

RED FLAG



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

Red Flag to Boeing Strikers: Workers Need New Revolutionary Way of Thinking



RED FLAG JOINS BOEING WORKERS AND SUPPORTERS ON THE PICKET LINE

Seventeen hundred Boeing workers, with 20 or more years of working at the Long Beach plant, went on strike on May 11. Union leaders (UAW 148) describe this struggle as one to keep and improve pension and health benefits so they're equal to those of other Boeing workers. The company is demanding that workers pay 35% of health costs by the end of their contract and accept pension reductions.

But this strike is really part of the life and death struggle between us – the international working class -- and the world's capitalists-imperialists. To defeat the bosses we need unity and revolutionary communist ideas.

These are not ordinary times, and workers should not see this as an ordinary strike. This is a period of deepening worldwide capitalist crisis and widening imperialist wars.

These wars will inevitably lead to WWII for control of the world's markets, cheap labor and resources. The bosses are bent on making us pay for their crisis and to fight and die for their profits and empire.

On Friday, May 14, over 400 Boeing strikers – women and men, black, Latin, Asian and white – angrily marched and rallied outside the plant, together with their supporters. *Red Flag* was there to support the strikers, urging them to embrace communist ideas as the only real solution to the capitalists' genocidal plans.

We told strikers that reformism and trade union politics, no matter how militant, cannot stop the bosses' onslaught. Only by taking state power through communist revolution can we create the society and the world we need. Reformism and trade union politics will only chain us to our oppressors.

CAPITALISM: PROFITS TRUMP WORKERS' LIVES AND WELLBEING

At stake in this struggle are the livelihoods of 30,000 workers in 43 states who produce parts and assemble the C-17 plane. The Pentagon, the main buyer of these \$250 million planes, wants to close the program. That would mean closing this plant, perhaps by 2012.

When the bosses use C-17 planes in their bloody oil wars, it's workers who suffer and die. But when they stop building the planes, it's still workers who suffer and die.

The only way to resolve this contradiction is for workers to take power. We will use the planes and weapons we build to smash the bosses worldwide and to transport things we make to places where we need them.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is trying to save money. The US imperialists are rebuilding their war industries on the cheap, moving production to the non-union Southeast and West, and getting

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Rio Tinto Lock-Out Ends Miners Welcome Red Flag

May 16: Today teachers and high school students – members of ICWP from Los Angeles – walked under the hot sun, knocking on doors of homes in Boron, California, where Rio Tinto had locked-out its miners for over three months. Previous editions of *Red Flag* have covered this story, the job actions and the struggle.

This past Saturday, the locked-out workers voted for a contract that ended the lock-out and established a new labor agreement. Some miners said that it was “good that the lockout was over” and that “it was good to go back to work.” Others expressed reservations. “The new contract says that they (the company) can contract out workers if needed. This is not good,” said a veteran miner.

We explained that from Boeing, to all union shops, to education, the trend of



subcontracting is becoming permanent because of the capitalist crisis. The bosses are forced to attack workers and students in all forms, cutting hours, wages, health benefits and pensions, subcontracting, raising tuition and fees, slashing course offerings, and shortening the school year.

One family invited us in, and we had an extended conversation. At first one of those present did not fully believe that a crisis existed, but added, “I do

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Financial Regulation Can't Solve Capitalist Crisis of Overproduction

Behind the crisis that started in the US in 2008 and is now hitting Europe with a vengeance is the crisis of overproduction. Competing for market share, the capitalists produce more goods that could be sold in a shrinking market for a profit. Not having enough buyers, goods are left to rot or are destroyed, while billions go hungry and homeless.

Karl Marx, in the Communist Manifesto (more than 150 years ago) "...mention[s] the commercial crises that...put the existence of the entire bourgeois society on trial, each time more threateningly. In these crises, a great part, not only of the existing products, but also of the previously created productive forces, are periodically destroyed... [b]ecause there is too much ... means of subsistence, too much industry, too much commerce."

These crises are tremendously destructive; workers see their jobs destroyed, their neighborhoods laid waste, families torn apart, and lives wrecked by police terror, addictions, disease and starvation, and, as the crisis deepens--war.

The crises are also destructive for the bosses because overproduction destroys the market value of their capital: existing inventories of unsold goods, as well much of the plant and equipment used to produce them. Their money value disappears. In big overproduction crises, like the present one, many trillions of dollars of value go down the drain.

Of course no capitalist wants to lose money like this and the result is a financial crisis. Most capital is security on big loans; when its value disappears, bankers try to make another bank take the loss. In 2007, Goldman Sachs (GS) sold a portfolio of bad home loans to German banks for about a billion dollars. When the loans failed, the German banks had to be bailed out by the German government.

Now, the German banks, apparently encouraged by the US government, are suing GS. In fact, the US Government is cracking down on banking fraud. GS execs have been called before the Senate and the Feds are suing them for defrauding their investors.

Is the US government cracking down on GS? This doesn't seem to make sense, since the highest levels of the Obama (and previous) administrations are packed with former Goldman employees, like Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, and GS gave nearly \$1 million to the Obama campaign (*NY Times*, 4/25/10).

The main reason the U. S. government is attacking GS now is that there is a major struggle among U. S. capitalists to rein in the speculation of the big banks that triggered the financial crisis. They want new regulations to reverse the dominant capitalist economic ideology that downgrades the need for regulation of finance capital. During the "unregulated" 1990s and 2000s new and riskier kinds of investment such as hedge funds and derivatives arose which are being blamed for the current crisis.

Banks that rely on speculative investments are fighting the regulations because it could cost them big money. Requiring banks to invest more of their own money, keep more money on hand, or preventing them from getting "too big to fail" would make it harder to make profits by speculation. The Feds are getting tough on GS to make them pull back their opposition to increased regulation.

Like the banking regulations passed during the New Deal, the capitalist class as a whole is trying to stabilize an inherently unstable system. French President Sarkozy has even claimed that new U.S. regulation is needed to "save capitalism." (*The Guardian*[U.K.] 3/29/10) More regulation may prevent some financial crises, but it can't take the craziness out of financial markets. Before the current crisis hit, many bankers knew that investments backed by bad mortgages had huge risks, but they couldn't afford to be cautious while other capitalists were making big bucks. This is an important example of a fundamental feature of capitalism that Marx called the anarchy of capitalist production; because capitalists are competitors, they have to do risky things to keep up with the competition, or they'll lose out.

