

RED FLAG

NEWSPAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY * ICWPREDFLAG.ORG



Students Fight Budget Cuts:

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION? COMMUNIST REVOLUTION!

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 7 — “We are all part of the same people, the same working class!” declared a community college student at a speak-out against budget cuts to education and social services. “Turn around and look at each other. We’re doing something collectively as a whole.”

Sixty students attended the rally as part of a “national day of protest against budget cuts.” Over a dozen spoke passionately from the platform.

Some students were happily shocked to see that there was actually a rally on this usually-quiet campus. “Wow, this is really going to happen,” one said. “Why can’t we do this every day?” asked another.

The new California state budget spares state universities from the worst cuts (though more tuition increases are likely) while the Governor slashed funds for health, welfare, and other services. Impacts on community colleges are not yet clear.

In this environment of racist “divide and conquer” schemes, it was significant that these community college students refused to be divided from the rest of the working class. Many rely on programs like CalWorks and community health clinics. They see that the problem is bigger than college budgets. “It’s

capitalism,” several speakers said.

“They make us choose between food and education,” declared a student. “They’re feeding us racism – separation, segregation, and mentally. They’re giving us food poisoning. What they’re feeding us is blocking us from seeing what’s really happening in our lives.”

Big Contradiction: Reform Versus Revolution

Most students cheered when speakers urged them to vote. A few minutes later, these same students were chanting, “What’s the Solution? Revolution!” That’s a big contradiction.

“Voting is a show of numbers that people want change, but the people elected don’t change things,” someone commented. “Reform is not working,” said another.

“I’m tired of just fighting back, I want to see some real change,” a speaker cried out passionately. “The revolution has to be in your mind.”

A student comrade later criticized this: “Revolution is an action, not just thinking about it.”

“True, but we do need a new revolutionary way of thinking,” said an older comrade.

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IMF Aerospace Conference Shows:

PRO-CAPITALIST UNION LEADERS SABOTAGE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

SEATTLE, WA, Oct. 7— More than 100 global union leaders met here for the last two days at the International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) Aerospace conference. This is the first global conference of aerospace union chiefs since 2002.

The worlds’ workers certainly need international unity to fight back against the racist attacks of Capital exacerbated by the system’s crisis and headlong rush to war. The labor misleaders’ version of international solidarity sounds more like imperialist labor peace.

To put an exclamation point on this expression of class collaboration, Boeing CEO Jim McNerney keynoted the event at the invitation of International Association of Machinists (IAM) president Tom Buffenburger.

“I liked him. He was honest,” said Emerson Hamilton, business representative for the Seattle-area IAM. “He seemed to answer the questions directly.” That he did!

After thanking Tom [Buffenburger] for his “leadership, partnership on mutual issues and commitment to a competitive US aerospace industry,” he went on to salute the Federation.

“We will partner with people that want to help us build airplanes more productively,” he continued. “In some cases unions help us do that, and in other cases non-unions help us do that.” The bottom line: aerospace needs “fundamental productivity improvements” [read: slashed wages and benefits].

In that way, Boeing can continue

to “fuel economic development, expand commerce between nations, and protect the interests of friends and allies.” Was this a conference to get labor on board for the march to war?

Buffenburger also “liked” McNerney, but complained that the Boeing CEO didn’t go far enough to guarantee labor peace in the national interest. The national union leader wanted McNerney to endorse the Spirit Aerospace 10-year no-strike regime as “the exemplar of successful negotiations.”

Visions of the AFL-CIA

Aerospace employment is now 460,000 in Europe and 624,000 in the US, where the total has fallen 45 percent over the past 20 years as manufacturing efficiency rose and companies sent work abroad. Many of the remaining workers now toil for non-union subcontractors under sweatshop conditions.

Aerospace employment in China, on the other hand, has grown to 491,000 according to Owen Herrnschmidt, the Machinists’ director of trade and globalization. Russia and Brazil are also starting their own commercial jet programs.

The rise of aerospace outside the US and Europe “means labor groups must adapt their own global strategy,” said Bernie Hamilton, national officer for Unite, the UK’s largest union. The conference endorsed resolutions in favor of organizing workers in these emerging powerhouses.

Unfortunately for the mostly European and US misleaders assem-

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Behind Ecuador's Failed Coup Attempt: US - CHINA FIGHT FOR WORLD SUPREMACY INTENSIFIES

The September 30th violence in Ecuador shined a spotlight on this country's role in the inter-imperialist rivalry for world supremacy. Ecuador, with its considerable natural resources and strategic geographic location, is inescapably caught up in the US-China struggle over control of Latin America.

For now, the US and Chinese imperialists are fighting through proxies. President Correa, the target of the attempted coup, represents a sector of the Ecuadorian ruling class that wants to break with US imperialism's two centuries-old domination and negotiate better deals with the Chinese and other imperialists. The other sector, the traditional elite, wants continued US control of the continent to safeguard their wealth and privileged positions.

Such struggles always end in war: regional wars and eventually world war. The world's workers must understand these developments in order to avoid being duped into supporting one gang of capitalist butchers against another. Instead, we need to organize communist revolution to put an end to this capitalist inferno.

Democracy or Socialism Not Worth Even One Drop of Workers' Blood

The traditional Ecuadorian oligarchy called for ending Correa's tyranny and having immediate presidential elections. Correa's camp called on workers to defend the constitution, the democratically elected president, and his "Citizens' Revolution."

Democracy, however, is a capitalist myth to make us believe we can vote in a government that serves our interests. Supporting any form of democracy perpetuates the bosses' dictatorship over us. We need to destroy their dictatorship and replace it with the Workers' dictatorship. So-called "leftists" who called for supporting Correa as a "democratically elected leader" are misleading the working class.

Correa, like Hugo Chavez, espouses "21st Century Socialism." Socialism by any name is state capitalism. Real revolutionary communists in Russia and China – not capitalist politicians like Correa and Hugo Chavez pretending to be revolutionaries - fought for socialism, mistakenly believing it would lead to communism. Instead, they became capitalists and socialism's state capitalism turned into market capitalism.

The big lesson of the twentieth century is not that "communism failed" as the bosses have us believe. It's that workers need to fight for communism, not for socialism (which is just another form of capitalism).

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bled in Seattle, "independent unions" aren't as strong in these emerging powerhouses. Indeed, calls for independent unions have always meant unions that would bend to the interests of Western imperialism. Strikes for economic demands soon became political strikes that advanced the interest of the U.S. capitalists and their allies.

