



Occupy Detroit members and supporters prepare for a march and rally in downtown Detroit to protest the economy, unemployment and dictatorial Emergency Manager laws in the state of Michigan. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

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ECONOMIC DISASTER COMING: TIME TO BAIL OUT THE PEOPLE

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Valentines Day ONE BILLION RISING Dance Party Rally in Washington DC.

PHOTO/ELVERT BARNES PROTEST PHOTOGRAPHY

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: STOP THE RISING TIDE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

EDITORIAL

We need to address the epidemic of violence that is unleashed against women around the world, and the urgent need to take action to stop it. Because of their position in society, women are leaders of many of the movements for economic and social justice that are appearing everywhere. Women are poorer than men in all racial and ethnic groups. The attacks on women's standard of living as a result of cutbacks in federal and state aid programs is leaving millions homeless and in abject poverty. Women led the teachers' strike in Chicago, and are leading water struggles in Detroit, and the fight against foreclosures in the U.S. In Ciudad Juarez, Mexico,

they're fighting against the killings of young girls and women. In the Middle East they led rallies and marches during the Arab Spring. There are countless more examples.

The ruling class aims to disarm women leaders and make them examples to hold back these struggles. This new trend of governmental violence against women is part of their strategy to disrupt movements for social change. These perpetrators of State violence manhandle, beat, and even rape and kill women protestors in demonstrations, rallies and marches. It is part of the developing culture of fascism, and like the other forms of that culture, it rises from historical roots.

The attack on women is justified by male supremacy—a centuries-old cluster of ideas

about women—that upholds and perpetuates a society in which women are not allowed to be equal to men. There is a long history of violence used to control women. In the U.S. today, there is a reported rape every 6.2 minutes. A woman is beaten every nine seconds in this country. It's the number-one cause of injury to American women. Two million women are injured annually, with more than half a million requiring medical attention. Last year over 1000 women were murdered by their spouses and ex-spouses. Many of these crimes go unreported because women are afraid that their attackers will hurt them worse if they do, and because they know that courts are often prejudiced against them. Therefore, many violent crimes against women go unpunished.

This is a perfect seed-bed in which fascism can flourish. Human life no longer has the value it once had. This has its roots in an economy which no longer needs very many workers, now that robots and computers are replacing them by the millions. We are calling on our readers to begin to develop a culture to oppose this deadly fascist culture that is killing our people. When we are confronted with attacks on women we all must speak up—and step up—to stop them. We must all make sure that we are not holding on to ideas or attitudes that women are inferior to men, because this will prevent our movement from forming the unbreakable bond of unity that we need. We must fight for women's equality now, so we can win a society that provides for all, where that equality can be won and secured.

WHY THE MOVEMENT NEEDS A PRESS

From the Editors

We are sometimes asked "Why does the movement to build a new America need a press?" The answer has to do with this moment in history. People are struggling just to get the basic necessities of life. Historical forces beyond anyone's control have set the stage for a new society to be built, but from this point on, how things turn out depends on what people think. This means that those of us who are seeking fundamental change are engaged in a battle of ideas, a struggle to win the hearts and minds of the people. If we don't raise the consciousness of the people and unite them around a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it, then we'll fail in our effort to build a just and free society. To win the battle of ideas, we need a press.

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An economic system that doesn't feed, clothe and house its people must be and will be overturned and replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a tribune of those struggling to create such a new economic system. It is a vehicle to bring the movement together, to create a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it.

Labor-replacing electronic technology is permanently eliminating jobs and destroying the foundation of the capitalist system. The people's needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where the socially necessary means of production are owned by society, not by the corporations.

We welcome articles and artwork from those who are engaged in the struggle to build a new society that is of, by and for the people. We rely on readers and contributors to fund and distribute this paper.

The People's Tribune, formerly published by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, is now an independent newspaper with an editorial board based in Chicago.

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Deadlines for articles and art: The deadline for articles, photographs and other art is the first of each month for the issue that comes out at the beginning of the following month. For example, the deadline for the June issue is May 1. Articles should be as short as possible, and no longer than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

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Publisher: People's Tribune
ISSN# 1081-4787

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ECONOMIC DISASTER COMING—TIME TO BAIL OUT THE PEOPLE

COVER STORY

The corporate media and politicians claim the US economy is in a “slow but steady recovery,” but the average person knows better. And the people are rightly asking, “Where’s our bailout?”

Wages and benefits continue to fall, the price of gasoline, health care and everything else continues to rise, and jobs are scarce.

By one estimate, the actual unemployment rate is about 23 percent, meaning some 35 million people are unemployed or underemployed. Only about 180,000 new jobs are being created each month, far below what is needed. Millions who are working can’t make enough to live on.

We are well in to a 40-year process of computers and robots replacing labor in the workplace. The combination of job-eliminating technology and globalization of production is permanently wiping out jobs and driving down wages for those still employed. The result is fewer and fewer customers for business—the market is being wiped out.

In addition, the US is heavily tied to Europe economically, and as Europe’s economy falls, it will drag the US down further. Far from being in a “slow recovery,” we are on the road to economic disaster. The current stock market bubble in the US is only more evidence of the catastrophe that is coming when the bubble bursts.

The capitalist politicians say we need “austerity”—cuts in government programs that feed, house and provide health care and other services to people—in order to get out of the crisis. But this will just pull more money out of people’s pockets and make the economy worse. Austerity will guarantee that the economy slides into depression.



Yet austerity isn’t just a choice that the capitalists are making; profits are falling as the markets dry up, and from the capitalists’ view, they need austerity to guarantee their profits. The money that is saved by cutting public spending will be funneled into the pockets of the wealthy and the corporations.

The people will fight, and fascism will be used to contain them. The drive toward a major war will accelerate as countries clash over potential markets in Asia and Africa. And of course, war itself provides a market, through destroying things and creating demand for weapons and other goods. War is the most profitable industry there is—the slaughter of human beings is

much more profitable than the slaughter of cattle.

Right now, the people’s demand is that the government bail out the people, not the corporations and the wealthy. This is the only way to stabilize the economy in the short run. We must maintain public spending to provide for people’s needs and spend public money to directly create jobs. The money can be found by taxing the rich and cutting military spending. Austerity

must be rejected.

There is no future for the people under capitalism. Labor-replacing technology is not compatible with capitalism—the elimination of jobs only fuels poverty, war and fascism. In the end, the people are fighting for a new society, where the people own society’s tools for producing the necessities of life, so that we can guarantee peace and prosperity for all of us.

CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

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The *People’s Tribune* brings clarity to the growing movement. It unites the movement around a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it. It has no paid staff and gets no corporate grants. The paper is financed solely by our readers. We need your support to continue telling the truth.

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TIME FOR OVERSIGHT OF DRONES

By Dave Patterson

RAMONA, CA — Every Thursday one can see a demonstration at the General Atomics plant in Poway CA, home of the Predator drone. The demonstrators are from the San Diego Veterans For Peace and their supporters. Their goal is to enlighten the public on the desperate need for oversight regarding drone technology.

The Predator drone is flying over 16 countries now, loosing weapons over Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan and perhaps others. The kill statistics would be unacceptable in any conflict but are somehow overlooked because we are at war with “terrorism”. Of the 311 drone strikes in 2011: those killed are known civilians 500+, known children 65+, known high level terrorists 25. The President has authorized the CIA to kill people with the Predator if the operators only suspect that they are involved in terrorist activity, clearly in violation of international law. But still the Predator

kills someone about every four days. The Predator is flying over Waziristan 24 hours a day now, terrorizing the people there because they can hear the engines in the sky and don't know if they might be killed at any moment. Our nation in this case is the terrorist, and everyone is looking the other way. I doubt that our founding fathers could have imagined that 250 years after the formation of our great nation, the President would have the power to kill people without authorization from Congress, or oversight of any kind. This fact should deeply worry all Americans.

On our borders, Homeland security is flying 20 of the Predator drones, and if local law enforcement wants them to surveil someone's private property, Homeland Security is happy to help out. Big pipe technology is advertised where high-resolution video or sensor data can be collected and shared with “select” law enforcement and government officials. We are asking, who are

these “select” officials and what are they doing with video taken over our private land, taken in secret and controlled by no judiciary oversight?

This is what Veterans For Peace is demonstrating for:

- Judicial oversight on the use of drones to surveil private property here in the US.
- Time limits on how long the government can keep this information.
- Judicial oversight on the application and use of weaponized drones in other places.

We can all participate in making this happen by calling our representatives in Congress and demanding legislation that protects American liberties and the lives of so many innocents overseas. Join the movement by coming to San Diego April 4-7, where we kick off the No Drone Month of April, a now international effort to curtail and control the use of drone technology.



Veterans For Peace protest at General Atomics plant in Poway California, where Predator drones are manufactured.

PHOTO/DAVE PATTERSON

Dave Patterson of Ramona is a past President of the San Diego Veterans For Peace. Contact him at dave.patterson@sdyfp.org or go to www.sdyfp.org. More info at <http://prcsd.org> and <http://nodronesnetwork.blogspot.com>.

Demonstrators demand justice for unarmed man slain by deputies

By Dan Bluemel

LOS ANGELES, CA — Over 100 demonstrators marched through Compton on Jan. 26 to protest the killing of Jose de la Trinidad by sheriff's deputies.

Converging on the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Compton station, protesters demanded justice, not only for the Trinidad family, but for other victims of police shootings.

De la Trinidad, 36, was killed by deputies on Nov. 10, 2012, after attending his niece's *quinceañera*. Deputies attempted to pull over the car that was carrying de la Trinidad for speeding. However, his brother, 39-year-old Francisco de la Trinidad, did not stop and attempted to evade the sheriffs.

Francisco de la Trinidad, who was later taken into custody, only stopped briefly to drop his brother off, who exited the car to comply with the sheriffs.

According to the sheriff's department, deputies assumed de la Trinidad was armed, and seeing his hands pass his waistband, further assumed he was drawing a weapon.

De la Trinidad was shot seven times in the back and died at the scene. He was unarmed.

Speaking to demonstrators, Gigi Fahmi, a friend of de la Trinidad and his wife, described the victim as devoted to his

spouse, Rosanna de la Trinidad, and his two daughters, ages three and six.

Fahmi took issue with what has been described as a “routine traffic stop” and demanded the deputies responsible for de la Trinidad's death face criminal charges.

“You tell me,” she said, “what's so routine about two sheriffs instructing an unarmed man to ‘stop, turn around, put your hands on your head,’ so sheriffs can then proceed to shoot him execution style, riddling his body with seven bullets?”

De la Trinidad's death drew

further attention after the Los Angeles Times interviewed a witness to the shooting who countered the sheriff's department's official account. The witness reported that de la Trinidad was complying with the deputies' orders to turn around and raise his hands before being shot to death.

The sheriff's department originally denied having interviewed any witnesses, but later acknowledged they had after being questioned by the Times. Officials blamed the discrepancy on poor inter-departmental communication.

Deputies blocked the entrance of their station with only a few feet between them and the demonstrators. This intimacy led many protesters to directly address the watchful deputies.

Damian Ramirez delivered a personal message to the sheriffs. He was a close friend of Michael Nida II, who was killed by Downey police in October of 2011. Like de la Trinidad, Nida was unarmed and gunned down in the back.

“No more murders of innocent men because you don't know how to do your job, because you are afraid of the community you serve,” said Ramirez to the sheriffs. “The time has come to change the way you do business, the way you are trained to police these communities. These are human beings that you are stealing from their families, human beings who deserve to live the rest of their lives in peace and freedom.”

The sheriff's department is investigating de la Trinidad's death. Their findings are expected to be released soon.



Gigi Fahmi shouts at L.A. County Deputy Sheriffs outside the Compton sheriff's station during a demonstration over the fatal, deputy-involved shooting of Jose de la Trinidad. He was unarmed and one witness says he was complying with the deputies' orders.

PHOTO/DAN BUEMEL

Coachella Valley, CA – Vigil offers a vision of peace

By Gabrielle Jackson, Rosie Terry, and Lorraine Salas

COACHELLA VALLEY, CA — On January 21, 2013 the visions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy, and Mahatma Gandhi were remembered and their words were spoken to a new audience and brought to life again. While their powerful words still hold the cause originally intended, they are more urgent and pertain to our local struggle more than ever.

The original purpose of our peace vigil was to act on our belief that gun violence must be halted, and that the way we can help to bring about a more peaceful community is to speak out and call attention to the tragedies which, while horrific in the sensational mass shootings like the Newtown disaster, occur with equally shocking frequency in our own community which is the Coachella Valley.

Lorraine Salas opened the program by introducing Occupy

Coachella Valley's (OCV) vision for peace and justice. She spoke of OCV's actions to protect the environment against the corporations trying to make a profit by opening a new fossil fuel powered energy plant here. She spoke about our support of local people whose homes have been foreclosed upon, and about our ongoing struggle to be heard by our local politicians concerning degradation of the environment, materialism and militarism.

