

# RED FLAG

NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY \* [ICWPREDFLAG.ORG](http://ICWPREDFLAG.ORG)



## **Bosses' Crisis of Overproduction Means:**

# **Transit Workers Must Fight for Communism**

Transit union officials in Los Angeles and Oakland are negotiating long-expired contracts. As usual, they are doing the bosses' dirty work of disorganizing, discouraging and politically disarming workers.

They say we should "be glad we have a job" and that "keeping what we have" would be a tremendous victory. Last year, they argued in LA for extending the old contract because "things will get better and we will then negotiate a better deal."

These traitors can never tell the truth: there are no "better deals" coming. Communists can explain why, and point the way to a real solution.

The truth is that world capitalism is in a severe crisis of overproduction. That is, more goods are being produced than can be sold profitably. Houses are shuttered while people go homeless. Good food is left to rot in dumpsters while people starve. Factories close, dumping workers on the streets and further aggravating the crisis.

**Only communists in ICWP tell you that capitalism's crisis of overproduction always leads to wider wars and eventually world war and fascism. Do we have a crystal ball? No. We simply learn from history. Both previous world wars resulted from crises of overproduction. Both destroyed massively the means of production – the factories, industrial equipment and workers – in Europe and Asia.**

With their competitors' industries destroyed or taken over, after WWII the US bosses became the world's dominant imperialists, controlling

more than 50% of the world market. Theirs, however, was not a lasting victory. By the 1970s they were losing their competitive edge as their rivals – especially Japan and Europe, and later China – rebuilt their industries. Today, the crisis of overproduction is back with a vengeance and another world war looms on the horizon.

**Do you believe the bosses and union officials? Or do you believe ICWP Communists?**

We said things would get worse for workers, and they have. Transit in Oakland and Los Angeles are proving it. The AC transit bosses face a \$17.6 million deficit this year. They want AC transit workers and riders to pay for it. They are demanding major changes in overtime pay, health insurance and pensions that will save them \$15.7 million/year at a cost of almost \$10,000/worker/year. Wages would be frozen indefinitely. Fares will increase from \$1.75 to \$2.00, and routes will be limited or cut out entirely.

LA MTA bosses face a \$253 million deficit that they plan to make workers and passengers pay for. As in Oakland, riders are hit with fare hikes and the elimination of hundreds of thousands of hours of bus service. For the workers, we don't know. The union officials are mute about what is being negotiated. But we can expect cuts and givebacks.

Will things get worse? You bet! AC transit's projected deficit is \$56 million for 2011 and \$46 million for 2012. LA MTA's projected deficit from 2007-2016 was \$1.8 billion or \$180 million per year. The crisis has ballooned to over \$250 million per year and has made it permanent.

*See MTA, page 14*



Strikers, Pixley, California, 1933, responding to armed attack by cotton bosses.

## **Political Struggle Key:**

# **Busting Boeing's Labor Peace**

SEATTLE, WA — President of Boeing Commercial Airplanes Jim Albaugh sent a flag-waving email to all employees this Labor Day. He sent his real Labor Day message about a week later: the company would unilaterally slash healthcare benefits for all nonunion personnel.

He then threatened nearly 50,000 union workers with the same cuts next contract. As we have been saying for a while, the 2012 contract battles have already started.

Albaugh's demand is no idle threat. Boeing has cut back benefits in contracts from Long Beach, CA to Wichita, KS.

Boeing's biggest union, the International Association of Machinists (IAM), has responded with pleas to "partner." Partnering is code word for long no-strike deals.

"Boeing could have been on the leading edge [if they signed a 10-year no-strike deal last year]," said district union president Tom Wroblewski. "They'd have labor peace."

Cessna workers rejected the latest "leading-edge" contract September 18. The IAM rammed the pact down their throats anyway. Without a 2/3 majority to strike, union rules mandated they

accept the 7-year deal by default.

The no-strike regime includes big health care and pension cuts, not to mention a wage freeze for the first four years. The next three years can be re-negotiated—whatever that means with no legal right to strike.

The ink hadn't dried before the company announced 700 layoffs, 11 percent of the workforce. Seven years of labor peace; seven hundred lost jobs to kick it off!

## **Capitalist Reasoning Hog-Ties Us**

The effects of labor peace and partnering pleas should be clear for all to see. The union, however, uses a seductive political argument to muddy the waters.

The pro-capitalist hacks argue that they have a better way to run the company and, by implication, capitalism. They argue that union workers have the knowledge, experience and dedication to make the company more profitable. The hacks claim they can deliver those assets to management with a long-term "partnership."

The confusion lies in the fact that under communism, we workers *can* run production better than the capitalists. Every worker has, at one time or another, commented on the "stupidity" of the bosses. That said, anytime we give the

*See BOEING, page 14*

## **INSIDE:**

**Sharpening Conflict for Global Supremacy, page 2**

**Israeli-Palestine Peace Negotiations, page 2**

**The Practice And Theory Of Educating Communists, page 3**

**Budget Cuts, Capitalist Crisis in Schools and Colleges, page 4**

**American Apparel: Smash Capitalist Wage Slavery, page 13**

**US Rulers DREAM of Green-Card Army, page 16**

**Cuban Workers Need Communist Revolution, page 16**



## China's Milestones Mark:

# Sharpening Conflict for Global Supremacy

## EDITORIAL

Early this year China became the second largest economy in the world behind the US. In 2009 it displaced Germany as the largest exporter in the world. In 2004 it bypassed Japan as the world's second crude oil importer after the US. This year it surged past the US as the number one energy consumer in the world.

These are not just simple statistics. These are historic developments that point to a major shift in the world's power structure. They show that US imperialism is threatened and that rising powers like China are gearing up to take its place. Geotectonic political shifts of this magnitude, however, only take place through regional wars eventually leading to world war.

Oil is the defining element in these looming wars. In an article "US, China Are on Collision Course Over Oil," the *LA Times* wrote (2/2/2004), "While the US is absorbed in fighting the war on terror the seeds of what could be the next world war are quietly germinating." Make no mistake: the US bosses and their imperialist rivals know this and are hastily preparing for such a contingency.

Presently, US bosses have two pressing geopolitical needs. One is to secure their industrial and military future energy needs, especially as their own reserves dwindle. The other is to deny China the energy it will need to continue its meteoric growth and to

power its military in this inevitable confrontation.

For now, the US controls the major sea lanes and can thereby starve China of its imported energy needs. To avoid this, China must secure its imports by land either from Russia or the Middle East.

China is thus forced to challenge the US in the Middle East. Any imperialist power aspiring to rule the world must control this strategic region. The genocidal wars already raging there reflect this. The US bosses, are desperately fighting to hold on to their basis of world domination since the end of WWII.

Their rivals, especially China and Russia, are battling to wrench it away from them. China launched its first-ever cross-border simulated air strike as part of a joint drill with Russia, Kazakhstan and other Central Asian States. The mission was part of increasingly sophisticated annual regional security drills that this year included 5,000 troops from China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan (The Associated Press, 9/21)

So far, the US has been losing the struggle. The escalating attacks on US workers are, in part, the result of the imminent need of US bosses to rebuild an industrial war manufacturing base in the midst of a global crisis of overproduction. You can say that our standard of living is among the first casualties of the gathering war clouds.

We don't have a crystal ball. We can't predict exactly when these objective

forces will result in world war, only that the danger dramatically increases.