But this is no longer the 1950s. It's not even the 1990s, which saw the last big political strike (in Poland) favorable to US foreign policy aims. The international competitors of the US are much stronger now. The vision of a new AFL-CIA international division in some kind of alliance with European unions is likely to go up in smoke.

Union international solidarity will probably degenerate quickly into national propaganda paving the way

Correa: Pragmatic Nationalist Capitalist Politician

The US is still Ecuador's main trading partner and investor. Correa, therefore, must pursue his own agenda while keeping Washington at bay.

For now, he has no plans of nationalizing the oil industry. Fifteen foreign multi-nationals still exploit 54% of Ecuador's oil, continue to expand their areas of extraction, and still receive \$9.5 billion from the country's \$13.5 billion in oil revenues.

Correa has kept the dollarized economy, cooperated with the US on multiple anti-drug programs, and has backed large mining companies against indigenous protests. It was a round of "austerity" budget cuts to government workers (not only the police) that triggered the September protests.

At the same time, Correa has implemented parts of his agenda. He joined Hugo Chavez's ALBA and UNASUR, organizations that exclude the US and seek to break US control over the region. He has made mega energy deals with China and Venezuela, while refusing to sign a free trade agreement with the US. He levied a 99% excess profits tax on foreign oil companies, which provides about \$840 million to fund social programs for some sectors of the urban and rural poor. This has made his "Revolución Ciudadana (Citizens' Revolution) and anti-US rhetoric very popular.

China-Manta Deal Threatens US Bosses' Interests

Three years ago, Correa ousted the US from the Manta airbase and gave it to China to build an international airport and seaport. At the time STRATFOR, a CIA-connected think tank, wrote, "While this is not the first time China has been made such an offer by a Latin American nation, it is the first time US geopolitical interests in the region have been so closely brushed up against."

New developments have endangered US geopolitical interests even more. Chavez is investing in a \$6-\$10 billion project for a new refinery and a petro-chemical complex in Manta. China is investing in the new trans-Andes/Amazon road/river highway from Manta to Manaus in Brazil. This will link Manta to Açu, the largest industrial port complex of its type in the world, being built by Brazil's richest capitalist. It boasts an almost two-mile long pier, dubbed by the Chinese deputy trade minister "a highway to China."

for the bosses' only solution: more war, eventually world war.

We Need Our Own Vision

"I never saw so many homeless people in my life," said another, more honest, lower-level union official after returning from the October 2nd One Nation March (in support of the Democratic Party) in Washington, DC. He also wondered with whom the big-shot union officials were hobnobbing near the podium. He knew they weren't talking to the homeless workers who lined the streets.

A comrade showed him the article in *Red Flag* about how the bosses have created jobs by turning workers into slave laborers to run their war factories during World War II. "Now I know what they were scheming," he laughed.



Manta-Manaus Highway Derails US Bosses' Malacca War Strategy

Manta will allow Brazilian resources to reach China more effectively and make it easier for Chinese goods to reach South American customers. Most importantly, China's strategic imports, like oil from West Africa, Venezuela and Brazil, will now bypass the Panama Canal and the Strait of Malacca, both chokepoints easily closed by the US in a serious confrontation.

A sector of the South American capitalists is thus advancing its economic and geopolitical interests, benefiting China's at the US bosses' expense. It's never peaceful to swap one imperialist for another, nor for rising imperialist powers to replace a declining one. Only communism can end capitalism's constant drive to war.

Communism will do what socialism never could do. It will eliminate exploitation, money, the market, and wage slavery. These are all aspects of capitalism, the material basis of racism, sexism, borders, nations, and wars for profits. In a world free of these evils, the international working class will administer every aspect of society to meet its needs.

We need our own vision: a realistic one. We can't build a movement based on illusions about the intentions of the bosses or their labor lieutenants.

We have to build our own Party: the International Communist Workers' Party. Over time we can replace the unions' phony solidarity with an international communist-inspired workers' movement that can put an end to racist imperialism and its wars once and for all.



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Talking About Communism On the Job

“Organize Political Struggle on a Broad Basis”

We have been handing out *Red Flag* to workers at an LA transit division since the summer. Not all of them are interested, but we usually get out about 70 papers each time we go. This week we got an especially good response. Many drivers stopped their buses in the street to take the paper. Five of them took from two to five extra papers each for their co-workers. Others said they had “gotten the paper inside.” Some gave us clenched-fist salutes or donations.

A mechanic who’s been reading the paper had a lot of questions about it. The discussion turned quickly from current contract issues to how communism would organize work based on commitment instead of wages and the market. How would we handle people who didn’t pull their weight on the job? How will we develop a sense of responsibility for meeting the needs of our class? How will we mobilize people based on their human need for meaningful work?

Then he wanted to know “who was in charge” and how our Party makes decisions. “What are your bylaws?” he asked. A comrade replied, “We only have one bylaw: We struggle collectively to figure out what’s best for the working class and then all try to carry it out.” She said that communist organizations in the past saw “unity in action” as the main aspect of

organization.

They usually tried to keep political struggle inside leadership collectives instead of taking important questions to the membership and the base. Now we see that a main task of leadership is to organize political struggle on a broad basis so that our members and friends are thoroughly prepared to develop and fight for the correct line in the work.

This young mechanic said that people his age were put off by so much “fighting.” His reading of history was that those who took power by violence were eventually overthrown by violence. But his example of taking power “nonviolently” was Hitler, since the German ruling class handed it over to him – not exactly most people’s idea of nonviolence! In any case, Hitler was overthrown by the Red Army.

The comrade suggested the book *Ten Days That Shook the World*, and the worker wrote it down.

We urge these regular readers, and others, to take the step of contacting us. Write a letter about something you like or question about the paper, or about something you think other readers should know! Or just call us to get together with other MTA workers who also read the paper and want to act on the ideas in it.

--LA Comrades

Garment Workers Discuss Killer Cops, Communism

Recently I had a conversation with my friends from work in one of the many garment factories where we work under conditions of capitalist super-exploitation. The topic of conversation was the murder of our class brother Manuel Jamines at the hands of the police. He was like many workers who are victims of capitalism at the hands of the bosses’ loyal cops, who implement their brutal racism and repression against the workers.

The conversation turned into a very good discussion, leading many to give their points of view. Also, some workers participated who at other times have preferred not to give an opinion. We all agreed that the police are used to repress us here and throughout the world.

This whole discussion gave me the opportunity to give *Red Flag* to other workers. I also gave them the leaflet about the racist murder. When she saw the leaflet, a co-worker asked me, “Where did you get this leaflet? Is it the same leaflet they gave me near where he was murdered?” I recommended that she read it.

