

# RED FLAG

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## March 4th Massive Day of Anti-Racist Action:

# ICWP Youth Spread Communist Ideas

March 4th was a national day of action against the US bosses' attacks on public education. The liberal leadership called it "Defend Public Education". Across the country, especially in California, thousands organized walkouts, building takeovers, marches and rallies. Students carried banners that read "Bail out Education", "Fightback, Today, Mayday, Everyday". At U.C Berkeley, students who blocked Interstate 80 were tazed and arrested. At Cal State Northridge a 73-year woman professor was brutalized, when the police broke her arm while arresting her. In some high schools students carried signs that read "Capitalist Education Sucks" and "Fight against the Capitalist Crisis". At one school, many H.S. students abandoned their classes, walked around their school in protest against the racist cuts, and then decided to go to the Districts' Offices and protest there. The youth took leadership on different levels of guaranteeing the protests. Now they have to see themselves as future communist leaders that serve the working class.

In this fight-back the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP) played a significant role. Before March 4<sup>th</sup>, comrades put forward resolutions in the teacher union meetings that called for a one-day strike for the March 4th, the resolutions were adopted. Instead the union leadership called for participation in after-school rallies. In several meetings prior to the March 4<sup>th</sup> action, many rank and file teachers pressed the union leadership to take on more direct job actions for the 4<sup>th</sup>. In the last union meeting prior the March 4<sup>th</sup> action, there

were passionate speeches supporting the One-Day strike for the 4<sup>th</sup> by rank and file teachers stating that "teachers, parents and students will not pay for the capitalist crisis", "that we needed to move beyond protest, demonstrations and rallies to organize more on the job actions." However the union leaders rejected such calls, saying that such demands "missed the pulse of the teachers and students". "No, you guys are missing the pulse of teachers, students and parents. We are all pissed off, you're missing the pulse", a speaker on the mike retorted. Prior to the union meetings hundreds of ICWP leaflets and dozens of **Red Flag** communist newspapers were distributed.

One week before March 4<sup>th</sup>, a forum discussed the nature of the capitalist crisis, and how to participate in the days' events. The discussion revolved around on how to put communist politics primary in the struggle. It was around the question of reform and revolution in the mass struggle. Several speakers stressed that significant reforms in a period of capitalism in crisis could never be granted, because the bosses are hell bent on expanding imperialist wars. That's why in this time period the choice was either fascism or communism. The forum's discussion produced a party leaflet saying "A system that cuts education to bail out banks and wage war must be destroyed." Over two thousand of these leaflets were distributed, along with over 700 copies of Red Flag at high schools (including the days before the marches), colleges, and at a march in downtown LA. Angry students and workers gladly took the

literature. Some gave their names to know more about Red Flag and ICWP.

But above all, in this fight communist youth leadership has been developed. Some wrote posters not only questioning capitalist education but also exposing the capitalist crisis. Many took the necessary actions and responsibility to guarantee student walkouts and the protests. Many had good conversations about communism as they distributed the **Red Flag** to teachers and students. And in the end, many have learned the lessons that the way to measure success is by how far or how much we put communist politics forward in the reform struggle, how much we recruit to the party and how we train ourselves to be communist leaders in the mass struggle. We were able expose in a mass way the source of the cuts in the capitalist crisis, the bosses' need for WWII in order to resolve their inevitable crisis, and that the only effective response for youth and workers is to organize for communist revolution. We also learned the need to massively spread the concept that public education is capitalist education that must be destroyed and replaced with communist education that will eliminate the bosses' poisonous ideologies.



OAKLAND, CA. MARCH 4- UC BERKELEY PROTESTERS ARRIVE IN DOWNTOWN

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# ON TO MAY DAY 2010: Raise the RED FLAG

This May Day the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY (ICWP) will raise high the red flags of communist revolution. Workers everywhere need communism more than ever as the current capitalist crisis of overproduction intensifies unemployment, racism, sexism, to name just a few of the attacks on our class. This crisis accelerates the deadly march to imperialist war and eventually world war. We aim for our new paper RED FLAG to become a collective organizer that will make communist ideas as mass as possible in every battle against these bloodthirsty bosses.

We pick up the red flag this May Day: not only to carry it the length of the marches, but to begin to anchor our paper firmly within the working class. None of this will be easy or quick, but our responsibility is clear. Formerly-communist movements have dropped the red flag in the dirt, disheartening many potential revolutionaries. Their revisionism (capitalism masking itself as “communism”) abandoned revolution under the cover of reforming the system, leading astray far too many good people. We are fighting to put real communism back on the agenda of the working class.

Our young Party is already involved in serious political work among important sections of the industrial working class and the military, key to our revolutionary strategy, as well as in the schools and communities. Black, Latin, Asian and white, immigrant and non-immigrant, men and women, young and older, have joined, seeing this as the way to truly “serve the people.” Serious collectives around the world have helped expand the ICWP so that we stand, as did Marx before us, under the slogan “Workers of the World Unite!”

This is only the third issue of RED FLAG. We thank all those who have helped get it off to a good start so quickly, especially the young workers and students who have already contributed articles and letters about their fights against racist super-exploitation, imperialist war, budget cuts, and more. But we still have a long way to go be-

fore our paper fulfills its role as a revolutionary communist organizer.

## RED FLAG: The Communist Organizer

Why is this paper so important to revolutionary organizing?

Every comrade and collective helps build our revolutionary communist forces, but some areas of work will undoubtedly advance faster than others. Our paper can bring these advances to every section of the working class.

Nonetheless, no comrade or local collective—no matter how advanced the work—can on their own, develop the depth and breadth of political knowledge necessary to sustain and grow our movement and Party. Our collective struggle to smash the bosses’ wars, racism and exploitation, reported and analyzed within the pages of RED FLAG, can help consolidate new and veteran revolutionary leaders around an advanced political line.