The deeper cause of the crisis was not the bankers' crazy behavior, but the long fall in the rate of profit

in the U. S. economy from its peak in the 1950s. The housing bubble and huge speculative investing, although risky, became necessary for the capitalists because of the lower rates of profit in the most basic way that capitalism makes profit, by exploiting the labor of workers who produce goods and services. Increased regulation of financial institutions is part of fascism, when the capitalist class moves to discipline their own class, forcing all the bosses to toe the line of the long-term interests of the capitalist system as a whole.

But finally, the falling rate of profit and the anarchy of capitalist production cause crises which can't be stopped by financial regulation. The world's bosses will be forced by these crises to go to war as the ultimate solution to overproduction—the destruction of the workers and productive capacity by bombs—and the ultimate solution to competition—wipe out your competitor.

As financial crises wrack the world, and the U.S. bosses lose out to China and other competitors' world wide, the expansion of the current wars in the Middle East to a third World War is only a matter of time. This makes the task of communists more urgent than ever, to build a **International Communist Workers' Party**, capable of leading workers in the fight to put an end to this crazy, destructive system and to turn the coming world war into communist revolution, where production will be based on need,



Workers Need New Revolutionary Way of Thinking

Boeing Strike From Page 1

union misleaders to help them impose similar wages and working conditions on all industrial workers.

Boeing bosses are among the main architects of this program for two reasons: first, to boost their short term profits; second, for advancing their long-term worldwide interests.

Boeing was long the world's largest commercial aircraft producer. Now Airbus is. Boeing profits dropped from \$2.7 billion in 2008 to \$1.3 billion last year. With China gearing up to enter the world's commercial aircraft market, Boeing's competition will sharpen.

Competition forces capitalists to maximize their profits. So they close or relocate factories to places where labor is cheaper. Profits dictate whether and how workers live or die.

Maximum profits decide which gang of capitalists rules the world. Those who make the most profits

control the world markets and can afford the best-equipped military.

Since WW II, US imperialists have dominated much of the world. Now they are being challenged by Russia, Europe and China. Chinese bosses, with the cheapest labor force, are a rising power, making the most profits. This means war – WWII - because US bosses won't peacefully give up their position .

THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS NEEDS COMMUNISM

Uniting Boeing workers with subcontractor workers in massive actions against Boeing could forge the multiracial and international movement we need to destroy the profit system with communist revolution. To make this happen, more workers must embrace a new way of thinking, as the ICWP leaflet pointed out.

Communist society will not have profits or parasitic bosses. We will produce goods to be used, not to make money. Worker won't be pitted against worker

or nation against nation. The more workers and the more factories the better, to produce for our class's needs, and the better to have masses of workers directly involved in making decisions for our class.

Industrial workers, especially those in the bosses' war industries, are key to revolution. When they become a political force against the bosses, they will put into motion all sectors of society, especially those in the military. Without red industrial workers and soldiers, communist revolution is impossible. Thus, industrial workers have a great responsibility.

ICWP calls on workers and students in the LA area to join Boeing strikers on the picket lines. The best solidarity will be to keep taking our friends and our revolutionary communist ideas to the strike. We will continue to spread word of the strike and build this movement in our workplaces, schools, and the military. Join the **International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP)** to put a new revolutionary communist way of thinking on the workers' agenda.



**Join the
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TRANSIT WORKERS SUPPORT BOEING STRIKE

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, May 12 — “Did you know that the Boeing workers in Long Beach went on strike last night?” commented a worker to others in the lunchroom at work. “No,” some said, “but let’s find more information about it so we can decide what to do.” “Let’s organize a visit to the strike,” said another worker.

“The Workers United Will Never Be Defeated,” “Asian, Latin, Black and White—Workers of the World Unite!” were some of the signs that a group of transit workers carried in solidarity with the striking Boeing workers (UAW Local 148). This show of support was the immediate answer by a group of readers of *Red Flag* when they found out that our class brothers and sisters had been forced to go on strike.

More than 25 workers responded positively to the idea of supporting the strikers. Not all of them could go the next day, but a multi-racial group of workers went, taking the message of support. Some thought that this show of working class solidarity was very much needed, especially since our contract expires this June. This means there is the possibility of a strike, and we’ll need the support of the whole working class. The unity on the picket line between the strikers and the transit workers created an atmosphere of struggle and friendship. The transit workers promised to bring this struggle to other friends at work and also to their union.

This support is a part of building the needed revolutionary communist consciousness among all workers. These Boeing workers play a key role in the production of the bosses’ war machinery, and in the

future workers like them could produce weapons to carry out the revolution.

The immediate reaction of the workers who went to the Boeing strike created lots of sympathy among our co-workers, and many wanted to know how the strikers had received us. Others asked and wanted to know more about communism. Many of these workers have been receiving the literature of our Party (ICWP) and understand that building these ties is the basis for real unity based on communist ideas.

The communist ideas in *Red Flag* have been guaranteed in this workplace, and some workers are willing to participate in study groups. As we’ve mentioned in previous articles, there is much sympathy for communism, but also some workers lack confidence and accurate information. Nevertheless, the articles about what is communism, the scientific and historical explanation of the development and struggle of the working class and its communist party open a whole new world of teaching and political education



LONG BEACH-MAY 14, 2010- BOEING STRIKERS

which are vital and crucial for the formation of new communists.

In these times of crisis and bosses’ war, more workers are open to our literature and our line. But since there are no shortcuts or magic formulas, it is very important that every member of ICWP take the maximum advantage of the communist potential of our newspaper and literature, which are the basis of the growth of our party and of communist revolution. Onward, comrades.

Communist Ethics Mean:

SUPPORT LOCKED-OUT MINERS, BOEING STRIKERS

AUBURN, WA, May 5 — “Ethics! What ethics?” screamed a machine operator after watching an hour and a half Boeing video on ethical company behavior, “Just ask the striking Long Beach [Boeing] workers about company ethics!” Corporate executives plan to subject most of its nearly 200,000 employees to this piece of capitalist propaganda.

Our campaign to build solidarity with locked-out Rio Tinto miners and our Long Beach brothers and sisters highlights the conflict between bosses’ and workers’ ethics. Communist ethics and capitalist ethics are in a fight to the death.