The next day I asked how she liked it. And she answered that it was good, that there was only one thing that she hadn’t liked. Since I already had an idea of what she would say, I asked, “What was it that you didn’t like?” Her answer was precisely that it was Communism. Because she wasn’t willing to give her things to others, that’s why she works, to be able to have her house and her things that she

had bought when she came to the US to work.

Her answer gave me the opportunity to explain what communism is, as opposed to the disinformation pushed by the bosses’ media and their capitalist system, which labels Venezuela, Cuba, and China communist.

The capitalist media have been in charge of misinforming the workers that communism doesn’t work. But what has capitalism given us? Wars, hunger, and extermination of workers around the world. Profits are the bosses’ priorities, without any cares about the life of the working class.

In this capitalist crisis the workers are sent into the streets, kicked out of what they thought were their homes.

Finally, I told my co-worker that we workers under capitalism have nothing of our own except our hands to keep working and to survive under this system. I didn’t promise her heaven, nor will it be like winning the lottery. With our hands, our feet and with the leadership of the International Communist Workers’ Party, we’ll build our future for communist workers’ power.

Now she and other workers are getting *Red Flag*, and we have very good discussions. I’m a builder of communist revolution, eternally grateful and happy to have known ICWP as the leader of my life and of the whole working class.

“I AM RED FLAG”

LOS ANGELES, CA.—Our revolutionary newspaper *Red Flag* is very popular at my job. Every edition is read by many workers, both men and women. However, we’ve collected very little money for the paper. Reading the article from the young comrade in Mexico who uses all her money to make copies of *Red Flag* and the struggle in the collectives made me think that the economic situation was intrinsically connected with the political development of the International Communist Workers’ Party.

Even though under communism money will disappear, under capitalism, unfortunately, we need it. That’s why I decided to have a political struggle with my co-workers, to support the development of ICWP economically and politically.

When I left my house in the morning, I had doubts about the answers of the workers to my asking them for money for the Party. But I thought about the need that exists to expand our limits. Convinced of the need to do it, I went to the first co-worker and told him, “Look, you’ve been reading *Red Flag* for a long time. You know that our goal is to politicize workers, and for the development of the communist movement we need your financial support. Since we don’t depend on any boss or any bourgeois entity, I’d like to know if you can contribute every month with a donation.” The worker answered, “I understand, because I’ve seen many drivers reading the paper, and I’m saying they read it because I’ve seen it open. Sure, I can give between \$15 and \$20 a month.”

Strengthened by the positive response, I went to ano-

ther reader’s work table. I made an analysis of the financial needs of the Party and why we rely on the same workers to meet those needs. He asked, “What need can I fill?” I told him, “You can give \$100 a month for the international work.” He told me, “\$100 seems a little high to me. Lower it a little.” I told him, “How about \$60?” He answered me, “Yes, that seems right.”

As I went back to my work table, I passed by a *Red Flag* reader and I spoke to her about the same political need. She said, “You can count on \$10 a month from me.”

Taking advantage of the opportunity to expand the limits, I passed another reader, whom I also asked for economic support, and together we read the article from the Mexican comrade. He was moved politically and promised to help with a monthly donation of about \$20.

During the rest of the day, I asked four more co-workers, one of whom promised around \$20, another said they could give \$10. One worker said, “Always when you give me *Red Flag* I give you a donation,” and at the end he said, “Absolutely yes. I would like it if *Red Flag* took out a sticker that said, ‘I support *Red Flag*.’ But I think that it would be better to make a bandana that says ‘I am *Red Flag*,’ to put on our heads or hang it out of our pants pockets.”

This was a successful day of political work reflecting years of ideological struggle, social activities and class struggle. I thank all my coworkers, comrades and future comrades-in-arms, for helping me deepen my respect, love and commitment for the working class –

for helping me become a better communist. Today was a qualitative step in my political development and the development of a communist base among workers in the struggle for communism. This has given me confidence to continue this struggle tomorrow with the rest of the readers of *Red Flag*.



EDUCATION CRISIS CAUSED BY CAPITALISM

SAN DIEGO, Oct. 7. As part of today's October 7 "National Day of Action" against cuts in education, there were rallies at several universities and community colleges in San Diego. A citywide rally also took place in a downtown park in the late afternoon. These rallies were much smaller than those last March 4th, but those who took part were enthusiastic and serious. The ideas in the speeches in these rallies showed a clear division. Some speakers saw the crisis as mainly a matter of having the wrong politicians in office, and urged people to vote to throw them out. Other speakers saw the education crisis as a result of the economic crisis and imperialist wars of US capitalism. One speech also pointed out that the cuts are racist, having the worst effects on black and latin students both at the K-12 and college levels.

Those two lines represent the main contradiction in the anti-cutback movement. One is the vain hope that reform can make the schools serve the working class. The other is the understanding that capitalist education aims at providing trained workers and soldiers for the economic and military struggle between rival capitalist powers, and doing so as cheaply as possible.

More people are beginning to realize that the second line is correct. A few days before the rallies, a meeting, which included *Red Flag* readers, was held to work out a speech and a leaflet for one campus. There was general agreement that the line of their earlier leaflets, that the education cuts result from capitalist wars, crises, corporate bail outs, and prison spending, now seemed to be much more widely accepted among those working on the rally than even 6 months ago. Understanding that capitalism is the problem, however, is a key step on the way to understanding the need for communist revolution. It is the job of communist students and teachers to use our work in the mass movement to win students and faculty to understand this and join

SPREAD COMMUNIST EDUCATION TO DEFEAT CAPITALIST EDUCATION'S "FOCUS ON COMPETITION"

MEXICO—The Alliance for Quality Education, a collusion between the Secretary of Public Education and the National Union of Education Workers, champions the "Focus on Competition." Similarly, they champion the National Evaluation of Academic Achievement in Education Centers (ENLACE) and the Integral Reform of Mid Level Higher Education (REIMS).

The "Focus on Competition" is one of the education policies of worldwide imperialism that now calls itself "neo-liberalism." It's another attack by the capitalist class to try to control and dominate the population ideologically and practically, starting in school.

They say that "to win under this system, you have to be CAPABLE." That means to master the skills that the companies need, accept the rules of the labor market, compete against your peers at work and at school, surpass the worker or student next to you, and eliminate him or her. It's the struggle for survival of the fittest, a capitalist distortion of Darwin's theory.

