

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

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DONATION \$1



Fast food workers and supporters strike against Detroit-area fast food restaurants through the D15 campaign, which calls for a \$15 wage and the right to form a union without management interference.

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INSIDE:

- Why America is “for sale” 2
- Operation Green Jobs:
Unemployed march 4
- Caravan of immigrants 5
- Michigan Emergency Manager
coming to your town? 6
- Privatization of public schools 7
- Pastors protest
Fresno police brutality 8

THE FIGHT FOR GOOD WAGES SHOWS THE NEED FOR A NEW SOCIETY

[Read story on page 3](#)

WHY AMERICA IS “FOR SALE”

The fight for a new world of peace and prosperity

EDITORIAL

In a recent movie, a billionaire approached a man and offered him a million dollars to spend the night with his wife. The man angrily retorted, “She is not for sale.” The billionaire smirked, “Everything is for sale.” Offensive? Most truths are.

A recent article in the Wall Street Journal noted that we, as a nation, have gone from a market economy to a market society. That is to say we have gone from an economy based on market laws unfettered by social morality to a commoditized society unrestricted by any sense of social responsibility. Everything has or is becoming a commodity and for sale. Armies, police, schools, prisons, parks and all other public properties are going through the process of privatization. In this time of corporate take-over, private property and social welfare are incompatible. One can exist only at the expense of the other.

Every economic process is preceded and guided by a political process. In the past, the wide spread ownership of small farms and businesses demanded consensus—thus “American Democracy” developed alongside slavery and genocide. Today, concentrated wealth and political power demand they be freed from the nuisance of consensus. With nowhere to expand, corporate power is forced to turn inward, to transform all public property into their private domain.

The resistance of the people to such banditry must be crushed by the corporations. So we see the privatization of our schools and parks matched by the privatization of a police force to protect them and privatization of prisons



Rally and March to Stop School Closings in Chicago. (See article on page 7 about the corporate takeover of education.) PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK

to hold any resisters.

The commodification of state power only reflects the “For Sale” sign on the political process. When corporations have more rights than human beings, when bought and paid for Supreme Court justices pick presidents contrary to popular votes, when the right to trial by peers is set aside, when the President declares he has the right to murder without due process—you no longer have even consensual democracy. It is fascism and it politically reflects the demands of the corporate economy.

It would be simple—as so many on the left have done—to say we were betrayed by Obama. The reality is that no political law can overcome an economic

law. Be it Bush or Obama, they must create political processes that conform to the economic motion.

Capital is at the end of its existence. It is not the first system to come to an end and be replaced. The new more efficient means of production—electronics—is incompatible with the wage-labor value producing system of private property. Like any

dying thing—capitalism fights to stay alive. It can only stay alive at the expense of the people.

We are in for a fight for the ecology, for civilization and for our very lives. We cannot win this fight if we only fight against the fascists. We must fight for something. That something is the orderly world of peace and prosperity made possible by the new electronic means of production.

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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.

Visit us on the web at www.PeoplesTribune.org

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

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.

People's Tribune Editor: Bob Lee

Editorial Staff: Bob Brown, Brett Jelinek, Sarah Menefee, Shamako Noble, Chuck Parker, Joseph Peery, Nelson Peery, Sandra Reid

Photo Editor: Daymon Hartley

People's Tribune, P.O. Box 3524
Chicago, Illinois, 60654
e-mail: info@peopletribune.org
Phone: 773-486-3551
Toll Free: 800-691-6888
Fax: 773-486-3552
Web: www.peopletribune.org

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Reach us at:

Chicago 773-486-3551

Ann Arbor, MI
zetlir@gmail.com

Atlanta, GA
atlanta@peopletribune.org

Carbondale, IL
carbondale@peopletribune.org

Detroit, MI
313-438-6115

Houston, TX
P O Box 231281, Houston, TX 77223-1281

Los Angeles, CA
310-548-6491

Oakland, CA
oakland@peopletribune.org

The fight for good wages shows the need for a new society

COVER STORY

In recent months we have seen unprecedented demonstrations by fast food workers, retail workers, and other low-wage workers. These struggles are spread out across the country, yet they are unified in their message: Pay us a living wage of \$15.

More than simply fighting for a wage increase, this movement represents a section of the working class that has been robbed of a future in this economy and is at the forefront of fighting for a new society. They are fighting for the right to survive and thrive when all other options have been taken away.

Modern technology is so profitable and efficient that corporations are making record profits while minimizing the number of workers needed. Living wage industrial jobs have been eliminated, and white-collar jobs are disappearing just as fast. America's workforce is pushed into low wage jobs or permanent unemployment. What were once considered "starter jobs" are now the primary form of employment for millions of Americans regardless of age, race, or educational attainment.

Low wage workers see the massive wealth that passes through their hands on the way to the owners, compared to their own paychecks, and they are fed up. A Chicago Macy's employee explained, "in that eight hours that I'm making [Macy's] \$1000, I only made myself about \$60... if me, one person, is bringing in \$1000, I'm pretty sure all [my co-workers] are bringing in \$1000. So it's like this money is coming in, it's going to the top but it's never coming back down. Which is ridiculous because we work our fingers to the bone."

Falling wages and insufferable



Fast food workers picket a Long John Silver's restaurant in Warren, MI., demanding a raise from their current rate of \$7.40 an hour. It was part of a one-day strike against Detroit-area fast food restaurants which calls for a \$15 wage and the right to form a union without management interference.

PHOTO/JIMWESTPHOTO.COM

working conditions are not the result of evil bosses, but are the outcomes of an economy that institutionalizes greed: the basic unbendable law of capitalism is the maximization of profits above all else. To cut costs and increase profits, corporations introduce advanced technologies into workplaces in every sector of the economy, including fast food and retail. Since workers cannot compete with the productivity of the newest technologies, which operate at a fraction of the cost of human labor, wages are driven down and people are pushed out of the workforce permanently. The capitalist system has no need for these people. Workers' rights and human rights will continue to be destroyed until the system

itself is changed.

The rising movement of low wage-workers is a fight for survival—for access to the necessities of life. As reported on *The Real News*, a New York McDonald's worker joined the movement because he is struggling to provide the basics for his family: "a better life, a better home, more food on the table, more clothes. There's a lot more stuff they need. We just now getting by."

In an economy that cannot meet people's basic needs, the people will fight. Low-wage workers from McDonalds, to Walmart, and every corporation in between, are rising up. If we demand a new society that meets their needs, we can create a new future—one where the immense wealth and productivity now in the hands of the corporations is made public and can be used to benefit all of humanity.

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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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Operation Green Jobs: Unemployed march to save jobs and save the planet

By Sandy Perry

On May 18, a group of marchers set out from Philadelphia, PA to march on the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC.

“What are the most dire issues we face?” asked march organizers. “If you’re like most Americans, you’d probably say the climate crisis and the jobs crisis. So why is Washington so obsessed with budget cuts and fossil fuels? Don’t ask members of Congress who have been purchased by corporate lobbyists, ask the one with the receipts: the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. We’re leading a march of the long-term unemployed from Philadelphia, PA to Washington, DC directly to the Chamber’s front door.