Nor can we shy away from our failures. Reformism is still a deadly disease than impedes our process. Masses of workers can critically read articles and share their insights in the pages of RED FLAG. Our paper will encourage this critical thinking with more articles like the series on education that examine how we workers would “do it” in a communist society. This is one way we can carry on a debate about communist ideas among the masses of workers and their allies. As Marx declared many years ago, “We Disdain to Conceal Our Aims!”

Our Party and its influence are way too small. Our class needs many more revolutionary communist leaders if we are to stand a chance of defeating dead-end reformism and destroying capitalism. RED FLAG can provide the critical concentration of conscious political understanding necessary to recruit new revolutionaries. Readers on the job, in the barracks, in the schools and mass organizations, and elsewhere can form the nucleus of fighting “fractions” (Party-led collectives) that train new Party leaders and make communist

ideas mass in the thick of the class struggle.

The new leaders in the fractions and the Party must react quickly to each and every opportunity to build our revolutionary forces. The opportunities to expose this system abound as the bosses race headlong into imperialist war, financed by even more racist super-exploitation, gutting pensions and benefits; where every new reform seems to just tighten the noose around our neck. The pages of our paper, filled with communist analysis and practical international examples of political struggle, must provide the training these new revolutionaries need.

The wider the circulation, the better able we will be to take advantage of opportunities to bring communist ideas into the class struggle and set the basis for revolutionary growth. And as political attacks intensify, RED FLAG will play an even more important role bringing the Party line and experience to comrades, their base and workers in general.

## Fight for “Red Flag”

This May Day marks the beginning of our campaign to increase circulation, subscriptions and donations to put the paper on firmer footing. We need the help of every Party member and Red Flag reader.

We want this campaign to not only increase the numbers, but also to make the content more politically useful. More workers, students and soldiers must step forward to contribute articles and letters on how communist revolution relates to their particular struggle. These reports from the “battlefield” should spark debate, questions and criticisms. We need the benefit of your experiences to sharpen our political line in the pages of Red Flag.

Raising the red flag must become more than a slogan! For the working class, it means building this publication into the uncompromising revolutionary tool we need.

## US RULERS REFORMING EDUCATION FOR WAR

The Obama Administration is pushing for more students to get 2 and 4 year degrees to improve technological training. The top imperialist rulers are using their Federal Government to organize education to meet their needs for more machinists, technicians, engineers, and soldiers with technical training to use and design weapons (see Red Flag 3/10).

A new report called “Transforming American Education—Learning Powered by Technology” from the Office of Educational Technology of the US Department of Education calls for nearly doubling the proportion of students getting a 2 or 4 year de-

gree by 2020. The imperialist bosses need more young people to learn both patriotism and technology to serve the rulers in expanding wars. That’s why there is a move to adopt national standards in education. This means lower wages, worse working conditions for teachers and other workers, as well as larger and fewer classes and worsening conditions for the students.

The anti-cuts movement’s leadership’s call to “Defend Public Education” – no matter how well intentioned - goes nicely with the US rulers’ plans of “reforming education” for their war needs, attacking the needs of the working class. The top im-

perialists want a multi-racial student body won to their goals of carrying out racist mass murder for profit worldwide. We must not side with liberal imperialists who want to win us to illusions in reform and reorganized capitalist education by attacking workers even harder, with higher taxes for workers as wages fall. For example, the LA Unified School District is proposing a property tax increase of \$100 per family to pay for schools. The only way to get education that serves the working class is with a communist revolution to get rid of the racist profit system and its inevitable wars for world domination.



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[www.icwpredflag.org](http://www.icwpredflag.org)

# Revolutionary Way-of-Thinking Answer To Boeing CEO's Threats

SEATTLE, WA, 3/5— “It can’t happen here,” became the joke last week in one machining area after a senior employee and friend of our Party warned everyone that fascism *is* coming in an on-the-job discussion/action meeting. We continued the discussion debating whether communist revolution was the only real solution to the bosses’ escalating attacks.

Boeing commercial CEO Jim Albaugh had just declared his “preference” for building future planes in the Puget Sound area. He made pious pledges to limit more subcontracting. He had only two “warnings”: no more strikes and “escalation of wages.” To add insult to injury, Albaugh made these demands days after receiving a 3 million dollar bonus.

As bad as the CEO’s threats, the union’s response was even worse. They said Albaugh’s front-page interview sent a “mixed message.” Spreading this distortion disarms us for the class warfare ahead: think bitter contract battle in 2012.

The International tellingly omitted any reference to the no-strike demand. This fits in nicely with IAM international president Buffenbarger’s desire to change the nature of negotiations. He wants “non-adversarial roles” where company and workers get together “in the interests of national security (see Red Flag 2/24).”

## Bosses’ Government Support\$ Lockouts; Racist Job Cuts

Our meeting made plans to build rank-and-file solidarity with Californian Rio Tinto strikers, who are fighting the same kind of fascist attacks we are. Rio Tinto mining company just received over \$300 million in federal stimulus money even as they lock out their workers (see article below).

Meanwhile, the Congress just passed a multi-billion dollar “jobs creation” bill that slashes taxes for “small businesses” that hire. This idea, enthusiastically endorsed by Obama, came from Boeing CEO McNerney who wanted money to finance a duplicate supply chain for the new South Carolina plant. This new supply chain will guarantee that nothing on the upcoming Dreamliner jets produced in the South will touch union hands. The long history of racism has cut wages by two-thirds in this area. This multi-billion-tax holiday, taking advantage of historical racist cuts, will mean massive wage reductions for all aerospace workers.

