

A march from one of many closed Chicago schools to a detention center to demand more public funds for youth as an alternative to incarceration.

PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

INSIDE:

Ferguson, MO uprising	3,8
Public not private education	4-5
Water is a human right	6-7
Silicon Valley homeless encampment	8
These are all our children	10
Benton Harbor's Corporate puppets	12

OUR YOUTH NEED A FUTURE

[Read story on page 3](#)

Super poverty at a time of super abundance

EDITORIAL

Definition of Society: *the aggregate of people living together in a more or less ordered community.*

Synonyms: *the community, the (general) public, the people, civilization, humankind, humanity.*

For the first time in history, the human species is now capable of producing a super abundance of all goods and services. Today it is possible to eliminate hunger and poverty and distribute the abundance to all. However, global capitalist society is still organized around the old law systems designed to exploit wage labor. The global market is being destroyed as the robotic and computer driven means of electronic, labor-less production is increasingly eliminating jobs. This leaves workers without jobs, having no money to buy what is produced. The system of global capitalism is collapsing.

Human society can only advance by abolishing today's old and dying economic system organized around corporate private property, and construct a new system organized to guarantee peace and prosperity demanded by the new advanced means of production.

Workers, by the hundreds of millions are thrown out of the global economy. Once they become politically conscious that corporate private property is the real cause of their increased human suffering, they can become the mass force capable of abolishing the chaotic and violent competitive system of corporate private property.

Time is of the essence. The growing economic crisis of global capitalism is producing a rapid increase of global death and destruction as the ruling classes



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

around the world go to war with each other over shrinking international markets and resources, in order to protect their competitive private property interests. The threat of another World War looms on the horizon.

The U.S. ruling class is funding its programs for war abroad and fascism at home. The FY 2015 national security budget exceeds \$1 trillion—more than one third of the entire national budget. Our hard-earned tax dollars are used to protect corporate private property interests and their policies of death and destruction around the world. The current massacres of thousands in Gaza and the Ukraine, and the over a million who have been killed in Iraq, are recent examples.

Meanwhile, at home the U.S. ruling class raises corporate welfare funding to more than \$100 billion, while cutting billions

of dollars from social programs designed to keep the American people healthy and able to lead productive lives. For example, consider programs for children assistance. Last year Congress passed and the President signed a bill to cut \$8.7 billion from the federally funded Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program.

The corporations are tightening their fascist grip on all of U.S. society, with a developing Surveillance State, police brutality and killings, criminalization

of refugee children, emergency manager laws that replace government elected officials, cutting off people's access to running water and the privatizing of the public domain.

We have a conscious choice to make. We can continue to live under the rule of a violent corporate dictatorship and a world at war, or we can abolish corporate private property and construct a new cooperative society that guarantees peace and prosperity for all. The choice is ours.

Be part of this movement!

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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.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE EDITORIAL POLICY: Articles that are unsigned, such as the cover story and editorials, reflect the views of the editorial board. Bylined articles reflect the views of the authors, and may or may not reflect the views of the editorial board.

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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OUR YOUTH NEED A FUTURE

COVER STORY

An 11-year-old girl murdered by a stray bullet while at a sleep over, a 12-year old-boy killed in a drive by while at the store shopping for candy and a 16-year-old boy killed by police who said he had a gun while eye witnesses said he didn't. These are a few examples of the loss of children that have hit Chicago communities the hardest.

Chicago has become the latest poster child for the increasingly deadly violence that has been sweeping the U.S. Over the recent 4th of July weekend more than 80 people were shot, 16 fatally. The violence continued unabated throughout the rest of the month with scores of more victims ranging from toddlers to the elderly. The city has gained the nickname of 'Chiraq' because killings here have at times rivaled war-torn Iraq. People are shocked, bewildered and demanding answers from government.

"Look at the murder rate in this city. He's murdering schools. He's murdering jobs. He's murdering housing. I don't know



Chicago protest for more public funds for jobs, schools, and health as alternatives to youth incarceration. PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

what else to call him. He's the murder mayor." Chicago Teacher's Union President Karen Lewis made this comment in March of last year after statistics

showed that Chicago led the nation in 2012 with 512 murders. Mayor Emanuel in his grand scheme to transform Chicago into a global city has put more

effort into gentrifying the poor out of their communities and transferring city assets to the corporations than in public safety. This earned him the additional title of Mayor 1%. He and others like him are the personification of corporate will at City Hall.

Once upon a time, large industrial factories needed large numbers of workers living in fairly stable communities. This required public schools, housing, health care, parks and libraries, funded by government. When electronics was introduced as labor-saving technology it evolved into labor-replacing technology. Slowly, it spread throughout production, distribution and communication. Today the factories are all but gone, replaced by robotic, computerized production. Good paying jobs are replaced by minimum wage jobs. Full-time employment is replaced by part-

time, or none at all, especially for the youth. The polarization of society into two camps of the mega-rich and the desperately impoverished is accelerating.

Automated electronic production in private corporate hands is the deadly combination that killed jobs and led to the privatization of all things public, not just here but everywhere. It has brought death and destruction to Latin America and forced its children to flee for their lives. It has disassembled democracy in Michigan with Emergency Managers replacing elected officials and given us the humanitarian crisis of mass water shut-offs of the poor in Detroit and other cities. The dying system places no value on human life.

The call for more police on the street, more arrests, (which result in more brutalization and killings,) and tougher laws is not a solution. Such measures only attack the effect and leave the cause untouched. We are in a fight for our lives. What's at stake is the future of human society. We must convince our people, and most importantly our young people, that they do have a bright and peaceful future. That future lies in the transfer of the electronic productive means of life from the hands of the corporate class into the hands of we, the people.

Today it's Ferguson. Tomorrow it's you

From the Editors

Two young men leisurely walk down the street in their Ferguson, Missouri community. The police ride up and moments later one of the young men, college bound 18-year-old Michael Brown is dead. Witnesses describe it as a police execution. An outraged community then begins to protest. The police respond with a cover up. This is followed by even wider protests and growing rebellion.

While the community is urged to be peaceful, militarized officers in battle gear hit the streets for war. The officers face off with protesters, taunt them and call them animals. This is not just one bad racist cop. We are slipping further into fascism. Our automated economy no longer needs us. Human life is being cheapened to zero. A new militarized, fascist police state is being

put in place to crush the demands of the people for justice and a decent life.

Trayvon Martin, Oscar Grant, James Boyd—the list of victims awaiting justice is endless and will only increase. Today its Michael Brown of Ferguson, tomorrow it could be you in your town. It is precisely because the system is the cause of mass unemployment and poverty that the government defends the rights of the police to murder us in cold blood. Injustice will end when the economic system that has given rise to it is gotten rid of and replaced by a cooperative economy that will end poverty. Imagine the justice of a world of peace and freedom that automation makes possible and fight for it. As a first step, indict killer cops!

See more about this fight for justice and a new society on Page 8.

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Chicago: Education activists prepare for elections

By Lew Rosenbaum

CHICAGO, IL — Chicago students are going back to the schools that are still open, under a pall of increased cutbacks. Along with an average cut of 2.3% from last year's budget, schools are struggling with other cuts. Some schools will be losing all their state funding for before and after-school programs. Parents, teachers and students have been telling their elected officials and their unelected School Board: the violence that plagues the streets of Chicago begins in the mayor's office, with the official violence done to our children in the schools.

Rahm Emanuel came into office staking his claim to be the education reform mayor. But massive school closings and continued disinvestment in neighborhood schools have sparked outrage across the city. Emanuel claims to have offered parents "choice" about where they can send their children: other neighborhood schools outside the boundaries, or charter schools or magnet schools.