For now, the Chinese ruling class thinks they can sustain their rise with a clever combination of diplomacy and carefully targeted bullying. The US ruling class is still divided on how far to go. Changing economic and political conditions are pushing them all to a more belligerent stance. We ignore the gathering storm at our peril.

### Middle East: Iran-Iraq-Saudi Arabia Key to World Domination

The US bosses lost Iran in 1979 when their puppet dictator Shah was overthrown by the Mullahs, who forged an anti-US alliance with China and Russia. Through Iran, China and Russia have now gained an upper hand in Iraq. (See "US Imperialism Loses In Iraq," *Red Flag* Vol. 1 #15).

Saudi Arabia is the final grand prize. It is home to a fifth of the world's oil and the jewel in the US imperial crown for decades. It is, however, tilting towards the Asian Dragon. In 2009 the kingdom exported more oil to China than to the US. Its trade with China has gone from \$290 million in 1990 to over \$42 billion in 2008.

Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran have the bulk of Middle Eastern oil. US bosses have slaughtered millions trying to control it and will slaughter millions more before relinquishing their grip on what they have left. All the major imperialists know this and are preparing for it. Iran is the next US war on the road to World War III.

### Communist Revolution: Only Alternative to Endless Carnage of Capitalism-Imperialism

The question before us is why must the international working class die for the profits of filthy-rich capitalist-imperialist murderers? We don't have to. We can wipe these vultures off the face of the earth with a communist revolution and build a communist world. Under similar conditions, the Russian and Chinese working classes made revolutions to overthrow their capitalists. Learning from their mistakes, we fight directly for communism, not for failed socialism.

Under communism we won't need to fight other workers for natural resources. There won't be such a thing as "ours" and "theirs." We will all share the world's resources and the products of our labor according to need. There won't be bosses or their racism, sexism, exploitation, borders, money or war for profits.

We will utilize the cleanest and safest energy source no matter how much labor it takes because billions of unemployed workers who capitalism can't employ profitably will be won to work enthusiastically and creatively for the well-being of the international working class.

For this, we must organize in the factories, barracks and schools to win millions of industrial workers, soldiers and youth to join and build the ICWP into a massive international Party capable of leading the working class to power. Join ICWP!

## Israeli-Palestine Peace Negotiations

Appearance under capitalism is one thing. Essence is another. Obama's recent appeal at the UN calling on "Israelis and Palestinians, and the world to rally behind" the Middle East peace process is a good example. The appearance: Obama and his US imperial masters are peace loving doves. The essence: they are murderous beasts seeking "peace" to better wage war against Iran in preparation for World War III.

Obama's job -- like all US presidents since Nixon -- is to stem the decline of US imperialism while trying to win US workers to patriotically sacrifice "blood and treasure" to restore its previous world dominant position. This calls for the destruction of its rivals' military and industrial might.

Controlling the entire Middle East is crucial to this endeavor. It has two-thirds of the earth's easily recoverable oil and natural gas. It is enormously profitable. But, most important, it will enable the US bosses to deny their rivals, especially China, the energy they will need for their future global confrontation. (See article above)

### US Invasion and Occupation of Iraq-Afghanistan: Enormous Fiascos

US rulers took two great gambles to control the region: invading and occupying Iraq and Afghanistan. Both have become colossal failures. Most US allies have deserted them. The Iraq government is increasingly aligned with Iran, while the Afghanistan government is trying to cut its own deal with the Taliban.

Furthermore, Obama now has to contend with Turkey. Under Bush, its government openly rejected US imperialist demands to use its soil to attack Iraq. Lately, Turkey has further distanced itself from the US by sponsoring a large Turkish aid ship to Gaza, and then harshly condemning Israel for its murderous assault on that ship.

#### Israel Weakest Link in US Imperialism's Chain

Although the US built Israel into a formidable military power, it can't use it in any of its Middle Eastern combat zones. If it did this, it would further isolate itself from and endanger the pro-US Arab regimes, especially in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan.

Also, without an Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty the US bosses can't directly and openly use Israel's

military against Iran. Even their lesser goal of using military bases in Arab countries to attack Iran will be unreachable. Furthermore, no Arab country will openly send its combat troops to aid the US in the Middle East or even in Somalia or Yemen.

#### US Bosses Preparing Groundwork for War on Iran

The US bosses and Obama know the Middle Eastern peace process is dead. By pretending to pursue it, they hope to win Arab workers, when they attack Iran, to support the pro-US Arab regimes or to remain neutral. They will also use it to justify the war to US workers, "We wanted peace -- like with Iran -- but were forced to wage war."

US bosses also know they can't fight Iran while bogged down in Iraq and Afghanistan. Their arrangements in Iraq have enabled them to withdraw major forces. In Afghanistan they have two plans. Plan A is to negotiate peace with the Taliban which would integrate some of them into the government. Plan B is to withdraw all US troops from the south of the country, allowing the Taliban to govern it.

#### Invading Iran Will Inflame the Whole Region

As the US bosses finalize their preparations to invade Iran, their rivals -- Russia, China and Iran -- are

See *ISRAELI-PALESTINE*, page 15



Join the  
International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP)  
[www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org) — (310) 487-7674  
E-mail: [icwp@anonymousspeech.com](mailto:icwp@anonymousspeech.com)  
Write to: P.M.B. 362  
3175 S. Hoover St. Los Angeles, CA. 90007

# A Sunday Afternoon's Education

SEATTLE, WA, Sept. 19—"I agree," commented a H.S. student on our Party's communist critique of capitalist education at a recent study group. "I already forgot what I learned last year in geometry." Sterile book learning divorced from work and the working class fades away like castles in the sand.

Even more importantly, classroom isolation builds a racist, anti-working class outlook. Grades and test scores promote bourgeois dog-eat-dog competition. Communist education should advance collectivity and proletarian politics: valuing work and the leading role of the working class.

A college teacher assured the student that her troubles with geometry could be traced, in good part, to the abstract, academic way it was presented. He told us about his father-in-law, a retired mason (who worked with bricks, tiles, stones and so on). His father-in-law had very little formal education but, because of his trade, had a profound grasp of practical geometry. We realized that if we had communist schools, people like his father-in-law could help teach geometry.

This same young person mentioned that she was thinking of going into healthcare, because she wanted to help sick people. But with capitalist schooling, she might have to endure many years of bookwork before she sees an actual patient. Meanwhile, her school won't even teach her first aid. Abstract geometry, but not first aid!

## Putting Our Communist Politics In Action

A Boeing worker volunteered to help tutor our young comrade. He noted that he had friends from work who already helped young workers with math skills. We need to build a multi-racial collective of students and workers.

As it happened, one person present was a school nurse who knows first aid inside out. Why not organize a session where our nurse friend would teach the student (and her friends, and the rest of us) some basic first aid? As communists, we talk about getting rid of the bosses and doing everything ourselves. Why not start now, if only in a very small way? How about including first aid along with our dialectics study groups during next year's summer project?

This reminded us of a comrade in LA who teaches shop and who argues that everyone in and around the ICWP, no matter what their background, should get

at least basic industrial skills. Soon we came up with a series of other subjects (such as auto mechanics) where (1) every worker/communist should have some knowledge of the subject and (2) we know people who can teach it.

We agreed that when we do organize classes like this, it will be as communists. We will teach people things that will help them survive and destroy capitalism. We would be continuing in the tradition of the Chinese communists who taught the Anyuan miners how to read and write using communist content so they could become better revolutionaries (see box for more examples).