This struggle became apparent at the last union meeting. Communist ethics demands the greatest possible unity among workers in the struggle against the bosses’ system. That’s why we brought up supporting locked-out Rio Tinto miners and striking California aerospace workers. “These two struggles show what all industrial workers will be facing as the capitalist economic crisis morphs into bigger political and military crises,” we warned from the meeting floor.

Unity with Workers, not Bosses

The pro-capitalist union mis-leaders were nowhere to be seen. They were hobnobbing with the bosses’ politicians, trying to secure the Air Force tanker contract for the company. Siding with our brothers and sisters at the California C-17 plant would put that contract in jeopardy.

So there you have it: it’s either unity with the company and imperialism’s war machine, or unity with our fellow workers.

A rank-and-filer lectured the stand-in chair about how “we had rearranged family plans to attend the meeting [and] ...should not be denied the opportu-

nity to hear from the membership.” After that, nobody dared to stop us from presenting our case for solidarity.

“God bless you,” said another as rank-and-filers and shop stewards grabbed information packets about the lockout. “We need more things like this at our meetings.”

We’re following up with a rank-and file solidarity letter to be presented to striking Boeing workers, similar to the letter we presented to the Rio Tinto miners support rally (*Red Flag*, 5/5). We’re also organizing for a solidarity demonstration in support of the Long Beach strikers. At the same time, we’re circulating a leaflet exposing the company’s ethics scam.

Boeing Profits from Racism

Everyone agreed CEO McNerney was hypocritical to drone on about ethical company behavior as he collaborated with the Obama administration to build a low-wage supply chain for the new South Carolina assembly plant.

Southeast wages are lower because racist divisions have made organizing more difficult. Pro-capitalist unions have not been able to mount the anti-racist campaigns that are inspired by a communist vision (more in upcoming issues). Not only will McNerney eliminate higher paying jobs at heritage plants, but he will drastically lower wages for suppliers, as well.

But the company reached a new low when it featured the subsidiary Jepperson to illustrate the virtues of an open work environment. Jepperson is the company that organizes the CIA’s secret torture jets, spiriting away what has since been revealed to be many innocent victims to clandestine torture sites around the world.



Doug Kight ended the presentation with a cynical pitch about trust between workers and bosses. Kight is the sleaseball that convinced the Board of Directors to move to South Carolina even as he was pretending to negotiate in good faith with the union.

Ethics is a Class Question

Religions teach that ethics are universal, based on abstract beliefs or sacred texts. But in reality, ethics is a class question. For bosses, racist super-

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ANGRY GREEK WORKERS SHOW:

POTENTIAL FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

Think the economic recovery is underway? Look at Greece and think again. What erupted in 2008 with flagship banks facing bankruptcy has deepened. Whole countries, with Greece the leading example, now teeter on the edge of debt default.

Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Spain and even Britain are carrying huge debt loads alongside low growth rates. All this after governments world wide have pumped an unprecedented \$20 trillion into their respective economies in an attempt to stimulate growth.

This is the background against which masses of Greek workers face brutal cuts. Pensions which were 70% of wages are now 50% and will be slashed again. 200,000 public sector workers have already been fired. Wages have been cut, taxes raised. In May over 3 million workers demonstrated against new cuts proposed by the IMF and the European Union. This, after a year that has already seen two 24-hour general strikes.

In the middle of the last strike a group of workers hung a huge banner on the Acropolis, in Athens, calling on European workers to join them. The workers resistance, to paying for a crisis

that they did not cause, is inspirational. Yet, as young as the struggle is, it is already at a crossroads.

To some the crisis has uncovered a reality that lies concealed in normal times: the reality that the needs of capital are irreconcilably opposed to the needs of the working class. The needs of bankers, bond holders and the capitalist state are diametrically opposed to the needs of the working class.

To the majority, though, the struggle is primarily a defensive one –aiming to overthrow the brutal measures German, French and IMF capitalists seek to impose. It's a reformist world view that hopes trade union militancy will restore the pre-crisis rights of workers. It's a world view that imagines the possibility of a gentler, kinder banker, bond holder and capitalist state. Such views, of course, are encouraged by the mainstream press which paints the crisis either as a result of weak politicians pandering to trade union demands or rogue bond market investors holding-up countries for ransoms.

While it is true that the bond market trading has deepened - not helped - the

crisis, the Greek economy is weak for the same reasons the Spanish, Portuguese and Irish economies are weak. The Eurozone operates as an economic union that favors the stronger industrial powers, like France and Germany. As the trade barriers came down, the bigger French and German companies were able to dominate the smaller markets, like Greece. This comparative weakening of the outlying countries was hidden as long as the economies were growing, but became very clear once the crisis hit.

Above all the crisis in Greece is the strongest signal yet that, like its flag-

ship banks and nation states, world capitalism is bankrupt. It is unlikely to emerge from this long crisis with any type of 'normal' profit making. Does that mean it will collapse? No! We have entered a period where it will stumble from one crisis to the next, at each step attacking the working class more and more viciously as it develops fascism and prepares for world war. It is a period where the working class urgently needs the message of **Red Flag**, where we answer the capitalist agenda of war and fascism by preparing a workers agenda of communist revolution.



Masses of Greek workers in general strike tied to reformist trade unionism need **Red Flag's** communist ideas

BP Oil Disaster: US Rulers Prepare for War

The capitalist oil industry is a disaster. That's clear.

A month ago an oil rig exploded, killing eleven workers. The company's first response was to test the surviving workers for drugs!

Two days later, the rig sank. The blow-out preventer didn't work. Thousands of barrels of oil are gushing daily into the Gulf of Mexico. The bosses' efforts to cap the well have failed. They can't capture the oil. They can't burn it off. They can't contain the oil slick or prevent it from destroying the ocean and shore environmental habitat.

How could this happen to one of the most advanced drilling platforms in the world? Answer: the contradiction between short-term profit and long-term inter-imperialist rivalry.

The companies involved – including British Petroleum (BP) and Halliburton – cut corners to save money and boost the bottom line.

The U.S. agency that was supposed to regulate them – the Minerals and Mining Service (MMS) – works so closely with the oil industry that even President Obama now complains about their “cozy relationship.”

But the Obama administration has pushed ahead to expand off-shore oil drilling. Why? To reduce U.S. dependency on Mideast oil. US imperialism is increasingly unable to control this oil.