Rio Tinto strikers and Boeing workers bear the brunt of the bosses’ government’s concerted effort to rebuild industry—key for their imperialist war plans—on our backs. The union advocates unity with the bosses. We need multi-racial working class unity that advances the struggle to crush the

bosses’ war plans and fascist attacks with communist revolution.

## Attacks Open Door To New Way of Thinking

“I hate to admit this,” said another machinist after reading the latest issue of Red Flag and discussing how trade unionist ideology has left us defenseless before the bosses’ onslaught. “I’ve always been a big supporter of capitalism and “democracy” and all that stuff, but I’m starting to come around to your way of thinking [i.e. that communist revolution is the only solution].”

Another friend spelled out more on this “way of thinking.” “We’ll fight,” he vowed, “but the deck is stacked against us. If more of us learn these attacks are because of the war’s money needs and the bosses’ crisis that is good. It’s worth the fight.” “You’re going to make sure this ends up in the paper [i.e. Red Flag],” interrupted the first machinist, turning to our comrade.

Here it is! Now these workers must take this revolutionary communist analysis and run with it. Help distribute the paper, circulate our solidarity letter, and join the ICWP!

## RIO TINTO MINERS OPEN TO REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST IDEAS

On February 8<sup>th</sup> and also March 6<sup>th</sup>, a group of high school students and a few teachers went to Boron, California, to talk to the boron workers there. They had been locked out since January 31<sup>st</sup> by the enormous international company Rio Tinto after they refused to accept part-time instead of full-time work, lose their benefits and take big pay cuts. The company also demanded in their “final offer” the right to use contractors that hire non-union workers.

The union set up picket lines of small group of workers at the company entrances. Our group went to two of these entrances on Feb, 28<sup>th</sup> “I felt the workers would be closed-minded and patriotic, especially when I saw their American flags. Then, when we showed them our newspaper the **Red Flag**, they said thank you,” said one student. “They were really grateful”, said another student. A teacher said, “I felt the same way at first. However, the workers’ response shows how the American flags don’t really represent their beliefs.”

Several workers told us with real class anger about the way the capitalist crisis has already affected them: losing their homes, working two jobs to make ends meet, and seeing a dead end future for their children. “The workers liked it when we talked about how all the unions are selling us out, and what we need to do is a communist revolution, not reforms,” said another student.

Several strikers agreed that capitalism is the cause of the attacks. A striker who thought revolution was a good idea wanted to know what went wrong in Russia and China. After hearing that socialism, not communism, failed in these countries, he said he would read Red Flag and the ICWP web site.

Another student added, “In times of crisis, the workers can go one of two ways, towards fascism

or towards communism. That’s why it’s important for us to reach them with our ideas.” Another student said, “One of the workers told me that we’re taught in school that capitalism is great and has no faults-- the ideal system.” But, “When we work, we see how corrupt it is and how it doesn’t consider our needs,” said the worker, “we need to expose it and organize against it.”

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 500 members marched across the freeway overpass to one of the entrances, held a rally there and then marched back. Again, we were there with our newspaper the **Red Flag**. Everyone we talked to thanked us for being there and for our paper - except for one woman and one union official. We got out 150 issues of the **Red Flag**. We really learned that some workers are already questioning capitalism, and that many workers are very open to communism.

One comrade said, “One Irish worker I talked to was very happy to see the paper. He shook my hand and said ‘It is a pleasure to meet you.’ He talked about the indentured servitude of Irish and other white workers when they came to the U.S. I



compared this to the treatment of African slaves when they came. I asked him what happened when the African slaves and white indentured servants united. He said, ‘freedom.’ I said ‘But now we’re wages slaves. We have to fight together for real freedom with communist revolution.’ ”

“A worker told me about how the company received \$304 million in TARP money”, said a student, “The worker said: The company spent it on scabs and on cops protecting the factory”. The company is spending \$50,000 a day on security. The TARP money is supposedly for “green technology”. Green as in the money used to attack the locked out workers. The attack on these workers is part of the bosses’ fascist drive. ICWP urges workers and students to support the Rio Tinto workers taking **Red Flag** and our friends to support this fight.

# COMMUNIST EDUCATION WILL LIBERATE THE WORKING CLASS

Education has changed in the last few decades—in appearance, anyway. The teacher as lecturer mode has been in disfavor, having been replaced by “collaborative learning.” Student projects are favored over tests as instruments of evaluation. “Peer teaching is another buzz word in operation for many years. However, the purpose of education is still solidly in place. Schools still serve the needs of the ruling class, not the working class. They still are sorting devices, replicating the existing class society. They still push anti-communism, pro-capitalism, racism, sexism, etc., only now more dangerously, since classrooms have a progressive veneer.

The classroom methodologies differ from those of years ago, but although the form may have changed, the content that’s learned is another matter. Now racism and sexism (“prejudice”) in literature and previous textual historical interpretation are acknowledged, in a limited way, but their causes are either not given any explanation, or the explanations given are liberal nonsense. The working class is still blamed for society’s ills. Programs at universities such as UCLA teach education majors to examine imperialism and exploitation, however, what’s taught in these institutions is unscientific and inaccurate. A woeful lack of understanding of historical phenomena is the inevitable result. Analyses of the forces that have shaped history assiduously avoid Marxism and Leninism, and are stripped of any real impact and meaning.

In English and history classes, a pedagogy called constructivism is pushed. This pedagogy is based upon students “constructing” meaning from incredibly limited material. Certainly students should connect what they’re presented with their own knowledge and experience, and certainly students’ knowledge and experience is very valuable. Nevertheless, working class students have a right to understand profoundly historical developments and what’s going on now and why. That can only happen when information is imparted, and then a dialogue ensues about the meaning and application of that information. In a classroom, that is often done by a lecture/discussion led by a teacher.