## More Ideas on How To Get From Here To There

There was also general agreement that communist criticisms of capitalist education make sense to average workers, and that to them communist education sounds like a great idea. A Boeing friend remembered how his father used to complain, "I buy you books and more books, and still you don't know anything!"

The problem is: how do we get from here to there? A revolution, sure, but can our ideas influence the struggles we face now and help us to train more revolutionaries?

At this point, a couple of comrades reported on the Next Big Thing: the movie "Waiting for Superman" coming out on September 24. This "documentary" supposedly describes the current problems with US schools. The solution offered is a vicious attack on teachers disguised as anti-racist, pro-student reform (see review, page 4).

We made plans to see it with friends and discuss it afterwards; picket and leaflet showings; take part in union-led protests; even go to events organized by the films supporters. We discussed what tactics to use in each situation. Although many might agree with the ideas we talk about, overcoming anti-communism requires both principled struggle and tactical maneuverability.

This is what a few of us came up with in just an afternoon. We urge all **Red Flag** readers to continue this discussion and look forward to hearing your ideas.

## The Practice and Theory Of Educating Communists

We fight directly for communism. Socialism retains too many aspects of capitalism. Socialism undermines the transition to communism, rather than promoting it as the first revolutionaries thought it would.

Likewise, socialist education retains too many aspects of capitalist education. It's classroom-based, academic, elitist, and divorced from work and working people.

In the early days of the Soviet Union, and to some extent during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, comrades experimented with a different, communist model. In these schools theory and practice were joined, the students spent more learning time in fields and workshops than in classrooms, and much of the teaching was done by experienced workers and even fellow students. And everyone took part in manual labor.

An excellent article from the 1968 *Peking Review* described such a school. One story from the article: a teacher described how, under the old (socialist) system, he would lecture about a diesel engine for eight hours without the students learning much. "During the second half of my lecture they forgot everything I said during the first half."

In the new, communist system, a veteran worker covered the same material in under less than an hour. He explained how the engine worked in clear, plain language, and, as he talked, he expertly took the engine apart and put it back together again.

At the time this school "of a new-type" was founded the leadership "organized a number of meetings to" to decide "which line it would uphold." Veteran plantation workers and local tea-growing peasants "spoke of the harm [inflicted by the old schools], which were divorced from proletarian politics, from workers and peasants, and from labor and reality... They ...made this demand: 'our school must not be run like the old bourgeoisie dominated schools which caused our sons and daughters to degenerate into good-for-nothings unfit for manual labor.'"



## Red Flag Comes to Workers of Westlake

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 18— ICWP participated in a march against the racist murder of Guatemalan Mayan immigrant worker Manuel Jamines Xum. This racist murder detonated a rebellion that lasted three days. We were very active during this, supporting the rebels and taking them our revolutionary ideas of destroying racist capitalism with communist revolution.

Saturday's march was led by liberal organizations which denounced the murder and demanded "a complete and transparent investigation, that the cop be judged for his crime and complete justice carried out." They pushed dangerous illusions in reform. Some demonstrators chanted for "justice."

During the march we made small speeches denouncing capitalism as guilty of the murder not only of our brother Jamines but also millions of workers worldwide, including Oscar Grant in Oakland. We said that the only way we'll get justice will be when we organize a communist revolution and destroy this bloody racist capitalist system.

At one point, some musicians played and a large group of marchers chanted under our leadership "police-- pigs, racists, murderers" and we interchanged "police" with "government" and

"capitalism." We distributed hundreds of leaflets and over 600 **Red Flags**. We made several contacts who want to keep getting the paper.

Members of ICWP returned to the Westlake community the next weekend. "You all are communists like Che Guevara," an immigrant woman from Guatemala told us. "Yes, we're communists but not like Che," we answered. "We don't believe in the guerillas. We believe in the need to build a broad communist base in the working class: with the transit workers, workers in the garment industry, and all industrial workers. And we're here to denounce the murder of Manuel as an attack against the whole working class." "Yes," she answered energetically, "They're a bunch of gangsters here and in the other countries. They say he had a knife. That's a lie. I'm surprised they didn't put drugs on him or a gun, I've been here more than thirty years in this area and I know how the police are; they're a handful of gangsters."

With a garment worker, the conversation took us in another direction. We told him, "Capitalism doesn't work for the working class. We left the countries where we were born, escaping poverty, hunger, un-



employment, and we come here to the US to continue this exploitation, to the point that the police murder us in cold blood." The garment worker answered, "If at my job they lower the prices that they pay and we're forced to work always for a lower wage, they threaten us with layoffs, and force us to accept all this." We added that, "we came to be wage slaves and this slavery can only be ended with a

***See WESTLAKE REBELLION, page 14***



## **Budget Cuts, Capitalist Crisis, Imperialist War Make**

# **Fighting for Communism a Matter of Life or Death**

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 28--Rigoberto Ruelas, Jr., a long-time teacher in south Los Angeles, drove his car off a cliff last week. We'll never know everything that was going on in his life, but we do know this: The *LA Times* had just labeled him a "less than effective" teacher, distressing him terribly. Mr. Ruelas – respected and loved by students, parents, and teachers – is another victim of the capitalist crisis in education.

California has been operating without a budget for three months. When one is finally passed, it will bring more cutbacks. It's already clear that for many K-12 schools, this year's cuts are worse than last year's. Many districts have larger classes, more layoffs, salary cuts, and unpaid furloughs.

Thirty-three states have cut K-12 education since 2008. Most will cut further this year. Public colleges have limited admissions, raised tuition, laid off teachers, closed sections, and increased class sizes. The *LA Times* wants community college fee hikes, even though that money would go to investors through the state general fund, not back to the colleges.

CalGrant financial aid has been delayed until mid-October, if it's not cut altogether. While some universities are tiding their students over, community college students are struggling to buy their books and, in some cases, to pay their rent and other bills.

### **Students, Teachers Need Revolution, Not Reform**

Large demonstrations last spring at the schools and colleges demanded that funding be restored. More protests are planned for October 7<sup>th</sup>. But most of the money's not going to come back.

The capitalist economic crisis is deep and long-lasting, with unemployment staying high. State tax revenues will stay down for years. The federal government's priorities are war spending, bank bailouts, and reorganizing education for war and fascism (see movie review, below).

Communists must take part in the anti-cutback movement, fight the attacks on teachers and students, and help students, teachers, and parents to understand the nature of the crisis. Particularly, we must win people to see how the US ruling class is using the crisis to make the schools serve better the US imperialists' struggle to defeat its rivals.

We need to win people to understand the racist nature of the cuts, both in health care and in the schools. Most black and latino/a students are still segregated into schools with the least resources, like Miramonte, where Mr. Ruelas taught. They are made the guinea pigs in all the bosses' experiments in mis-education. Black and latin workers are still forced into the hardest and most dangerous jobs, are

hit the hardest by unemployment, and have the least access to health resources. Then the open racists blame them for all the problems caused by the bosses' capitalist system!

Fighting racism must become a major part of fighting budget cuts. The whole working class will benefit from the militant leadership of black and latin workers – as in the recent rebellion in LA's Westlake area—as we build a multiracial communist movement to smash capitalism and its racist budgets forever.

### **Capitalist Education Serves Imperialism**

In capitalist society, both the K-12 schools and the colleges serve the needs of capitalism. Capitalist economies are competing for global resources and dominance. To survive and defeat their rivals, capitalists must maintain highly trained workers and ensure widespread indoctrination with capitalist ideology – especially patriotism.