She spoke about a man who changed her life, a teacher, Michael Rosenfeld, who introduced her to the works of Gandhi, and so helped her find her voice. He helped her to see she could make change in the world by speaking out. With this vision, Lorraine could see the issue of gun violence not as a far off issue in another state, but a local issue in the Coachella Valley. She discovered that more than thirty local people in the area died by gunshots in the last year.

Rosie Terry felt the need for

action against gun violence following the shootings of twenty seven children and adults in Connecticut. She was instrumental in coordinating resources, and bringing Richard Finn, a local musician and member of Veteran's for Peace to play at the vigil. Her vision was to hear the words of the great leaders who should have been alive to guide us through these difficult times, if they hadn't been shot first. She chose quotes from Dr. King and Robert Kennedy to illuminate and rekindle their ideals of peace, justice and equality.

The highlight of the vigil was when two students read the names of the victims of Newtown and the local people who were killed in gun violence. The students, a fourth grader and a seventh grader, volunteered to read the names and strike a bell to symbolize the remembrance of all victims of violence all over the world.

Finally, with candles aglow, all the people sang together.



School children ring a bell for each name they read of those killed at Newtown, CT and in the Coachella Valley in 2012.

PHOTO/DAREL PROPST

er. Led by local singer Teesta Chakraborty, everyone sang the anthem of hope, John Lennon's "Imagine" and then "Last Night I had the Strangest Dream," by Ed McCurdy.

Gabrielle Jackson spoke about the hope of everyone that this small gesture of community togetherness would not be forgot-

ten or be fruitless in its desire for people to live together as a community of people with a common vision of peace.

To view a video of this vigil go to www.kmir6.com/news/toprotator/187838991.html

FOUL WATER AND FRACKED POLITICS, PART II

Part I of this article appeared in the February, 2013 edition of the *People's Tribune*.

By Tabitha Tripp

CROSSVILLE, IL — It is full speed ahead for corporate exploitation of Southern Illinois if the hydro-fracking industry bill passes. Fracking is the process of extracting natural gas via high pressure, water, chemical and sand deep into the earth. The proposed bill does not grant local control at the county level. It does not classify reclaimed water as a radioactive hazard or address the air emissions and pollution standards. And the threat remains that federal industry exemptions will protect the indus-

try, proprietary secrets, and the poison injected below Illinois farmland by fracking.

Yet the gas and oil companies cry foul at attempts for real regulations and the moratorium. They label us as environmental "tree hugging extremists" as anti-American, terrorists and "gasp" liberals.

Is it liberal to think that 20 or 30 years down the road I would expect my children to come home and drink out of the tap without having any fear of what might be in our water? Is it idealistic to think that air should be breathable without non-methane hydrocarbons produced as a by-product of fracking?

If I had poisoned my neighbors well with pesticides or

dumped used oil and diesel fuels into the nearby creek which feeds into Cypress wildlife refuge, I'd be looking at federal prison. However, we are turning our heads, looking the other way with fracking companies and calling it "patriotic duty" and "sacrifice."

Is it un-American to ask for a vote on that which not only threatens the duty of each person to provide and maintain a healthful environment now, but also for future generations? Or at the very least grant the authority to counties and municipalities who resolve to ban the process of fracking and uphold Article XI of our State constitution.

It is inconceivable to believe that pollution would contain itself. Water and air pollution

don't abide by property lines. Radioactive dust won't discriminate between rich children or welfare recipients. Frack rash, neurotoxins and endocrine cancer don't look to see what political lines you stood in or what church you attended.

If contamination could be completely contained to one property, then I suppose a person could make the argument that it is an individual choice of the landowner whether he or she wishes to sacrifice the land or water in this way. The notion of a state or for-profit-company assuming the right to sacrifice someone else's land, water, and air is simply non-democratic. Rather, quite fascistic, don't you think?

The ramifications of this in-

dustrial process have the potential to devastate and debilitate our small communities. However fanatical, it only seems just and democratic to ban hydraulic fracturing for shale gas until a full state-sponsored study of its impact is complete.

"The public policy of the State and the duty of each person are to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the benefit of this and future generations. Each person has the right to a healthful environment. Each person may enforce this right against any party, governmental or private..." (Illinois Constitution, Article XI.)

I suggest exercising our rights before we lose them.

Contact Tabitha Tripp at saveourwater@dontfractureillinois.net



There are claims that there have been more than 1,000 cases of groundwater contamination in the US because of fracking.

PHOTO/SOUTHERN ILLINOISANS AGAINST FRACTURING OUR ENVIRONMENT

NEW FRACKING MORATORIUM BILL

The Illinois Coalition for a Moratorium on Fracking, including SAFE (Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our Environment) announced the introduction of Bill 1418 into the Illinois General Assembly. The bill promotes a 2-year moratorium on the controversial drilling process of high-volume fracturing in Illinois. The moratorium will allow time for a science-based investigative taskforce to look at current and ongoing studies on fracking. Critical studies regarding health effects from proximity to high-volume fracturing will be one key area of study. Contact am@greenmediaservice.com or call 217-273-1000 for more information.

Interview with LeAlan M. Jones, Illinois Green Party candidate for U.S. House of Representatives

For the People's Tribune, Allen Harris interviewed LeAlan M. Jones of Chicago, who is the Green Party candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2nd District of Illinois. He is seeking the seat vacated by Jesse Jackson Jr. In 2010, Jones was the Green Party candidate for the U.S. Senate from Illinois. What follows are excerpts from that interview.

On how the Green Party program meets the economic and environmental needs of the people of the 2nd District:

LeAlan M. Jones: The Green Party is the perfect party to represent the 2nd District because of the many different constituencies within it. You have almost a rural culture [in] Will County, Kankakee County and southern portions of Cook County. You have an urban landscape that can be reformatted under a Green agenda with wind technology, solar technology and sustainable energy. When we look at the fact that we have homelessness, foreclosures and enormous environmental stress, the Green party has real answers. We are willing to work with community

banks and credit unions to begin establishing a real presence in the depressed housing markets in the South Suburbs and Chicago. Providing local financing for investments in housing and small-businesses will set a foundation for sustainable economic growth. That's consistent with the Green Party's message. This campaign is for small-business cultivation and nurturing their capacity to become institutions in the local community and have access to global markets.

On a third party and why it is time for a change:

LMJ: Congress is an impediment to the economic growth that it wants. It cannot have an economic agenda and have a stalemate over the fundamentals of what government should be prioritizing and what government is funding. It's time for a third party because Congress cannot help itself right now. As a Green Party candidate, I can work on both sides of the aisle. If we had an independent caucus of Greens and other independents, [if] we were able to get maybe 13 or 14 or 15 of those House seats, [then] that would break up the power that

the Republicans have and it can also bolster the progressive agenda that needs to be re-engaged within the Democratic side. So, right now, I believe that I'm a candidate that America needs in the United States Congress.

On the source of gun violence in Chicago:

LMJ: You have a family structure that is more strained [by the] lack of two-parent homes. You have a gang structure that was broken down in the mid-1990s, which means that you had young men able to develop their own identity within gang culture, but not having the management of a mature gang structure. This has created younger, bolder offenders who are desensitized to violence. We have a culture in terms of Hollywood and entertainment which has become more grotesque in its advertisement of violence. And with Rev. Jackson asking for Homeland Security to come in, it is a total failure for a civil rights pioneer to think that an authoritarian system can foster a civil situation for what's going on in Chicago.

On charter schools and public



LeAlan Jones, candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, delivers an impassioned speech in Chicago.

PHOTO/JEREMY KARPEN

schools:

LMJ: I don't necessarily know right now if I can say that I'm against private or charter schools. What I can say is that there needs to be an independent central school board to be able to ask these questions and get those answers. As long as City Hall has control over the public school system, we won't ever have a clear understanding of whether

the private schools work... or that we need to discontinue with the traditional public school education. Until we take the political power that controls the educational process, I don't think we can ask that question before we get a determination that politicians shouldn't be running education in this city.

HOMELESS KIDS SPEAK OUT IN FILM



A homeless child in a preschool program. PHOTO/DIANE NILAN

By Cathy Talbott

CARBONDALE, IL — The "Babes of Wrath" tour of the southwestern states, a 5,000 mile journey to raise community awareness of homelessness, especially its effects on children and families, is taking Diane Nilan and Pat LaMarche along

the same route John Steinbeck's Okies traveled in his novel "The Grapes of Wrath."

Documenting as they go, they'll also be screening Diane's film "My Own Four Walls" in which homeless youth speak about homelessness. In 2005 while Diane was working with 305 schools in the Chicago area,

she realized that school personnel didn't understand the issues affecting homeless kids in their communities and consequently these kids were being denied entry.

So she decided to make a film. After a grant fell through, she was so committed to the issues and to getting the film made to raise awareness that she sold her townhouse and started a non-profit homeless children's advocacy group, Hear Us, Inc., purchased a motorhome and hit the road, traveling 20,000 miles around the country to film the stories of homeless children.

She returned to northern Illinois where Professor Laura Vasquez, Northern Illinois University, worked with her to create "My Own Four Walls." Since then they have made other films, one of which, "On the Edge: Homelessness in America," was screened and won here at Southern Illinois University's Big Muddy Film Festival in Feb., 2012. That is how I first heard of Diane and her quest.

Pat LaMarche is Diane's cohort on the tour, having made two previous journeys through, in her words, the backstreets, wooded camps, and homeless shelters of America's poor. Pat also was the Green Party's VP candidate alongside David Cobb in the 2004 electoral race. As Pat remarks in her Jan. 22, 2013 Huffington Post article "...there's even more need for this latest EPIC Journey than there was when I first went out in 2004..." She goes on to say if President Obama had been more "brutally honest" in his Inaugural Address, he might have stated: "Hey, I don't know if you noticed this or not, but you aren't supposed to be slaves anymore. Not you poor white folk any more than you poor Black folk. Not you mommas and not you babies. Not you veterans and not you elderly. You aren't supposed to be making a substandard minimum wage, feeding yourselves with food stamps and praying the sore on the bottom of your foot isn't a sign of something

worse—something you cannot afford to have treated. And you sure as heck aren't supposed to be living that way while the CEO of your power retail store or fast food employer makes 380 times what you do."

Pat ends her article with the following: "One thing is certain. When anyone—even the president—speaks to "you" about being poor, at least 1 in 6 of "you" in this wealthy nation already know what he's talking about, because "you" are the poor. And if we are the nation our ancestors fought a civil war to ensure, then "you" is "we" and we are the poor."

Follow the dynamic duo on their Facebook page EPIC Journey, check out their blogs at www.alternet.org and Huffington Post, or contact www.hearus.us or 928-774-1103 to set up a showing in your community. View trailers for the films and travel itinerary at www.hearus.us.

A PEOPLE'S PARTY BASED ON PEOPLE'S NEEDS

Interview with Tara Colon

For the People's Tribune, Sandy Perry interviewed Tara Colon. She is a mother of five and served as the Spanish Language Outreach Organizer for the Green Party during the 2012 Jill Stein-Cheri Honkala campaign.

People's Tribune: What is the Green Party doing on the ground now in Philadelphia?

Tara Colon: Right now we are organizing a Green Party voter registration drive, especially in the Kensington area where I live. Kensington is the poorest area in Pennsylvania. We are trying to build a Green Party presence in the neighborhoods the Republicans and Democrats have abandoned. We are trying to expand the Green Party base.

At the same time, we try to integrate Green Party politics into some of the ongoing anti-poverty

and anti-foreclosure campaigns we were already involved in here. Jill Stein and Cheri Honkala were just found not guilty for the sit-in they participated in at Fannie Mae last summer. They were trying to save the homes of Rhonda Lancaster and Ms. Fran. As a result of this sit-in, Rhonda Lancaster is still in her home today, and Ms. Fran, although she was evicted, has been able to find other housing to keep a roof over her head.

The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (which is separate from the Green Party) is working to bring the World Courts of Women to Philadelphia this October. This gathering will bring together international human rights activists with local anti-poverty, cultural, labor, and youth leaders. It will collect testimony, document the hu-

man rights abuses in our communities, and develop resolutions of action. Although it is a broad, non-partisan social movement event, many Green Party members will be participating.

Another key initiative is our Green Party Youth Committee, where my daughter Luisa is active. Although they have to be accompanied by adults, the youth bring extra energy and enthusiasm to our voter registration and petition campaigns. The youth are also important because the main way austerity is hitting Philadelphia is school closures. We lost 65 schools this year and now you have to get on a waiting list to get your kid into kindergarten. The kids are suffering.



Tara Colon is a longtime anti-poverty leader in Philadelphia. PHOTO/ABEL FRANCISCO

My daughter's high school was in chaos this year because it got combined with two others that closed.

The youth have also been mobilizing for kids to get legaliza-

tion. The Dream Act is not enough. We have children in our community who are five or ten years old. They need legalization now. They can't wait until they get to college age.

The most important thing today is for everyone to get involved on some level. The Green Party helps people do that. The whole concept of a people's party based on people's needs is an idea whose time has come. The Green Party can become that party. But only if you speak out. Let us know what you

are doing. Make a cell phone video and we will put it on YouTube. We need more testimony, more ideas, more art, and more poetry. Break your silence!

CALIFORNIA'S PROP. 37: LIES BUY AN ELECTION

With \$45 million of false advertising, giant food corporations defeated California's Proposition 37

By Abraham Entin

SONOMA COUNTY, CA — A month before last fall's elections, California Proposition 37 (requiring genetically modified food to be labeled as such) enjoyed a lead of more than 20 percentage points. Yet on election day it was defeated 53%-47%. How did this occur?

During the last month of the campaign, almost \$45 million in advertising was dumped on the people of California to convince them they are better off not knowing what is in their food. It was spent by Monsanto, by Dow Chemical and Kellogg's, by PepsiCo and Nestles and many other companies that profit from genetically engineered food.

The campaign waged by the "No on 37" committee was full of lies. They said if Prop. 37 passed the cost of food for the consumer would increase by almost \$500 per year. This came from a study funded by the committee itself, and it contradicts the experience of the more than 60 countries

that currently require GMO-food labeling.

They also lied about the credentials of their spokespeople and claimed newspapers supported them that did not. They lied about "trial lawyers" being behind the proposition, when in fact the law was written to discourage lawsuits.

They even sent out a mailer implying the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urged a no vote on 37, using the FDA logo beside a statement the FDA denied making—not only a lie but a serious violation of federal election laws.

Hundreds of thousands of Californians worked to get Prop. 37 on the ballot and inform their fellow citizens about it. But these huge transnational corporations trampled all over the work they had done, engulfing California in a blizzard of lies.

They were able to do this because, in a number of rulings culminating in the 2010 decision known as "Citizens United," the



Protest in California for GMO labeling legislation. The giant food industry defeated the legislation. PHOTO/HOANG-LIEN PHAM

Supreme Court has slowly transferred the rights of human beings to corporate entities and given them the power to control our political system in ways that make a mockery of the notion that we are a democracy.

The Court has ruled, in effect, that "money is speech," allowing corporations and the wealthy to buy our elections.

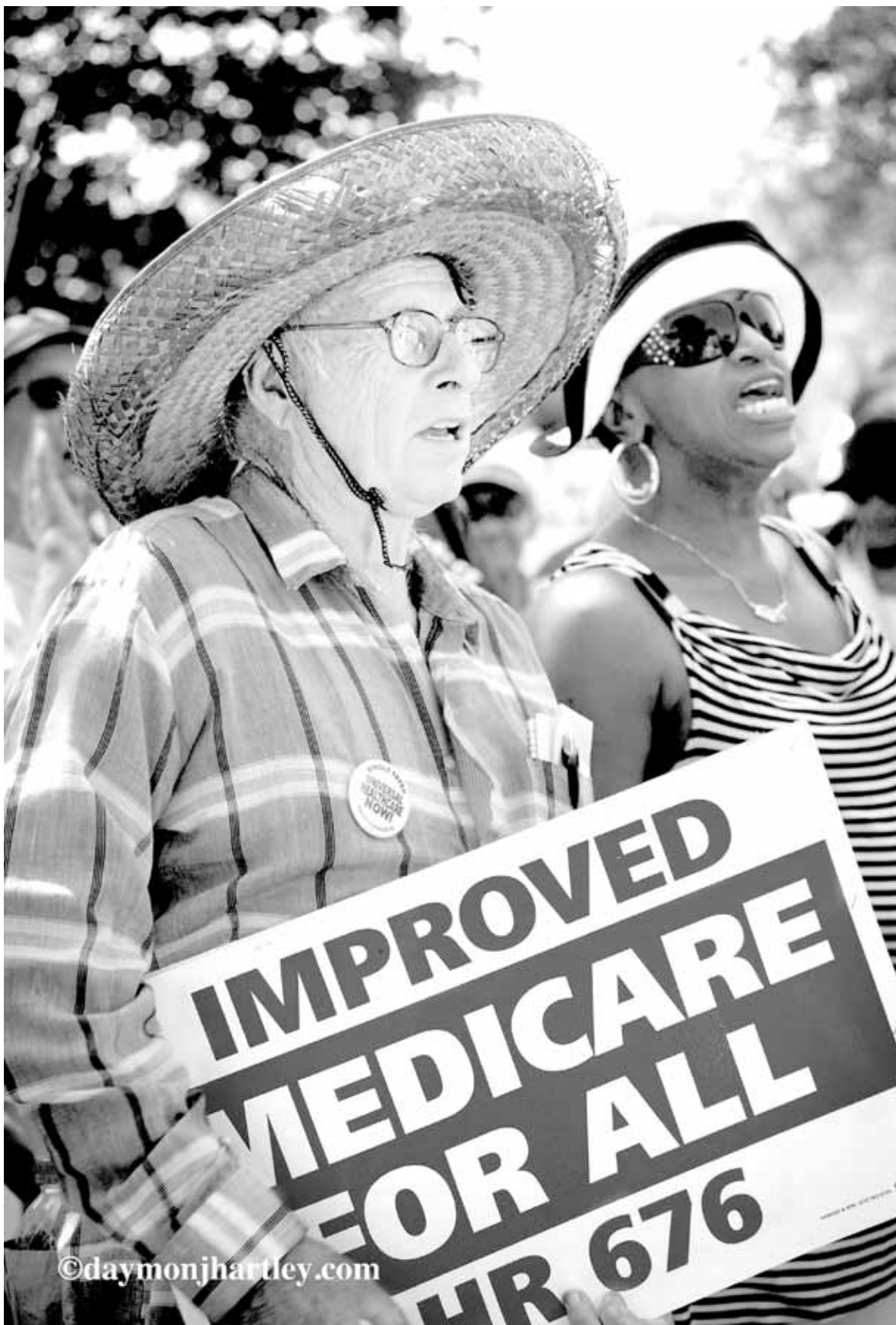
Combine the "rights" of human beings with the privileges

given corporations, and the inevitable outcome is corporate rule on a global scale, the destruction of the planetary environment, and an increase in the concentration of wealth that makes misery inevitable for the vast majority of the population of the earth.

But today we have an historic opportunity to say "enough" and strike at the root of the evil facing us. We can take back our country—and our planet—from

the corporations that have taken over the world. This is what the moment demands. Now is not the time for half measures and compromises. It is time for us to take our stand and stand together as human beings. If we do this, the future can be ours.

Abraham Entin is the founder of Move to Amend Sonoma County (Calif.) and is a frequent spokesperson for the organization.



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Healthcare protest in Michigan.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

HEALTH CARE – WHY ARE WE STILL DENIED THIS BASIC RIGHT?

By Dr. David Apsey

DETROIT, MI — Health care is a basic necessity of life and survival. In the USA, 100 million people suffer from a chronic lack of access to health care. 50 Million are uninsured and 50 million more are underinsured, lacking medical insurance in part of the year. Both groups don't see the doctor and are equally as sick. Their poor health is why the USA is ranked 37th in the world, in measures like infant mortality, maternal mortality, life expectancy and untreated illness.

The new health law; the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) which will be fully in effect by 2014 is not likely to meet its goals of improving access to care. The promised Medicaid expansion was the greatest hope to improve access for poor people. Approximately half of states are planning to expand their programs but without additional state funding. To save money, the states with "better" Medicaid programs plan to eliminate people from their rolls by the time their reform is complete. The insurance pools for individuals will increase insurance company profits while raising overall health care costs.

Why are we still talking about health care as a human right? If we were to implement a single payer national health care system, with a guaranteed right to health care, we would save money, cover everyone and we would all be healthier as a result.

These problems are part of the same disease. Health care costs a

lot of money in all countries. Under capitalism, the money to pay for it depends on workers paying taxes to cover the bill.

Capitalism, based on buying and selling labor power and trading the wages for commodities has hit its limit in most parts of the world. The government and private companies are not creating enough jobs.

Why can't the USA economy create jobs? Robot "factories" increasingly make the goods we use and this process is eliminating workers permanently. We need these tools! Workers should not have to do hard, dirty jobs and they cannot physically assemble precision items such as cell phones; so for society to keep advancing, we need and love these tools.

The cause of the disease is that under capitalism, these tools are in private hands, used to make items that are the most profitable with little consideration for people's needs. As long as the factories, banks, hospitals, schools, buses and trains are in private hands with fewer of us working, we will not be able to afford health care. We will continue to be faced with austerity budgets at home, poverty and war as various forces fight for control of the remaining profitable enterprises.

We need a new world where public control of productive resources can allow us to plan for our needs without interference. To get there, we will need political power to make and enforce the laws and determine our own bright future.

CHICAGO, IL – CABRINI GREEN EVICTIONS

By Joseph Peery

"Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally."

— Abraham Lincoln

CHICAGO, IL — Today, fundamental rights taken for granted by most Americans are routinely denied to public housing residents. Nowhere is this more evident than with the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) residents living in the so-called mixed income areas that used to be Cabrini Green.

Here condos and public hous-

ing exist in buildings under the same roof in dwellings right next door to each other, and yet are treated quite differently. Until very recently, only people living in condos could use storage space in the buildings, even though every apartment had its own storage cage with the apartment number labeled over it. Condo dwellers simply put their extra belongings in CHA storage units. This went on at a time when some public housing tenants were being harassed for having 'clutter' in their apartments that could have been stored. Around the same time, condo owners had keys to enter the gym on the first

floor while CHA occupants had to walk outside the building even in the cold of winter to buzz into the facility. Residents embarrassed the CHA in front of news reporters and cameras, and these abuses were removed.

Further, people in condos can own pets, people in CHA cannot. The former can belong to a condo association, the latter cannot. CHA tenants cannot even organize into unions to defend themselves. All those over the age of 18 in CHA units must submit to a mandatory drug test yearly, while those in condo units do not. The rationale is because CHA is a federally funded program. How-

ever building construction, management by private corporations, and maintenance, all receive federal funds. Then shouldn't everyone benefitting from those funds be drug tested as well?

Various "Acts To Amend" the original "National Housing Act" passed by both houses of Congress have put public housing families in a position of real legal second-class citizenship. By law any arrest of anyone, even false arrest, is enough to evict these families, no matter how remote or minor the offense. In a town as corrupt as Chicago, this can be a dangerous thing. A judge describing the conduct of officers

in his courtroom said that most people come to testify, but the officers come to test a lie.

Due process, innocence until proven guilty, and equal protection under the law, are all thrown out the window. The saying, "today it's us but tomorrow it could be you," has real meaning here. The unskilled industrial manufacturing jobs once worked by CHA residents for more than half a century are all gone. And with them, our right to keep a roof over our heads seems to have gone too. Buying a condo is a thirty-year process. Will your job last that long?

ROBOTS, JOBS, AND THE NEW ECONOMY

By Brett Jelinek

In recent months, the mainstream press has been extensively covering the impact of robotics on unemployment and the jobless recovery. Technology is replacing human labor in a big way, oftentimes permanently replacing jobs. Robots have been replacing manufacturing jobs for decades as the automated machines work much more efficiently than human labor. In a recent 60 Minutes report on the topic, an American manufacturer said that his robots cost him just over three dollars per hour to operate, a cost comparable to sweatshop labor.

Robotics and automation aren't limited to the manufacturing sector. New technology has replaced and reduced jobs from nearly every sector of work including the service sector, military, and agriculture; even "white collar" law, media, and financial sector jobs are threatened by new technologies.

We should not fear, hate, or try to stop highly productive technological developments, as these tools are creating an abundance never before seen in human history.

Technology is constantly becoming more advanced, sophisticated, and efficient, doubling in power and speed every year. We are just beginning to see the widespread implications that

these developments will have on society as advanced robots and computers are able to perform an increasing number of jobs cheaper, more accurately and efficiently than humans.

Herein lies a fundamental problem. People are going to continue to be pushed out of the workforce in larger and larger numbers. The speed at which jobs are replaced by technology far outpaces the number of new jobs created by this emerging industry, causing unemployment and poverty to skyrocket. With fewer people earning wages, fewer people will be able to buy goods and services. To maintain profit growth, corporations look to further reduce costs, introducing even more productive technology with new layoffs. This is a cycle that is going to repeat and intensify as corporations compete to maximize profits with fewer and fewer consumers to spend money.

This is the real economic crisis we face today, a crisis of capitalism itself. Capitalism, a system based on competition, can only exist in a world of scarcity. Capitalism is incompatible with a world of abundance where there is already more than enough homes to house everybody, food to feed everybody, and money to eradicate poverty four times over.

The same technology that is



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Hand-held devices enhance learning in Michigan classrooms.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

destroying the foundations of capitalism is creating not only the possibility, but the necessity for a new economy based on prioritizing human needs—an economy based on cooperation.

The struggle we face today is to embrace the reality of abun-

dance provided by automation. The economy and our political institutions need to be reshaped to reflect the reality we face now, not try to "go back" to the way it operated 50 years ago. We must organize to unleash the productive forces of today and tomor-

row's technology for the benefit of all humanity rather than the profits of the few. Before us is the unprecedented opportunity to usher in a new age that can truly deliver on the promise of peace and prosperity for every person, everywhere.

Obama's Inaugural II

There were politicians, poets, puffery, promises, the public,
The holy, rich and powerful were there. School kids, scarred
Veterans of last week's, current and far away years'
Social, political and martial wars. Choirs, cheers, bands,
The press, ruffles and flourishes of rhetoric.
Star spangled quavers in a voice hitting
High notes firmly and smoothly.
Lincoln's and Martin Luther King's
Bibles were present. The nation's heart
Pounded and staggered on. And the President
Didn't even get shot!!!

Gridlock will be padlocked by the next working day;
Plans made for ideologues to have their way.
A guitarist strummed about "sea to shining sea,"
Hinting at the problems simmering in between.
It's all games and plays we've seen before.
We just hoping for a different ending—
And a better score.

—Horace Colman, poet and Vietnam veteran

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Triangle Fire Memorial design competition opens for entries

By Andi Sosin & Joel Sosinsky
The Remember the Triangle
Fire Coalition

As America approaches the 102nd anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of March 25, 1911, the “fire that changed America,” it is worth noting that the same disregard for worker safety that made that preventable fire such a tragedy, the capitalist doctrine of profits over people, continues today all over the third world and in the erosion of OSHA worker safety protections in the USA. One hundred and twelve deaths in the Tazreen factory fire in Bangladesh on November 24, 2012, and even more recent industrial tragedies in the US and around the world are continuing testimony for the need to protest against morally corrupt multinational corporations such as WalMart, which considers the literal blood of innocent workers on the garments they sell no disincentive for the American working class to flock to their stores in search of bargain prices.

There are lessons from the horrific deaths of 146 immigrant workers in the Triangle fire that cannot and must not be forgot-

ten. The historical struggles of the past, now revisited here and abroad, should inspire us all to stand up and make our voices heard above the anti-worker, anti-labor union thunder that comes from the obscenely well-funded forces of the political extreme right. Over 100 years ago, it was collective activism and the rise of American labor unions that forced the politicians of this nation to embrace the stringent and effective safety rules and regulations in the workplace that we take for granted today. The Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition, a truly grassroots group composed of victims’ family members and sympathetic social, academic and artistic organizations and individuals throughout the US, have joined in solidarity to create a permanent public art memorial to the victims of the fire and to the workers and activists (many of whom were women at a time when they still did not possess the right to vote in this country), who ought be remembered.

To that end, the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition is proud to release a *Call for Entries* for artists, architects, fash-

ion designers, students, and members of the public to submit design proposals for what is hoped will be a “destination” piece of public art that can inspire visitors to contemplate a future when America will again become a more equitable society. The Coalition is seeking entries that abstractly or representationally honor workers, labor unionists, health and safety advocates, immigrants and women, reminding viewers that activism moves society forward, and that people are more important than profits. New York University, owner of the Brown (Asch) Building, has agreed to install the selected design on the exterior of the actual building in which the fire occurred. A jury of distinguished professionals will review all submissions in a two-phase process. The winning artistic rendering will memorialize the event and its victims, and educate as well as speak to what citizens can accomplish when they band together in common cause. See www.rememberthetrianglefire.org for more information about the Triangle fire and the memorial design open competition.



Triangle fire of 1911. One hundred forty-six mostly young immigrant women workers perished in the New York fire.

PHOTO/KHEEL CENTER, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Americans of African Descent: *From the cotton fields to corporate offices*



Part of a Black tenant family on a farm in the South, May 1941.

PHOTO/JACK DELANO

By Raymond L. Smith

Editor's Note: The following is Part 1 of a 4-part article.

LONOKE COUNTY, AR — Time is a term that has several different meanings. It is a term that life itself is dependent on. We have good times. We have bad times. We don't have enough time, or in other cases we have too much time. Occasionally, we regret the time. Whether intentionally or not, we forget the time. In particular situations it is better to get past the time. Yet, we should always remember the time: to honor and cherish the time, or to be sure we don't repeat the time.

It is believed by many in the mental health field that our bodies are equipped with a selective memory mechanism. This allows us to discard or store away the negative or distasteful experiences that we encounter in our lives. Perhaps that explains why many of us remember “the good old days.” When we walk down memory lane, we should come away with two valuable keepsakes. One is to admire and to improve on the positives. The

other is to acknowledge, understand and correct the negative. To do nothing about the wrongs of the past, to pretend that they never happened, leads to a sore that festers and prevents a healing process. In the Christian religion, believers are taught that forgiveness and healing are not only possible, but required.

Most of us who are sixty years old or older can remember a time when our communities consisted of a close-knit group of people who cared for each other. It was a time when there was less strife and a greater degree of togetherness. There were communities throughout the land, especially in the South, where people in urban and rural communities exercised togetherness throughout the day.

Over fifty years ago there existed in rural Lonoke County a thriving and viable community made up largely of African Americans. These descendants of slaves possessed virtues and high standards that were passed down through generations. This highly populated area was known as the Union Valley community. The population mainly consisted of responsible people with good

work ethics. An impressive number of these individuals were skilled craftsmen.

At that time blacks and whites co-existed without major conflicts. It was not unusual for the children, black and white, to openly play together. Unlike other areas of the state and country, whites in this area did not conspire to forcefully run blacks away from their homes. After all, this was cotton country and all hands were needed.

However, it was an era of segregation and the laws of the land imposed unfair and unjust sanctions against African Americans. A significant number of blacks farmed their own land while other blacks were sharecroppers on land owned by whites. Some African Americans who owned farms of one hundred sixty acres or more were Will “Doc Gooden” Lindsey, Charlie Parker, David “Coot” Brown and Julius Buckley. Perhaps the most prodigious African-American farmer of the time was Isaac “Coot” Sabb. The last names of some of the well-known white landowners are Haney, Martineau, Ball, Eagle, Kelly and Tate. *(To be continued next month.)*

Good riddance to Emergency Manager Joseph Harris

By Rev. Edward Pinkney



BENTON HARBOR, MI — After several tumultuous years, Joseph Harris, the Emergency Financial Manager in Benton Harbor, Michigan, is finally gone. He was a total failure. Joseph Harris made several false statements and made several federal and state violations. He also increased the budget deficits and defaulted in his duties. The whole experience shows why the people should be self-governed.

Welcome to Benton Harbor, Michigan! The citizens of Benton Harbor, and the State of Michigan voted to disband the controversial state Emergency Manager takeover law, Public Act 4 in the Nov. 6, 2012 general election. However, less than two months after the election, Governor Rick Snyder and the Republican controlled state legislature began crafting a new law—another version of the same bill—which passed during the lame duck session.

The new emergency law, Public Act 436, replaced Public Act 72, which had been in effect once the emergency manager law was shot down in the general election. The new law, Public Act 436, is also called the Local Financial government Stability and Control Act. The new law gives a troubled government

that the state or a corporation has targeted for takeover four choices: They can take over by using Chapter 9 bankruptcy, receivership, a consent agreement or mediation.

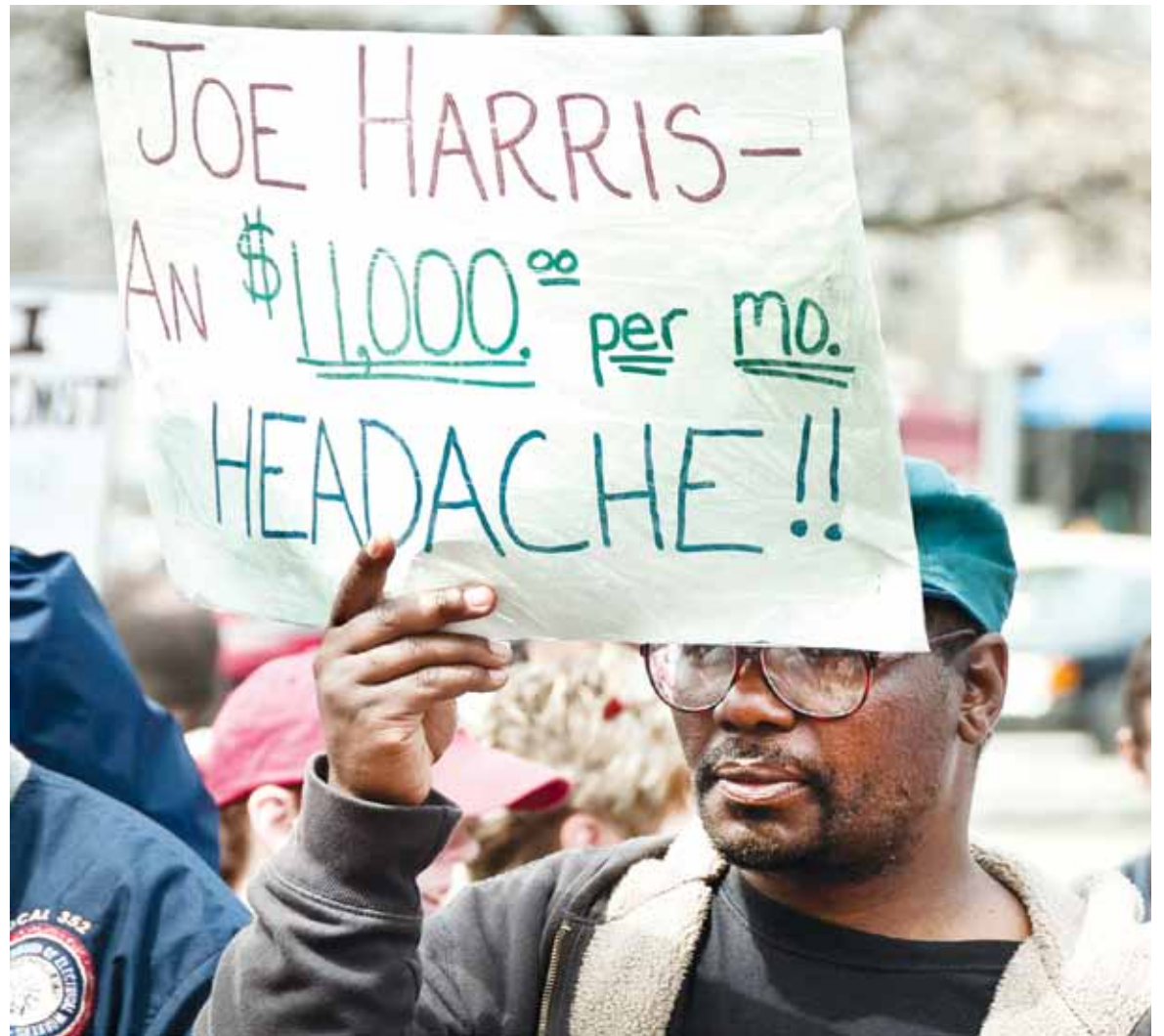
The new law is the same as the old law with stronger teeth. Like the old law, it undermines democracy. It gives emergency managers the authority to break union contracts and strip elected officials of their power.

The majority of African-American cities in Michigan are under the new Emergency Manager law: Flint, Pontiac, Ecorse, Allen Park, and Benton Harbor, as are three school districts in Detroit, Highland Park, and Muskegon Heights.

We are seeing the merging of government and corporations.

Tony Saunders has taken over the city of Benton Harbor Emergency Manager duties. The media claims Saunders served as an advisor for the Detroit suburb, Highland Park. On Feb. 11, 2013, Tony Saunders sang to the Benton Harbor residents. He sang and some Benton Harbor residents danced. It was Déjà Vu all over again. It was the same old story of corporate takeover.

We the citizens of Benton Harbor, Michigan have had enough of government imposed grossly incompetent dictators. The reason Tony Saunders is here is for the continued control by the Whirlpool Corporation over the residents of Benton Harbor. We the people must fight back for control of our city.



(Above) A protest against Emergency Manager Joe Harris in Benton Harbor, MI. PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK

(Right) Benton Harbor's new Emergency Manager, Tony Saunders II. PHOTO/REV. EDWARD PINKNEY



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—The People's Tribune

Free

Mental health clinics closed. Forced to fight our demons in the streets. Again.

Angry Eyes

My angry eyes brim
With women searching dumpsters
For capital's crumbs.

— Lew Rosenbaum

Students Test Us

Steal paintbrushes from children's fists.
Tell them schools can't afford art,
Then wonder why they scribble on tests
And who painted all those train cars?

The red and gold swirls of ten foot names
On your school's faded fence and brick wall
Belong in chapbooks and gallery frames.
Read graffiti as a grievance letter, Mr. Principal.

All students question until forced to quote.
Let them invent, compose and sing hard.
Let history show who died for their vote
And science grow runner beans in their backyard.

I respect all true teachers and learners in class.
The students test us daily and I hope we pass.

— Jill Charles

Jill is a Chicago writer in the Neighborhood Writing Alliance workshop at Bezazian Library.