Communist education will be more like the study groups we have now. Smaller groups will actually be able to grapple with the meaning of what they read and relate it to their own lives. But communist ideas will always come to the working class from outside, as Lenin says in What is To Be Done. Anarchists and revisionists like the People’s Organizing Committee that we met in New Orleans overtly reject the role of ideology, saying that people will spontaneously see from their experiences what the nature of society is and what needs to be done.

In this they are in basic agreement with Paolo Freire and his Pedagogy of the Oppressed. While this article may not be the time to give an in-depth analysis of Freire, we think that his “pedagogy,”

while it has a left cover, is fundamentally anti-communist. It is not enough to reject the pedagogy of the capitalist instructor who overtly teaches ruling class lies. The working class deserves the truth, a scientific understanding of history and society that has been developed by Marxist thinkers over the past century and a half. Freire creates a false dichotomy between “banking” education versus “problem posing” education, where an educator (or communist leader) who shares information is understood to be filling the students with the contents of the narration, like filling up an account in the bank. Another example of his anti-communist, anti-working class position is his point of view that workers have been so dehumanized that propaganda (communist ideas), rather than a means of liberation which workers grasp as an explanation of their situation, and a solution, is merely a means of their further dehumanization. The role of communist ideas is to empower the learner to use the tools of historical and dialectical materialism to understand society, and the process of change. The study/action groups that we have now, where we study the lessons of class struggle, from the Communist Manifesto to this week’s Red Flag, relate them to our own experiences, and then plan how to apply them to the class struggle, is the model we want to follow when planning communist education.

# CAPITALIST EDUCATION WILL NEVER SERVE THE WORKING CLASS

El Salvador—“I don’t have the patience to wait while the bosses continue to attack us. I’m accustomed to fight and I don’t want to do what the union wants me to do: to have more patience with the current Funes government and the FMLN,” stated a teacher and member of the program EDUCO (Education with Community Participation).

In El Salvador there are two ways to become a teacher. One is by law through public education and the other under the program EDUCO. The Communal Associations for Education participate in this, which are made up of parents who contract the teachers. This program was implemented by ARENA (the Party of the government of El Salvador for 20 years) in the decade of the 1990’s, financed by the World Bank. In the year 1997 it was awarded as the best project, given the repression against the teachers including psychological, economic and sexist mistreatment.

Thousands of teachers contracted under the program EDUCO, that includes approximately 8300 teachers, have started a struggle to end this program that violates the rights of education workers, mainly because they don’t have job security. This type of program has been implemented in Guatemala, Honduras and the US.

This program has been converted into the most used strategy of the oligarchies to influence the thinking of the teachers’ organization with the firm goal of opposing it, in addition to exercising control over the younger teachers to stop them from organizing, dividing these youth.

Likewise, President Mauricio Funes and the FMLN don’t want or need to end this program, since they continue to loyally obey the rules of the US imperialists, who are not willing to get rid of it mainly because it allows them to use the classrooms to implement education that strengthens the capitalist system.

The union leaders of the “Bases Magisteriales” (Rank and file teachers) and SIMIDUCO (Union of teachers of EDUCO) represent the union wing of this group, dominated by “Revolutionary Tendency” led by socialist Dagoberto Gutierrez. They are negotiating the future of this program in favor of the capitalists, throwing away the gains of the struggles of honest teachers.

The teachers organized in the ICWP are fighting for an education to liberate the working class, against the mistreatment of the capitalist system. We have a club of teachers who support us in the struggle to organize our fellow teachers.

The teachers need to understand that as long as capitalism exists, in whatever form we’re hired, there’s no guarantee of job security, especially in the current crisis. Only in a communist system will education workers see their highest ideals realized, of a dignified job with the conditions needed to develop the scientific programs that help the students learn to serve the working class.

A communist education system that gives priority to practice and scientific research that helps re-

solve the problems of the working class should motivate our struggle.

Contracted teachers in this program must organize and fight for the unification of the educational system under a communist system.

The teachers organizing for communist revolution in the ICWP internationally must organize more clubs and study action groups with Red Flag, voice of the international working class. This weekend we carried out the first meetings to plan our participation in the march on international workers’ day, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

**MARCH  
ON MAY  
DAY WITH  
ICWP**

## EL SALVADOR

# REVOLUTIONARIES WILL BUILD ICWP

El Salvador—"I'm not afraid of contradictions. On the contrary, we have to sharpen them since that's how political development is generated. Its part of the dialectical vision that we have to take on as our own," stated a teacher.

"We have to push building the International Communist Workers' Party—PCOI—because it's the one that best addresses our reality. Our communist vision shouldn't follow the lines of people who think they have the absolute truth, but instead with those who have been putting the line into practice with us," maintained a Salvadoran worker.

"In the FMLN we had experiences with divisions like this and we think that they pushed us to continue the struggle for the left and that's why we'll continue with the international proletariat," stated an ex-combatant of the FMLN and now a member of the ICWP.

All these experiences and many more were related during a discussion at a conference that took place in Central America, which included industrial workers, farm workers, students and teachers from the USA, Mexico and Central America. The representatives from El Salvador arrived knowing about the situation which the working class was experiencing, having read and analyzed the two positions which were presented through the help of the person who has been traditionally responsible for the international communist work (we tried to ignore that the comrades from the New York area never

sent us any document presenting their position, much less a phone call or email).

It was a sharp blow for the area of El Salvador to know that people who we considered comrades in the east of the USA haven't wanted, up to the present time, to give a responsible and dialectical explanation about the internal struggle that has been occurring for more than ten years inside the highest body of the organization to which we belonged, some of us for 20 years, and that we were preparing enthusiastically for the international conference for the middle of this year, as we had agreed in the International Central Committee in 2009.