As **Red Flag** has explained, Iran has effectively won the Iraq war. So the U.S. rulers are preparing to fight Iran in a difficult and bloody oil war. Imperialist war causes far more destruction – and wastes far more energy -- than any oil spill.

Meanwhile, the US rulers desperately need new energy sources, whatever the risks.

Reform won't solve the problem

The U.S. capitalists are struggling over an energy policy that would prepare them for another world war, while keeping stockholders happy. This dis-

aster has sharpened that struggle, escalating calls for “reform.”

Tax reform: In 2007, workers produced more than \$100 billion in profits for the top five oil companies. Democrats in Congress proposed a windfall-profits tax on oil producers, removing some outrageous tax breaks and using that money to fund energy alternatives.

Reduce dependence on oil: “Alternative energy” funds are a bonanza for nuclear energy development. The US rulers howl about Iran's nuclear energy program being turned into war production. Same here!

Offshore drilling: Some US rulers – with wide popular support – want Obama to reverse his decision to allow more off-shore drilling. But the rulers are preparing for war sooner rather than later, and they need to guarantee they will have oil to fuel existing aircraft, ships, tanks and war industries.

Restructure MMS: This is another move to consolidate the federal government so it would more effectively serve the capitalist class as a whole, rather than one particular sector. It's part of growing fascism.

Some US socialists want a *government takeover of BP*. But the U.S. government – like every government in the world today – is a dictatorship of the capitalist class over the workers. A BP takeover would only strengthen this dictatorship. “National socialism” is another term for fascism.

Capitalism itself is the disaster

That, too, has become clearer to workers and youth around the world.

The best propaganda efforts of the capitalist schools, universities, mass media, and culture industries can't hide the ugly fact that capitalism smothers the working class like a giant oil slick polluting every aspect of our lives.

A recent Pew Research survey in the U.S. found that only about half of their respondents had a posi-

tive reaction to “capitalism.” For young adults, the number dropped to about 40%. People earning under \$75,000 per year were more negative than those earning more.

Workers are open to revolutionary ideas.

Survey respondents are increasingly positive about “socialism.” Real socialism was state capitalism under working-class power. It quickly developed into a full-blown capitalist dictatorship.

Some of the US rulers will probably decide to package their fascist war plans as “socialism.” Don't be fooled!

Why communism is the solution

What is not yet clear to enough of us is that communism is the solution.

With communist revolution, workers will seize all the means of production – the factories, mines, farms, wells, everything. Workers produced it all in the first place, and communism will make it our collective property.

We won't produce for profit. We won't have money or markets. The working class, organized into one INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY, will decide what to produce, how to produce it, and how to share it so no one is better or worse off than anyone else.

Those decisions won't be easy. Will we drill for offshore oil until other sources of energy are online? Can nuclear power be safe? What risks are acceptable? What are our priorities, considering the needs of the entire international working class?

We will struggle to make and carry out these decisions collectively on the basis of our political line. Workers producing for our own class will find technical and political solutions that are impossible under the profit system.

Political struggle is and always will be the lifeblood of the working class. Join the ICWP in the struggle for communist politics, communist revolution, and a communist world!

Harvard's Liberal Racism Serves US Ruling Class

A student editor of the *Harvard Law Review* recently sparked outrage when she wrote that "I absolutely do not rule out the possibility that African-Americans are, on average, genetically predisposed to be less intelligent."

She quickly reversed herself, saying that "I emphatically do not believe that African-Americans are genetically inferior in any way." This racist and opportunist student will soon begin a prestigious federal clerkship in California with Ninth Circuit Court Judge Alex Kozinski.

Harvard's liberals were quick to defend the university

"As one of the most renowned and liberal institutions in the world, it's always hurtful and harmful ... when racist and sexist acts occur at Harvard University," wrote a black theologian who is getting a doctorate from the Harvard Divinity School, with support from the ruling-class Ford Foundation.

Get real! Harvard has long been a center for concocting and promoting the exact same racist ideology spouted by the *Law Review* editor.

The racist student was simply parroting the line published in the *Harvard Educational Review* (1969) by

Arthur Jensen, who based his racist attack on Head Start on the scribbles of the English psychologist Cyril Burt. Burt made up the "Eleven-Plus" exam at the core of the way the British educational system reproduces class society. He also made up his data and even his collaborators.

Harvard psychology professor Richard Herrnstein spent decades pushing this argument, in *IQ and the Meritocracy* (1973), *Crime and Human Nature* (with Harvard dean James Q. Wilson, 1985) and the infamous *Bell Curve* (with Charles Murray, 1994).

Meanwhile, Harvard's Edward Banfield used vile racist stereotypes to promote fascist urban policy in *The Unheavenly City* (1970) and as an advisor to President Nixon.

But the granddaddy of them all was Harvard's Daniel Patrick Moynihan. In the words of a Harvard alumna, he "did essentially the same amount of harm from a 'nurture' rather than 'nature' perspective and is now pretty much venerated as a saint of social policy."

Moynihan popularized the racist stereotype of the "welfare queen" and (in a sexist twist) blamed urban poverty on single black mothers. Yes, this is the same Moynihan who later stepped into Bobby Ken-

nedy's New York Senate seat (later occupied by Hillary Clinton).

Harvard professors and graduates have long played a huge role in the US government. Nearly a quarter of all Obama's appointees have a Harvard degree. At least seven administration staffers came from the Harvard Law School alone.

Former Harvard Law School dean Elena Kagan is President Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court. As Obama's Solicitor General, she has continued Bush administration policies in important cases involving US-sponsored torture and violation of civil liberties.

"Here at Harvard Law School, we are committed to preventing degradation of any individual or group, including race-based insensitivity or hostility," wrote Law School Dean Minow. What crap! Harvard remains a cornerstone of the thoroughly racist American capitalist system.

Today, Harvard's racism more often takes the form of a liberal "diversity" approach that covers up the class basis of institutional racism. It trains an elitist multicultural cadre of functionaries to make the system work more smoothly. Future articles in *Red Flag* will explore this in more depth.

For Communist Education Based on Collectivity

When it comes to producing the goods and services that we need, capitalism does it anarchistically (and without ever getting the best results). It takes us constantly to a crisis of relative overproduction, since each group of capitalists is trying to beat out its competitors.