All capitalist economies need to ensure the ideology of their system: that it is natural and good for capitalists to reap profits by extracting value from workers, and that workers should sacrifice for this. Capitalist indoctrination takes place in all schools and colleges, but the universities also create pro-imperialist and racist ideas, train graduates who are cops, managers for the

capitalists, and instruct others on what is and is not "acceptable" within a capitalist framework.

The funding decisions in education are based on what is best for the interests of the capitalist economy and have nothing to do with what is best for the workers. In this system, the worker is simply a means to the capitalists' ends. When Rigoberto Ruelas's students' test scores didn't go up as much as the bosses wanted, they drove him to suicide.

Since education under capitalism is capitalist education, we should not simply fight to increase funding and restore cuts. Education will only serve the working class when workers take power, in a communist society dedicated to the needs of the international working class. Communist education will not just be capitalist education with better funding, but will develop the skills and talents of all workers for use in all the society's production. Now is the time for students and teachers to fight for a communist future and education that serves humanity, not imperialism.

**Help bring these ideas into the October 7<sup>th</sup> budget-cut protests!**  
**JOIN ICWP**

### **Technology for Competition and War**

Despite the funding cuts, the Obama administration wants to "improve" education in order to out-compete US rivals. Last spring's report by the Office of Educational Technology, "Transforming American Education—Learning Powered by Technology," said its goal is to help the US "to remain competitive in a global economy" and reflect "the times we live in and our goals as a world leader."

It called for an increase in the proportion of students getting 2- or 4-year degrees from 39% to 60% by 2020, made cheaper by extensive use of online instruction. Last week (9/16/10) Obama said again that "that leadership tomorrow depends on how we educate our students," especially in "science, tech-

nology, engineering and math" in order "to compete with nations around the world."

### **Military on Campus**

Schools recruit and train military personnel through ROTC and JROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) and campus military recruitment. Since 1996, the Solomon Amendment allows the Secretary of Defense to withhold all grants (even for research) if that school prohibits ROTC or military recruitment. Only the capitalist ruling class benefits from the ruthless imperialist wars that are fought by military recruited from the schools.

### **National Security Education Program**

Since 2006, the State Department has funneled

money into instruction in "critical" languages, including Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi and Farsi. While sections are cancelled in high-enrollment English, Math, and Social Science community college classes, Arabic classes are popping up at these same colleges.

**We're all for learning languages, especially so that working-class soldiers can fraternize with "the enemy" and build an international communist revolutionary movement. We're for learning the technical and military skills our class will need to make revolution and build communist society. But let's not have any illusions about the bosses' aims. They are preparing for World War III.**

## **BOSSSES HOPE "SUPERMAN" CAN RESCUE THEIR BLOODY SYSTEM**

The movie "Waiting for Superman" opened to rave reviews from every ruling-class rag. It portrays five darling children (2 black, 2 latino, 1 white) as the victims of the evil teachers' union, its resistance to change and its defense of lousy teachers.

"This is anti-working class garbage, and the high production values make it worse," said an angry teacher.

The children's "Superman" is supposed to be charter schools which will rescue the lucky ones with a quality education, granting them the American Dream. The children's plight is portrayed convincingly, and does reflect aspects of the failure of capitalist education. The viewer is sucked in to the game of chance in which a lottery for limited spaces in charter schools will determine their future.

The movie graphically presents the horrible physical conditions of many schools, but draws no conclu-

sions about the system that forces our youth to attend them. Schools which working class young people, especially black and latino youth, attend are terrible, and have been so, by design, from the start.

And they are getting worse as the US ruling class has to move towards wider war to reverse its declining world dominance. They need schools to teach patriotism more effectively, as well as limited skills in reading, math and technology. Their challenge is to "improve" public schools during deepening economic crisis.

How can they make schools teach capitalist lies on the cheap? How can they discipline teachers and school administrators to do their dirty work with fewer resources? This is exactly what fascism does: it substitutes "labor discipline" for market forces and terrorizes teachers and other workers. In LA, it recently drove a teacher to suicide (see article, above) In the drive toward WWII, every capitalist institution is increasingly coming under fascist control.

For over ten years, the US ruling class has promoted "school reform": national standards, standardized

tests, "merit" pay, teacher unions doing the job of administrators in evaluating teachers, and charter schools. They have employed these tactics to try to bring the schools into line.

The Bush administration's "No Child Left Behind" program emphasized standardized tests and sanctions against schools that didn't improve test scores. Obama's "Race to the Top" has taken this to a new level, with his presidential advocacy for charter schools and "merit" pay.

The argument that charter schools are the solution is bogus. There are clearly too few charter schools to actually do the job. The point of this campaign is to blame teachers for the failure of capitalist education, to attack teacher tenure, i.e. job security, and to terrorize teachers into teaching the capitalist lies that the bosses need.

"Waiting for Superman," with its shots of teachers reading the newspaper in class and its depiction of their general incompetence, is part of this campaign. The rulers use this movie to justify their attacks on

## **American Apparel: No return to “better times”**

# **Smash Capitalist Wage Slavery with Communist Revolution**

American Apparel, like many companies, is threatening bankruptcy and may become another casualty of the worldwide capitalist crisis. Thousands of capitalist enterprises are going under, throwing millions of workers on the street. The capitalists tell us we are all suffering together. But are we?

American Apparel owes \$120 million to the banks that it says it cannot pay. Original owner Dov Charney sold the company for \$360 million in 2007. Whether or not the company declares bankruptcy, Charney and his bankers will walk away with \$millions.

What do we walk away with? Nothing! Hundreds of us have already been thrown into the streets. Those of us remaining are being attacked even more viciously by Charney and his bankers who are trying to keep their profits flowing. But, if they can't squeeze enough money from us to pay the bankers and make profits for themselves, they will close the factory.

### **Workers Need a Revolutionary Way of Thinking**

American Apparel workers have no paid holidays. They now average \$64/day in wages, instead of \$120/day in the past. The company uses the “modular” production system, where groups of 12 workers compete against similar groups. Workers are under constant pressure to work faster for lower piece rates, without bathroom breaks.

Many workers want to go back to “better times.”

They want to see a fight for higher piece rates, bathroom breaks and decent benefits. They want a union or a similar organization. We communists understand this and sympathize with the workers' plight. We agree that \$64 a day isn't a living wage.

Our job as communists, however, is to get workers to shed all illusions that capitalism can be reformed to meet our needs. In the “better times” – better for the capitalists – they gave us a few more crumbs but they were still crumbs. As soon as things got bad they took those crumbs away. Even if we could, why do we want to go back to the old “good” crumbs? Even then they were not enough to satisfy our needs.

We produce all the value in society, and it should all go to satisfy the needs of our class, not to make the bosses rich. We need communism, not “better” crumbs. Under communism no one will ever live in luxury while others go hungry, homeless, jobless or without health care. There won't be any money, bosses or a privileged class. No borders, no racism or sexism. We won't be wage slaves any more! We will contribute according to commitment and receive according to need.

Fighting for better wages will never set us free. It just tightens the capitalists' chains around us by strengthening and perpetuating capitalism. Workers need a new revolutionary way of thinking, not the reformist outlook of the union movement. We need an armed communist revolution to destroy capitalism once and for all.

### **Organize Political Strikes Against Capitalism to Build the International Communist Movement**

To build our revolutionary movement, we need many things. We need to read, distribute and write for **Red Flag**. We need to organize study-action groups of **ICWP** to fight the bosses' attacks on a daily basis. We need to contribute, with whatever money we can, to guarantee that **Red Flag** can continue to be published and ICWP can continue to organize. Both belong to the working class and are subsidized by the working class, not by any boss.