It was interesting that the person in charge of the international work never attacked—as anyone could expect, given the magnitude of the conflict—on the contrary, he propelled us to an objective and dialectical analysis of the moment. This comradely attitude helped us to make the decision to join the ICWP.

The struggle must continue. Each member of this delegation of youth and Salvadoran veterans made the decision to continue forward in the struggle for the dictatorship of the proletariat through the ICWP. We are confident that the comrades from other areas who participated in this meeting in Central America understand that the fight for Communism will be full of obstacles and that only through the dialectical vision of each moment can

we confront these obstacles without falling. We need to continue advancing with the ideas needed to lead the working class.

After this debate, the established agenda continued and in the evening a group of young comrades presented us with a discussion of the international situation and how it affects our class. Also, after the meeting, we continued to talk until late at night about the influence of religion in capitalist education and how to fight it from a communist point of view. It was an inspiring night because of the high level of discussion, with many not so young learning from the younger comrades. The next day the reports from the areas present were given and then there were questions and suggestions about how to improve the work in each of the areas. There was also discussion about the importance of writing about our struggles for communism in the newspaper Red Flag.

To finalize the political activity, we went with friends from the country where the activity was held to tour the area, which we all enjoyed very much, seeing the diversity of people of different "races" who get along so well, without stress.

P.S. This week we began to circulate the newspaper Red Flag throughout El Salvador. In our communist clubs we have begun meetings to analyze the paper, and to plan our participation in this year's May Day March.

## A SYSTEM BASED ON RACISM MUST BE SMASHED

San Diego, March 2. In mid-February, members of a fraternity at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) threw a party to ridicule Black History Month. The party was called the "Compton Cookout" (Compton is a city near Los Angeles with a mainly black and Latino population). The party invitation was a long list of vicious racist comments. The UCSD administration initially refused to discipline the party's organizers, but held a teach-in on February 24.

Angry black students blasted UCSD Chancellor Fox and led a walkout from the teach-in, demanding "real action," and making a list of demands on the administration. These multi-racial protests by many students and faculty continued when a noose was found in a library and a KKK-style hood was placed on a campus statue. Students on other campuses condemned this open racist attack. The ICWP is pointing out that this open racism, the cuts and the entire capitalist system are based on racist exploitation and that it has to be smashed with communist revolution. Anti-racists demanded and the UCSD administration agreed to recruit a more "diverse" student body--eventually. These multiple racist incidents show that, as the student protesters pointed out, the tiny number of black students at UCSD, that is, institutional racism, reinforces racist attitudes. But the admission of more black students will not end racism. Capitalism needs it to maintain its super exploitation. Economic and racist inequality can never end without getting rid of capitalism. Only communism will end racism, ending the exploitation of the working class.

These racist incidents occur in the middle of a growing movement against school cutbacks and fee hikes. Racism is fundamental to capitalist exploitation. It's the Achilles heel of capitalism. In the cur-



**FERVOR:** Students rally Wednesday at UC San Diego, where administrators hosted a packed gathering to promote understanding after two racial incidents.

rent crisis, sharper attacks on black and latino workers and students are the cutting edge of attacks on all workers and students.

The rulers use racism to try to divide students and workers at a time that we most need working class unity to fight to get rid of capitalism. Compton was a major center of rebellion during the 1992 uprising against police terror when the cops who beat Rodney King were exonerated. The rulers fear the potential revolutionary leadership that black workers

and youth can give to all workers. As they build fascism for war, the bosses attack black youth and workers hardest, as well as immigrants and Arab youth and workers. Fighting the racism of the capitalist system, recruiting more black and other youth and workers to the fight to destroy racism with communist revolution, are key to building a mass communist party, the ICWP, to do away with racist capitalism once and for all.

# Communists Must Fight Racism

Some ideas must be featured in every issue of **RED FLAG**. So far the new paper is doing a good job of explaining inter-imperialist rivalry and the drive to war. It's made a good start on explaining communism. Now we need to do a better job with racism.

We have often called racism the "Achilles heel" of capitalism. That comes from an old Greek myth about the hero Achilles. He was supposed to be invulnerable because his mother dipped him in the River Styx (running through Hell) except at his heel, where she held him. The story goes that he was killed by a poisoned arrow through his heel. "Achilles' heel" has become a metaphor for "a deadly weakness in spite of overall strength."

Capitalism is not invulnerable – workers can and will destroy it with communist revolution. To do that, we need to put the fight against racism "front and center" of our communist work.

Like Achilles, infant capitalism was soaked in hellish racism. European (and later north American) masters invented the idea of "race" to justify brutal slavery and to separate laborers who otherwise would have united to rebel and overthrow their plantation system. After wage slavery replaced chattel slavery (mainly in the 1800s) pro-capitalist professors and other scribblers redoubled their efforts to produce seemingly "scientific" racist theories like Eugenics, IQ psychology, Sociobiology, and "Culture of Poverty." These are still taught in colleges today, although the rulers now have newer and slicker forms of racism. The rulers institutionalized racist super-exploitation and repression to maximize their profits and to "divide and conquer" the working class.

The anti-black racism at the root of U.S. capitalism was extended to immigrant workers (mainly those with darker skins) and became a model for bosses around the world. Turkish workers in Greece, Nicaraguans in Costa Rica, Koreans in Japan, indigenous people in Mexico, New Zealand

and many other places, -- the list is long. As long as workers let our class be divided by racism – whenever we don't fight racism as a united class -- we remain exploited and oppressed.