Student assessments and "socially useful schools" seek to use standardized tests (PISA and ENLACE) to downplay any critical focus in teaching and to support the corporations' need for higher productivity. In that way they focus students and workers towards war, which is driven by competition among the capitalists.

This is accompanied by accreditation from educational and professional institutions (periodic evaluations to certify that you are maintaining your skills and updating your knowledge) that introduce forms of thought and "values" appropriate for world wide imperialism.

Under capitalism, all schools are institutions designed to serve the exploitation of wage slavery. They introduce the ideology of the ruling class in the minds

of the children and young workers and enforce the acceptance of exploitation and the reproduction of the bosses' system. They educate us to see the world through the eyes of the capitalist. Why do we have to accept THEIR social system?

The focus on competition has intensified in the factories and schools of the industrialized countries since the middle of the twentieth century. It has now been converted into an exportable commodity by the Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development (OCDE) through the Project of Definition and Selection of Competition and by the European Union, under the axis of the Economy of Knowledge through the Bologna (Italy) Project and the Treaty of Lisbon.

The Economy of Knowledge and the "focus on competition" are instruments of Soft Power with which the capitalists reinforce their control of the world conquered through the Hard Power of weapons and violence against our class.

However, the only "educational alternative" for our class is that which helps us to realize our power and to understand the need to substitute communism for capitalism. Anything else will be "more of the same."

That's why our communist teaching in the schools, universities, factories, and barracks is so important. We must convert every *Red Flag*, every study group, and every struggle into the new education. The nucleus of every struggle, the main contradiction, is between capitalist ideas and communist ideas. The main task of every member of ICWP is to spread communist education to organize the revolution and build the new society.

Join ICWP



"Classwork shouldn't be separated from producing things. We shouldn't be sitting in rows staring at the back of somebody's head. We need to teach and learn math, English, sociology, and everything else in the process of building a movement to turn the world upside down."

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"Thinking about it and then acting upon it," concluded the student.

Another aspect of the reform/revolution contradiction is that students look to the colleges to understand the world better, as well as to get a better job. "Educated people vote more," one said.

A teacher answered that. "Yes, and educated people are more positive about capitalism," she said. "That shows that schools teach capitalist ideology and build illusions in a system that doesn't work and can't work."

"What we do here is a pale imitation of real education," she continued. "Classwork shouldn't be separated from producing things. We shouldn't be sitting in rows staring at the back of somebody's head. We need to teach and learn math, English, sociology, and everything else in the process of building a movement to turn the world upside down."

That was happening at the rally. Many students were seeing and learning. An example was a conversation about signs that read, "Strike against the racist system that cuts schools for war."

"It's not the system that's racist, it's the people in it," one said.

"The people in control are racist. The people in the system are not racist, it's the system that's built to segregate us," responded another.

"Maybe sometimes we need to explain more and not just chant," commented a comrade. Next time he should be prepared to get up and do that!

We definitely should have done better at explaining the connections between capitalist crisis, the budget cuts, and imperialist wars like the one in Afghanistan that has gone on for nine years.

After the students chanted for revolution, a Red Flag seller gave a speech about why it has to be a communist revolution and explained what communism will be.

Many of the rally leaders already read Red Flag. Others got it for the first time at the rally. We urge these readers, and others, to study the paper carefully and write letters about their questions and comments. Help us to increase the circulation of the paper.

Let's get deeper into the question of revolution versus reform and struggle to defeat reformism. We hope that many readers will become wholehearted communist revolutionaries and join the International Communist Workers Party.

Militant UC Students Need Communist Leadership

Seven hundred UC-Berkeley students attended a rally, joined by Laney College students. Many then marched around the campus and held a sit-in at the main library. At UCLA, over 100 students, campus workers, and teachers marched around the campus with drums beating.

Unfortunately, these militant protests were limited by the reformist and elitist approach of "save our university." We urge our comrades and friends at these schools to share *Red Flag* with fellow-students who joined in the protests and to build revolutionary communist leadership on these campuses.

TALIBAN: FROM FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO TERRORISTS ...AND BACK AGAIN!

The Taliban—erstwhile freedom fighters against Soviet-dominated Afghanistan—have been labeled terrorists during the decade-long US war. Despite the ban on negotiating with terrorists, secret talks aimed at clearing the path to U.S. withdrawal “have begun between the Taliban and the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.” (*The Washington Post*, 10/6).

“[There is] a distinct change by the Obama administration toward full backing of negotiations.”

“Do you know how many homes we could save from foreclosure; how many kids we can educate—let alone how many lives saved—with the money we waste in Iraq and Afghanistan?” vented a Boeing Machinist when he heard the news. Unfortunately, there will be no “peace dividend” because peace will be only relative and fleeting.

The Obama war machine has already fixed its eyes on Iran and China. The US ruling class is quickly assembling the leadership team it needs to force this policy forward. As reported in *Red Flag*, former US commander in Afghanistan Gen. McChrystal lost his job because he would not get on board with these

plans. He persisted in pushing for a long-term military campaign instead of negotiating a withdrawal to prepare for fights in Iran and other Mideast hotspots.

National Security Advisor Gen. James Jones is also out. Thomas “We Got Bigger Fish To Fry” Donilon has been appointed the new National Security Council (NSC) chief.

“As deputy security advisor, [Donilon] has urged what he calls a ‘rebalancing’ of American foreign policy to rapidly disengage American forces in Iraq and to focus more on China, Iran and other emerging challenges. He argued...strongly... that troops begin leaving Afghanistan next summer.” (*New York Times*, 10/9)

Donilon has long represented the biggest US bosses. As executive vice-president of Fannie Mae, he lobbied for such giants as Citicorp and Goldman “Government” Sachs.

Bob Woodward, of Watergate fame, says, “bringing Donilon in as the national security advisor is a real kind of declaration of where we’re going.” In his new book *Obama’s Wars* he reports how those in the military who

still wanted long-term war in Afghanistan hated Donilon.

Secretary of Defense Gates actually said that appointing Donilon as NSC chief would be a “disaster.” Gates is also on his way out.

So Begins The “Rehabilitation”

The Taliban are demanding “a deal to drop the terrorist label” (*Washington Post*, 10/6) before formal talks can begin. “They wouldn’t place this on the table unless they could see it in the wind,” said a tool-and-die maker at a shift-change discussion.

The CIA already has a secret 3,000-man army in Afghanistan to do its dirty work in Pakistan. They covet an indigenous strike force augmented by seasoned Taliban fighters to counter Iranian ambitions in the area. “Taliban Freedom Fighters” once again!