We also need to organize political strikes that attack capitalism as the culprit of all racist police terror and murders, and of anti-immigrant racism and “migra” terror. We need political strikes against mass unemployment pointing to the need to destroy the bosses' system that only employ us if can profit off our labor, and, if not, condemns us to starve. We need political strikes against the capitalism's wars for profits, where millions are slaughtered for the profits of a handful of bosses.

We need political strikes supporting other workers in struggle. The LA MTA bus drivers may go on strike this year. We should support them and strike against capitalism that has money for wars but not for workers mass transportation needs. On Nov. 5 workers should organize political strikes or protests against the murders of Manuel Jaminés and Oscar Grant by capitalism's racist killer cops.

## **War Production: From Wage Slavery to Slave Labor**

The editorial last week made the point that capitalism is incapable of providing full employment on a worldwide scale. Full employment, however, can be provided during world war conditions in expanding imperialist powers and in a declining capitalist power.

In the United States, for example, it was World War II that provided the jobs that put an end to the Great Depression. The graph exposes the lie that New Deal programs during the first Roosevelt administration ended the depression. The real and permanent end to the unemployment of the depression was war production.

After the Japanese attack on the USS Panay in China in 1937, the US bosses began a huge build-up of their Pacific Fleet and shortly after, in 1938, began increasing war production. By March, 1941, massive numbers of the unemployed were hired to produce arms for the Allies at war since 1939.

But full employment was only achieved after the US entered the war, mobilizing 14 million soldiers. Then the war industry's factories filled with women, older workers, and black and white workers whose poverty and malnutrition made them ineligible for the military.

Because the US was a growing capitalist power, resources were available to pay wages a little bit higher than the starvation wages of the 1930s depression years. In fact, a labor shortage was created by the war mobilization. If market forces had been allowed to set wages, this would have resulted in relatively high pay for factory work.

However, a combination of patriotism, a sincere desire to fight fascism, class collaborationist union leadership, the Communist Party “united front against fascism” line, and wage and price control legislation led to full employment under conditions of “labor peace.” Unions across the board signed a no-strike pledge. Wages did not keep up with inflation: By the end of WWII in 1945, wages had only increased by 15% over 1941, prices had increased by 45% and corporate profits had increased by

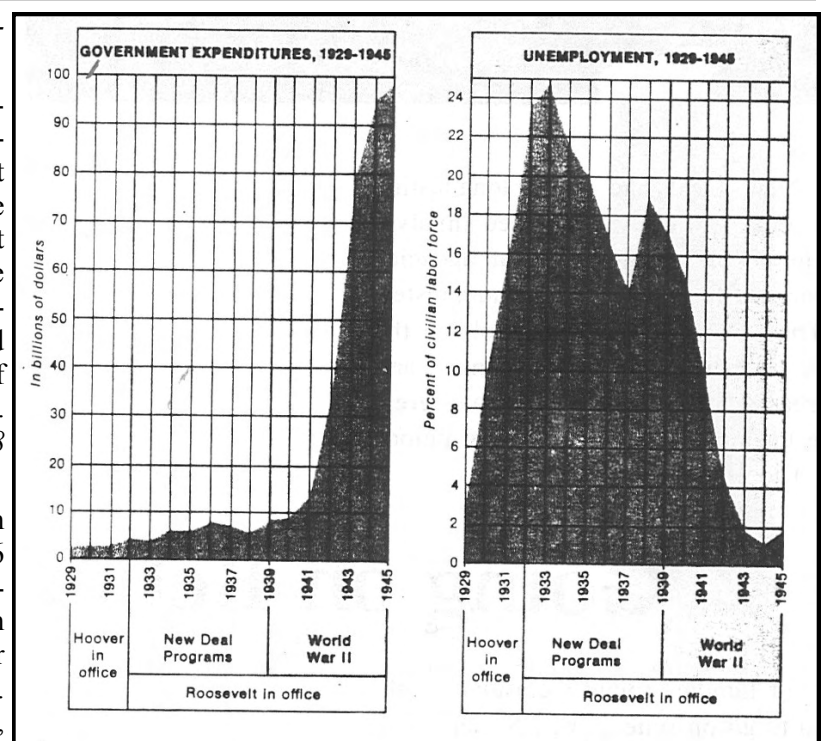
250% (Boyer and Morais, *Labor's Untold Story*).

In fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, declining capitalist powers, full employment was achieved by openly fascist slave labor conditions. In Italy, after the fascists came to power, independent unions were dissolved, all strikes were illegal, and workers needed job passports to get work. Real wages declined and the per capita consumption of meat, fruit and vegetables declined. (A. Rossi, *The Rise of Italian Fascism 1918-1922*)

Similar conditions existed for German workers as Germany rearmed. By 1936 all labor protections had been abolished, concentration camps had been established for communists and labor organizers, and strikes were illegal. Because of the extreme labor shortage, and a shortage of consumer goods, there was a labor draft that included all German citizens. “More than a year before the outbreak of the war, all preparations had been made to make of Germany a forced labor camp in which the worker had...lost...his character as a ‘free’ wage earner.” (Kuczynski, *Germany: Economic & Labour Conditions Under Fascism*)

When the war started, the German capitalist government began to deport the workers of occupied countries to Germany, putting into practice the policy stated in October, 1939: “The working class of the entire occupied territories must serve not only to maintain the economic life of the occupied areas, but also to strengthen the German economy. This aim necessitates the most effective exploitation possible.” (Kuczynski)

Finally, in 1942, the policy of “extermination through work” was developed, in which German industrialist Krupp, owner of the factories that made Hitler's guns, tanks and ammunition, proposed work-



ing to death the “Jews, foreign saboteurs, anti-Nazi Germans, gypsies, criminals and antisocial elements” imprisoned in the concentration camps. (Milton Meltzer, *Slavery*) Thereafter, German industrialists including Krupp, Telefunken and Daimler-Benz worked the prisoners in the concentration camps literally to death.

World war means total mobilization under slave labor working conditions. We don't fear war, or the fascist conditions in the war industries that it will bring. These are already developing in the subcontracted plants in southern California. We will mobilize the workers' anger against this exploitation to organize, as we are already doing, for communist revolution.

# **JOIN ICWP**

## Example to follow:

# Putting the Party First

Six months ago I started to work in the university where I studied. Each day that passes, my hatred has increased towards the bosses and their racist and exploitative system. In those six months four of us have not received our pay; one of us is a single mother. It makes me furious when some people comment that we shouldn't despair, or say that it's normal. Once I went into the restroom to cry from fury; I couldn't contain my anger over a racist comment directed towards the farmworkers I'm working with, adding insult to our working conditions by saying, "If you want to, you can keep on. If not, look for something else."

The bosses know how to condition us as workers; they know that necessity forces us to work more than our eight hour shift; they know that we can't protest because they can fire us whenever they want, but what they don't know is that they are creating their own gravediggers. I know that my hatred of this rotten system will make me continue preparing the road towards communist revolution, and my love for our class brothers and sisters will make me expand my limits.

Sometimes I don't have any money to photocopy *Red Flag* and to go to leave it with the readers; once I found money on the street, and I used to print and photocopy the newspaper. Another time my mother gave me a few coins to buy some food on the job, warning me that I shouldn't spend them photocopying those papers I always have with me (the newspaper), because if I did she wouldn't give me any more, but I didn't pay her any attention and with the money I photocopied the paper again.