When it comes to impoverishing the workers, capitalism works like clockwork, transporting the riches produced by the majority to a few who take advantage in every realm, controlling governmental and non-governmental institutions, taking advantage of the ignorance and apathy (lack of consciousness) of those who work for them.

According to official reports in Mexico, in the last four years 6,000,000 more people have fallen below the poverty level for a total of 45 million people.

Nevertheless, faced with the insufficient political work that we as communists have done, capitalist ideology prevails. In the schools they mainly teach anti-communism, preparation "to succeed in life." They tell us to insert ourselves successfully into capitalism. "Competency based" education is the

pompous term that educators use now for this approach.

They worry about competition, which means the ability to replace others; increasing "competencies" means matching the teaching of knowledge and attitudes to the requirements of business. "The better prepared individuals are those who have better opportunities," they tell us.

This means that they need at least a considerable minority of workers going to school to become "successful;" not only to learn to read well enough to interpret the manuals, but to be able to design machines and program computers, that is, some students need to learn mathematics.

But this is a process of savage "natural selection," a concept that, according to Marx, Darwin applied to biology from his observation of capitalist society. In other words, there is constant struggle of one against the other.

According to the psychologist J Piaget, at the age of 12-14 years, the human mind is mature enough to understand the most elaborate concepts. Therefore,

most of humanity can understand infinite calculus. Nevertheless, this subject under capitalism is supposedly for a few, who business recruits from all over the world.

Under communism, the workers will organize ourselves so that every workplace will also be a center for study, and vice versa. We will dedicate ourselves to elevating the cultural level of all; a scientist during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China claimed that workers could learn calculus in three weeks.

An alternative education can't be based on the continuation of wage labor; in the current struggle against education reform in the different governments of the world we have to promote communist education, which means at this moment to build the ICWP forming study-action groups, which will have as their purpose to put an end to wage slavery by a communist revolution.

(Red Flag editor comment: Darwin's focus was on competition among species, not among individuals.)

Communist Ethics Means, From page 3

exploitation, torture, and war serve their greater good: maintaining their profits and power. "Divide and conquer" is their motto.

Communism can't survive without a working class united around its own revolutionary potential. The ethics of a communist society must promote anti-racist, international class unity.

Communist ethics serve the interests of our class, which are diametrically opposed to the bosses' profits and power. Universal ethics will become possible once communist revolution has smashed class society and exploitation. As *The International* says, "The earth shall rise on new foundations...the international working class shall be the human race."

Smash Racist, Anti-Working Class Cops, Rule Of Bosses' Law

SEATTLE, WA, May 6 —YouTube aired an original video showing Seattle cop Shandy Cobane threatening to "beat the f**king Mexican piss" out of a young Latino worker and kicking his head before stomping on his arm. TV station Q13 originally refused to show the 7-minute clip by videographer Jud Morris, whose contract with the station was terminated after he posted the video. Fellow gang unit cop Mary Woollum also stomped on the victim while he was on the ground, while a half-dozen cops stood around. The innocent victim was released without charges in a \$40 robbery investigation.

This racist attack made the local news in the midst of our campaign to build solidarity with locked out Rio Tinto miners and striking Californian Boeing workers. The bosses are always bragging about their "Rule of Law." This YouTube clip and our campaign led to heated discussions

on the shop floor about what the bosses' rule of law really means.

You'll never see the cops stomping on the Rio Tinto bosses, threatening to "beat the f**king ruling class piss" out of them until they give hard-working miners back their jobs guaranteeing safety, benefits and the full fruits of their labor. You'll never see the cops busting into Boeing Headquarters demanding the bosses quit financing their plans for imperialist war with racist attacks on aerospace workers. This is what the rule of law means: preserving exploitation and oppression with racist violence.

The bosses prattle on about the rule of law to camouflage their state power. We workers have no such need for deception. Communism will smash the bosses' racist anti-working class rule of law, substituting the open might of the working class to enforce our collective interests. With communist leadership, the working class will answer the bosses' racist imperialist violence with the united might of the working class.

Letter to the Editor: Advancing With Communist Ideas

The May Day march that left the University of El Salvador started with the chant "Long Live May Day!" "Workers, what is your duty, to take Power!" The giant symbol that led the march was the hammer and sickle (communist symbol). A banner read "Workers of all Countries, Unite!"

In meetings in which we planned our participation as ICWP, I was appointed to go to this march (one of two May Day marches) to carry out an important task. With readers of *Red Flag* in my area, we organized a team. It was a collective effort that greatly encouraged me, since I had always wanted to do it, and this was not the march of the reformists of the FMLN.

Immediately when the march started, I began to pass out the *Red Flag* and our leaflets. The students took our literature seriously and started to read it. By the end of the march, we had distributed more than 1,000 leaflets and 100 newspapers.

A youth came up to me and said, "Take this literature and read it because we need to unite soon with people like you." I answered, "I'll read it, and we'll be in contact."

Until then everything appeared normal, but then, when the marchers saw a line of police on both sides of the street, the march divided in two parts. On seeing this, the police also split into two, and the marchers began to say, "Don't go over there because here's the path, they're divided." At this point, the police couldn't figure

out how to maintain control because they were divided between both sides of the street.

At the same time the FMLN wanted to take over the University march by infiltrating it, but they were rejected, removed from the march, and forced to leave. The FMLN is an opportunist party that wants to gain credit and a good reputation, taking advantage of the struggle of young students and workers.

Meanwhile, the police, seeing their weakness, then started provocations and called in their reinforcements from the anti-riot cops. They pinned a man down with their boots while others hit him. They did the same to three other youths who were arrested. This incensed the rest of the marchers, who then started to paint the walls and destroy everything they found in their way.

The explosion of a bomb was the signal that things were not good. Some of the slogans painted on the walls said, "The rich must pay for the crisis!" "Don't be fooled anymore by the government." While all this was going on, some comrades concentrated on distributing our literature. We gave brief explanations to people about our communist struggle and invited them to read *Red Flag* and the leaflet. People gave signs of approval when I insisted that the working class needs to know "communist ideas" promoted by the members of ICWP.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: BREAKING THROUGH THE DARK NIGHT

Today will be the beginning of a conscious and dialectical struggle for communist revolution. Thanks to the Progressive Labor Party (PLP: party of the communist "left") I became acquainted with and understood the need to organize for communism, to destroy this capitalist system that kills us at work and enslaves us to its machines in order to generate profits.

The comrades of PLP taught me to constantly say: "The essence of life is struggle." and "The best way to understand something is from within." They taught me to say "Reforms, no! Revolution, yes!" but when the political line of your "party of the left" turns towards reforms it's time to stop and ask ourselves, "Revolution or reforms?"

After months of discussion in our collectives, of going over the documents, of analyzing the two lines that were laid out in the documents of PLP, we could see a left-wing tendency and a right-wing tendency inside the same "left." This made me understand the huge task that we have as members of the party. Self critically, I say that all this time of analysis showed me my political weakness in analyzing the documents of the party that *should* be the vanguard of the working class.

The lack of criticism and self-criticism and, above all of the ability to be dialectical in understanding these processes was another weakness of mine as well as of other comrades in our collectives. This led to a certain liberalism in

our actions, undercutting the quality of our revolutionary work.

Living this process of ideological struggle between two political lines (one left-wing tendency and one right-wing tendency) and being able to analyze them and understand them expanded the limits of consciousness that allow us to evaluate the experience of past revolutions.

Political line and practice will determine which party will be the vanguard that meets the needs of the working class. But if we can, starting right now, identify and differentiate these tendencies toward the right when we're building a movement for communist revolution, not for reforms to "improve capitalism," then we can stop in the road and say, "NO TO REVISIONISM, NO TO REFORMS, NO ALLIANCE WITH THE BOSSES, NO CULT OF PERSONALITY, NO LIBERALISM" and say, "YES TO COMMUNIST REVOLUTION."

There will be errors. Nevertheless, constant ideological struggle will continue to prepare us for the communist future with the motto of "ONE CLASS, ONE PARTY, FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM."

That's why, from now on, I am joining the struggle for communist revolution in the ranks of the International Communist Workers' Party (ICWP). Join ICWP and let's break the silence over which political direction to take.

A young comrade from Mexico

May Day Observation

May Day marches have always been exciting events for me because of everything they symbolize here in the United States and for the international working class. This year though was especially exciting because it was the first year I would be marching with the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP).

I attended the march this year along with some friends of mine who are non-members, but who grasp the crisis of capitalism we are living through and who are beginning to understand the need to build a working class revolution. When my friends and I arrived to the march, we were pleasantly surprised. There were red shirts everywhere, students, militants and workers all under one flag, the red

flag. The ICWP looked so powerful, there was no way anyone could have guessed that this was a new party. Marching along such a brigade gave me an unbelievable sense of strength. My friends were having the same experience I was, because every time I would look over at them, I could see them chanting their hearts out. There was also an immense sense of unity within our group. I say this because even people who were not marching alongside ICWP would join our group and participate in the chants. I even witnessed a woman leave the group she had shown up with to join ours, which put a big smile on my face. It got me thinking "maybe the fear of Communism is starting to diminish".

The march really was spectacular; workers, students and militants gave excellent speeches along the way; inspiring chants were shouted; newspapers

and leaflets were distributed by the thousands; and most importantly ICWP, I think, established itself as a force to be reckoned with. Conversations after the march with my friends and with comrades really solidified the idea that what I had just experienced was something special. Everyone was simply blown away and inspired.

For those who were unable to attend, it is unfortunate that they missed out on something that was truly special, but on the bright side, there is always next year. After this experience, I would highly recommend to all of you out there who are part of the struggle and all of those who are thinking about joining the struggle, to do their best to attend future May Day dinners and marches, because those two events really manifest what ICWP is all about.

RED STUDENT

Rio Tinto Miners — From Page 1

have friends that have had serious problems." Another worker, although not a miner, expressed that on the job she had noticed speed ups, with fewer workers. And to the question, "Wouldn't it be nice if the state provided for all workers' needs?" she responded, "Yes, it would be nice."

Some workers took extra papers. We asked one retired miner if it was okay to mail him *Red Flag*. "Sure," he said. "How many?" we asked. "Send me three," he responded. As we were leaving, this worker flagged down two of our comrades and yelled, "Hey! Are you the ones with the paper?" "Yeah," the comrades responded. The worker pulled out three dollars and said, "Here."

All in all, we got a sense that we were able to sharpen the contradictions that these miners have. They better understood the contradictions between reform and revolution, as well as the contradiction between capitalist ideas and communist ideas.

One young comrade suggested, "We should not take the crumbs that they give us. We should continue to struggle for communism." We were able to sharpen the contradiction with our communist line, which includes an explanation of the nature of this period of capitalist crisis, of war and fascism and for the real possibility of communist revolution.

We explained that the world's bosses attack workers in many ways and that at the same time, they try to win workers to patriotism and to convince them to

attack other workers (their class brothers and sisters) either here or abroad.

We explained that Chinese, Russian and European bosses are doing the same thing and that this situation will bring us closer to WWII.

NO MORE BORDERS

We presented these miners, their families and friends with our vision of workers of the world uniting across borders, language and flags and recognizing our common enemy, the capitalist bosses, and fighting for a different world where workers run society and where we produce for our needs and not the needs of capitalists, which is profit.

Question to RED FLAG:

Why is the name of the party *International Communist Workers' Party* and not just the International Communist Party? It appears to me to be redundant that a communist party says "worker" since the fact that it's communist necessarily means that it has to be workers. Not the reverse. There can be workers' parties (I won't dare to give examples) that aren't Communist.

In the *Communist Manifesto* of 1848, Marx and Engels say that the Communist Parties are not parties apart, distinct from other workers' parties, but only the sector with the most resolve, which doesn't only push forward the struggles of the day, but that looks toward the future interests of the movement.

Historically we can see that a part of this approach was wrong. The Communist Party needs to be different from other workers' parties. These other parties, for lack of development of communist class consciousness, will in every case be at the mercy of the ideology and practice of the capitalists. I think that to maintain current revolutionary advances, we must be specific about the slogans that we employ: One working class worldwide—One flag, that of the struggle for worldwide Communism, one party, the ICP.

With Revolutionary Greetings,
A Comrade from Mexico

Red Flag Comments

It's a very profound observation, and we're very pleased that you make it. A comrade farm worker from El Salvador asked us the same question verbally. Our answer has been that due to the betrayal of the working class by the old communist parties, adding *worker* (representing the whole working class, including farm workers) to the name would give us a little distance from these revisionist groups. Also there's already a group in Europe with the name ICP. But it would be good for other readers, comrades and friends to give their opinion about this.

Wishing I Had Been Marching

I was sitting at home on May 1st wishing I had joined the thousands who marched on May Day.

Life for me right now is very challenging, but as I reflect on this, I wonder why I would expect anything else under capitalism. I have four children—and when I tell people this—they seem to automatically know how challenging this could be. However, the difficult part comes from the stress capitalism puts on us. The more children you have—the more you have to work to sustain your family.

Tomorrow I will start my 3rd week at a new job. In my first work week my youngest had the flu. I was staying up most nights with him and pleading with my daycare provider to accept him daily just so I would not miss work. This past week I had another sick child. I was able to solicit the help of a neighbor for his care. This week I'm feeling sick—but I will force myself to go to work daily.

When I get to my weekend I am dead tired, and all I want to do is rest and spend time with my family. With life expectancy in the U.S. being at 77.9 years old (many African American and Native populations are not expected to reach 65) and current retirement age being 67—it seems that I'll be missing out on life outside of work for many, many more years.

However, I do not wish the same life for my children, grandchildren and for millions more. We need to eliminate the system that drains the life out of us (Capitalism). The only way we'll be able to do this is by ending/reducing excuses as to why we can't do the organizing necessary for change.

Systemic change does not mean voting for candidates or reforms. It means ELIMINATING CAPITALISM. You can't fix a system that is inherently designed to benefit the bosses while screwing workers. We need a system designed for the workers and run by the workers. We need COMMUNISM.

Red Mom

May Day 2010

As the march began, I was nervous. I was more excited than nervous though. The nervousness came from the fact that it was our first May Day march as the International Communist Workers Party (ICWP). Once we hit the street and began to rally, all the nervousness in me went away.

I feel this May Day march topped the march from last year. May 1st is really important for me. I have never been prouder to be a communist as I am on May Day. The chanting, the distribution of literature, the conversations we had with individuals, sometimes good, sometimes bad, were just amazing.

Now, the march has just ended and already I'm thinking about next year's march. To think that last year on May Day, I had a vague idea of what communism was.

May Day and the summer project combined were what really set off my interest in communist politics and resulted in my becoming a communist. I know this May Day and the upcoming summer project will do the same for other youth. Long live communism; long live *Red Flag*; long live the ICWP.

HS Student

Youth Comment on 2009 Communist Summer Project

Youth involved in planning this year's Summer Project were asked to share their experiences from last year's project.

"The 2009 Summer Project gave us opportunities to reach out not only in the community, but all over the place. During this time we visited places like Seattle. There and in many other cities we were able to interact with workers and students. Being in the Summer Project gave us an opportunity to grow. It allowed us to grow as a party and to learn more from comrades and workers."

"This summer we will be grand in action. Boeing, here and in Seattle, will be one of the starting points to inform and expand ideas for a better world; a non-exploitative and non-racist society. This summer we will take our politics to the next level. We will be full of new experiences in which we will meet and understand workers and their struggles. This Summer Project will not only be a way to expand our thoughts, but it will also be the first for ICWP."

"Last year, when I participated in the Summer Project, it was one of the best experiences of my life. The study groups, discussions and many of the activities showed me what true revolution is, how to rebel against the capitalists. When I was distributing communist literature in front of factories and talking with workers, I learned how hard it is to just survive in the capitalist world."

"In the Summer Project we mainly focused on the military and industry (those factories that build parts for machines that are used in wars). Many came from local places, as well as faraway places, to be part of the project. In last year's project we discussed the real reasons why soldiers are fighting in the Middle East, how the workers are paying the price, and how the economic crisis is affecting all of us. Some of us visited a town close to a military base. Here we handed out leaflets and talked to people about the war. Many were against the war but felt that that they had joined and had to serve. We

gave them the communist point of view of the war. The project was a great experience, and it helped me better understand communism, but I have only scratched the surface in becoming the communist I am destined to be."

"The Summer Project experience was invigorating and inspiring. To see how much we want to see change with a revolution is just wonderful, and it rekindles the revolutionary spirit in all of us. It is very much worth being part of the project because the workers have so much to teach us."

"I saw that if we work together we can accomplish something, and we did. We were getting the eyes of more people open to get into communism. We need workers' power, because everybody might not like it all the time, but we'd all be united as one to accomplish something."

"The Seattle project was eye-opening and mind-boggling. Workers and factories weren't even on my mind until I went there and heard their stories. At first I was intimidated about talking to soldiers, but then one was listening to me even though his friends were laughing. Now I know that some people in the service are open-minded. It's cool to feel part of something bigger -- being with a collective, the feel of a family, even though I didn't know the people before I went."

"At first I didn't know what I was doing or what to expect. The fear was of the unknown. By the end of the week it was easier. The energy was different. It was such a family atmosphere. It wasn't just talk -- it was real. We got a pretty good response because people were already used to us being around. Some stopped and asked for our paper. I only got three negatives out of hundreds of people all week."

Visiting Boeing Strikers

Dear RED FLAG,

I've visited the Boeing strikers twice, including the march last Friday in which hundreds of workers participated. Almost all the workers I talked with were glad to get our communist leaflet and newspaper. Many agreed that capitalism is the problem and discussed our communist ideas with interest. Many wanted to talk about how greedy Boeing is (I said it's the fight for maximum profit). One worker in particular said that the US would soon go to war against Iran. He knew that inter imperialist rivalry was leading to wider war and agreed that the bosses are making aerospace workers pay for their crisis and war. We discussed communist revolution for a good while and he asked me the difference between ICWP and other "left" groups. I explained the need to fight directly for communism and to win workers to that now. I urged him to go to our web site and read previous issues of RED FLAG and other literature. He said he would like to keep in touch.

I think that two main things are going on: the capitalist crisis means that these workers are under attack, really mad at the bosses, and ready to hear from us; and ICWP is fighting to make the only viable alternative-communism--as accessible as possible to the workers, especially industrial workers in war production. Keeping this up and digging in with these and other workers is the winning combination! Our Summer Project is right on time.