But racism is also the "deadly weakness" of capitalism. Its brutality and super-exploitation spur fight-back, resistance and rebellion. When Haitian slaves freed themselves through revolution in 1803, they inspired working people (slaves and others) worldwide. During the Filipino insurrection against US imperialism (1899-1902) black U.S. soldiers rebelled and refused to fight. During the 1960s, anti-racist rebellions in U.S. cities energized the labor movement as black workers led wildcat strikes in auto, postal, and other industries that were joined by masses of white workers. Immigrant workers in France today are leading the fight-back there against plant closings, job cuts, and police terror.

Black and latin workers in the US, and workers targeted by the bosses' racism elsewhere, are usually concentrated in factories, transit, and military units that are key to the bosses' super-profits and to their ability to maintain their whole racist system. That's a contradiction for the capitalists and an opportunity for the **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY**, as shown in the article "My sons are not going to die...." (**RED FLAG** 3/10//10)

We must vigorously and consistently expose and fight the racism at the core of capitalism and show why only communism can end racism. Only this will make communism possible!



## Hurry Up and Organize!

Hurry up and wait, hurry up and wait. That is a fact of life in the military. But it is also a reality in real life. Many of my fellow soldiers with whom I served in the Iraq war have come back to a country that has no jobs. The waiting here is done at the unemployment line. These same friends are also trying to go to school. With cuts in higher education and spikes in tuition costs, it's hard to maintain a consistent college enrollment. Soldiers coming back from war are mad. They are mad because the harsh reality of capitalism is evident at home. Capitalism is not serving the needs of the international working class, and the reality is that it needs to be destroyed with communist revolution. This reality needs to be stressed among soldiers everywhere.

A fellow soldier once told me that he wanted to be a cop when he got back from war. This was the same friend whose family has a rich background in the Zapatista movement in Mexico. We talked about rebellion and imperialism. But this notion of becoming a cop was a bit disheartening. When I finally gave him communist literature, I knew that because of his experiences in life he was open to belong to the revolutionary movement. When we got back home, he actually attended a demonstration against local killer cops. I admire this friend

because he has a deep understanding of how capitalism works. He also understands that capitalism can never be reformed to meet the needs of the workers around the world, even when the rulers try to convince us that things will get better.

State officials will have us believe that better days are in the future. Economic downturns have existed in the past, they exist today, and they will always exist in the future as long as capitalism is in place. Capitalists will try to keep capitalism afloat by all means necessary. But just as workers will become more rebellious, soldiers should also see the need to rebel to turn the guns around. It should be apparent to many soldiers that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are part of this vicious system attempting to survive the current fight among the imperialists. This fight isn't ours even when we are at the front lines.

Soldiers like my friend should strive to organize a revolutionary movement that puts workers, soldiers, and students together in the fight against capitalism. We cannot wait any longer to put this plan into action. By joining the new International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP), soldiers make an important commitment to build a movement that takes all worker's interests into consideration. Hurry up and organize for communist revolution!

**"I feel a change gone come, oh yes it will"**

The March 4<sup>th</sup> Day of Action to protest the budget cuts in California was historical! It was powerful to see so many students fight for a common cause as they did in the 1960's during the civil rights movement. The community colleges joined forces with UC, CSU, faculty, and even K-12, to take a stand together in protest to shout, "They say cut back, we say fight back."

On our campus, we had by far the largest turnout for a political cause in recent history. Anywhere from 80-100 students showed up to the rally and almost 20 told their stories at the microphone. The police surrounded us, even some shadowing us and staying out of the students' view. We all felt empowered by organizing such a mass movement to fight back.

I even witnessed students make the connection behind the budget cuts and racism that divides and conquers. The government supports racist policies and once the students realized that racism has many faces (not just someone using racial epithets) they understood why our signs said "Fight Racist Budget Cuts." They also got the connection with the war, shouting, "Bail out education, not war" and "Invest in students, stop funding the war."

I tuned into all the news stations to check in with the rest of my comrades on their efforts downtown and could only see it on one channel. I found this as a real eye opener seeing that the bosses do not want us to know that we are united and lend credibility to our fight.

I have heard repeatedly that there just isn't any money to fund public education while they provide billions of dollars in tax-cuts to the country's richest corporations. Instead, they continue to cut our categorical programs, raise our fees, and lay-off our faculty who have already taken a pay cut through furloughs, cuts to medical insurance for employees, and over-enrolled classrooms.

Everyone should be paying their fair share of taxes; unfortunately, they openly sabotage the very thing that can pull this country out of this financial crisis and fully provide financial support to each educational institution. The bosses are scared now! We are coming and with each cut, they are only creating more opportunities for us. "I feel a change gone come, oh yes it will."

--Red Community College Student

*Red Flag comments: Congratulations on your rally, and thanks for your letter! We agree that the capitalist bosses are making the working-class pay for its huge crisis through cutbacks, increased taxes, and more-- up to and including world war. But there can be no "fair share of taxes" for the workers when ALL tax money goes to the bosses' government to maintain their class dictatorship over us. The only thing that can pull our class out of the crisis is communist revolution for workers' power.*



**In this Edition there are statements in articles that the editorial board of Red Flag would like to criticize. We open our newspaper pages to anyone who would like to comment on the criticism or would like to voice their opinion on other matters.**

### Proud Student Comrade Leader of ICWP

I always knew that there was a leadership role I had to play at some point in my life. Little did I know that the leader inside me was already starting to develop. I began to read the newspaper, watch the news, it was my new years resolution to be more informed on what is going on in the world. At first I thought it was a mistake because I was angry with this "democratic government" so I came to the conclusion that this government is not even close to being democratic. Being a high school student there are many clubs you can join to be a part of and become a leader, none of them suited me. Until one day a person came up to me and handed me the *Challenge* newspaper and I said, "Well what's this?" This person simply replied, "Make a difference." I read that newspaper from corner to corner, I studied it night after night, I knew what I had to do, and I knew where my leadership role was going to play a big part. Later on, the same person that gave me the *Challenge* newspaper handed me another newspaper with a different title, *Red Flag*, and I asked this person what happened, I got a response. My thoughts, ideas and beliefs remained the same. I went to meetings about this workers' movement, I am learning from them as I hope they are learning from me. I am slowly but surely becoming a member of ICWP and I couldn't be more proud of my comrades and I.