Another time my sister lent me money to buy shoes, warning me that she wouldn't give me any more if I used it for the Party. The shoes were important because one of my sisters would use them too, but I considered it primary to visit two friends to talk about the paper, and when I returned home without money or shoes, my sister shouted at me and said that I was selfish and only

thought about myself. That hurt my feelings, but stronger was the knowledge that my friends were happy to receive the paper.

Sometimes I print it at work, sometimes I distribute it digitally, and sometimes I save coins and don't buy things so I can have money to distribute the paper. Once I had to bargain with my brother; I would lend him the car and he would lend me money for a Party meeting.

I know that we think creatively to be able to take *Red Flag* to our contacts; even though we don't have money, we can't be held back. To be sincere, sometimes I feel bad because some of my comrades help me with money for the fare when I go to a meeting, but I know that they have confidence in the work that each one of us does to prepare the road for communist revolution.

With my desires and the necessity to follow the road to the end,

Red Young Woman from Mexico.

### RED FLAG Comment:

As an older comrade, who has been in the struggle for 40 years, I can't help but admire the dedication and urgency of this young comrade. I wonder, however, about the example of the shoes. I would urge the young comrade to think about it, and to struggle to unite urgency with patience. It would be a mistake to sacrifice, in the short term, relationships with those we can win over in the long run.

Older Red Woman from the US

Read, Write and Distribute Red Flag

## WESTLAKE REBELION, from page 3

communist revolution. We, the workers, produce everything but the bosses control all of this production. We need a world where we workers control everything."

Another worker told us that, "Communism will never work because there will always be some people who are better than others. We're not all the same; there will always be differences." We answered him, "But this doesn't mean that someone who sings better, or paints better, or works better with numbers lives better, or has more than the other. With communism we'll share according to our needs, with different abilities that we have, we'll work together and all the work will be collective and the product of the work will be shared among all the workers." Even though this worker was left with doubt, he also left with *Red Flag* in his hand.

In the end, all the workers we talked with took *Red Flag*. Some decided to give us their addresses to continue receiving *Red Flag*. We emphasized with everyone that by expanding the distribution of *Red Flag*, especially at work, we would help to build the communist base in the working class that is needed in order to become a mass party capable of leading the working class to revolution.

### Questions for Red Flag Study/Action Groups

1. A young woman from Mexico writes about her struggle to prepare the road towards communist revolution under very difficult economic conditions. What would you do in her situation? How can you and your collective help with that work? What would it mean for you in your own situation, doing your own work, to follow her example of commitment?
2. "Practice and Theory" (box, p. 3) says that "socialism retains too many aspects of capitalism." On p. 16, "Cuban Workers" says that socialism was really state capitalism. Both articles put forward our Party's line of fighting directly for communism. Was socialism entirely capitalist or partly capitalist? Will communism retain any aspects of capitalism? These are important questions that we should all discuss.

## BOEING, from page 1

bosses the benefit of our experience, they inevitably use it against us.

"Why should we tell the supervisors anything," said a tool and die worker, "they only use the extra money they make to eliminate our jobs."

Unleashing the vast potential of the working class requires the elimination of capitalism's profit motive. Production must be organized for the needs of our class not the profits of the bosses. We fight for

our class, not to save capitalism from the capitalists.

The union misleaders are afraid to recommend these "labor peace" contracts like the recent Cessna pact or last month's Spirit Aerospace 10-year deal. They formally recommend rejection, but their capitalist ideology precludes the red-led political struggle necessary for a serious strike. One after another, we end up chained to these no-strike pledges by default.

We have to target the traps capitalist ideology sets

for us. We must prepare now to wage a political strike against capitalism's labor peace. Raising political consciousness is a long, hard process, but our class has no other option.

We can measure success with more readers, writers and sellers of *Red Flag*, workers' study/action groups and new members recruited to our Party. A successful campaign can, in and of itself, prepare many more workers to consciously fight for our class: to make communist revolution a living, breathing alternative.

## MTA, From page 1

### Union Officials: Worse than Corrupt and Inept, They Are Outright Enemies of the Working Class

ATU Local 192 union officials, instead of organizing a strike, overwhelmingly authorized by their drivers and mechanics, have gone to court begging for binding arbitration. LA MTA union hacks must also be itching to submit "their case" to arbitration.

These traitors would have us rely on the courts of our executioners, not on our class brothers and sisters. AC Transit workers in Oakland are in the same ATU as LA MTA mechanics. Neither local's officials are calling for a united strike of all their members, much less of all transit workers in both cities.

What's worse, the union hacks at LA MTA have, over the years, condoned MTA bosses' subcontracting bus services to private companies like

Dash and Viola. Although under Teamsters' contracts, these workers' wages and benefits are much less than those MTA workers. MTA bosses plan to use these drivers, who number more than 500, to break our strike by extending their routes to cover territory we service. Many were trained this summer. There are also dozens of new-hires and part-timers that MTA bosses can try to force to work in a strike.

### ICWP Communists Fight to Unite the Working Class for Communist Revolution, Not Reforms

Our goal is to organize all these workers to fight for communism. Our short-term goal is to lead them in a political strike against capitalism, to put communist revolution on the workers' agenda.

The union movement can never do this. Its goal is not to destroy capitalism but to reform it. No matter who leads them, unions can only negotiate the conditions of our slavery. Communists fight to destroy capitalism and its wage slavery.

Unfortunately, unions have conditioned workers to fight for reforms. Our task as communist is to replace this reformist ideology with a new revolutionary communist way of thinking and acting.

To solve their crisis the rulers need patriotic slaves and soldiers. We need a new system. We need communism that puts workers' lives above everything – not capitalism that enshrines profits and empire at our expense. We fight to win the commitment of millions of workers, soldiers and student to destroy capitalism and build the communist world we need and deserve.

**We urge MTA workers and all readers to distribute and write for this paper, donate whatever they can to Red Flag, and join ICWP to hasten this day!**

LETTERS

LETTERS \*\*\*\*\*

CRITICISM AND SUGGESTIONS

Angry Students Vow to Spread Red Ideas

We have been talking in our campus club about the racist murders of Oscar Grant and Manuel Jamines Xum by the Oakland BART cops and the LAPD. Everyone is angry. Everyone has personal stories about police racism. The other day, LA Sheriffs handcuffed two brothers (black) right in the middle of campus. They never charged them with anything.

We were inspired by a YouTube video that showed hundreds of workers marching on the Ramparts police station. You could hear the communist-led chants.

That helped answer a question some comrades had. “What’s the use of protesting when we need revolution, not reform?” It showed how we can use mass protests in the streets to put forward communist ideas and advance the revolutionary movement.

Several of our friends took extra copies of *Red Flag* (9/29/10) reporting on the Westlake rebellion. We took the papers to an MTA Transit division, too. We made copies of the *Red Flag* article about Oscar Grant (9/15/10) and made plans for several comrades to give them out in social science classes to start discussions. So far, this hasn’t happened.

It seems that even when the instructor is friendly, it’s a big step for students to try to give leadership inside the classroom. Capitalist education has drummed it into us to follow the teacher’s lead. Our collective needs to talk this over and find a way to overcome it.

College comrades

The problem isn’t individuals; it’s capitalism

Before knowing communist ideas, my questions about who were the bad people concentrated on political leaders, people, jealousy, selfishness, etc. I used to say that if at least one honest president came to power who fights for the well being of the people, all this would change.

I waited 24 long years and in this time 4 presidents have paraded by, who have only wielded their capitalist scourge over the workers. I am not even counting the scars in-

flicted during the lives of those who came before us. The root problem is capitalism and all that emanates from this system. The political leaders are flunkies used as puppets to corrupt society, divide the working class, and continue dominating us so that they don’t lose control of power.

With communist ideas, I’ve known that we can achieve a society where we are honest and committed, where people will carry out activities that they like and that they’ll do because they want to help the development of the working class, not with the goal of filling their pockets with money.

In a communist society money won’t exist. It will be completely wiped out, since this is the main factor that corrupts society. Communist ideas mean a political line with the main objective of eradicating capitalism and turning power over to the working class for its complete emancipation. A society in which we contribute according to our commitment and receive according to our needs will be achieved based on a revolution led by the working class.

This won’t change based on religious faith, much less because some politician proclaims the solution. We have to completely destroy our enemy. For this, we need a communist line that has the goal of leading the working class to make a revolution against capitalism.

At the beginning I was part of the Progressive Labor Party that fought with a political line ready to lead the working class to eradicate capitalism and give absolute power to the working class. However, seeing that they were deviating from this line and not fulfilling the needs of the working class, I decided to join the ranks of the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP).

The idea of this letter is that we don’t lose sight of the political line that we are following as the working class, since this will lead us to the society that so many of us yearn for. Fight for communism!

A young red husband from Mexico

Racism against Romani people: attack on entire working class

The article about racism as the bosses’ “stimulus package” in the last issue of *Red Flag* trivializes the vicious attacks

on Romani people in Europe.. The racism that they have experienced for centuries throughout Europe (and to some extent in North America) has condemned them to unemployment and informal occupations.

Perhaps the most relevant comparison is the way in which black and latino youth have been criminalized in US popular consciousness. Defining a group of people as a “criminal element” allows their deaths to be rationalized and their lives to be considered expendable.

In the case of the Romani people, their marginalization has allowed the ruling class to launch massive, vicious attacks on them, including the burning of a Romani shanty town in Naples, Italy, in the spring of 2009, organized by Mafia elements with the collusion of the municipal authorities.

The current deportations of Romani people from France bring to mind the deportations of Mexican and Mexican-American workers from the US during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The ruling class used racism towards Mexicans to blame them for the massive unemployment caused by a world-wide economic crisis. It was a cynical attempt to divert the anger of other workers over the crisis away from the capitalist system and towards a racially identified group of workers.

German crocodile tears over the French deportations reflect both competition for first place in Europe and an attempt to whitewash the racist history of the German rulers responsible for the holocaust. They wants to cover up their racist attacks in the 1980s on Turkish and Kurdish immigrants in which several perished when their rooming houses were burned down.

These few examples illustrate the dual nature of racism: a vicious attack on those working people who the bosses can marginalize and the division of the working class which allows the bosses to blame one group of workers for the evils caused by capitalism. This is the division that allows them to continue to stay on top, living high off of the suffering of our class. We need to build multiracial unity of all workers — in Europe, for example, among French, German, Romani, Turkish and Kurdish workers, especially in industry—in order to destroy capitalism.

CUBAN WORKERS, from page 16

struggle for communism directly.

The US bosses have used the worsening conditions of Cuban workers to attack supposedly failed communism. However, the same bosses refuse to blame capitalism-imperialism for growing world poverty.

The layoffs of workers, including in public health and education, will make all Cuban workers’ lives harder. The workers of Cuba, like workers all over the world, need to embrace the fight for communism, not socialism, in order to abolish wage slavery, the market, production for sale, racist exploita-

tion and all vestiges of capitalism.

Recently Fidel Castro has made speeches imploring the US imperialists not to use nuclear weapons in their coming war against Iran. He has confidence in the biggest imperialist butchers to stop world war rather than relying on the workers of the world to smash capitalism with communist revolution.

Relying on Hugo Chavez, China or any other imperialist boss means perpetuating wages slavery. Communism, and only communism, can meet the needs of the working class of Cuba and everywhere. That means a revolution to destroy state capitalism and wage slavery. It means that we workers must rely on our own class to produce and distribute everything

needed to meet our class’ needs without relying on any capitalist or imperialist. Communism can only be achieved by winning masses of workers to consciously fight for it—before, during, and after taking power.

To organize a revolution, Cuban and all workers need to join ICWP to fight directly for communism. This is the only road that will end the murderous exploitation of capitalism.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE, from page 2

also drawing up their war plans. The whole Middle East may explode, accelerating the inevitable global confrontation.

Iran will prove to be a formidable adversary. Syria could be drawn into the fray and Iran-backed militias in Lebanon, Gaza, Afghanistan, and, most importantly in Iraq, will create havoc for US imperial-

ism.

The pro-US Arab regimes in the region might be overthrown by fundamentalist movements exploiting the Arab workers’ hatred of US imperialism and Israel. That’s why pro-US Arab countries in the region plan to purchase \$127 billion in US military equipment to defend themselves against the masses’ anger and possible attack from Iran or its proxies.

The world’s capitalists and imperialists are poised to launch much greater wars, causing much human suffering. The murderous racist nature of capitalism will be clear. Many workers will seek revolutionary alternatives. Enormous opportunities will abound for communists in ICWP to build for communist revolution. We invite all readers and friends to join us.

SUPERMAN REVIEW, from page 4

pensions and medical benefits of teachers and other public employees and to promote the use of “merit pay” to lower teacher pay across the board, as well as tying it to test scores and teacher compliance with the bosses’ plans.

“Merit” pay rewards compliant teachers, but how can we defend the present “step-and-column” pay scale? There is no such thing as a “fair wage” for teachers or anyone else. That’s why communists fight to abolish the wage system and wage slavery.

Teachers are outraged by this movie because most of them struggle to do their best for their students in the

face of overcrowded classrooms, inadequate funding, administrative incompetence and sabotage of good teaching. They know that test scores don’t tell the important part of the story. The tests are increasingly used to downplay critical thinking and squash any ideas that are not part of the bosses’ official story. But most teachers don’t yet understand the need for communist education and communist revolution. We need to win them away from liberal reformism and trade-unionism.

Union leaders like Randi Weingarten, portrayed as the villain of “Superman,” are actually falling all over themselves to make peace with the bosses’ reform agenda. Weingarten invited Bill Gates, who funded “Superman,” to speak at her union conven-

tion, and attacked those who walked out in protest. The Los Angeles union leadership wants union members to evaluate each other, in effect asking us to vote each other off the island. They – like Gates, Obama and Education Secretary Arne Duncan – are enemies of the working class.

Teachers under sharp attack from the likes of “Superman” – like students fighting budget cuts – tend to fall into the trap of “defending public education.” But “public” education under capitalism is capitalist education. Instead of “defending” capitalist education we should be fighting to smash it and the vicious bloody system of exploitation that it serves. We must advance under attack along the road to communist revolution.



## US Rulers DREAM of Green-Card Army

# Soldiers, Workers, Students Must Build Red-Flag Army

The US Senate let the cat out of the bag this month: it attached the DREAM Act to a \$726 billion military spending bill. The "Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors" Act appears to help undocumented immigrant youth. But it's essentially a green-card draft to develop and relieve the US military.

Not everyone is fooled by the bosses' bag of lies.