The result, however, is that the traditional neighborhood schools have had declining en-

rollments. They are left with fewer resources to educate the children that remain. A recent study by the State of Illinois shows that the charter schools on average perform no better than their public counterparts. The choice is illusory at best.

Independent candidates are springing up all over to challenge the Emanuel education agenda. The mayor is a Democrat; all the 50 aldermen are Democrats. All eyes are looking beyond November to Chicago's aldermanic and mayoral elections, March, 2015. The challenge began with the formation of a "progressive caucus" among the city council, a few aldermen who dared to defy Emanuel openly since the Chicago Teachers Union strike in 2012. Now, however, teachers, parents and community activists are coming forward and declaring their intention to run in 2015, specifically against Rahm's "alderpuppets." Some of these represent an open break with the Democratic Party. Others are not so sure. None of them can expect to get support from the Party machine and all of them oppose the machine education agenda.

As we go to press, Chicago Teachers Union President Karen

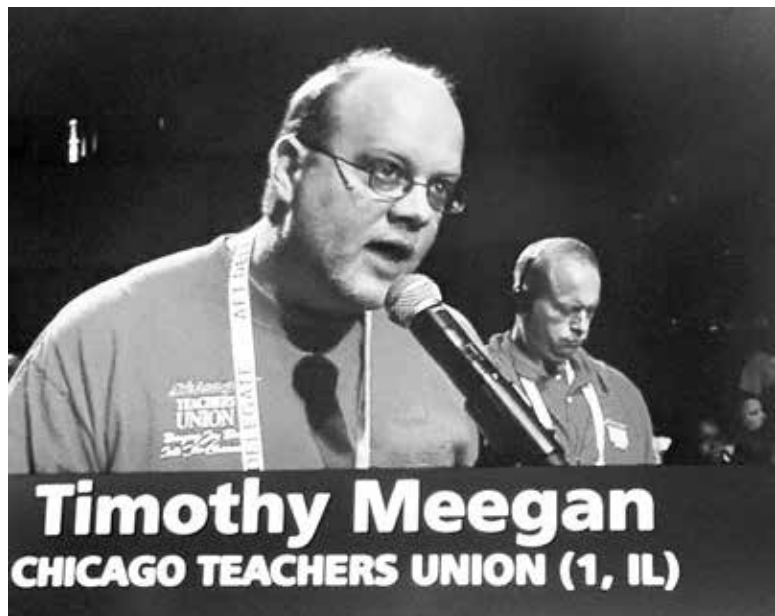
Lewis has formed an exploratory committee, will be going on a tour of the Chicago neighborhoods, and is considering running for mayor. Along with this came an announcement of the formation of a new political organization in Chicago called United Working Families. (United Working Families is built out of a union and community organization coalition, but according to organizers is not part of the Working Families Party, well known on the East coast.)

Some have compared a Karen Lewis candidacy to the Harold Washington candidacy 30 years ago. There is a similarity. Then the campaign was against a Party machine representative of the old, industrial Chicago. That election strengthened the Democratic Party in its remake of Chicago. Today, with Democrats representing the corporate interests that are devastating our communities, a Karen Lewis candidacy could represent a challenge to the system itself. The education agenda is front and center as part of this challenge; but make no mistake, the fight is for a new society.



More than 100 public schools closed in Chicago in the last 15 years. There are now 523 existing public schools and 126 charter schools. Twenty percent of Chicago schools, under jurisdiction of the CPS, are now privately run charter schools (that get taxpayer money.) PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

Battle lines at the AFT convention



Timothy Meegan
CHICAGO TEACHERS UNION (1, IL)

"Common Core is really about developing a common market for educational materials and technology; outcomes for kids come second—after profit," says Tim Meegan. PHOTO/DONATED

By Tim Meegan

CHICAGO, IL — In July I attended the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Convention in Los Angeles as a delegate for the Chicago Teacher's Union (CTU). Our local passed a resolution rejecting the Common Core national standards. This forced the AFT to address the is-

sue by drafting their own resolution. It basically said that while some teachers supported the standards and others opposed them, ultimately the AFT would support the standards. CTU delegates made a motion to substitute our resolution opposing Common Core standards for the AFT resolution supporting them. We did this to ensure a healthy

debate on Common Core.

CTU delegates made their way to the committee meeting early to get a seat next to the mics. When the doors were opened, United Federation of Teachers (UFT) leadership cut in line and moved people's belongings to monopolize seats near the mics. It's important to note that the CTU is a bottom up member-driven union. The UFT is a top down organization whose Unity caucus members must sign a "loyalty oath" to be AFT delegates. During the debate, UFT Assistant Secretary LeRoy Barr got physical twice with a female teacher, pushing himself between her and the mic. We lost the vote and the AFT resolution went to the main floor. CTU delegates prepared to vote against it.

When the doors opened the next morning delegates sprinted to seats near the eight mics. When the Common Core resolution came up some folks actually moved chairs near the mics and blocked mics with their bodies. I thought it was interesting that people who spoke against the resolution were primarily rank

and file members while those who spoke for it were primarily union leadership.

A Minneapolis teacher, Pia Payne-Shannon, spoke passionately against the standards. CTU's Sarah Chambers spoke about the impact of Common Core and high stakes testing on her special education students. Michelle Gunderson spoke about how the standards are inappropriate at the younger grades, and that "an early walker is not a better walker." Carol Caref called them a business plan, not an education plan. I spoke about privatization and profit being the true motive for nationwide standards.

Consider this quote from Joanne Weiss, former CEO of New Schools Venture Fund and original director of Race to the Top: "The development of common standards radically alters the market for innovation in curriculum development... Previously, these markets operated on a state by state basis. But the adoption of common standards

and shared assessments means that education entrepreneurs will enjoy national markets..." *The League of Innovative Schools, a product of ALEC legislation whose corporate partners and foundation members have an economic interest in privatizing education shares this sentiment. Their charter states, "The buyer in education is often the individual school district, which means there are more than 14,000 distinct buyers... These challenges make it difficult to develop and identify effective products and services and implement them at scale. The League aims to alleviate these barriers..."*

Common Core is really about developing a common market for educational materials and technology; outcomes for kids come second—after profit.

In the end we lost the vote, but many feel we won the debate!

Tim Meegan is a running for 33rd Ward Alderman in Chicago, IL.

Every school, every student

A publicly owned education system is needed that guarantees all the funding necessary for every school to serve every student. This will help us reach our ultimate goal—a cooperative society, where everyone's needs are met and where we can truly begin exploring the potentials of humanness.

— *People's Tribune*

Vergara Decision: Silicon Valley attacks public education



Forty-nine Chicago public schools were closed last year, while privately run charter schools continue to open. PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

By Steven Miller

OAKLAND, CA — A California judge decided in June that teacher tenure laws violate the civil rights of students by keeping “bad teachers” in the classroom. Tenure, however, is simply the guarantee of due process. It means teachers cannot be fired for disagreeing with the principal, or for teaching a contro-

versial subject like evolution. The decision has already spun off similar lawsuits across the country.

The hypocrisy of the decision is astounding. Decades of research have proven that poverty is the major limit to student success. California has underfunded public education for poor students by a trillion dollars in the last 40 years. Schools with poor

children have fewer resources, lower pay and high teacher turn over. The Vergara decision will not put a single nurse, librarian, computer or more instructors in the classroom.

The lawsuit was brought by Students First, an organization created by a Silicon Valley billionaire, who will make millions more by selling programs for testing and online education.

Corporations are turning public education into a gold rush to exploit the market for profit. *TechCrunch*, a Silicon Valley online startup news site, drools over the \$638 billion the US has spent for public schools since 2009. They estimate the worldwide market for education is more than \$6 trillion. The problem is that public schools spend 85% of their money for America’s 3.7 million teachers. Solution: get rid of the teachers.

Silicon Valley billionaires have suddenly become crusaders for “education reform.” Their yearly report, “Silicon Valley Game Changers,” (http://svlg.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/Game_Changers_Digital.pdf) openly calls for turning public schools into a market for corporate profits. Billionaire Reed Hastings, CEO of Netflix, is a funder of charter school corporations like Newschools.org, Aspire, Green Dot and KIPP. Hastings has called for the end of community elected school boards and for moving 90% of America’s children into charter schools in the next 30 years. The New America Foundation is prominent in the ongoing attack to privatize California’s community colleges. The chairman of the New America Foundation’s board of directors is the CEO of Google.

Rocketship Schools, another charter corporation, was the poster child for privatization,

touting a business model that eliminates teachers... until test results crashed their glowing promises. But that didn’t stop CEO John Danner from his new venture: an app for smartphones called Zeal that “puts your school on your phone.” Noting the potential market, self-appointed Silicon Valley “education experts” have called for a completely online “school district” of a million students, to become the largest in the country!

The only way to stop this insanity is to nationalize public education in the interests of the public. This demands the highest standards, which are guaranteed locally. Students learn only when other human beings help them through the long process of creation and solving problems. Private schools for the children of capitalists have 15 students to a class, are full of resources (often including several teachers), reject standardized testing and engage in enriching projects, both in and out of the classroom.

Market-based education reduces the publicly guaranteed right to a quality education to a privatized commodity in a pay-as-you-go system. Education is how we determine the future. We cannot allow it to become the private property of corporations.

Faculty face nation-wide threat

By Steve Teixeira

LOS ANGELES, CA — This July, corporate outsourcing came to Jackson College, west of Detroit, MI. It became the sixth Michigan college to bring in EDUStaff to hire “adjunct” (that is, part-time) faculty. EDUStaff is a company that can do hiring and payroll for public schools and colleges. This is a warning about what’s in store for public higher education throughout the country.

The Detroit region once was the model for how to achieve the American Dream. The workers in its auto plants and unions won lifestyles which the world envied. Public colleges were built to serve their kids. But now the capitalists who replaced them with overseas factories and industrial robots are also replacing their educational systems.

By bringing in EDUStaff,

these six public colleges get out of paying into the state pension plan for these part-time faculty. Full-time professors were so desperate to protect themselves that their Jackson College union agreed to let this happen. But full-timers only weaken their own power as workers when they let adjuncts be abused.

That’s because adjuncts are the majority at many campuses, like Arizona’s Rio Salado College, where 60,000 students are now served by only 22 full-time professors—and 1,500 adjuncts. EDUStaff started its business by taking over the recruitment of substitute teachers in some Michigan K-12 public schools. It now sees that the “new class” of adjunct professors is ripe for new forms of exploitation.

At the University of Southern California, the Delphi Project studies the changing role of faculty in America, but Director Adri-



Michigan’s Jackson College says their manufacturing technology classes are “building the future,” but their actions show it’s a future for corporations, not workers. PHOTO/JACKSON COLLEGE, MI

anna Kezar told *Inside Higher Ed* that she didn’t realize how widespread the practice of outsourcing faculty hiring had become, when news of Jackson College’s decision broke. Most California faculty and staff are also unaware of how today’s developments in Michigan threaten their future.

The government-backed corporate takeover of public services in Michigan is a test of what is

planned for every state and city. Every defender of public education should educate people about that, and help their class unite in self-defense: not as full-time against adjunct, or as Californians waiting passively until the events in Michigan affect them.

Steve Teixeira works at California State University, Los Angeles and is active in the struggle to defend public education.

Dear Reader,

If I could give the strength of all the extraordinary people I know to you:

a hug, a book of poems, a mural, a child on the train, a newspaper, a mic, a backpack full of books, a guitar, a pencil, a pot of soup, a concert, a protest, a prayer for peace, a vision of a new world...

you would cry with joy and sadness – both –

because you would believe.

— Adam Gottlieb

Water wars in Detroit, Michigan

The People's Tribune's Sandy Reid interviewed Sylvia Orduño, an organizer with the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO). The MWRO are among those in the forefront of the struggle to stop the water shutoffs.

People's Tribune: How many Detroit families are losing their

water?

Sylvia Orduño: It's difficult to get official figures. They were cutting off around 3,000 a week. As a result of national and international coverage and protests, there is now a moratorium on cutoffs until August 25 so customers can sign up for new payment plans. Operations of the Detroit Water and Sewerage

Department, formerly under the control of the city's unelected Emergency Manager, are now turned back over to the Mayor. Public accountability is good, but the problem is not solved.

There are still so many people whose water is not turned back on. People haven't been able to get into the payment plans which have required large depos-

its, fines and fees. And, shutoffs continue. Yesterday my husband saw the water department targeting my neighbor's house. They painted a blue line at the point on the street where you turn off water. My neighbor said, "This is ridiculous. I am behind only 10 days. I was going to pay this week. I only owe \$66." Yet the wealthy, like Mike Illitch, owner of the Detroit Red Wings, was \$80,000 behind in his arena's water bill and maintained his water.

sues around healthcare, poverty, and about what people who are underemployed or not employed are to do. You still have a right to water. The water department and the Emergency Manager come back with typical reasons such as water may be free but it takes money to get it to your house. We counter these business-minded answers by saying water is basic to life. You can't put a price on it.

Some horror stories of those without water include seniors with wounds and those with diabetes skin conditions who can't cleanse. One family didn't have water for a newborn's formula. People are living under incredibly difficult situations. We're trying to get the press to connect these humanitarian stories to the bigger picture of what it means to the whole system we live under. We expect people to have water, housing, food, and all necessities. We're trying to get the attention of the United Nations. We've written to the President and Secretary of Health and Human Services asking them to investigate this health and humanitarian crisis. The privatization effort and the Detroit bankruptcy are highlighting the distinction between the haves and have nots. We cannot tolerate this and will continue to fight for the human right to water.

PT: Is there discussion about nationalization, where the government owns the water and distributes it to all who need it?

Sylvia: This crisis in Detroit is starting to awaken people. Some are saying; "We thought this sort of situation only happens in a third world nation." There are more conversations now about privatization. Companies say they can do it better than public municipalities, but with everything here on the chopping block and put up for privatization, people are taking a second look. The CEO of Nestles claims they (the corporations) have more rights to water than residents. Even as emergency water is distributed to residents, this provides opportunities to discuss how privatization is not a solution and that water should not make a profit for others. It also raises related is-



Nurse says water crisis shows bankrupt system

Editor's Note: This speech was given at large protest in Detroit, MI against the water cutoffs.

My name is John Armelagos. I'm a Registered Nurse for 29 years; an officer of the National Nurses United and Michigan Nurses Association, and a former, but still proud, 10-year member of the United Auto Workers.

I grew up a few miles downriver from here and lived in the city when I attended Wayne State University.

To all the organizations and individuals from across our nation who amassed here today, thank you, thank you, thank you for all of your good will and support.

Let's be clear...

In spite of what the governor touts; in spite of what the Emergency Manager touts; Detroit is not bankrupt.

Denying citizens the fundamental human right to water is yet another stark illustration of a bankrupt system!

Make no mistake...

Only a bankrupt system undemocratically installs outside officials to impose pension reductions on modestly paid, public employees so the big banks and creditors profit.

Only a bankrupt system encourages predatory, subprime mortgages that leads to the foreclosure of over 100,000 homes and loss of 250,000 residents.

Only a bankrupt system denies opportunities for work when so much must be restored.

Austerity and privatization only intensify the contradictions and pain.

Detroit's problems, like those of most of our troubled cities, are not Detroit's alone. This city, region, state, and nation must engage not punitively, but creatively with an urban renewal policy that preserves the city's wealth and promotes prosperity and recovery.

A more humane, progressive path can be achieved in part through collective actions like today. Together, we have the power to make that happen.

Let me end with a quote from

former Mayor Coleman Young... "There is no brilliant, single stroke that is going to transform the water into wine or straw into gold."

From that wisdom and from our action of organizing in our places of work and in our com-

munities, let's transform this crisis of shutting off the water into the golden opportunity of reclaiming this great city to meet the needs of its people.

Thank you.

Speakers for a New America

Invite speakers to your city who are fighting the corporate dictatorship in America's Rust Belt. Contact Speakers for a New America at 800-691-6888 or email info@speakersforanewamerica.com

What is happening in Michigan, the heart of the “Rust Belt,” is a forewarning. Human rights to food, water, housing or anything else are no longer important. Yet today we can produce an abundance of everything we need. The only thing standing in the way of us ending poverty forever is corporate ownership of the economy. Either we move to a system where we, the people, own the means of life and distribute everything according to need, or we starve (or die of thirst) under corporate private property.

In Flint, paying residents lose water rights to corporate theft

By Alec Gibbs

FLINT, MI — While the Detroit water shutoffs drew international condemnation from the United Nations and shamed the city’s

unelected Emergency Manager into allowing a temporary moratorium on shutoffs, another water crisis has been boiling in nearby Flint, Michigan. Like Detroit, Flint’s mayor and city council

are powerless to address this crisis, which has been unfolding since the city’s first Emergency Manager took office in 2011.

According to an analysis by the *Flint Journal*, the city now

has the highest water rates in the country. Flint charges \$35 more per month in water and sewer rates than the next-highest municipality in the county, and \$90 more than the lowest.

Many low income residents without the ability to pay have had their water turned off, but in Flint the Emergency Manager has also targeted paying residents. Instead of going after absentee corporate landlords who fail to make their payments, the city is targeting low income residents who have paid their bills on time!

A recent local investigative report found that eight families in a Flint mobile home community, Ambassador East, had gone without water for over a year and a half. Many of these residents have lived here for decades, and paid for water in lot rent. The corporate landlord pocketed the money and absconded, leaving the residents dry when the city turned the water off.

The residents say the money was given to the city water department but services were not restored, even though they offered to pay for water directly, bypassing the absentee lot owners. The Emergency Manager refused to turn the water back on unless res-

idents paid tens of thousands in unpaid water fees. Those who had the means to move fled, but the remaining families have resorted to buying bottled water, collecting rain water and pumping water from a nearby cemetery.

Just a week after this report broke, the Emergency Manager cut water for the residents of Glen Acre and ordered them to vacate within 24 hours! The Glen Acre residents paid for the water as part of the monthly rent, but the corporate landlord had pocketed the money and refused to pay the city. Rather than going after the corporations that caused this mess, the city’s Emergency Manager decided to drive women and children from their homes.

Flint’s low-income residents are denied water even when they pay, while corporate slumlords are given a pass by the unelected Emergency Manager dictatorship. In response, community organizers have held three demonstrations against water rates and shutoffs, and more are planned. Those interested in helping or who want more information, contact: democracydefenseleague@gmail.com



Protests against Detroit, MI water shutoffs.

PHOTOS/(ABOVE AND BELOW) DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM, (LEFT PAGE) JUSTIN WADE

Water shutoffs: Taking matters into our own hands

By Valerie Jean Blakely

DETROIT, MI — It was early in the morning of July 14, 2014. I was making coffee and thinking about my day. I heard something outside. I walked to the window

and looked outside. Two men were getting out of a big red Homrich (demolition company) truck. They were unloading a water key.

Alarmed that I was about to get my water cut off, I grabbed

my phone and camera and rushed outside. I started taking pictures and documenting the scene. I said in a loud voice, “You are not going to shut me off today! Call the cops if ya’ want!” I reached my water access point and stood there. Refusing to move, my heart racing, I wondered, what next?

The worker with the key in his hand threw up his arms and said “ok.” He loaded the water key back on to the truck and headed across the street to shut off my neighbor’s water. Then they shut off another neighbor’s water. They moved their way down the block... one after the other, shutting off water for most of my neighborhood. It was the most horrific thing I had ever experienced.

I ran down the street begging, “Please stop... please don’t do this. I will stand with you. Workers must stand against injustice!” They ignored me. When they were done, only a few houses in a three-block radius were left

with water, including mine.

I updated my Facebook status that Homrich had shut off most of my neighborhood’s water. People from every organization in Detroit responded. We went door to door delivering water and finding out what people needed to survive. We found out quickly that spreading germs was a main concern. Bleach, baby wipes, hand sanitizers and hot food were in need. We cooked big pots of community soup for everyone to eat. I immediately saw glimpses of a beloved community emerge from the devastation. During the next weeks, I got to know my neighbors. All of us were shocked by what happened, but not broken by it. We decided to fight.

In a small huddle on my porch, it was decided that a march and community meeting were in order. Never again would any entity be able to just roll through the ‘hood and cut people off of water. Community resistance

hubs would be created all over the city. We had five days to plan. This was a massive undertaking of creating flyers, doing door-to-door community outreach, finding food, and securing childcare for my children so I could organize. Nobody slept.

One hundred community members and activists took to the streets to demand an end to the water shutoffs! In a powerful united voice we chanted, “Water is a human right: by any means necessary, we will fight! We ate an amazing meal provided by Wobbly Kitchen, Detroit, and talked about the next steps to demand the Water Affordability Act. We told our stories of struggle and talked about affirming our own power. We affirmed that the power was in this room — it was never in Detroit’s unelected Emergency Manager’s hands. This is what love looks like.

Contact Detroit Coalition against Tar Sands for more information at 313-704-5150.



Ferguson, MO: 'All We Want Is Justice'

By Cathy Talbott & Pepper Holder

FERGUSON, MO — Eighteen-year-old Michael Brown, recent high school graduate, should have begun college August 11. Instead he is now a statistic. Stopped as he walked in the street with a friend on his way to his grandmother's home, he was gunned down by a "thug." The thug wore a badge. A police officer, sworn to "Serve and Protect," decided Michael and his friend were in his way as they walked in the street. Witnesses claim Michael did nothing to provoke his murderer. After the execution, he lay in the street for four hours in a pool of his blood in open sight of friends, family, and community members.

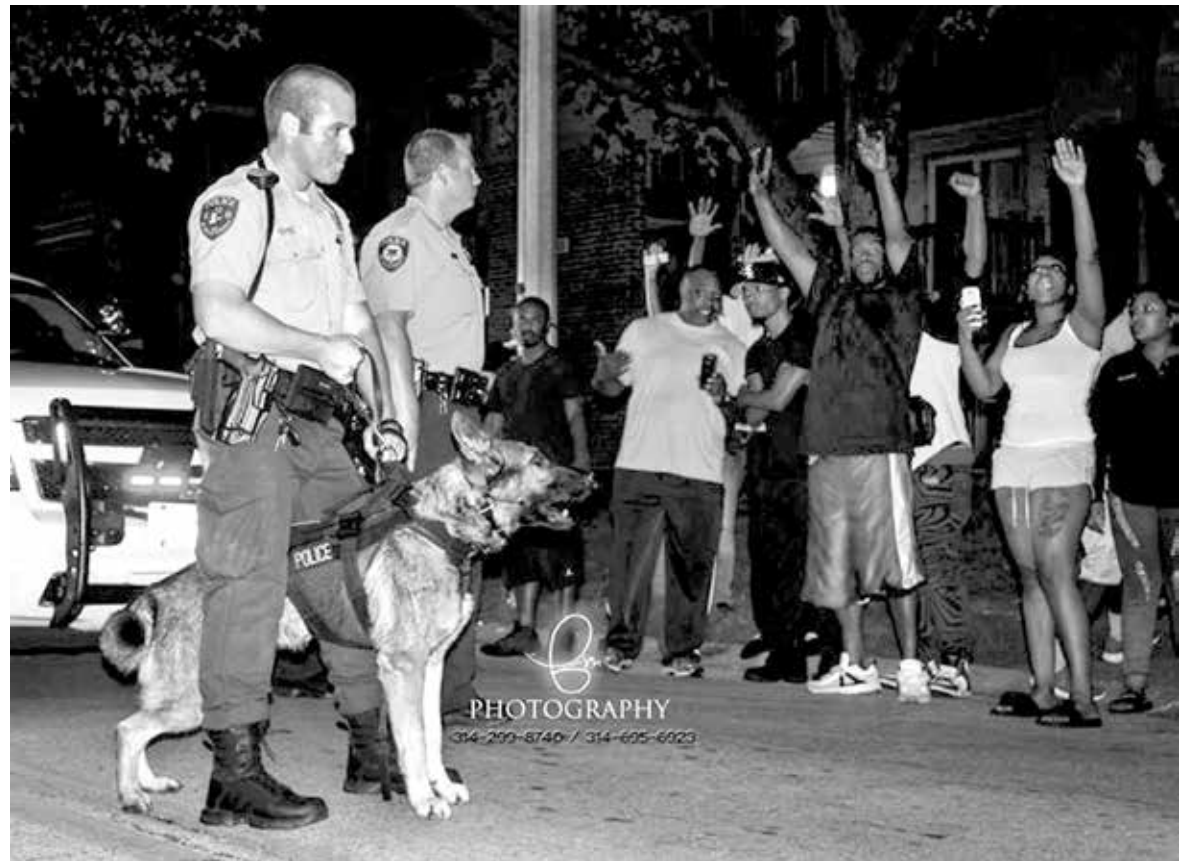
The community erupted with cries of "killer cops have got to go!" They took to the streets. There was property damage, some looting, a convenience store was burned. One protester interviewed on KMBC 9 News said, "I believe it needed to happen. I believe they're too much worried about what's going on with their stores and their commerce... They're not worried about the murder. They're not worried about the senseless death. That's what I'm worried about."

Ferguson police were pulled off the streets. St. Louis County

took over and the area became occupied by police from surrounding areas as well as SWAT teams and sheriffs' deputies. Witnessing "Command Central" at a mall near the scene on Monday, August 11, we saw dozens of police and SWAT teams lined up waiting for action. As people filmed the police in the parking lot, some women drove up and told us the protestors were back out on the streets. A SWAT team left shortly after.

We proceeded to the Murchison CME Church in Normandy for a meeting led by the NAACP, members of the clergy, and elected officials. The streets were blocked by police. We made our way on foot joining several hundred people in an overflow crowd.

The new president of the NAACP spoke, as well as local board members. They spoke of the lack of parental guidance, youth police records, drug use, and lack of education. They seemed more than willing to put the blame on the victims of poverty. One NAACP member said that parents should work four or five jobs to put their children through college so they could "compete" to get a position as a CEO. They spoke of "justice" but appeared to be more concerned with what was referred to as a "subculture" within the poor



The brutality of the developing police state is seen in this Ferguson, MO photo. Police in riot gear use dogs, tear gas and rubber bullets to quell protests for justice.

PHOTO/TORRIUAN AND DERRICK, INSTAGRAM: @FMPHOTOGRAPHY13; 314-299-8740/314-695-6923

community!

Finally, the mayor of Berkeley, MO spoke, "This is not complex! One person died, one person shot him. That's it! You don't forgive this. If you forgive this, you're next! I can understand about "turning the other cheek" and all that... but this is

2014. This ain't 1968. And they don't care about what we think. All we want is justice for the life and the death of Michael. That's it... We don't want to talk about nothing else! When you leave here you want justice, only! Let's talk about justice only. And if you talk about anything else,

you miss the boat!"

We must demand justice for all the victims of this impoverished, dying system. United around a vision of a better world, a new tomorrow, we become the unstoppable force.

Homelessness is the sign of a broken system

By Sandy Perry

SAN JOSE, CA — Silicon Valley now boasts the richest corporations in the world and the largest homeless encampment in the continental United States. A temporary expansion of local hi-tech companies has pushed rents here into the stratosphere and made even more local residents homeless.

"It is a shame," said Anthony King, who just recently obtained housing himself after living on the streets. "This is supposed to be the center of world technological innovation, but both our business and political leaders have failed. Look at Adobe: it is one of the largest technology companies in San Jose, and owns three high rise buildings downtown. The homeless sleep under bridges only a few feet from their door. But what do they do about it? Instead of using their clout to make sure people are

housed, they just hire extra security guards to keep the homeless away from their employees."

Several hundred people now live in tents in an encampment called "The Jungle" along Coyote Creek near Story Road. Volunteers from churches, community groups, and ministries have brought food and clothing, but conditions are primitive. People repeatedly fought for the City to install water, toilets, and trash bins but the City has refused, claiming that to do so would "encourage people to live outside"—as if its housing policies were not such a dismal failure that people have no choice.

"Even the robber barons of the 1800s did more to help people than these companies do today," said Anthony King. "They close their eyes and claim it is not their problem. It is like they all saw the 'Wall Street' movie and believe 'Greed is good.' There is a lot of talk about 'end-

ing homelessness,' but not much action. We need to take away responsibility for housing the homeless from these non-profits and local governments. There is no accountability there. We need to give it back to big government where we can hold people accountable."

Silicon Valley has all the signs of a broken system: the economy goes up, but the standard of living goes down. Corporate profits skyrocket, but so do poverty, homelessness, and human misery. Especially since the 2008 recession, corporations have found they increase profits faster when they use the very technology they produce to replace human workers with computers. A recent newspaper survey reported that Silicon Valley companies now have a cash accumulation of \$500 billion. Yet these same corporations have resisted local commercial impact fees to pay for housing, or in-



San Jose residents protest the City decision to put a fence around the 'Jungle' homeless encampment. PHOTO/JOAN SIMON

creased federal income taxes that could easily end homelessness in America forever. They refuse to pay taxes to serve people they cannot and will not employ anymore.

Enough is enough. If we organize and educate ourselves,

we the people have the power to wrestle our government away from predatory corporations. We can create a new economy, dedicated to taking care of the livelihood and happiness of the people, instead of the private profit of the few.

Interview: 'We've got to shake things up'

Shamako Noble of the People's Tribune interviews Andy Dawkins, Green Party candidate for Attorney General of Minnesota at the recent Green Party national gathering. What follows is an excerpt from that interview.

I was in the State Legislature for fifteen years as a Democrat, but I've always been in favor of third parties, because we need to get more voices and more choices out there. In my district the Democrats kept voting for me by 80-90%. We were a poor district, so when I went to the Capitol, they told me, we're not going to put money in your district because you're going to win anyway. We'll put it out in the suburbs where there's a competitive race. Baloney. We need to get a third party started so we're not taken for granted.

Folks can't just organize, they've got to vote. We've got to pivot to the polling booth. It's all about having a message that people can identify with. People are crying out to have somebody running for office that's saying the right stuff.

What really happens inside the beast is that big money makes every decision. When

you're talking about hundreds of millions of dollars that are in play, if the insurance companies don't like your bill, it ain't going to move, the bankers, the finance industry, the lenders, it's up and down the line. Who gets to run, who gets elected, what gets enacted, who gets served by what gets enacted, is all moved by big money.

I'm up against two very weak opponents. I've got a Democratic incumbent who wants to run for governor in four years, so she wants the NRA on her side, she wants the fossil fuel industry on her side, she lets the pipelines go through, and lets the tar sands flow. She's selling the precious minerals under our land, land that belongs to all of us, and selling them on the cheap to foreign corporations.

If I get my message out there, the voters are going to vote for me, they're going to vote Green, and if the Green Party can begin to get legs here it can get legs everywhere. I am running as a Green Party candidate because we have a great message, but also because of the young people. I've got two kids, a senior and a sophomore at Central High School here. I try to talk politics there because politics



Michigan protest in front of the Marathon Oil Corporation tar sands refinery.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

is in my blood. It needs to be in everybody's blood, we all need what will to make the world a better place. Without that, we're empty. So when I tell the kids

they've got to think about politics, they tell me, are you kidding? It's all one corporate party, the Democrats and Republicans. And they're right. So we've got

to shake things up. If we win this race it's all shaken up. I don't know if that answers your question or not.

It's time for music to save our schools

By Rahman Jamaal,
Rap Force Academy, Founder

REDWOOD CITY, CA. — American education is approaching a critical turning point. Culture is being stripped from our curriculum as fast as computers are replacing instructors. Humanity has entered a digital age where all perspectives are accessible, yet teacher-student relationships are suffering. At this crucial juncture, do we allow practicality to dictate our intuitive knowledge, or is there a holistic approach to education that we should be implementing to prepare future generations for the challenges that lie ahead?

Schools are currently challenged with this question. As technology advances, so must economy. As economy evolves, so must education. If education's main purpose is to prepare us for jobs that can easily become automated, something has to change. That change may have to be so fundamental as to turn the entire education model on its head. 50% of black males in Los An-

geles are failing Algebra I... how many know where the word "algebra" comes from? The story of our global knowledge is an integral part of our reason to learn it.

We need to think critically... about the way we have been taught to think. We have been inundated in left-brain training since we stopped using music to teach the basics. Why did this teaching tool become reserved exclusively for those "gifted" enough to make a living at it? Why is music not a continued learning supplement for the subjects we teach?

Eric Booth, author of "How to Become a Virtuoso Educator" describes how during the Industrial Revolution musical instruments were seen as an effective way for children to develop fine motor skills for the factory, not because educators saw any intrinsic value in developing the mind and heart. Right-brain activities like rhythmic patterning & tone recognition fall right in line with emotional intelligence. Until recently, this was too dif-

ficult for our left brain to measure. Research now shows arts-integrated learning improves test scores in reading, writing, and arithmetic. It becomes clear as we move from a factory work-base to a digital workspace; we need whole-brain education to solve our problems.

One cultural phenomenon is doing just that. In the last decade, emcees, DJs, dancers, and visual artists have developed independent methods of teaching their highly coveted art forms within schools and afterschool programs. Today's Future Sound teaches algebra through record-sampling and state-of-the-art beat-making software. Science is now taught through rap cyphers in New York. Rock The School Bells is an educators' conference featuring artists who use Hip Hop pedagogy to deliver standards-based curriculum that equally stimulates students and academic professionals alike. Hip Hop is organically making learning personal, fun, and socially aware again.

And how could it not? Art



Rahman Jamaal and a classroom of students engaging in Rap Force Academy.

PHOTO/DONATED

teaches culture. Hip Hop is a movement of youth teaching youth in the streets, only now with some wisdom of age. The RZA of Wu-Tang Clan may have said it best at a Hip Hop Chess Federation panel: "The answers to education are there, we just

need to start applying them."

America needs to start educating herself again. It is up to us to lead the way.

Immigration: We must all stand together

By Juan Torres

WESLACO, TX — America is angry! The humanitarian crisis along our southwest borders and the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas has created polarity amongst the American working class to the point of desperation. Due to misinformation and slanted media coverage, it is pulling our country apart. From the angry housewife, to the dissatisfied truck driver, to the disgruntled veteran, the confused student, and also the ex-immigrant, it is all the same—anger and confusion.

America is angry! During our last national elections, President Obama led us to believe that through his presidency we could dream and achieve our goals to a better America and a way out of poverty. So far we keep losing our homes to the banks, medical insurance is tied to the corporations and difficult to obtain, our schools keep closing or working with less funds, and we still haven't seen the way out of our poverty.

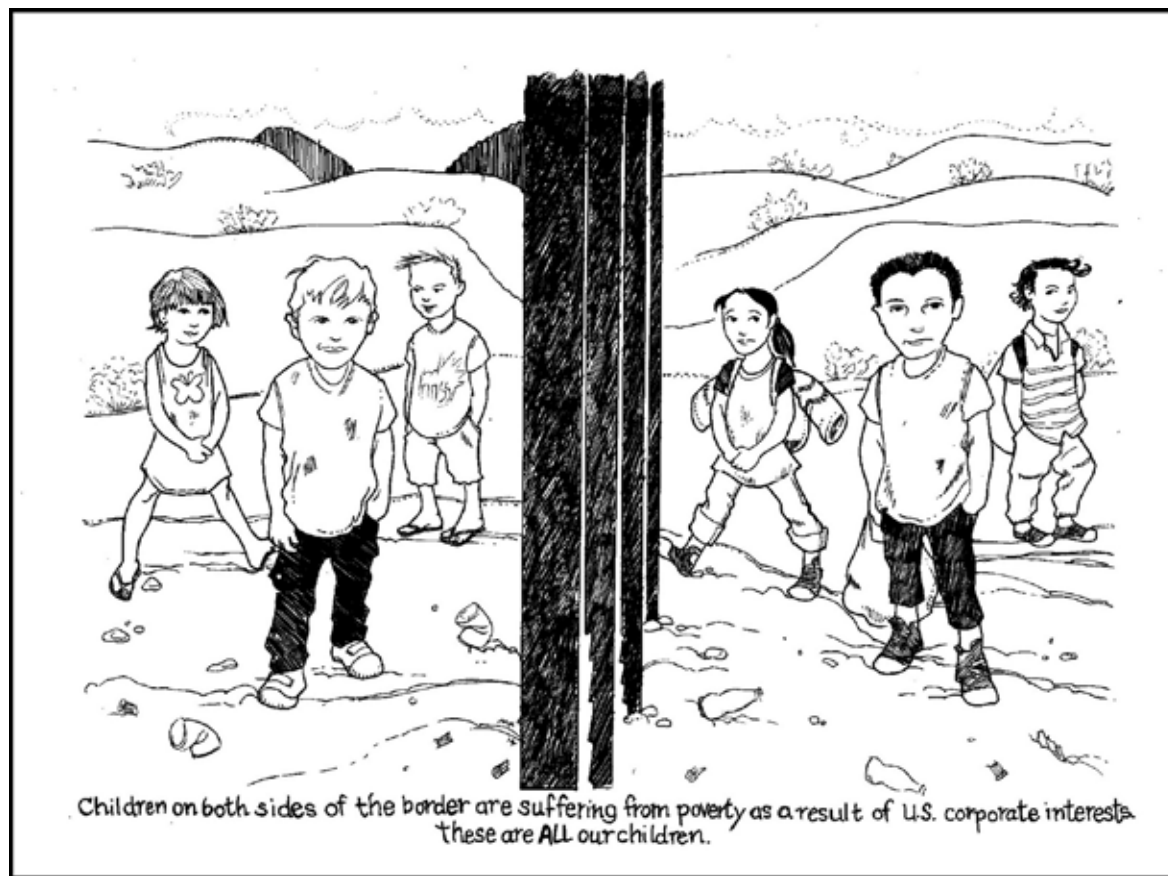
America is angry when we hear of the millions spent on our never-ending wars, and the push for militarization of the southwest border. We are angry when we are lied to; when told that America can't afford any more social programs because they

create an increase in our government debt, when not taking into consideration the enormous cost associated with wars and militarization. We have been in the Middle East fighting for the last 25 years. Many of us do not say anything about the wars for fear of sounding unpatriotic and unsupportive, but the greatest patriot is the one that stands up against its own government and disagrees with foreign policy that is tearing our country apart.

We Americans of immigrant descent are angry because Mr. Obama promised us immigration reform and a way to naturalization of many undocumented refugees. We are angry because the only monies spent to alleviate the humanitarian crises are enforcement-related and nothing goes for humanitarian needs, only deportations and more deportations.

America is angry at our politicians and governors who only devise ways of repatriating these workers to the very conditions they left behind: poverty, repression, violence, a never-ending cycle of death.

We must stand and be angry together and demand that government cease and desist from all these wars, stop the push for the militarization of our borders, and propose a viable solution to the present humanitarian crises



along the southern borders that addresses the problem and its roots: a stop to all deportations, a viable path to legalization and employment.

We must demand real social programs that rehabilitate our dying neighborhoods and cities. We must demand decent housing and an end to homelessness. We must demand real medical care

and a real path out of poverty.

Yes America be angry, but let's be angry for the right reasons. Come help us here in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas so you can witness the police state under which we live. Our government is only sending more border patrol, more police, guns and bullets.

All of us Americans want

the same freedoms and guarantees that all undocumented immigrants are searching for. Our economies are integrated through globalization and free trade agreements such as NAFTA and CAFTA, thereby forging links between us and all these immigrant workers.

We must all stand together.



Randy Sandusky, UAW Region 1 Retiree Council Executive Board member, demonstrating for Healthcare for All.

PHOTO/RETIREES FOR SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE

By Al Gladysck

DETROIT, MI — In reality, “Healthcare for All” is not a reform of “Healthcare for Some.” It is a strategy to establish a healthcare system to meet the healthcare needs of everyone in this country.

“Medicare For All” is a tactic within that strategy. “Medicare For All” is a three-legged tactic that includes “Everyone In, Nobody Out Healthcare, Non-Profit Healthcare” and “Single Payer Healthcare.”

“Medicare For All” is a tactic to confront the private for profit

‘Healthcare for all’ is a strategy

healthcare system in this country. That system can no longer cope with the healthcare crisis brought on by the change in how we produce things. We are moving from a labor-based system of production to a robotic-based system of production. That means, we can produce more with little or no labor involved. It also means that we can have our human needs met with little or no labor involved.

“Medicare For All” is a tactic to replace the private, for profit healthcare system that cannot deliver healthcare because it is a cost of production that private industry is no longer willing to support. Robots need maintenance not healthcare. The cost of healthcare is now thrown on the shoulders of those still working. Think about it—44% of those working today are paid the minimum wage. Can they afford healthcare?

Medicare and Medicaid are being taken over by the medical

insurance superstores. The Veterans Administration hospitals and clinics are being targeted by the private, for profit hospitals and clinics.

But, the Republicans and Democrats are trying to make “Medicare For All” a one-legged tactic. We are letting ourselves be led down a blind alley by only fighting the medical insurance superstores. In other words, we are being sidetracked from fixing the real problem—for profit healthcare. We must come face to face with the private for profit healthcare industry—the private for profit owners of hospitals, clinics, drug manufacturers, medical equipment manufacturers, and a myriad of other private owners who profit off of “healthcare for some.”

If the healthcare movement cannot see itself doing anything more than “lobbying” the Republicans and Democrats in Congress or state legislatures for “Single Payer Healthcare” then

we will never see “Healthcare for All” in this country. “Single Payer Healthcare” is only one leg of a three-legged tactic. The other legs are “Everybody In, Nobody Out Healthcare and Non-Profit Healthcare.”

The Republicans and Democrats will never institute “Healthcare for All” in this country because they represent the private for profit healthcare industry.

We must “lobby” everyone in this country for “Healthcare for All,” not just the Republicans and Democrats in Congress and state legislatures. The minds of the people that are denied healthcare are the minds that must support “Healthcare for All.” They cannot support what they do not know about.

It will take an independent political movement to achieve “Healthcare for All.” We cannot reform private for profit healthcare. We must replace it.

Leader jailed for peaceful protest



Mary Ann Grady Flores was sentenced to 12 months in jail for photographing a peace protest at the entrance to Hancock Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, New York.

PHOTO/DONATED

By Tom Hirschl

ITHACA, NY — On July 10, Mary Ann Grady Flores was sentenced to 12 months in jail for photographing a peace protest at the entrance to Hancock Air National Guard Base in Syracuse, New York. In sentencing Grady Flores, Judge Gideon noted her peace activism with the “Upstate Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars,” stating that the “court has observed a constant testing of limits, and as children learn while growing up, the testing of limits can be a learning process with boundaries

and consequences to be had.”

The boundary that the judge refers to is an order of protection on behalf of Hancock Base Commander Colonel Earl Evans, that specifically names Grady Flores. By taking photos on the road next to the base, Grady Flores was in technical violation of that protective order.

Why would an Air Force Colonel need an order of protection against Grady Flores, a 58 year-old grandmother? At the trial, Colonel Evans stated on the record that he wouldn’t recognize Grady Flores if he saw her on the street, and that he doesn’t

fear her. In effect, the government is deploying a criminal code to suppress Grady Flores’s Constitutional rights, namely her freedom of speech and her right to peaceable assembly.

A similar situation is apparent in Benton Harbor Michigan, where longtime community leader Rev. Edward Pinkney faces 25 years in prison for technical irregularities related to a petition to initiate a recall election. In this case, the Benton Harbor District Attorney seeks to criminalize a community leader who dares to exercise his Constitutional rights.

In both of these cases, the U.S. government is targeting important leaders of the movement by criminalizing their free speech. The government has already shown its disregard for the Constitution by creating a secret assassination program, often using drones. If we the people are going to keep our rights, then we must defend our leaders from criminalization, and prepare for a long struggle to liberate ourselves from a government of the corporations, by the corporations, and for the corporations.

Foreclosure: The government and corporations vs. single mother



Protesters in Chicago demand to meet with regional JPMorgan executive about home foreclosures.

PHOTO/THEE ERIN

By Chris Poulos

CHICAGO, IL — The foreclosure crisis is tailing off leaving us with the aftermath: a landlord’s rental market, speculation and vacancy. Despite a handful of laws passed and a slap on the wrist here and there, the crisis shows the government to be a tool of the corporations. This article is about my experience with the eviction of Luz, a disabled single mother of three and, at the time, a resident of Addison, Illinois.

After going into foreclosure, Luz fought to secure a loan modification. It’s common for banks to ask for tons of financial documentation, lose it, and then ask for everything again or accuse homeowners of failing to turn in the documents. After two years, Wells Fargo denied Luz the modification and sold her home of five years to a real-estate speculator, Patrick Young, the president of Financial Advantage Mortgage, who then filed for eviction.

The morning of the eviction, a group from Chicago (including myself) rallied around Luz,

her children and her neighbors. A motorcade pulled up with a couple of DuPage County Sheriff cars followed by Young’s militaristic hummer followed by more Sheriff vehicles. It was a stunning image of the government carrying out the interests of the corporations. They called out the cavalry to evict one single mother and her three children. Those of us in front of the house (about 15) stood our ground.

Eventually, those from Chicago were arrested and held in DuPage County jail for 10 hours. We were charged with criminal trespass to property, obstructing a “peace” officer and two of us were charged with resisting a “peace” officer—all misdemeanors with a maximum of \$2,000 in fines and a year in prison. We were ordered to do the Sheriff Work Assistance Program and were put under supervision for a year. If we got arrested for anything (including protesting) our short-tempered judge threatened to toss us in jail for a year.

In the meantime, Luz struggled with homelessness as her former home sat empty for eight months.

The real-estate speculator’s interest in an empty home trumped her basic need for shelter, and the state was the tool through which Young achieved his interests.

In hindsight, the experience highlights the significance of organizing an independent political movement to wrest some control of the government from corporations. People want and need a political alternative. Yet we are left with the choice between business democrats and apocalyptic republicans—both encouraging austerity, privatization and (in many cities) an authoritarian, managerial control over resources and people. I heard Reverend Edward Pinkney speak about an extreme version of this in the “emergency management” of Benton Harbor, Michigan. In Chicago we have unelected and mayoral controlled school, transit and public housing boards—all fostering a regime of austerity for the working class while giving aid to the rich. It is crucial to build a political alternative that is humane and rational. As it stands now the dominant political choice is between barbarism or barbarism.

DIEGO DELEO

An 80 year-old compagno poet, same age as me but victim of that horrific Ellis Act is Diego Deleo.

30 years in the Beach and now that his wife is gone there comes the eviction notice, the fuel of greed for those who see

the future only as a road made of dough, to which bread we say no and again no, and stand up for the dignity of Diego Deleo.

Let’s make an island of the Ellis Act, like Ellis Island and isolate it in fact like a thing of the past, a museum of a time

that’s long since gone, and sign off on that rotten eviction law that’s illegal in its heartless core, and let Diego live out his human fire.

— Jack Hirschman



People’s Tribune Radio podcasts are available at peopletribune.org. Hear from people at the forefront of the struggles for a new America.

On the death of Comrade William H. Watkins

From the People's Tribune Editorial Board

CHICAGO, IL — Another giant has fallen. Dr. William H. Wat-



kins, life long proletarian revolutionary intellectual, died the evening of August 5th 2014.

Comrade Watkins was, for thirty-five years, a contributor to the People's Tribune. The staff and all who knew and benefited from his years of steadfast contribution to the movement deeply and sadly miss him.

Much has been written about his remarkable professional journey from his birth-place in Harlem, through growing up in South Central Los Angeles to his final assignment as Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, University of Illinois at Chicago.

"Bill's areas of specialization

include sociology of curriculum, African American education, history of curriculum, and curriculum movements. He was the editor of *The Assault on Public Education: Confronting the Politics of Corporate School Reform* (2012), author of *Black Protest Thought and Education* (2005), author of *The White Architects of Black Education* (2001) and lead editor of *Race and Education* (2001). In addition to many book chapters, his publications appeared in the (Macmillan) *Encyclopedia of Education*, *Review of Research in Education*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary Education*, *The International Encyclopedia of Education*, *The International Encyclopedia of*

Curriculum, the *Harvard Educational Review*, *Educational Theory*, and the *Encyclopedia of African American Education*, *Teaching Education*, and *Teaching for Social Justice*, among others.

Bill presented his work throughout the United States: Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Uganda, Japan, Australia, Thailand, and Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Additionally, he traveled extensively throughout Western & Eastern Europe; the (former) Soviet Union; the Peoples Republic of China; India; the United Arab Emirates; the Caribbean; South America; Central America, (north) Vietnam, East, West and South Africa; and New Zealand.

Bill was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award, Division B, American Educational Research Association (2011); The Mary Ann Raywid Award, the Society of Professors of Education (2011); and the Dean's Merit Award, College of Education, University of Illinois at Chicago (2003)."

(The above paragraphs in quotes are from Ming Fang He, Ph.D, Professor of Curriculum Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago.)

In bidding a heartfelt farewell to Comrade Billy Watkins, we pledge to him, as we have to so many who fought before and beside him, "This fight will go on until we win!"

Whirlpool rules a town through its corporate puppets

By Rev. Edward Pinkney

BENTON HARBOR, MI — Gentrification has tremendously changed the city of Benton Harbor. Many in this former industrial town—that at one time had plenty of jobs—are now living in dire poverty. Over the years, we've witnessed a systematic remaking of the city around the class interests of the corporations. This effort has been led by the blood-sucking global corporation, Whirlpool.

Gentrification for the rich has created an entirely new environment for corporate profit making. In place of industry, Benton Harbor has become a Disneyland of Harbor Shores with the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course surrounded by expensive condominiums, hotels, playhouses and whatever toys the rich need. It has been a complete assault on the poor. It's the rich against the poor and the haves against the have-nots.

This could not have happened without the help of Benton Harbor's corporate puppets. Puppets are greedy people who sacrifice the interests of the masses of people to advance themselves. Puppets justify their actions by manipulating the social machinery, which controls the opinion of the people. To advertise on a scale that could reach tens of thousands of people is expensive. To reach and persuade group leaders who can dictate the public's thoughts and actions is a wise expense. The Whirlpool Corporation believes every



Rev. Edward Pinkney speaks at protest against water shutoffs in Detroit. The two cities are both fighting the corporate stranglehold of their city and the privatizing of public resources.

PHOTO DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

person, Blacks included, can be bought and sold for a price. And, some can.

Benton Harbor's corporate puppets include leaders and pastors who are all poverty pimps. This includes Mayor James Hightower, Commissioner Sharon Henderson, Commissioner Ruthie Haralson, and Commissioner Duane Seats. The corporate puppets that control the church, those who demand 10% of everything you get, are identified with Scribes and the Pharisee, who were the historic enemies of Christ. Puppet pastors receive money from the government and corporations to help them control the community. Puppet pastors who are not in the community supporting the community and city should not receive our tithes. When a church ceases to have a heart and minis-

try for its community and city, it could perish.

The question is: Do we have a shadow government? Do we have a fascist government? Fascism is the unity between government, its leaders and the corporations. This seems to be what we have.

We need to get involved in the struggle for the survival of our community. One step is to join the international boycott of all Whirlpool products: Amana, Estate, Gladiator Garageworks, Insperience, Jean-Air, Kitchen Aid, Magic Chef, Roper, Acros, Inglis, Bauknecht, Admiral, IKEA by Whirlpool Appliances, and Kenmore.

The people have to take a stand and say enough is enough!

For more information, call 269-925-0001.

Victory for the people!

A Berrien County judge ruled that the contested Benton Harbor recall election against the corporate allied Mayor James Hightower will go forward! But we can't let up. Rev Edward Pinkney, a community leader in the first recall effort, is still being falsely charged with vote fraud in relationship to that recall. Donations for the defense are urgently needed. Send to 1940 Union Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

We need your help

Next month, in October the *People's Tribune* begins its annual subscription drive. If you are a subscriber, we ask you to renew your subscription now. If not, please become a subscriber.

In addition to subscriptions, we rely on donations and sustainers. We rely exclusively on the support of those who read and those who write for the *People's Tribune*. We offer our pages to those in the movement who want to get coverage of their struggles out to others. At the same time we offer analysis, direction and solutions to the problems our society faces. We tell the truth!

The corporations are tightening their fascist grip on all of U.S. society, with a developing Surveillance State, police brutality and killings, criminalization of refugee children, emergency manager laws that replace government elected officials, cutting off people's access to running water and the privatizing of the public domain.

The *People's Tribune* is needed now, more than ever!

Renew your subscription, or become a subscriber now. Become a consistent, regular donor to the *People's Tribune*. Become a monthly sustainer. Donate via Pay Pal at www.peopletribune.org or send a check to PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524.

Thanks in advance.

— The People's Tribune Editorial Board