*Red Youth*

### Comments About "Confront Worldwide Capitalist Crisis, Threat of WWII: Organize for Communist Revolution"

Students read and studied this article in the last edition of *Red Flag* and thought that it was an excellent article. However a question was posed by one of the students. The question was, "if the current capitalist crisis is worse than the crisis of the Great Depression of the 1930's, how come it feels that it's not as bad"? Answers were given such as, "the bosses have bailed out the banks and huge corporations like auto industry, they have printed more money and they have built more prisons", all to alleviate the crisis. However, the students felt that these comments and the discussion around them were not enough, or were not sufficient in explaining why the working class was not in conditions as bad as during the Great Depression. They were asking for more convincing arguments. Can *Red Flag* offer a more convincing argument?

*Young Students/Discussion & Action Group*

### My First Experience Doing Party Work

I am a Community college student. I have recently joined the new party and am the only Party member at my school. I'm going to be talking about my first experience doing party work, which occurred on March 4<sup>th</sup>, during a protest at my school regarding the budget cuts.

I went in a little timid, not sure whether I would say that this was a Communist newspaper or just a newspaper in general, but eventually deciding to do the former. I was astonished about how open and receptive my fellow students were towards

me and the paper. I was expecting to get a lot of dirty looks, which I received, but far less than I expected. I was actually greeted with more open hands and open minds. People were willing to openly talk to me about the paper (despite the presence of campus and city police at the rally), particularly the first article regarding the budget cuts. I really enjoyed telling many of them that it isn't just the current budget crisis but the whole capitalist system that's the problem. The most impressive thing was when my own friends came up to me, before I could offer some the paper, they demanded it. Later on one of them came back and helped me distribute the paper.

What this experience taught me is how valuable the work of getting out the paper is, how we should not underestimate those who aren't in the party, and how open peoples' minds are to communist ideas. This week when I see my friends, I plan on following up, listening to what they thought and struggling with them to bring them into the party.

*Red College Student*

### The article on the March 4th action shows that many comrades fought for communist ideas, using Red Flag.

But when describing our activities in the teachers' union, it reveals a weakness our party has in putting forward communist ideas in mass organizations. That's a problem faced historically by the communist movement, one that it has been unable to solve. We face it now with a better understanding that reform and revolution are contradictory. We understand that we can't solve it unless we make communist ideas primary in the class struggle. If we fail to do this, we will never get to communism. Therefore we no other alternative but to win this struggle, no matter how hard.

The article praises teachers for calling for job actions and saying that students and teachers won't pay for the capitalist crisis. This is good if it is accompanied by showing that reform won't end the attacks and that we need a communist revolution. Showing education reform is for imperialist war helps make this clear. Since the time given us to speak (one minute) in these meetings is very limited, we should pass out a leaflet making all the necessary points, arguments and revolutionary conclusions. Then, we could use the speaking time we have to put forward the need for communist revolution and call on fellow teachers to read our leaflet for a more profound analysis.

We need to find more creative ways to make communist ideas primary in the class struggle and put forward as openly as possible in the mass organizations we belong to. Spreading our ideas massively has everything to do with the contradiction reform and revolution. Let's resolve in favor of revolution. As always, we would like to hear from our readers, friends and members their opinions on this subject or others.

# Join ICWP

### Dear Red Flag:

We would like to comment on the article "You can call it a 'What is to be Done?' Potluck" published in the last issue (10/3/10). Undoubtedly it is a very good and useful article but it has a series of statements that we think the author did not think through completely before writing them.

The author wrote: "Does this mean we should lie down and accept defeat? Not at all. It means we must build strikes around revolutionary demands. To oppose bank bailouts is to oppose capitalism. To oppose imperialist wars (and its intensified racism) is to oppose capitalism itself."

First, we question the concept of "revolutionary demands." We think there are no such things. Our goal and the historic duty of the working class are to destroy capitalism. You can't demand that capitalism auto-destroy itself. Our task calls for revolutionary slogans to direct and guide the working class along that path. Our revolutionary slogans are "Smash all borders" and not "Unconditional amnesty now;" "Smash US imperialism" and not "US out of Iraq now." Revolutionary slogans should not be mistaken with reformist demands: all demands on capitalism are reformists. All our slogans to our class must be revolutionary communist.

Our next concern is the statements "To oppose bank bailouts is to oppose capitalism. To oppose imperialist wars...is to oppose capitalism itself." We think these are also unintentionally misleading. To oppose some aspects of capitalism doesn't in and of itself mean that one opposes capitalism as a whole or that one sees communism as the solution. Some sectors of the ruling class, for example, are opposed to some programs or policies of other sectors of their class. For their own capitalist reasons some are opposed to the bank bailouts, some are opposed to Middle Eastern wars, some are opposed to Obama's health care reform, etc. That is why the main wing of the ruling class imposes fascism to force all dissenting capitalist to tow its line.

For workers to consciously oppose capitalism they need revolutionary communist ideas. Won't these ideas, they would enthusiastically support slogans like "Smash Imperialism that wages war for profits with communist revolution."