For example, a series of meetings in Oregon cities and small towns warned immigrant youth and their families that the DREAM Act could turn into a nightmare. They confronted some DREAMers – college students campaigning for passage of the act – with the fact that their gains would come at the expense of huge numbers of their sisters and brothers. "They didn't see it, but at least we are having the discussion with them," an activist commented.

The International Communist Workers' Party sees it differently. We aim to win young workers in the bosses' armed forces – whatever their reasons for joining – to become revolutionary leaders of the **Red Flag** army that will smash the bosses' racist imperialist system.

### Democrats, Republicans appear very different. But are they?

We must always look under the surface of things and to investigate their inner nature. Senate Republicans killed debate on the military spending bill (for now). It appears that the two parties differ significantly. After all, Democrats support the DREAM Act and Republicans don't, right?

Not so fast! Listen to Republican neocon Max Boot:

*"The DREAM Act is a great idea, but I would go further and offer citizenship to anyone, anywhere on the planet, willing to serve a set term in the US military. ... Drill sergeants have been forging cohesive units out of disparate elements since the days of the Roman legions."* – Max Boot, Council on Foreign Relations, in *LA Times*, 6/16/05

And to Democrat Richard Durbin, leading DREAM Act sponsor:

*"Many in the Department of Defense believe, as I do, that the DREAM Act is an important part of making certain we have talented young men and women ready to serve in our military." [His staff] "worked closely" with the Defense Department on the legislation because "largely due to the war in Iraq, the Army is struggling to meet its recruitment goals..."*

*"Under the DREAM Act, tens of thousands of well-qualified potential recruits would become eligible*

*for military service for the first time. They are eager to serve in the armed forces during a time of war."* --Sen. Dick Durbin, quoted in *Army Times*, 7/16/07

### "A military recruiter's DREAM"

*"Passage of [the DREAM Act] could well solve the Armed Forces' enlisted recruiting woes and provide a new source of foreign-language qualified soldiers....Potential DREAM Act beneficiaries are also likely to be a military recruiter's dream candidates for enlistment."* – Lt. Col. Margaret Stock (ret), 1/15/06 (www.immigrationforum.org)

One-third of undocumented students don't finish high school and many more go straight into the factories.

Only one undocumented HS graduate in twenty will attend college. Only one-quarter of those will complete the AA degree or two years of a four-year college within the six-year window allowed in the DREAM Act. The rest will have to choose between military service and deportation.

Thus, over 99% of undocumented high school students are potential "green card soldiers."

This is urgent for the Pentagon. It's frantically seeking troops to maintain US occupations of Iraq, Afghanistan, and hundreds of military bases worldwide while preparing to fight Iran and eventually China. The DREAM Act would buy time to prepare for a new draft ("national service").

### "Rise with your class, not from it"

Most DREAMers are among the few undocumented students – about 3,000 in California – who attend the UCs, the CSUs, and other four-year colleges. Even they could be denied citizenship if the government claims they don't have "good moral character."

Maybe you didn't register for the draft. Or there's a mistake in your paperwork. Or you're accused (not convicted!) of a "crime against the government" or an "offense that jeopardizes national security" or of having a joint. You can be deported even if you've gotten your college degree or served in the army.

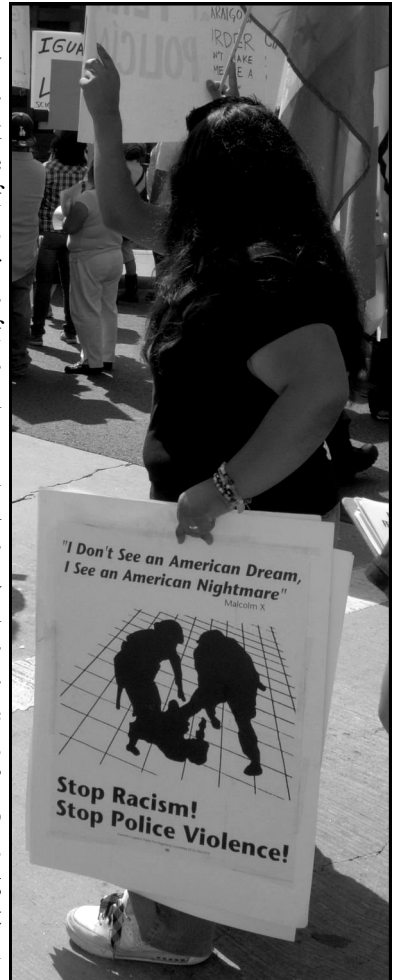
But there's an element of truth in the appearance of the DREAM Act. "At least, a few undocumented students will have a chance," whined a liberal activist.

Yes – because the capitalist rulers count on them to keep the masses of immigrant workers in line. They are terrified of more rebellions like the recent one in LA's Westlake neighborhood.

They will need junior officers to command their

green-card troops. They need a few latino/a Colin Powells and Barack Obamas to preserve the appearance of anti-racism even as the essence of their capitalist system -- racist exploitation of the masses of workers -- intensifies in this period of crisis.

"I want to rise with my class, not from it," declared a student leader in a graduation speech last spring, paraphrasing the US labor radical Eugene V. Debs. Our fight is not for a "better" DREAM Act but to smash all borders as we turn the coming wars into communist revolution that will end imperialism as surely as "barbarian" legions helped to end the Roman Empire.



LA workers, students protest cop killing of Manuel Jaminés



## Cuban government attacks workers-

# Cuban Workers Need Communist Revolution

Sept. 13—The Cuban government has announced layoffs of 500,000 government workers, 10% of the workforce. This attack is part of the attack on all workers in this worldwide capitalist crisis. The Cuban government, which is in debt, has cynically called on workers to start their own businesses and cooperatives. This is similar to the Mexican government telling the electrical workers when they fired all of them to start their own private company!

Raul Castro also "advised" Cuban workers to look for jobs with foreign owned companies. Most of these workers will join the swelling ranks of the unemployed—victims of the worldwide capitalist crisis of overproduction. (See article p. 1)

After taking power, Castro, always a nationalist opportunist, changed Cuba from being a client of US imperialism to being a client of Soviet imperialism. For many years the Soviets subsidized Cuba's economy, especially its sugar industry. They did not

want the Cuban bosses to build a diversified industry, but instead forced them to depend on Soviet manufactured goods. When the Soviet Union imploded and turned to full private enterprise, the subsidies to Cuba ended. Then the state capitalist Cuban government turned to investments from European capitalists to build an apartheid tourist industry. Cuban workers were forced to build luxury hotels for low wages—hotels which they were not allowed to enter.

In the early days after Castro took power, whenever the Cuban government faced a crisis, they used communist rhetoric to inspire and motivate the masses to work harder in collective work groups to produce more for the state. However, as some Cuban workers saw that it was only rhetoric, that they were working to fill the pockets of the politicians, bosses and imperialists, this rhetoric led to cynicism on the part of some workers. Many others have loyally

worked harder and sacrificed based on hatred for US imperialism, on Cuban nationalism, and illusions in socialism.

For many years, the revisionists have held up Cuba as a symbol of successful revolution. They have held up socialism as a false beacon that has led millions of workers and students to die fighting for what they thought was liberation—only to end up putting a new set of bosses and imperialists in power. They have led workers away from the fight for communist revolution—the only solution to the evils of capitalism. They are enemies of the working class.

The truth is that Cuba was never communist. It was state capitalist. The working class in Cuba never held state power and the socialist and nationalist ideas pushed by Castro and his group to this day have held Cuban workers back from embracing the

*See CUBAN WORKERS, page 15*