“Even while the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has the word JOBS hung on the front of their building, they’ve been working overtime to lobby for job-killing austerity policies that punish the poor to cushion the rich. They’ve been spending millions to bring about the approval of the catastrophic Keystone XL pipeline while remaining silent on green energy programs that would save the climate and create jobs.



Philadelphia families protesting cuts to education were among those participating in the Operation Green Jobs march. PHOTO/CHERI HONKALA

So from May 18th to May 24th, a group of Americans who have been the hardest hit by the recession will march on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, holding them accountable for buying off

Congress. Among those leading this march is Cheri Honkala, the 2012 Green Party vice-presidential nominee and a member of the Green Shadow Cabinet.”

The Green Shadow Cabinet

was organized on Earth Day, April 22. According to Jill Stein and Cheri Honkala, its purpose is “to amplify the voices of resistance and transformation” and “debunk the exploitative

policies of duopoly, provide timely response to current events, and raise the bar for just, sustainable solutions to the crises we face.”

“We are honored to have within the Cabinet leading advocates in their fields who are independent of the corporate political duopoly and who oppose a government dominated by the interests of big business and the wealthy,” explained Stein and Honkala. “The Cabinet will help unite the principled opposition for greater strength and impact than we can achieve as isolated issue advocates. It will bring a broad spectrum of activists into mutual collaboration, and demonstrate our capacity to govern - as Greens and independent allies.”

Every new sequester, every new pipeline, every gas company subsidy, every foreclosure and new school closure is another sign that Congress has succumbed to naked corporate rule. Every march like this one is living proof that (unlike Congress) the people cannot and will not submit to corporate dictatorship. We are on a collision course. Society must take over these corporations, or these corporations will take over our society.

Englewood abandoned: *The destruction of an American community*

By Detra Aikens, M.U.P.P.

CHICAGO, IL — Who is destroying working class communities in America? An article in the

Chicago Tribune acknowledges a process used by large banks and financial institutions like Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, Citigroup, Wells Fargo; I call

’em the “Bigboys.” The process is called “Foreclosure.” They take from the working poor and give to wealthy corporations... a reverse Robin Hood, a.k.a. Hood-robin.

Hood-robin has had a destructive effect on communities across this nation. The “Bigboys” then sit around as those vacant homes become “crime hubs”; drug-houses, dens for prostitution, and gangbanging. Then the “scavengers,” distant cousins to the “Bigboys,” finish-up the job by looting the abandoned homes, ripping-out copper, metal, sinks, tubs, doors, wood, aluminum, anything that can be sold.

OK, OK! So you lost your job, got behind in your mortgage payments; or, got talked into a low-interest refinance with a balloon payment. Then the housing market committed suicide. So where does that leave you and millions like you? Officially you are now **homeless**; living in a shelter, your car, with parents, or renting, if you’re lucky? Your community and all your neighbors have become targets, hosts for the parasites who

seize distressed communities and suck the life out of them.

Well, the banks have to get the money they invested in you and your house. And... they sell your home to someone dying to live in your neighborhood alongside your neighbors. It’s the American-way!

However... Bank of America foreclosed on 2,500 homes in Englewood, leaving the ownership of those properties up in the air. It means they cannot be held responsible for the continued neglect or deterioration of those properties. Homes that used to have families in them now stand with windows and doors gaping, steps and railings in disrepair, some with fire damage, weeds stand two-feet tall with garbage adorning front lawns like spring flowers. It’s called an eyesore.

WHY-O-WHY would the “Bigboys” want to sit on eyesores...? According to The Chicago Tribune (3/25/13), “A major **rail yard expansion** set for the Englewood neighborhood got the go-ahead from a City Council committee... despite continued

concerns from residents about the potential effect of additional diesel trucks on the health of people living nearby.” “...Aldermen on the council’s Housing Committee agreed to a plan to sell **105 vacant city-owned lots** to Norfolk Southern for \$1.1 million. The land would become part of an 84-acre freight yard the company hopes to begin operating in 2015.”

What! Did the six Englewood Aldermen fight for the concerns of the residents? Did they stop the sale of additional land until newly initiated environmental impact studies were complete? Did they negotiate “set-asides” that would ameliorate any new environmental conditions? Hey, Aldermen in Wards 3, 4, 6, 15, 16, and 20, how about an interview? aarandl@aol.com

Hummm! Since U.S. manufacturing has gone defunct, is Hood-robin what’s next for **Corporate America**...

Shout-out to Ed Gardner, former Soft Sheen exec. Would like your views on the Englewood crisis?

Pride-n-Purpose



Protesters demonstrate against austerity measures and other issues that are greatly affecting the poor in Chicago communities. PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

Mexico: Brutal violence against migrants

By Rodolfo Chavez

CHICAGO, IL — Our sisters and brothers who are Central and South American migrants are cruelly slaughtered when they head for the United States. First, they are massacred when crossing the southern border into Mexico. Then, those who manage to get across face the possibility of being attacked again on Mexico's northern border, where thousands of victims are being recorded as killed and/or disappeared.

Also, on the northern border of Mexico, thousands fall victim of this violence. Father Alejandro Solalinde, a Mexican priest, has given aid to our brothers and sister migrants, creating health centers to support these migrants. Today he has extended his activism to fight for the basic human rights of those who migrate to survive.

"La Caravana Abriendo Puertas a la Esperanza" (Caravan Opening Doors to Hope) will start

in San Diego, California on April 29. La Caravana will go to various states and will arrive in Waukegan, Illinois on May 16, and to Chicago on May 17, 18, 19. The Caravan will end its journey at the end of May in Washington, DC.

Father Solalinde has been threatened with death by the powerful that benefit from the "migrant industry," even by the Mexican police. The powerful want to intimidate and/or kill him, to stop him from denouncing the hell that migrants suffer when they cross Mexican territory in their trek to the United States.

Father Solalinde is heading a caravan through the U.S. to denounce this brutality suffered by our brothers and sisters from Central and South America. They call on the American people to intervene to stop this situation that denigrates the human being as such.

We are all migrants.

For information about the Caravan, visit: chip.migrante.org



Special thanks to Irieo Mujica Arzate. His photos capture the brutality and suffering faced by our sisters and brothers from Central and South America in Mexican territory on their journey to the U.S.

PHOTO/IRIEO MUJICA ARZATE

THE GREAT MIGRATION

Together, the capitalist oligarchs of Mexico and the United States are driving millions off the land

By Dave Ransom

SANTA ROSA, CA — "The village is almost without people," an elderly woman told a reporter in tiny San Jeronimo Solola, Oaxaca, earlier this year.

"Many houses are empty. The fathers and the sons have gone. If the young people keep leaving, what do you think will happen to us?"

Mexicans have grown corn for thousands of years. The corn-bean-squash agriculture they perfected—the milpa system—is perhaps the most successful and self-sustaining in the world.

But the capitalist oligarchs of Mexico and the United States are now systematically undermining the milpas—replacing them with large-scale, soil-depleting, irrigated farms—and forcing the small farmers off the land.

A century ago, when the government of Porfirio Diaz concentrated the land into fewer and fewer hands, the forebears of these farmers rose in rebellion against the hacendados—the owners of the great agricultural estates. Led by Emiliano Zapata in the revolution of 1910-1920, they fought for a redistribution of the land.

The corn grown by those

small farmers created the surplus on which Mexican industry was built. But with the step-by-step dismantling of the Cardenas reforms, Mexican finance, industry, and agriculture is being concentrated in fewer and fewer hands again. And Mexico has been thrown open to the capitalists of the world, especially the United States.

At the end of the 20th century, Mexico's economy became increasingly entwined in the integrated world economy, and Mexico's small farmers faced the Mexican and North American oligarchies united against them.

In the 1993 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mexican capitalists, operating through the government of Carlos Salinas, simply abandoned the small farmers. They dropped the tariffs against imports of cheap U.S. corn, knowing full well that doing so would destroy traditional agriculture.

NAFTA has been primarily the project of the capitalists of the U.S. They, too, knew that opening Mexico to U.S. corn would destroy small Mexican farmers.

Operating through presidents George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton, they were successful

in winning NAFTA. And within a few years, U.S. agribusiness—dominated by giant corporations like Cargill—was exporting four times as much corn into Mexico as before.

The U.S. government was actually subsidizing large-scale corn production in the United States and dumping it on the Mexican market at less than its cost to produce.

Mexican small farmers could not compete with this. More than two million people were pushed out of agricultural work and another five million could no longer live on farm income. Millions streamed north. Whole villages hollowed out, dispossessed of their traditional livelihood, and, in effect, of their culture and their land.

The Mexican oligarchy, too, was substantially subsidizing its agribusinesses, which erupted into the world market. Since NAFTA began, Mexican companies like Grupo Bimbo and Maseca have become dominant players in the global food industry.

But none of this helped the economic refugees fleeing north. Does the story end here? Only if the global oligarchy continues to have its way.

Viva Zapata!

Citizenship for immigrants is central to working class unity

From the Editors

U.S. citizens and immigrants are part of the same working class. For many years, the capitalists have torn down the borders for their "free" trade. Now it is our turn to tear down the borders that divide us. We all have the same needs, whether born in the U.S. or another country. The technological revolution is eliminating industrial jobs for all of us. It is in our fight for survival and to provide for our families where we must unite with our same needs. This is why the demand for citizenship for immigrants is central to working class unity. There awaits a world of abundance, family unity, and happiness.

National day of action

By Chuck Parker

COACHELLA VALLEY, CA — A forum at UC Riverside on Saturday, May 11, analyzed the immigration reform bill proposed by the Gang of Eight in the Senate. It will bring more militarization of the border,

and create a long, hopeless legalization procedure. Participants called for a NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION on May 29, the creation of an on-line petition, and an alternative humane bill. For more information go to airucr.org, and www.peopletribune.org.

Emergency Manager coming to a town near you?

By David Apsey,
Detroit advocate for the people

DETROIT, MI — Detroit's Emergency Manager, Kevyn Orr, has made his first report. The trends that caused the Detroit decline include a population decline of 250,000 from 2000-2010, declining tax revenues, a vast geographical space to maintain and the devastation in Michigan caused by 400,000 workers put out of manufacturing jobs in the 2007-2009 Great Recession who have yet to return to work. Detroit is heavily in debt with bond payments, retiree pensions and health care obligations and inadequate tax revenue to meet its obligations.

Kevyn Orr was brought in through a new Emergency Manager law that was forced through the Michigan Legislature in a lame duck session, despite Michigan voters' rejection of emergency managers in 77 of 83 counties in November, 2012. Bondholders and their legislator minions, bought forth with campaign donations, have decided what's best for us. Kevyn Orr will cut costs, privatize services and guarantee payments to bondholders. If the

workers don't agree to the austerity, he will impose it with a dictator's pen, signing away Detroit assets in bankruptcy court.

Democracy has always been for property holders in the USA, characterized by small business

“Michigan has trained 400 emergency managers to help corporations to our wealth.”

owners making campaign donations and electing legislators to make laws to support their corporate needs and build better communities for their families. Now that automation of manufacturing has eliminated the age of the “Mom and Pop” business and millions of jobs, and large corporations are taking over all areas of the economy, democracy is just getting in the way.

In this new era where small businesses are driven out and owners are converted into workers, and workers are becoming

permanently unemployed, the State of Michigan has responded to the “needs” of the largest corporations and has trained 400 emergency managers to “lead” us out of trouble. Why will they stop at Detroit?

Benton Harbor suffered a theft of public lands under their emergency manager, leaving the city without its crown jewel, valuable lakefront land. Now they have a luxury golf course and marina development for the wealthy without significant tax revenue or jobs as Jean Klock Park was privatized into the Harbor Shores Development.

Valuable development land along the Michigan coastline is a target of the emergency manager law and will strip communities of their valuables without tax revenues to pay their bills or assets for their future. Michigan Governor Rick Snyder is dedicated to helping corporations capture all our natural wealth. More emergency manager courses are being started up all over the country as the Michigan model will be extended to the nation.

The solution lies in nationalization of productive assets such as factories, banks, schools, hospitals

Governed by edict: Executive orders replace local democracy

By Claire McClinton

FLINT, MI — We pay Senior Millage, yet Senior Centers are being closed. We pay annual fees for garbage collection, yet our garbage collection has been outsourced to a private company. We pay a Park millage, yet our city's Parks and Recreation Department is non-existent. All the city's lawn equipment has been auctioned off. Meanwhile, the Emergency Manager (EM) held closed door meetings with United Water and American Water. Water rates have soared through the roof for increasingly impoverished citizens.

Last year, the EM sold Genesee Towers, an abandoned office building, for One Dollar to local investors. The same group was awarded almost One Million dollars of Community Development Block Grant (federal) funds for future demolition of the building! These funds are sorely needed for neighborhood development. All of this was done by Executive Order of the EM.

New lawsuits, public forums and civil disobedience activity are escalating. Citizens are retooling and recharging to confront fascist rule.

and natural wealth such as fresh water, mineral deposits and energy resources in the people's interests. Production for maximum profit is at odds with the reality of shrinking markets as consumers cannot consume enough to support the

profits of past years. If productive assets were held collectively, production and distribution of necessities of life without the requirement of profit could resolve budget deficits and people's suffering for all time.

Fiftieth anniversary of Detroit's civil rights march

The dream fifty years later

By Waistline

DETROIT, MI — “Almost one hundred and one years ago, on September the 22nd, 1862, to be exact, a great and noble American, Abraham Lincoln, signed an executive order, which was to take effect in January the first, 1863. The executive order was called the Emancipation Proclamation and it served to free the Negro from the bondage of physical slavery. But one hundred years later, the Negro of the United States of America still isn't free.” —Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech at the Great March In Detroit.

“Free by 63” was the battle cry of the 200,000 Detroiters that protested the old system of segregation on June 23, 1963.

June 23, 2013 is the fiftieth anniversary of Detroit's historic Civil Rights march, where Dr. King delivered his “I Have A Dream” speech. King's legendary sermon would be delivered during the August 1963 “March On Washington.”

In 1963, President Kennedy promised new Civil Rights

legislation; the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) would establish its domestic operations division; Malcolm X would deliver his famous “Message to the Grass Roots” and the year would end with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

With the laws of segregation still intact, Detroit was like an open air prison for Blacks. Without open occupancy laws, local block clubs and community associations restricted who could move into their neighborhood. Thousands of Blacks could not find housing and were crowded into isolated slums.

In 1963, the Big 3 (General Motors, Ford and Chrysler) were just starting to hire from the low point of the 1958 recession. It would take the Detroit march and “March On Washington” to change this policy.

The Black community was angry and in revolt over the police murder of Cynthia Scott. Officer Spicer shot her three times in the back and was never brought to trial. Cynthia, a prostitute, was shot in the back walking away



MLK Day annual celebration in Detroit, January, 2013.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

from Spicer.

The Civil Rights Movement did accomplish its goal; desegregation. After the Detroit march and then Washington a series of laws were passed including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voters Rights Act of 1965, fair Housing Act and sweeping laws, law suits and ordinances effectively destroyed legal segregation.

The Dream 50 years later

The introduction of new

means of production—computers and robotics—changed America. One way or another, new means of production creates new classes, tearing society from its foundation, leaving unemployment, poverty and destitution in its wake. The new American proletarian class created by robots: the so-called “throw-away worker,” the temporary, the part-time, the under minimum wage, the permanently unemployed and the

permanently poor, are increasingly outside capitalist society. The homeless, the destitute are at the core of this new class.

The dream Dr. King spoke of can only be realized in a society organized based on public, not corporate property or the principle of one for all and all for one, rather than the protection of the one percent.

Charter School Week: Front for corporate takeover of education

By Lew Rosenbaum

CHICAGO, IL — On May 3, President Obama proclaimed May 5-11 National Charter School Week. The Chicago Tribune noted that this was an affront to Obama's supporters in the teachers' union. And for good reason: Charters are almost universally anti-union. In Obama's hometown of Chicago, corporations running charter schools educate 51,000 schoolchildren, while opposing unions and draining resources from public schools.

The day before, Obama nominated billionaire Penny Pritzker to be secretary of commerce. Anticipating the nomination, Pritzker resigned from Chicago's Board of Education, where she championed charter schools. There is another connection of interest: Pritzker's family controls the Hyatt Hotel chain, long the unsuccessful target of a UNITE-HERE organizing drive. Another slap in the face to the Democrats' trade union supporters. The Chicago Teachers' Union (CTU) and the hotel workers have picketed and demonstrated together against their common enemy.

Meanwhile, mainstream media finally noticed what *Substance News* had reported in June, 2009. One of the largest charter



Chicago students against school closing and the misuse of standardized testing.

PHOTO/JAMES FASSINGER, STILLSCENES.COM

school organizations in Chicago, the Democratic Party-connected, United Neighborhood Organization (UNO), had been awarded \$98 million for new school construction by the fiscally strapped Illinois state government. UNO used that money to give contracts to friends of the UNO Board. As the Legislature began to investigate, UNO reversed its

union-busting attitude, and in what looked like a public relations stunt, agreed to allow Chicago ACTS, the charter teachers union, to organize (87% of the teachers signed union cards). What kind of contract, if any that Chicago ACTS will be able to negotiate, has yet to be seen.

This year the big story in Chicago is school closings. The

school board was due to vote May 22 on the 54 proposed schools to be closed. So why is it that we are called to celebrate National Charter School Week? Why call for charter expansions, while all the major cities in the country are closing schools? Politicians from the federal government to the local level claim that charter schools have more flexibility

than traditional schools and that privatization fosters innovation. But that is not what has happened. Studies show that charter schools function no better than traditional schools, while they drain neighborhood schools of resources.

The reason is that charters are a key weapon in the corporate takeover of public education. Capitalists are sitting on piles of money. Every public space becomes fair game to increase their investments. Private interests already dictate to public schools. Books, tests, and food industries have made billions, holding educational institutions hostage. With charter schools, the city funnels tax dollars directly into corporate pockets. This subsidizes these private interests for each student enrolled and removes education from public accountability. It also undermines a main source of opposition coming from teachers who are about to be dispossessed by school closings.

What is the key to National Charter School Week? First, loot the public treasury at the behest of the corporations; then destroy the teachers unions. The goal of the CTU and Chicago ACTS is to stop the expansion of charters. This is a political battle, in which both Democrats and Republicans are the declared enemies of the combatants.

The crisis in public education: *And justice for all*

By Gloria Slaughter

ATLANTA, GA — The public school system in America is being gradually eliminated. Is it because it is the last area whereby corporations can create for-profit schools and the fact that our minority students have become the majority in the schools? Is it a war on people of color and of poverty?

On January 2, 2001 President George Bush signed the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation that testing and accountability would be the criteria to measure if students and whether schools and/or school districts would be granted bonuses or suffer punishment such as the closure of "failing" schools. The high stakes testing and the top-down educational mandates are not meeting the needs of the majority of the students—Hispanic and Black. This becomes the route from school to prison pipeline.

In the op-ed in the Bellingham (WA) Herald on March 23, Lorraine Kasprisin, editor of the Journal of Educational Controversy, writes, "The school-to-prison pipeline stands as a direct contradiction to the vision of the public school as an institution for promoting and

sustaining a democratic republic." She denotes that the data from the ED's Office for Civil Rights "indicate that over three million students are suspended and more than 100,000 students are expelled each year." She documents examples of zero tolerance policies, overuse of school discipline and juvenile court referrals all stemming from the pressures and abuse from the high-stakes testing environment as causes. She is an advocate for the student's right to a quality education, freedom from discrimination and due process.

Many school systems and schools are taken over by the states or local governments under the pretense that they are "failing" systems or schools or that they are otherwise dysfunctional. Georgia Governor Nathan Deal recently removed six of the nine DeKalb County, Georgia School Board members (the three remaining members were just elected). The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) is the agency that monitors accreditation but actually only monitors management not student achievement. It considered the DeKalb County Board members dysfunctional and put it on probation. The Atlanta and

Clayton County School Systems suffered from this same situation a few years ago. SACS plays a part in the move to privatize the public school systems. During the legislative session Governor Deal asked the state legislators to give the state more control to intervene over struggling school boards.

Other examples of "take-overs" of school systems have occurred in Prince George, County, Maryland, by the County Executive; New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's take-over of the Camden, NJ, system; Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel plans to close 53 schools and in Michigan, emergency manager Roy Roberts has announced that he will fire the superintendent that the Detroit school board hired. There are many more cases of uprooting the democratic right of all—one man, one vote—which the Voting Rights Act of 1964 reflects.

Rich Gibson, an advocate for Education for Social Justice, Democracy and Equality, in response to this destruction of public education states: "the education agenda is a war agenda" (war on working people; war on poor people; war on people of color; war on youth; war on schools, students, teachers, and the community).



Thousands of parents, students, teachers, public school employees and community members rally against proposed closing of 54 public schools in Chicago.

PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK

PASTORS PROTEST FRESNO POLICE BRUTALITY

By Rev. Floyd D. Harris, Jr.
National President, National
Network in Action

FRESNO, CA — The National Network in Action, a civil and human rights organization, the Mexican-American Political Association, the Fresno Brown Berets and New Light for New Life Church of God recently held a community rally against police brutality, harassment, racial profiling, excessive force and deadly force.

Over 100 people gathered at the corner of Arthur and Strother, where Mr. Jerel Stanfield was shot in the head, leg, and in the back, on Easter Sunday, March, 2013. The African American community came out to receive information on “Cop Watch” and “Know Your Rights.” When confronted by police, I said, “When Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer can laugh in a press conference and when former city council member Jerry Duncan can say, “Make no mistake about it—they are “terrorist,” (making reference to Black people). He said



A couple of days after the police shooting, “Police dressed up in ski masks and, carrying military assault weapons descended into west Fresno armed with what appears to be a ‘tank’ and ready for war,” said Juan Avitia.
PHOTO/JASMIN STANFIELD

they are much like terrorists— “giving our kids a hot dog and a bounce house, patting them on the head at the age of 5, and then shooting them in the head or back when they get older. The Black

community has a constitutional right and human right to protest against police brutality, harassment, racial profiling, excessive force and deadly force.” Pastor Paul McCoy from New Light for New Life Church of God said the solution is not just for our community but we must set the example for all community so we can hold each other accountable.

Gloria Hernandez educated those gathered on the amount of money we are losing as taxpayers defending Chief Dyer while many city jobs are being lost or contracted out to private industries. The discrimination complaint filed by two deputy chiefs was settled prior to going to trial. The two deputy chiefs and their attorney won \$100,000 while we the taxpayers paid Dyer’s Hollywood contracted attorney over \$800,000 to quietly settle this case.

Juan Avitia, National President of the Mexican-American Political Association (MAPA), supported the rally and made the point that police dressed up in ski masks and, carrying military assault weapons descended into

west Fresno armed with what appears to be a “tank” and ready for war.

This history includes the deliberate hunting and killing of Joaquin Figueroa in 2006, a disturbing assassination by Fresno police officers that haunts our community to this day. The Fresno Police Department does not have the right to be the JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER.

TV links to Fresno Police shooting on channel 30 news: <http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=9064822>

TV links to Fresno Police Shooting channel news: <http://www.ksee24.com/news/ARTHUR-OIS-RALLY-SUN-202963971.html>

Blogtalk radio show: Re-talk1drs. M-F From 8pm to 8:30pm

Blogtalk radio show: National Network In Action Saturday 8pm to 8:30pm

Contact Rev. Floyd D. Harris Jr., President, National Network In Action, at 559-213-5886 or by email: xyfloyd@aol.com

Salt on the wound for the poor: Storage facilities snatch sensitive stuff

By Diane Nilan

CARBONDALE, IL — If you’re one of countless people with no friend or family member with a basement or garage to store your stuff when you have to make an unexpected move (disaster, foreclosure, domestic violence, etc.), you might stash your stuff in one of those ubiquitous storage facilities found in almost every community.

Think again, or at least give serious thought about how you pack your most valuable, and sensitive, belongings.

If you fall behind on your monthly rent you can easily be locked out and your stuff, including documents, photos and keepsakes you value, will go to the highest bidder. Your stuff and the “junk,” including your personal documents, may be trashed or misused.

HEAR US, Inc., my national nonprofit organization working on issues facing homeless families and youth, discovered this “dirty secret” as we embarked upon the recent Babes of Wrath tour. Pat LaMarche and I interviewed Lupe, a hard-working motel housekeeper in the Los Angeles area who, with her extended family holed up in a motel suite.

Lupe shared her agonizing story of falling behind on the storage rent because their motel



Participants at an auction stand in line to see the storage unit being auctioned. PHOTO/DIANE NILAN

cost a budget-busting \$410 a week, exceeding their ability to keep a roof over their heads if they paid for both. The worst part, according to this devoted mom, was losing all their personal stuff—the kids’ artwork and school photos, health and tax records, banking info, and

keepsakes like an afghan made by her mother. Sure, they lost lots of valuable furnishings, but the little stuff hurt the worst.

Babes of Wrath were, well, wrathful about this. Paying rent for space is fair. Being unduly penalized, \$30 a day, and locked out without being able to get

these little items of no resale value reeked of ruthlessness. What to do?

We have:

Filed and produced a short (4-min) youtube sharing Lupe’s story. Circulate the link. (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW2ATWBbbmA&feature=youtu.be>)

Drafted legislation, now being reviewed by a team of lawyers and political mavens. It would provide a window of opportunity for the renter to retrieve the cash-insignificant items. Storage facilities would be required to post reminders to keep these sensitive documents in an easily retrievable spot, a reminder necessary for those in crisis mode when they’re packing.

Created a one page tip sheet on our Save Our Stuff website (www.saveourstuffnow.com) to share with anyone who is, currently or previously, utilizing storage facilities. We encourage you to download it and distribute to motels, shelters, laundromats, soup kitchens, etc.

And we’re surveying those who’ve had storage facility experiences. Our short survey is available online or in PDF (return it to HEAR US via fax (630-225-5012) or email us at diane@hearus.us).

Mary Parks, the tech guru part of the Babes of Wrath team, suggests renters prepare a “bug out bag” that will be easy to grab if you have to bug out.

Help us help those households and former households at least not lose everything. Spread the word about this project, LIKE our EPIC Journey 2010 Facebook page

Babes of Wrath, Staying one step ahead of The Man....

Coachella rally urges Governor not to delay medical expansion

By Maribel Nunez
California Partnership

COACHELLA, CA — On April 11, advocates, health professionals, and community members came out in support of immediately expanding California's health care access under the Affordable Care Act. Gov. Jerry Brown has committed to the Medi-Cal expansion, but he also has proposed 63 pages of amendments intended to preserve administrative barriers to access of coverage. On the other hand, California Legislature's Bills AB1x1 and SB1x1 proposals would take full advantage of the new opportunities and federal funds provided under the Affordable Care Act.

The governor's amendments means some Californians may end up not being covered as quickly, paying more, or with fewer health care options. Other issues that have stalled the bill is that the governor wants to reallocate money from counties, including public hospitals in spite of the fact that while the Affordable Care Act will reduce the number of uninsured in California by one-half to two-thirds, 3

to 4 million people will remain uninsured.

Health care officials, advocates, and families came together in rallies in Los Angeles, Bakersfield and Coachella, urging state's elected officials to act quickly to prevent hundreds of millions of federal dollars from being lost if California fails to fully implement the Affordable care Act by January 1, 2014, and asked that the state continue its commitment to provide access to care for all Californians through its key safety-net institutions.

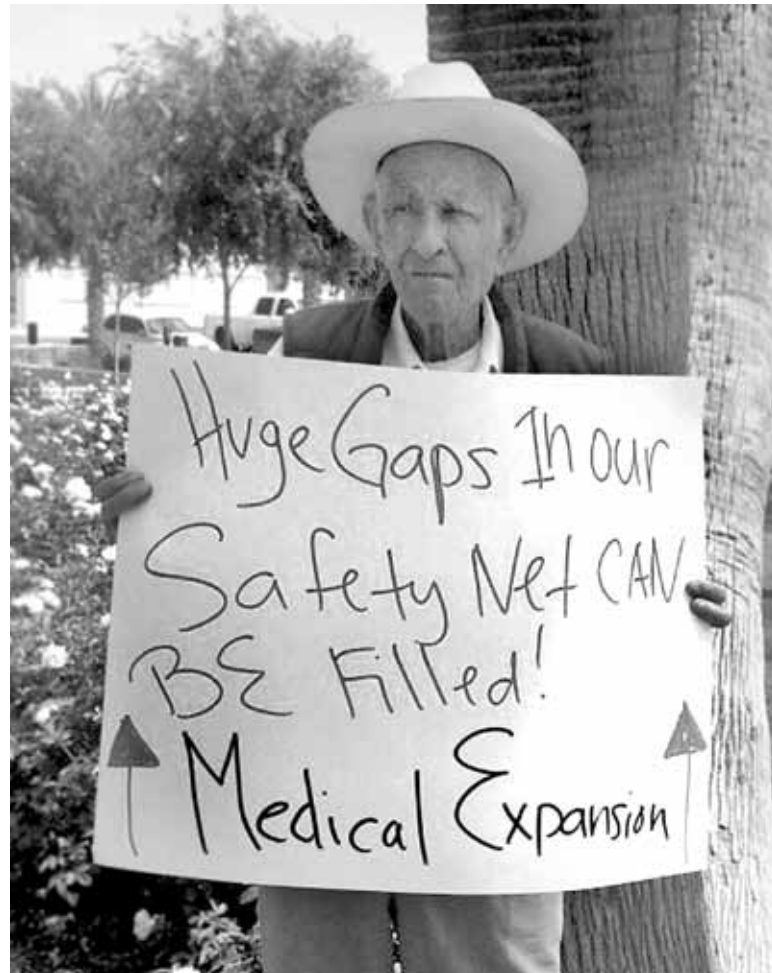
The fiscally prudent path for California is also one of aggressive action. The federal government is fully funding the coverage for newly eligible consumers for the first three years—and will pay 90 percent after that.

Each person we don't enroll in January translates into money California leaves unclaimed in Washington. It should be a statewide goal to get all of the elements in place as soon as possible, and to encourage mass enrollment on day one. With six months to open enrollment in October, the governor should fully and urgently seize this opportunity to expand Medi-Cal, because

it will get more Californians care, transform our health system and bring in more federal money to our state. Enacting these bills will provide a sense of security for all Californians, so that even if someone is laid off or loses their source of income, they will get the health care they need.

Currently, the expansion of the Medi-Cal program has been stalled in Sacramento, putting in jeopardy access to care for over one million uninsured Californians that would have health coverage if the expansion started now. The Medi-Cal expansion legislation needs to be in place as soon as possible for the state to be ready to enroll new Medi-Cal clients by January 1, 2014. Every month it is delayed, California will lose hundreds of millions of federal dollars and California will have left people uninsured.

At the April 11 Coachella Press Conference, Clinicas de Salud de Pueblo, El Sol Promotores, Lideres Campesinos, Pueblo Unido, United Domestic Workers, and Coachella Senior Center and others called for the State of California to start now with the medical expansion included in the Affordable Care Act.



A retired farmworker and veteran of the organizing drives of the 1970's carries on the struggle for economic and social justice in America.

PHOTO/MARIBEL NUNEZ

Tar Sand oil transported to Gulf Coast via Mobile, Alabama

By Kimberly McCuiston

MOBILE, AL — The extraction Industry will not stop trying to find ways to deliver their toxic Dilbit (diluted bitumen) product to Gulf Coast refineries. The Upper Gulf Coast has long been known as America's Energy Sacrifice Zone. The reality of that title was evident three years ago during the British Petroleum Oil Disaster which, contrary to mainstream media and advertising, has not recovered.

The Keystone XL Pipeline opponents have been so effective that the industry had had to find other means to get the Tar Sands Oil to the Gulf Refineries for export to Asia and Europe. In June, Canadian National Railroad and Arc Terminal will be bringing Canadian Tar Sand oil to Mobile by heated rail car; it will be offloaded and stored at the newly built Tank Farms on the Mobile River. The Tar Sands oil will then be put through a new 45-mile pipeline to the Chevron Refinery in Pascagoula, Ms.

The pipeline project consists of 11 stream crossings, 128

wetland crossings and horizontal directional drilling at the Escatawpa River, Black Creek, and Little Black Creek. The project also consists of the expansion of the Plains Ten Mile Compressor Station.

This pipeline also goes underneath the watershed that supplies the municipal drinking water for the city of Mobile, and will run through poor minority communities.

On April 27, our group participated in Earth Day Mobile Bay in Fairhope, Al., by setting up a booth, educating people, and handing out informational fliers on the Tar Sands issue in Mobile. The public hearings on this pipeline were held in Montgomery, Al., and very few people know what is happening. We hope to get a hold on these operations, until a Public Hearing can be held in Mobile.

A Pubic Tar Sand Awareness Rally is set to be held on Sat., May 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Cathedral Square in Mobile, Al.

Kimberly McCuiston is co-founder-activist of Al. Coast United.



Alabama Coast United Earth Day Mobile Bay Festival.

PHOTO/KIMBERLY MCCUISTON

January Sun

January sun
Nibbles at day's dark edges
Whispers a new world.

Where Did my Spring Go

May apples blossom
with white flowers. Red
berries
cluster in August.

These rough, wrinkled,
brown
spotted hands, they are not
mine.
Where did my spring go?

— Lew Rosenbaum
From the chapbook,
To Pay the Piper

Social justice fair at El Camino College

By Robert DeWitz

TORRANCE, CA — On March 12, activists and organizers throughout the Los Angeles area gathered to participate in El Camino College's 1st Annual Social Justice Fair. The fair was organized by students Robert DeWitz and Brenda Diaz, with the invaluable help of their advisor, Breanna von Stein. The fair was sponsored by The El Camino College Feminist Alliance and the Student Development Office, whose purpose was to expose students and the community to a variety of social justice issues and some of the organizations which addressed them. Students were also encouraged to participate in such issues and/or organizations.

The organizers outreached to hundreds of organizations and used careful selection to cover a broad spectrum of issues. The event saw nearly seventy participating organizations. The event was so well-received and successful that it provided the

foundation for the establishment of a social justice program.

The program's purpose is to serve as an extension of the fair, designed to educate students about a variety of issues through, but not limited to, monthly educational events. The program has organized two of these educational events, with the latest being a presentation titled, "Sexual Assault and Prevention," with student participation numbering over a hundred.

We are continuing to build a network of supportive educators to incorporate the program into their courses to maximize student participation and ensure its developmental longevity. In the fall, we hope to cover issues such as the post-9/11 assault on civil rights, U.S. imperialism, and the systematic dismantling of public education by corporate interest groups. For up-to-date information on the program please visit: facebook.com/SocialJusticeFair. ECC

May Day in San Francisco

By Jack Hirschman

SAN FRANCISCO—May Day, May 1, is the day when workers throughout the world sum up the lessons in the struggle for a new world. The march from 24th Street in the Mission in San Francisco ended with a rally of about 2,000 people in Civic Center. The participants—focused especially on the theme of the undocumented and immigrant workers—were the janitors, garbage collectors, handymen and women—unionists, hotel workers, and they were by and large from the Latino and African-American, Filipino, Samoan and Chinese communities. They are the working class and new class—in the sense of being out-of-work too—and they are undocumented and fighting immigrants, the grape-pickers, those who put up the wires so you can speak on telephones. In short the basic workers in this society.

I had the honor as an announced member of the Revolutionary Poets Brigade of reading my MAYDAY 2013 poem, which was well received.

Mayday 2013

So many wars, mass massacres, deportations, tsunamis, rapes of

children under ten the starving of millions on millions all

for a piece of bread, the monstrous vacuum that sucks the milk from

Africa's breast and so today feels more like MAYDAY, MAYDAY, an

emergency cry, an SOS because drug wars, gangs, Guantamos

everywhere one turns: there's a prison being born waiting for you

to grow up helpless, jobless, homeless, hungry for that piece of bread,



Veterans for Peace in San Diego, CA protest the use of drones nationally and internationally.

PHOTO/DAVID K. PATTERSON

10,000 DRONES IN THE SKY?

SAN DIEGO, CA — The letter below, written on April 3, 2013, is part of national Veterans for Peace (VFP) campaign to educate people about the danger of drone technology. "VFP is a global organization of military Veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices." VFP informs the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of wars, with an obligation to heal the wounds of wars. The San Diego VFP Position on Drones can be found at www.sdvfp.org.

Senator Dianne Feinstein:

As a Veteran, and a member of Veterans For Peace, I am appalled at the abuse of Drone technology by our government on many fronts.

First, the President of the United States cannot have the power to assassinate anyone he pleases, in places where

Congress has not declared war. These actions are in violation of the U.S. Constitution, and violate the guarantee of due process for American citizens. This abuse of power has to stop, and I implore you to revoke powers given to the President since 9-11 that allow such abuse.

Second, the projected sales of Drone technology to domestic law enforcement in the next decade is expected to be more than \$10 Billion. Because we know this kind of money is not available in the coffers of our States, counties and municipalities, it is assumed that the transfer of Drone technology will be in the form of Homeland Security grants or direct technology transfer. I am frightened by the prospect of domestic law enforcement having access to thousands of Drones, with the potential for abuse and the formation of an Orwellian State. Therefore I ask that you and your colleagues move to block such transfers by passing a very simple bill that

blocks the use of Federal Funds for the supply or transfer of Drone technology to Domestic Law Enforcement.

Third, because others will acquire this Drone technology, I ask that very stringent laws be passed restricting the surveillance of Americans' property and personal movements without a warrant. There must also be restrictions on how long such surveillance information can be kept and restrictions on transfer of said information.

I believe that these three simple steps will put us on the road to an America where citizens can be assured of their rights to privacy and unreasonable search, and the President isn't allowed to kill anyone, anywhere without oversight and a declaration of war.

Cordially,

David K. Patterson
San Diego Veterans For Peace
www.sdvfp.org

so today I write for May Day, the Day of those who still construct

the tomorrows that show the light in a child's eyes, for which

and for whom the revolution of the working class, even if out of work,

even if doling for crumbs instead of rolling in dough, still unfurls

the best banner in any neighborhood, city, state, nation, continent,

which cries out loudly: Happy May Day, brothers and sisters in love with

Revolution: let's take rat fascism by the tail and swing and fling it

till it's nevermore and share the cheese with all the world, and with the world

say cheese as the photo's snapped for a truly Happy May Day, and no one

from here on gets deported and no one goes to jail.

—Jack Hirschman

Corporations determine if a tenant is “guilty” of a crime

Cabrini Green

By Joseph Peery

CHICAGO, IL — Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Title 24 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Section § 966.4 Lease requirements, Part (I) (5)(iii) Eviction for criminal Activity. Subpart (A) Evidence, reads as follows; “The PHA (Public Housing Authority) may evict the tenant by judicial action for criminal activity in accordance with this section if the PHA determines that the covered person has engaged in criminal activity, regardless of whether the covered person has been arrested or convicted of such activity and without satisfying the standard of proof used for a criminal conviction.”

Public housing in the city of Chicago is no longer managed by the Chicago Housing Authority, but by private corporations as its agents. So the Federal government has given private corporations the power to determine that public housing residents are criminals, without there being an arrest, a conviction or proper evidence and then evict them from their homes. How can they do that?

In criminal court, one is presumed “innocent until proven guilty beyond all shadow of doubt.” The burden of proof

rests not with the accused to prove innocence, but with the accuser to prove guilt. However, eviction or “Forcible Entry and Detainer” as it is known in legal terms takes place in civil court not criminal court, even if the reason for the eviction is “criminal activity.” In civil court, procedure is based on “preponderance of evidence” and not “innocent until proven guilty...” as in criminal court. If determined to be a criminal by corporate management, you are guilty until proven innocent and must then prove your innocence to keep you and your family from becoming homeless.

“Without satisfying the standard of proof used for a criminal conviction,” how is it that corporate management “determines” a tenant is “engaged in criminal activity?” No arrest means no police investigation. Here the corporation has assumed the role of police. It’s their investigation and their proof that determines you’re a criminal. Because they accuse you of “criminal activity,” you have no right to a grievance hearing before going to court. You face them and the best lawyers money can buy in civil court where you can be tried without being given a lawyer—a battle you are sure to lose.

This is not happening in the kangaroo courts of the 1940’s



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

Jim Crow South. It is happening right now in Chicago, in Cabrini and the mixed income areas that once were Cabrini Green. Because we were among the first victims of an economic system that threatens an ever-increasing number of Americans each day, they are trying these kinds

of injustices upon us first. As instruments of private wealth in the hands of the few, corporations don’t care about justice. They only care about maximum profits. Their economic need to be rich is in conflict with our human need to have homes to live and survive in. Today they

manage public housing, but tomorrow they will privately own it as they will all things public. When we the public as Americans become conscious of this conflict, only then can we fight it out and win.

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

By Raymond L. Smith

Editor’s Note: This is Part 4 of a four-part series.

LONOKE COUNTY, AR — True freedom requires a never-ending battle. The threat to freedom masquerades with different identities. We should never forget the real enemy and his power. It is the same enemy that put shackles on our forefathers and the same enemy that creates havoc around the world.

War is now being waged against our communities. Violence, especially gun violence, illegal drugs, gangs and education demand our fortified efforts. And then there is poverty. We should always strive to eliminate poverty.

Longing for vestiges of a forsaken past is amplified when preachers use catchy phrases or teach what they call a holistic message, rather than the true

and complete word of God. A few preachers fail to remember that the main focus of this message should be salvation. When preachers and congregations are more inspired to build a structure that will be praised and admired by other men rather than working in the vineyard to glorify God’s kingdom, it becomes obvious that mankind continues to eat from the forbidden tree; or, as Rev. Jeffrey C. Franklin proclaimed in a recent Sunday morning sermon that some preachers are falling short of God’s expectations.

Franklin is pastor of Greater 3-4 Baptist Church located at 911 West 19th Street in Little Rock. As part of his ministry, Pastor Franklin often works with community organizations to help improve the quality of life for citizens. He is respected by his peers and by his congregation. Some preachers are selling out God’s commandments. Fame, popularity and the mighty dollar

have taken control of the sights of some religious leaders.

Another area of dismay falls within the ranks of politicians and elected officials. To be elevated and honored with the responsibility to represent others calls for an elevated level of integrity, accountability and ethics. A betrayal of the trust bestowed upon these selected/elected individuals is shameful. African-Americans who use the excuses such as “That’s the way that the white boys do it” or “We are doing what they did to us” should be openly condemned. To react in a way that our oppressors treated us is as much a shame as it was when the oppressors were committing the acts. If we respond in a deranged and immoral way, we are without ethics and do not align with the standards established by our ancestors such as Frederick Douglass, Dr. Ralph Bunche, Justice Thurgood Marshall and Attorney Patricia

Roberts Harris.

Where problems exist in our relationships, our homes, our church congregations or our communities, the worst thing we can do is ignore it or look the other way. Our world today is full of people who refuse to acknowledge abuse, injustices or unfair practices. The only way we can begin to correct the flaws and shortcomings in our society is to diligently investigate the causes and then, without fail develop solutions. We should do this with determination, just intentions, and compassion. A commitment to pursue positive and corrective action is long overdue. We should get started toward this effort now—the hour is at hand. Fortunately through grace and mercy, we still have the time.

Contributors: Anne J. Bryant-Atkins; Dale Charles; Curtis Moragne and Julie M. Bryant-McCall.

Donations in Memory of Sam Bernard, Jr.

Help get the People’s Tribune in the prisons

Sam Bernard, Jr., brother of Marian Kramer, (a leader of America’s poor) died recently. Sam was free after many years of incarceration, during which time he lived committed to furthering the revolutionary process through education. He loved the People’s Tribune and its sister publication, the Tribuno del Pueblo, and used the papers in his work. To honor his life and work, donations are being made toward distribution of the papers in prisons (and elsewhere). You can donate through Paypal at <http://tinyurl.com/donate-to-PT>

WHIRLPOOL AND EMERGENCY MANAGER MOVE TO TAKE CONTROL OF BENTON HARBOR PARKS

By Rev. Edward Pinkney



BENTON HARBOR, MI — Every American ought to have the right to vote and their vote should mean something. Everyone ought to have the right to clean air and clean water, to integrity and transparency in a democracy, but the citizens of Benton Harbor, Michigan, do not have a democracy. Public land is about to be stolen by corporate power.

Eminent domain—the power to take private property—is often used by the government or by a corporation that works hand in hand with the government to steal property from the citizens. In Benton Harbor, the Whirlpool Corporation, through the city's new Emergency Financial Manager, Tony Saunders, (who represents Whirlpool, not the citizens) has come up with a scheme. It is to set up a Conservancy Board or Committee that will steal land without the knowledge of the citizens.

They plan to privatize all of Benton Harbor's 16 parks and outsource all remaining land that Whirlpool does not control. The main parks they want have waterway access. Fisherman Park has a roadway straight to Lake Michigan. Hall Park lies along Ox Creek. Riverview Park is on the corridor along the St. Joseph River. This is simply a land grab. Whirlpool can't buy the

parks outright, so they are setting things up where everything goes through a board that they control. The Conservancy Board would be the new owners of the parks. The Conservancy Board doesn't have to go through the City Commissioners. This is an underhanded way to get the rest of the land. The citizen's will not have a say.

There are many questions that need to be answered: How many parks are recognized in the city of Benton Harbor? Where are the parcels located? What parks would be under the jurisdiction of the Conservancy? Will Jean Klock Park, beach and Fishman's Park be included? How many acres of land do the parks equal? Will all of the parks' land be under a lease and for how long? The Board must be a 501c3 but it is not. Why? The City Charter requires 2/3 or six votes to sell, lease or vacate roads or alleys. When will this process be introduced or implemented? Will there be a deed transfer? If so who will sign for the land to be released?

Mr. Tony Saunders: Are the city parks considered assets? Is there a budget for the Conservancy? Are their jobs associated with this initiative? If so, how many? Will the specifications go through the Planning Commission or the Planning Economic Development Committee? How will the park Conservancy Board, which is made up of all Whirlpool supporters and Benton Harbor haters,



Protest against the corporations and bankers at the Senior PGA Championship tournament at the Benton Harbor golf tournament. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

comply with the charter, as it relates to the Benton Harbor elected officials and the citizens?

It is exceedingly important that this initiative be vetted and

filtered through the Public Safety and Parks and Recreation Committee so that the people will have a say. Right now the people do not have a say. It is time

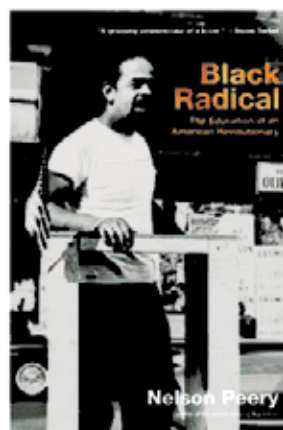
for the people to take a stand. Get involved. Save your community from complete corporate takeover.

Visionaries

Change can only occur when the people achieve a vision of the kind of new society that is possible. As we formulate our vision of a new America, let us stand on the shoulders of the visionaries of yesteryear. Below we print one of their quotes:

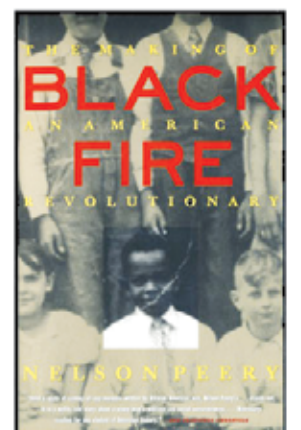
“A human being is a part of the whole, called by us, “Universe,” a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty...”

—Albert Einstein (1879-1955)



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF STRUGGLE

June 22, 5-8pm
Workers United Hall
333 S Ashland, Chicago, IL
RSVP: info@lrna.org
\$10 donation for individual, \$90 for table seating 10
Children free. No one turned away.



CONVERSATION * POETRY * Q&A * BOOK SIGNING * FOOD * CASH BAR

Nelson Peery, celebrating his 90th birthday on June 22, 2013, has participated in the revolutionary movement for over 70 years. Discuss with him why it is possible today to create a new cooperative world where everyone's needs are met. Discuss what we can all do now in order to create that new world.

Nelson Peery is the author of *Black Fire: The Making of an American Revolutionary*; *Black Radical: The Education of an American Revolutionary*; and *The Future is Up to Us*.

If you are unable to attend, you may donate \$50 or more to receive a signed copy of one of Nelson's memoirs, *Black Fire* or *Black Radical*. Mail a check to League of Revolutionaries for a New America, PO Box 477113, Chicago, IL 60647. This event is sponsored by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, www.lrna.org. Labor donated.

two haiku

as one we open our eyes
together we see
consciousness is achieved

*

collectively we gather
together we live
community is formed

— Debra Lujan
[AnonaMama]