**We would like to hear from our readers and writers on these or other subjects.**



# “Nobel Peace” Obama Invades Haiti: For US Bosses’ WWII Oil Needs

To the disillusionment of many, “Nobel Peace” Obama has extended the US bosses’ racist killing fields from Iraq to Afghanistan-Pakistan-Yemen and Somalia to the recent invasion and occupation of Haiti under the guise of earthquake disaster “relief”. As the Commander in Chief of the most racist, murderous military machine in history, he has no choice but to wage wider oil wars for his imperial masters.

Since WWII, oil has been the basis of Obama’s masters’ world domination. And, although over 75% of the world’s oil has been nationalized since then, US imperialists’ military and economic power still rest on it because oil can only be traded in dollars. Thus, the dollar is the world’s reserve currency, allowing Washington to print money at will. Losing this advantage would precipitate US imperialism’s demise.

Empires, however, never crumble on their own or peacefully. They always go down in flames, destroyed either by their rivals or, in modern times, by a revolutionary working class led by its communist party. Russian workers ended the Czars centuries-old empire with the October Revolution of 1917.

The International Communist Workers Party’s goal is to lead millions of workers, soldiers and students, to turn all the bosses’ wars and looming WWII into armed struggles for communism.

As the world’s imperialists prepare for WWII, they have two oil strategies. One is to control the maximum amount of it now, wielding it as an economic weapon against their competitors. The other, that has become primary, is to secure the energy needed for WWII for their war industries and armies, while denying it to their rivals. (See Red Flag 3/10/2010 “War Dance to Wider Oil Wars on the Road to WWII” for China’s war strategy).

The US bosses’ pursuit of both strategies has destabilized the Greater Middle East region. War with Iran will make matters even worse. Domsday scenarios have Iran closing the Hormuz Strait where 40% of the world’s crude passes daily. Fur-

thermore, a US-Iran conflict can draw in China and Russia whose world domination aspirations depend on controlling Iran’s vast energy resources.

In both cases, the US bosses will have to find secure energy sources in the Americas. However, with Venezuela tilting towards the China-Russia axis and the US and Mexico’s oil expected to run out in the next ten years, the oil deposits in the

while also visiting Guatemala and Mexico. This is Russia’s response to the US bases and missile defense shield in Eastern Europe.

As Russian, Chinese and European bosses’ influence grows in Latin America, the Monroe Doctrine – two centuries of US bosses’ domination of the region – is becoming irrelevant. Therefore, controlling the Gulf of Mexico-Caribbean-Venezuela’s energy resources and the surrounding strategic waterways are crucial to the US bosses’ desperate efforts to do battle defending their empire.

Furthermore, the US bosses’ energy needs, already huge, will increase enormously in a world war. They presently import 13 million barrels of oil a day. A US soldier consumes on the average 16 gallons of gasoline a day, or nearly a barrel of oil a day. In WWII the US deployed a 14 million-man army. The gigantic war machine needed to fight Russia and China will require gargantuan quantities of oil.

For this, the US bosses will have to drastically reduce energy consumption at home and

occupy all energy producing countries in this hemisphere. However, the capitalists of most of these countries, pursuing their own agenda, are arming themselves against the US. Wider, more genocidal wars is all capitalism in crisis can offer us. The International Communist Workers Party offers the international working class the road to communist revolution as our only viable alternative. Join us!



Gulf of Mexico-Caribbean-Venezuela basin are the closest, most abundant and the easiest to secure.

That’s the reason Obama sent more than 20,000 US troops and an armada of 20 ships headed by the USS Carl Vinson – the world’s biggest warship – to secure the oil, gas and rare mineral deposits not only in Haiti but in neighboring Santo Domingo and in the adjacent waters – including Cuba’s. In 2006, Cuba discovered a mammoth 20 billion barrel oil field in these waters (total US estimated reserves are 21 billion).

This show of force also sent a warning to Moscow and Beijing who have recently signed major agreements to explore and develop Cuba’s oil industry and modernize its ports. Moscow is also seeking to acquire a military base there – a main objective of foreign minister Lavrov’s mid-February visit. Lavrov scheduled a military exercise with Nicaragua,



## The Red Flag Flies in Spain

Spain—Comrades, we have a situation that we have to take into account. We are supporting the political ideology that will lead us to build a communist party that supports the needs of the workers and that fights actively against the only enemy: capitalism. From this base, we know now more than ever that we don’t support individuals, that we follow the political line that will lead us in a direct way, without stages, to the building of communism.

I also think that it will be important to understand that no one can appropriate our flag, because the Red Flag of Communism is us, the workers, not only the intellectuals nor those who have more money. On my part, I assure you that some of those who organized me don’t know how to read or write. They didn’t have a special gift for speaking, and even more I had to struggle to un-

derstand the message that some of the comrades in the mountains told us.

These workers are the ones who taught me a communist line that I now share with other members of our class. We should build the International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) as the party that I dream that some day, sooner rather than later, my successors can enjoy.

I remember comrade Kike (alias of a comrade leader who died some time ago). When the meetings of the collective ended he always told an anecdote about the war that we lived through in El Salvador. I learned many things that helped me improve as a person, also from comrade 00, a person who was scientific about organizing the masses (he was a farm worker). These were some of my points of reference in learning the discipline needed to develop communist politics.

We can’t exclude people who have never read a book about capitalist education. The examples they show in their struggles against capitalism have been fundamental to the growth of our communist party around the world. The newspaper Red Flag has to be as Lenin said: our weapon to communicate among the workers of the world.

We cannot think that the ideas of the workers who fight back everyday, sometimes without eating, to build or party only belong to a few of us. Those workers are part of the leadership because they are fighting for the same thing. We’ve won a dialectical battle and we have to struggle to push hard to build the new International Communist Workers’ Party (ICWP) and we must never give up on our maximum goal: FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM.