wealthy patrons into the dustbin of history. ☺

## Occupy DC: PL Teach-in Provokes Sharp Debate

**WASHINGTON, November 12** — PL'ers held an Anti-Capitalism Teach-in at Occupy DC in order to sharpen the debate around the movement's political analysis and strategies for change. Three long-term occupiers had attended a PLP study-action group and encouraged us to do this. Almost all of the fifty occupiers and friends at this event had previously received CHALLENGE.

Presenters stated that capitalism is based on exploitation and racism. They explained how its internal contradictions, due to the impoverishment of the workers by the ruthless drive for profit by the bosses, creates periodic depressions. They also argued that the state (the government) is a tool of the capitalist system. It must be smashed, not reformed.

### Smash the State

Capitalism must be replaced, they continued, with a communist system where the international working class collectively runs society, planning production based on workers' needs and liberating the creativity of the billions of wage slaves on the planet. Presenters noted that communists work strategically in all kinds of mass organizations to bring these ideas to broad groups of people, but that special emphasis is put on industrial workers, like the transit workers in DC.

The temporary shutdown of the Port of Oakland, for example, could not have happened without the longshore workers.

There are lots of different views among the occupiers, which came out in the discussion following the presentations. Some argued that campaign reform, especially a constitutional amendment to bar corporate contributions to campaigns, would let the elected representatives genuinely represent the people. PL'ers responded that the state is part of the capitalist system and controlled by the bosses, and that no reform could change that fact.

Others argued that withdrawing from the capitalist economy by setting up alternative communities, like the occupy sites, was a sound strategy to create a new society. PL'ers countered that until we gain state power, it's better to organize on the job to confront the bosses at the point of production.

These debates went on for some time, and will certainly continue at Occupy DC. The validity of our analysis and politics is already gaining traction among some occupiers, and could be demonstrated in the coming period as the crisis of capitalism deepens and the repression and racism by the state intensifies. ☺

## Militant Protest Slams Campus Racism



**HAMMOND, IN, November 10** — "Racism Means Fight Back" echoed across this normally quiet commuter campus just outside Chicago. About one hundred students have been holding daily militant demonstrations at Purdue University Calumet. Professor Maurice Eisenstein's racist and sexist comments about blacks, Mexicans, women, and especially Muslims have passed the point of academic freedom for controversial ideas. This is in fact racist and sexist intimidation, the sanctioned abuse of Eisenstein's students.

The university continues to defend Eisenstein despite protests by a multiracial, international group of students, with strong leadership from women. This unity has inspired the entire campus. The next step is to bring communist understanding to these courageous students, and in particular our analysis that racism is rooted in the capitalist profit system. International communist revolution is the only way to defeat racism forever! ☺

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