Old Comrade

JOIN ICWP

Revisionism and the Dialectics of Inner-Party Struggle

As we learned in a previous column, a dialectical contradiction is a unity of opposites, two sides that are connected with each other but also interfere with each other. Over time, dialectical contradictions tend to “heat up” and become more intense. That is, the two sides come to interfere with each other more and more. Intensification eventually leads to resolution of the contradiction. As Marx put it, resolution happens when the two sides “fight to a decision,” until one wins, for example, the working class overthrows the capitalists.

This general principle, that contradictions are only resolved by becoming more intense, applies to the internal contradictions of the working class and of the party. Contradictions inside the party are normal and unavoidable as we struggle to learn from the experience of class struggle. As we intensify the contradictions between correct and incorrect ideas and actions to resolve our internal contradictions, we must fight for the most advanced line we can work out, not the line that most people readily agree with. Both inside the party and in the mass movement, we should fight for a “higher unity,” that is, agreement with critical communist ideas that are necessary to move forward, not just popular viewpoints.

In most circumstances the best attitude toward people who make mistakes is to try to “cure the disease to save the patient,” that is, to defeat wrong ideas but continue to unite with the people who have had them. In the struggle against revisionism, however, situations arise in which this outlook is not correct. In the last dialectics column we saw that revisionism, the capitalist ideas and practices inside the com-

munist movement, not only prevents the victory of communism, but reverses gains already won. The struggle against revisionism is the struggle against the enemy’s outlook inside the communist movement. People who are committed to this outlook cannot necessarily be won away from it, any more than bosses can be won over to communism. Such people have to be defeated, not merely their ideas.

People sometimes believe that comrades who have contributed to the communist movement at one time can’t turn into revisionists. But this is perfectly possible, and the examples of people like Plekhanov and Mao Zedong prove it. Their transformation illustrates an important idea of dialectics, that in the certain circumstances, a thing can turn into its opposite.

We apply this principle when we try to turn an economic crisis or imperialist war into an advance for the communist movement. Likewise, someone who lacks confidence in the working class or fears defeat or repression can be transformed from a communist into a revisionist.

Dialectics also teaches us, as Lenin put it, that the *unity* of two opposites is “temporary and conditional,” but their *struggle* is absolute. Communism and revisionism are opposites. If one side is not defeated inside the party, the struggle of these opposites sharpens, and overcomes any previous unity. Sometimes the result is a split in the party.

A split in a communist party represents a significant setback, since it means that part of what was created by the struggles of many comrades is no longer advancing the movement for communism but is hold-

ing it back. However, splits can be a necessary part of the advance of the communist movement in the struggle against revisionism.

A split in the movement led to the formation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, originally called the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (Bolsheviks). It was the Bolsheviks who led the great victory of the October Revolution in 1917. That victory would not have been possible if the Bolsheviks had remained united to the revisionist Mensheviks, who actually fought an armed struggle against the Bolshevik seizure of power in 1917.

After the victory of revisionism in the Soviet Union in the 1950s, many new parties, including the Progressive Labor Party, were formed by splitting from revisionist-led, pro-Soviet parties. This is also the process by which ICWP was formed by splitting from PLP.

Our task in the ICWP is to turn the setback of the victory of revisionism in the PLP into its opposite, into a new step forward in the march toward communism. Dialectics tells us that the struggle does not move forward in a straight line, but advances by twists and turns. Join us and move forward with us in humanity’s most important struggle, the fight for communism.

Note: ICWP is committed to make the study of dialectics a mass activity, not limited to a few “experts.” We invite you to send in examples of dialectics from your own experience or political work, as well as questions you would like to see answered in *Red Flag*.

Join the Summer Project:

Organize Workers and Soldiers Around Communist Class Consciousness

Organizing for communism means that we must be in the factories and the barracks, fighting for our class, distributing *Red Flag*, and meeting with workers and soldiers.

In the current world crisis, it is only the working class who has the necessity and the potential to smash capitalism, as it drives towards all-out world war. It is only our Party that can lead the working class in the fight for communism.

Communism means that **workers** have full control of all production. Workers say what gets produced and why, who gets what and how people will live.

Communism means the complete abolition of classes, wages, racism and sexism. It means that everyone gets full and complete healthcare, everyone gets fed, clothed, housed and educated. Homelessness, famines, lack of healthcare and ignorance are caused by the bosses. Workers will eliminate the bosses and all inequality. Communism means that everyone will work for the benefit of everyone.

Communism means no borders, no citizenship. We are international. The borders are the bosses’ borders, and workers will smash them.

Communism means no wars for profits. Communism will eliminate the capitalist necessity where profit and plunder are the things that motivate the bosses, and they want workers to be motivated only by money. Communism means that workers will be motivated to help each other all around the world. We will not be divided by race or nation—we will be united as one working class.

Communism won’t happen on its own. Communism will be brought about only through workers’ revolution. The troops for the revolution will come from the factories and the military. It is our job to make the everyday grievance into a fight for state

power. Only the ICWP has made this priority number one.

Production is key for capitalism and it is its weakest link. Industrial workers, especially those who produce in the war industries, are strategically vital for both the profits of the capitalists and for the working class’ fight for power. So are the new young industrial workers in the trade programs who will provide the backbone for the new industrial working class, as well as the young high school students who will be coerced into joining the military.

It is our task to organize workers and soldiers around communist class consciousness. And this summer, as the US bosses continue to place their interests on our backs, we will take leaflets and *Red Flag* newspapers to workers in factories throughout southern California and Seattle.

We are fighting to develop unbreakable links between workers with union contracts (Boeing, Northrop) and subcontracted workers (small to medium aerospace factories). As the ruling class continues to wage imperialist war on the backs of workers, many workers will be laid off at the heritage union plants and hired at smaller plants that are subcontracted on the cheap under worse conditions—mainly employing immigrant workers. This racist super exploitation of immigrant and black



workers lowers the standard of living of all workers while it divides and weakens our class.

We call on students, new young industrial workers, and soldiers to join us this summer to visit factories, transit divisions, military bases and workers’ neighborhoods for class struggle based on communist ideas. By making communist ideas mass ideas, we will win!

Many summer project volunteers in the past have seen first hand workers welcoming communist leaflets and newspapers, talking about communist ideas with workers over dinners, sharing questions and answers about revolution and building the fight for communism as well as experiences in the class struggle against the capitalists. (See letters, page 15) Join us!