The only principle the bosses follow is to maintain their imperialist empire. Righteous moral indignation is only a fig leaf. We have to end their immoral system by building the ICWP to mobilize the working class in its only true interest: communist revolution.

US MILITARY BRASS GIVE MARINES CANCER

Peter Devereaux is dying of cancer. He says that the military’s failure to tell him he had been exposed to carcinogens at Camp Lejeune is to blame. “The Marines knew about it and said nothing, knowing full well we were bathing in and drinking contaminated water on a daily basis.”

Soldiers stationed at Camp Lejeune in the 1980’s have developed a rare form of male breast cancer due to this contaminated water. They declared before Congress that the Marine Corps knew of the contaminated water back in the 1980’s but failed to disclose the information to the Marines or to make it public. If he had known, Devereaux says he would have had regular cancer screenings and caught it early enough to have a chance to beat it. It is estimated that hundreds of these military personnel were contaminated with these chemicals and that many could have already died without knowing the reasons.

US soldiers and Marines, most of who come from the working class, are sent to fight their brothers and sisters in other countries so the US bosses can control the world’s natural resources and markets. But they don’t benefit from any of this in any way. It’s not in the interest of the international working class. The only thing that we get from this capitalist system and the bosses’ greed for profits and empire is lies and death.

Using nationalist and patriotic ideas and the excuse of terrorist threats, the US bosses push lies that we must defend and die for this country, when the real reason for the war is to control oil profits and other energy resources around the world. The capitalist powers that control these resources will control the world’s markets and stop the growth of competitive rising powers like China.

Soldiers and Marines have always been used by the bosses as expendable items and guinea pigs. For example, when the US bosses first tested atomic bombs, thousands of soldiers were intentionally placed close to

the blast and were contaminated with radiation to study the effects of radiation on them. Many developed cancer and died from this radiation.

Soldiers in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, along with the civilian populations of these countries, are exposed to many known carcinogens produced by the burning pits where toxic waste is disposed of in the absence of incinerators. Incinerators are required but the Army has not provided them. The Army’s excuse is that with the contingency operation they have no choice but to improvise and use these pits, leaving soldiers and civilians no choice but to breathe the contaminated fumes which most likely will make them develop chronic health conditions.

The US used depleted uranium (DU) shells in Iraq because they cut through metal. DU also gave cancer to thousands of Iraqis, especially children, and also to US troops. These bosses will sacrifice millions to try to get control of the oil in the Middle East and the rest of the world.

All of these atrocities and more show that soldiers and Marines have more in common with these workers than with the murderous bosses and their capitalist system. They tell us to fight for “our” country, but they don’t care any more about US soldiers or Marines than they do about Iraqi, Afghani and Iranian workers. workers, including military personnel, must stop being one more expendable item for the bosses. They are key to organize a movement capable of destroying the racist capitalist system once and for all.

We must organize and build ICWP to get rid of the callous bosses and build a communist world where the political development, health, and well being of the workers and our *Red Flag* soldiers will be the main goal.

TURN THE GUNS AROUND!

POEM FOR RED FLAG

Here in this walled-in place, inch by inch,
where life is worth a fascist-imperialist US quarter,
where capitalism turns workers’ transportation into bonfires
and reduces them to ashes
right here,
eyes shine when they see full barrels (military arms) made in
the USA .
It’s here
where nourishment is an agricultural abortion,
where education is a book that is never opened
where health doesn’t mean health, but what you say with a
drink of whiskey
where the media is the terror we invite into our homes.
Security, I ask: Will it be the neighborhood watch?
Where basic services are a comet with the winds of October...
where politicians are the joke in a circus with expensive tickets—IOW’s...
More and more and more.....
Yes, it can vary.
It depends on the place.
But it will always be what fences the worker into capitalism.
We’ve got to bury this stinking, contagious cadaver!
“But how?” I asked.
How could it end?
They challenged me and I came to give *Red Flag*: “lucha por el comunismo,”
Fight for communism, fight for communism, fight for communism!
And I grasped the need for a communist revolution.
When I read the paper for the first time I felt committed,
thanks to the comrade.
It’s brave to carry a newspaper of the International Communist Workers’ Party
and distribute it.
It becomes a mission.
I am seriously reading
revolutionary dialectics;
the slogan to be a communist in a capitalist
system is contradictions:
Quantity and quality,
Negation of the negation,
and
The letters that I like to
read.
ICWP is everywhere.



CHILEAN MINERS: THE MIRACLE IS A NIGHTMARE

Around the world the rescue of the 33 Chilean miners has been welcomed as a miracle, a moment of humanitarian solidarity, international good will and gratitude. But the appearance masks the reality of capitalism's constant and increasing oppression of miners and all workers, driven by the worldwide economic crisis and the sharpening inter-imperialist rivalry for profits and empire.

Chile is the world's main producer of copper. The Chilean government copper related income is estimated to double this year from last year, to \$6.6 billion. At the same time, the gap between rich and poor has widened. 14 % of Chileans live in official poverty, with millions more barely above the poverty line. Since the demand for copper is high, Chilean bosses pressure workers to produce more while neglecting safety measures.

The explosion that produced a massive collapse at the San Jose mine wasn't an accident. It was a tragedy waiting to happen, created by the mine bosses' drive for profits at any cost. When the mine collapsed, the miners began climbing the emergency ladder in a ventilation shaft that remained open for 48 hours after the explosion. But they only got a third of the way up because the mine owners never bothered to finish the ladder.

Between 2004 and 2007, 3 workers were killed at the San Jose mine while 182 were injured, 56 of them seriously. The mine was temporarily closed in 2007

after a rock explosion killed a geologist. One condition for re-opening the mine was that the owners build a ladder to the surface: the incomplete ladder that imprisoned the workers.

The US media has made a lot of propaganda about this rescue. The capsule used to bring the miners to the surface was made by NASA and the drill used to make the corridor was made in the US. The US bosses are portraying themselves as benefactors of workers everywhere, yet their 1973 CIA coup against Allende in Chile massacred thousands of workers and students. It installed Pinochet to power, who imposed the fascist labor conditions that laid the basis for today's super-exploitation of Chilean miners, while keeping Chile firmly in US imperialism's grip.

The threat to the US bosses then was Russia, since President Allende was a socialist flirting with the Soviet bosses. Today the threat to the US imperialists is China (see editorial p.2). China has become Chile's number one trading partner. China is building a highway from Santos, near Sao Paulo, Brazil to the Chilean port of Iquique, part of their plan to build highways across South America to transport oil and copper to China. While Chile's trade with the US declined last year by 24%, its trade with China increased by 17% last year and 2 ½ times more this year. These are not simply statistics. They show the rise of China and the decline of US imperialism. This is leading to world war at the expense of the world's workers.

The media is also glorifying Chilean nationalism as if workers and bosses in Chile, or anywhere in the world, have the same interests. Nationalism-patriotism is used by the bosses to get us to sacrifice "blood and treasure" for them. Despite hugging the president, Chilean miners are angry about their lethal working conditions. Many plan to sue the company and the government. One miner, after his rescue, said that things had to change for Chilean workers. He said workers' needs must be taken into account.

But the capitalist system, based on stealing the value that only workers produce, is incapable of taking workers' needs into account. As the top imperialists prepare for regional wars and world war, conditions for workers worldwide will only get worse. No lawsuit or reform could ever stop this. Some may call for emergency mine ladders to be completed, but the ladder we need to build is the ladder to climb out of the hell of capitalism with a revolutionary communist way of thinking.

Communism will make workers' safety and well being primary. International solidarity can only become a reality by building ICWP internationally. We are one working class with the same need to build a communist world without profit hungry murderous bosses. We need to turn the coming world war into a war for communism.

EDUCATION DEBATE:

BREAK THE CHAINS OF LIBERALISM

The wave of sharp attacks on US teachers – from Obama's "race to the top" to movies like "Waiting for Superman" – have provoked a counter-wave of liberal protest. Maybe you've heard ideas like these:

"Merit pay is a bad idea – studies have shown that it doesn't motivate teachers to do better."

"Merit pay is a bad idea because it builds competitiveness instead of collectivity among teachers."

"Teachers should participate in the evaluation of other teachers so that we have some say in the process."

"Teachers shouldn't participate in evaluation – that's management's job."

"Layoffs shouldn't happen at all – money for schools, not for war! – but if they do, they should follow seniority."

"It's not fair to kids in the poorest schools, with the most low-seniority teachers, to bear the brunt of layoffs."

There's an aspect of truth to all of these ideas, even though they contradict each other. But they all miss the essential point: there is no "good" or "fair" or "right" way to do things within the limits of capitalism's wage system.

Yes, merit pay builds competitiveness. But the wage system itself – the fact that workers depend on selling our labor power in order to survive – alienates us not only from the fruits of our labor but from each other.

What's "fair" about the contractually negotiated step-and-column system that pays teachers more just because they've been around longer or take more irrelevant course work? How does this address the unequal needs of people doing the same job?

No, money isn't the "great motivator" that pro-capitalist ideologues claim it to be. But it's the only way for capitalists to motivate us. Under communism, the very basis of the system – our motivation and our reward – will be working co-

lectively for the common good.

Under capitalism it's "work or starve." Many of us are bored, frustrated, tired, or burnt-out on our jobs. But losing that job would be worse. And very few of us have much control over what we do and how we do it.

It's true that evaluating workers – and hiring us, firing us, and ordering us around — is the job of administration or management. But that's a problem, not a solution. Why should we accept wage slavery and the dictatorship of the bosses through their managers and administrators? Why shouldn't we fight instead for a system where those who do the work, and those affected by it, also make the decisions?

Yet it's an illusion to think that we can have real power under capitalism. When do we get to evaluate the school system and point out all the many ways it serves to perpetuate racist capitalist exploitation? Only in the revolutionary movement!

Under communism, everyone's needs will be met, as best we can with the resources available to us. Food, shelter, health care, and all other necessities will be available regardless of what job you do, or even whether you are working.

Evaluation will no longer be a club held over the heads of teachers and other workers to force them to toe the bosses' line. It will be a routine process of criticism and self-criticism meant to help us improve our work. If a few people prove incapable of improving to the point where they can do their work effectively, we will be able to remove them from those positions without subjecting them to econo-

mic hardship. We will simply help them find work that's a better "fit."

The same applies to seniority. Teachers fought for this reform to make it harder for the bosses to squelch rebels and radicals who fight to serve the working class within the bosses' system. But they still have state power over us. Only when we smash their system and build a workers' dictatorship will we be able to help educate young people in the way they need and deserve to be educated. Meanwhile, all arguments about "seniority" within the context of capitalism end up pitting younger vs. older teachers and other workers.

Under communism, most of us will do more than one kind of work at any time, and many kinds of work over the course of our lives. If we find that we no longer need as many people in a particular workplace, our hands, hearts and minds will find ways to be useful elsewhere.

We need to change the limits of the debate over "school reform" to raise in a mass way the question of capitalism itself. We need to raise in a mass way our emerging vision of how communism will meet the needs of the working class, with respect to education and everything else: from each according to commitment, to each according to need!.



Capitalist Profit System Destroys Workers and the Environment

Dear Red Flag:

This weekend three events—all about “school reform” -- inspired me to write this letter. The first was a conversation I had with an articulate sixteen year-old (the daughter of a former student) who studies at a charter school. Listening to her quote comparative drop-out and college entrance statistics from her charter and the local “big school,” I saw that she’s actually part of the pro-charter movement. As she explained that at the big schools, students had to do community service, but at her school, her parents did her community service by volunteering at the school, I realized that this is part of “restoring faith in the public schools.”

I also saw “Waiting for Superman” with a group of teachers, and restoring faith in public education was one of the goals expressed in the movie. As it touted the achievements of 1 in 5 charter schools (leaving unspoken the obvious: that the other 4 out of 5 are failing) it launched the now standard attack on teacher unions and teacher tenure. This is how they have framed the debate: “there may be good teachers in the public schools (we don’t see any), but the kids have to be protected against the lazy and ineffective ones. Reform at the public schools is impossible until the power of teacher unions is broken; until then, the only hope is charters.”

This is essentially the argument of a “manifesto” published in Sunday’s *Washington*

Post, signed by Joel Klein, Michelle Rhee, (chancellors of NY City and DC public schools, respectively) and a dozen other big city school superintendents. They end their manifesto talking about the US “fall[ing] further behind the rest of the industrialized world... [and] the American dream [becoming] a distant, elusive memory.”

We are in the midst of a ruling-class created media campaign to win the US public to have faith in education to achieve economic success, in the face of historic unemployment where people are so aware that college graduates can’t get a job that they’re watching them compete on TV for jobs with Donald Trump. What’s only alluded to is bosses’ need to educate more of the inner-city young people whose education has been neglected for generations as they attempt to create the military and civilian technology that will allow them to compete with China.

Totally unstated is that this is part of the preparation, both ideological and technical, for war. As the US slips further behind economically, their only hope to retain their position of world dominance is world war.

The students we teach today will be the workers and soldiers who can turn this war into a communist revolution. To build a successful movement we must unmask the bosses’ propaganda moves. I urge *Red Flag* readers to see this movie with teachers, parents, and students, and write their own letters and reviews.

--Old Teacher

Nature teaches many lessons. Living in an economic system that super-exploits us, we have much to learn about the disastrous situations that capitalism has created. What’s needed is to change this economic system with revolution. Otherwise the conditions needed to confront these disasters won’t exist.

The predatory nature of capitalism has poured concrete over farm lands, areas that provide foodstuffs and that help filter the water. It has shaved off mountains of their vegetation that serves as a sponge for the rain. This vegetation also functions as an intermediary between the subsoil and the atmosphere, thus regulating the hydrological cycle and therefore biological life.

But capitalism has destroyed nature’s benefits in less than 100 years, which no previous social system ever did. It’s destroying a legacy of four billion years of evolution of life on earth. The human species has a 200,000-year-old history on earth. Capitalism is only the blink of an eye in the history of humanity, but it’s the cruelest. It has created wage slavery, racism, nationalism and money.

All of these weapons have meant the creation of a handful of rich exploiters and billions of hungry people all over the world. Directly and indirectly it has over-exploited the natural resources to serve the profit needs of the capitalists. In the process they have destroyed some things that don’t serve their purposes but which play a determinant role in nature.

This rotten system, which doesn’t promote the wellbeing of the working class and doesn’t take care of its environment, must be destroyed with communist revolution.

The causes of global climate change are deeply rooted in the capitalist system. Warming is triggered by millions of tons of carbon dioxide and other gases that capitalist industries generate. Atypical rain patterns are caused by the aforementioned phenomena, which cause storms out of season, with unusual frequency, and in places not prepared for them.

These areas can’t count on vegetation to intercept the rain since this was eliminated. The rain may also occur during a period in which

the vegetation has dried out, causing the mountains where the poorest people live to wash away, and rapidly flooding lower areas. Poverty forces workers to live in these areas, especially in the big cities, and thousands are killed by these floods, while leaving millions in the streets. This happened recently, for example, with the floods in Pakistan, Mexico, and Central America.

Counteracting climate change under capitalism is only in the bosses’ interests if it generates profits. They are trying to patch up the problem with green technology: photocells, aero generators, solar heaters, ecological houses, organic foods, etc. These are “alternatives” for those who have money to buy them.

For this, capitalism has invented sciences like geoengineering, where billionaires like Bill Gates want to bleach clouds, fertilize the oceans, cover the sun, inject nanoparticles of sulfur into the stratosphere, clean up the seas, “plant” thousands of genetically modified trees, etc. It sounds like a list of delusions, but these are “serious” proposals for capitalism’s solution to the climate crisis.

As long as oil exists, capitalism will never stop using it. It’s the cheapest energy source. Thus, oil has become the capitalist system’s lifeblood. It gives the capitalist who controls it an advantage over other competing capitalists and imperialists. That is why the inter-imperialist struggle over oil is exploding in wars, giving the working class the opportunity to turn these imperialist wars into communist revolution.

Only communism can save workers and all of nature. We’ll set up methods for the production of foodstuffs and goods that will satisfy the needs of everyone, while taking care of the environment that sustains us. Only by organizing ourselves through the International Communist Workers’ Party will we achieve this. Be part of this revolution. Build an army that will destroy capitalism and strengthen the powerful fist of the international working class in this struggle. Build ICWP!

For a Green World, Workers and Youth Must Turn Red

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 10—ICWP went to a rally for 10/10/10 (an “environmental day of action”) for a greener Los Angeles. We were armed with *Red Flag* and a leaflet to start conversations with people about how the only way that the environment or workers will stand a chance is with the destruction of capitalism with a communist revolution. We pointed out that only in a communist society that has eliminated profits will workers be able to develop the safest energy resources for the workers of the world.

Many people were very open to our ideas and took the paper and a leaflet showing that capitalism is the cause of environmental disasters and attacks on workers.

One young cyclist, who agreed that capitalism was to blame, got into a long conversation about how a communist society would actually work. He had many questions about how people will be motivated to work. He said people have to stop being selfish. A comrade told him that in the course of the struggle for a communist society, people become more collective and

change as we’re fighting to build a communist revolution. The youth thanked the *Red Flag* seller for his time and promised to read the literature.

We got this positive response even though the rally co-organizers Green Peace and the Sierra Club focused their speeches on “the imperative to rid LA’s Department of Water and Power of coal-fired electricity by 2020.” To this end they trotted out one “well meaning liberal” after another. None mentioned capitalism even once.

One young speaker, a high school student, was asked why he thought coal was such a big deal. “It’s really cheap,” he said. We turned the conversation to capitalism and its need for cheap resources no matter how deadly or toxic. Agreeing that capitalism needs cheap resources, he had no answer when asked why he didn’t say this in his speech. Most speakers suggested voting and asking Mayor Villaraigosa and the LA City Council to “honor their promise to rid LA of coal by 2020.”

A speaker from the UCLA Labor Strategy Center, who presented himself as an entrepreneur, was pushing

green products and alternative energies. He suggested that this country could “go green and solve unemployment by developing green jobs,” neglecting to mention that these workers will not be able to afford the expensive products or services that they would create since their wages will be a tiny fraction of the value they produce.

“I was glad I went,” said a young comrade, “even though the leadership was terrible. People were open and I had good conversations.” Doing this work gives us confidence in our Party, our paper, and our future.

THE WORKING CLASS MUST TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THE OPPRESSORS

“Una mañana de sol radiante salí a buscar al opresor.” (“One morning with the sun shining, I went out to look for the oppressor.”) These are the opening lyrics to the communist song “Bella Ciao,” an inspiring song that depicts the working class when it is ready to take arms against the oppressor. That time of insurrection will be a serious one, and the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) stresses the importance of preparing the working class to take power when the time is right.

We workers face horrific consequences of capitalism, and we envision the day when the working class will organize a revolution. We understand that current conditions around the world place more pressure on the international working class and that we must more aggressively pursue the struggle for communist revolution.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are only two of many imperialist wars to come as the US rulers’ struggle to regain world dominance. Capitalism inevitably leads to world war, with all its death and destruction, but war also provides the opportunity for armed insurrection by masses of workers, soldiers and youth to destroy capitalism and build communism. To take advantage of this opportunity we must study the strengths and weaknesses of previous attempts by communist parties to take power. *Armed Insurrection*, a book written by the Comintern in 1928, offers lessons that must be studied by all soldiers and workers who see the need for communist revolution.

According to *Armed Insurrection*, insurrection is not purely a military operation. It is described as an art, which demands “prolonged, systematic and thorough preparation for a long period prior to the date fixed.” The Bolsheviks in Russia (the Communists who led the Russian revolution) were conscious of this type of work which had to be carried out decades before the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. On the other hand, workers and communist parties in many other countries attempted to organize revolutions but were unsuccessful.

A series of articles which will follow in future editions of *Red Flag* will focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the attempts at insurrections in history, following the Russian Revolution, including the Revel uprising. We analyze these experiences with the understanding that the revolutionary struggle must consciously be for communism, not for socialism.

In 1924, the revolutionary mood was high in the city of Revel, which is now known as Tallin, in Northern Estonia. At the time of the insurrection, Revel had three pre-revolutionary conditions, prerequisites pointed out by

Lenin, the leader of the Bolsheviks, in 1915. First, it was impossible for the ruling class to maintain their rule in the old way. This forced the ruling class in Revel to become more brutal. Second, the suffering and want of the oppressed classes was more and more acute. Mass unemployment soared, wages remained stationary, but the cost of living increased fifty percent.

Third, there was an increase in the activity of the masses, including demonstrations of workers and soldiers calling for civil war. The Communist Party believed the conditions existed for a successful armed insurrection. Yet, as the rebels took action, there was “no mass action before, during, and after” the uprising. The subjective factor, a communist party with a mass base among workers and soldiers for revolution, was lacking.

When one of the union leaders was murdered by the police shortly before the insurrection, no mass actions were called. This led to demoralization among the masses. This was a serious error, made because the leadership put secrecy above involving the masses of workers in political strikes and mass demonstrations against capitalism, which would have put the communists and the whole working class on the offensive.

But the most striking mistake of the Revel uprising was that there was not enough communist work in the military units. When the rebels attempted to take over military installations, they thought that storming in and convincing the soldiers to join the insurrection at the last moment would suffice. Even though there had been agitation among the soldiers, there were not enough communist cells in the units.

Organizing communist cells in the units, with a broad base, should be a primary goal for our Party. Building a strong base in military units means having an established group of soldiers reading and studying communist literature. This type of organizing takes years, if not decades, to build. For ICWP, this means that military contacts should be embraced. This means having study groups made up of soldiers and workers now.

Mass actions must be based on strong ties with the workers, but the authors concluded that the leaders of the Revel uprising felt themselves to be isolated from the workers. We must build a mass base for our Party in the working class so that mass actions against capitalism with the line of fighting for communist revolution to destroy capitalism are guaranteed to be practiced before, during, and after an uprising.

WHY I DECIDED TO JOIN THE MILITARY

I am a college student who has decided to join the Army.

If you would have told me as little as a year ago that I would be in the middle of enlisting at this point, I would have laughed at you and called you crazy. The Army, I believed, was reserved for brainwashed nationalists. My dreams were to go to college and become a lawyer, plain and simple.

Soon, though, I found out that it’s not so plain and simple. I had fallen for the illusion the bosses have created, that if you stay in school and work hard you can become anything you want. Well, it’s my fourth year in college and I have realized that it’s all a lie.

Luckily, though, through struggle from other comrades and through my own study, I have learned the importance of having a strong base inside the Armed Forces. Now I have a bigger and even more meaningful dream and that is to serve the international working class.

As we should all know, there’s no way we can ever hope to win the revolution without the help of our class brothers and sisters inside the Armed Forces. History serves as evidence of this since many insurrections in the past failed because little or no work had been done among enlisted men and women. Workers and students picked up arms against the bourgeoisie, but the soldiers still had theirs aimed in the wrong direction.

It is our job to win soldiers to our side in order for them to point their guns in the right direction, but the only way of doing that is by winning them to communist ideas. Victories such as the Russian and Chinese revolutions are evidence of how crucial that work is.

ICWP has work going on with students and workers, but because it is a relatively new party, little work has been achieved inside the Armed Forces. The reason is that it’s one of the hardest sectors to do work in, especially if we don’t have any contacts inside the bases. Going to the bases and distributing *Red Flag* can only do so much. ICWP needs people inside the bases constantly distributing *Red Flag* and organizing soldiers around the ideas of ICWP.

I have come to the realization that at this point in my life the best thing I as an individual can do to best serve the collective, is to enlist. This decision did not come easily. A lot of struggle was involved, but the revolution is going to come someday and what we do today is going to determine the outcome of that revolution.

Obviously I cannot do this all on my own. The Armed Forces are vast and the more members ICWP has inside the bases the better. So this letter is also a call to all comrades. This work is not for everyone and there are certain requirements that one has to have in order to enlist, but all who are capable should seriously consider enlisting, for the benefit of the working class, especially those of you who are in high school and in college. This letter is geared more towards younger comrades but that doesn’t mean you “seasoned” comrades shouldn’t think about this either. Just so you know, the military cutoff age is at 42 years old now.

Something that really helped solidify my decision to join the military was a letter I read from a comrade in Mexico about all the hardships she endures just to be able to make copies of *Red Flag* and distribute them. Her dedication to ICWP is an inspiration and that dedication to this cause has given me strength and confidence that what I am doing is right. Comrades on an international level are all doing what they can with what they got, so should I.

I hope that you all take something from this letter, whether it be that you decide to join yourself or just start struggling with someone to enlist. This work is very important and needs everyone’s help. Help the proletariat win the future revolution and enlist in the Armed Forces.

—**Red and Ready**

P.S. Thank You to all the comrades who struggled with me to join the military and who have offered their support as I begin my journey into the

Questions for Red Flag Study/Action Groups

1. A young comrade writes (p. 16) about his plans to join the military as a red organizer. He urges us all to think about doing this or trying to get others to do it. Do you agree or disagree with him (and with other articles in this issue) that organizing inside the bosses’ armed forces is critical to building our revolutionary communist movement? If you disagree, why? If you agree, how can you help with this work?

2. “The causes of global climate change are deeply rooted in the capitalist system. ... Only communism can save workers and all of nature.” (p. 15) What do you think of this statement? Why are pro-capitalist forces building the environmental movement (see article on “Green World”) and should we be skeptical of its claims? How will communist society actually work when it comes to environmental issues?