

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2014, VOLUME 41, NO. 10

DONATION \$1



Young people are in the forefront of the protests in Ferguson, MO. Protesters demand that the officer who killed 18 year-old Michael Brown be indicted.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

INSIDE:

Special Coverage:

Conviction of
community leader
without evidence in
Benton Harbor trial.

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FIGHT EVERY INSTANCE OF POLICE VIOLENCE

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Water belongs to the people

EDITORIAL

Water, that precious life giving force. Without it, life on earth would be impossible. Two-thirds of the planet is covered by it. Our bodies are mostly made up of it. Beyond three days without water we humans die.

In spite of these facts, corporations are privatizing water and denying it to whoever can't pay for it. In the year 2000, the Bechtel Corporation did just that in Cochabamba, Bolivia. They even claimed ownership of rain water and the right to charge people for it. This caused an uprising that ended in Bechtel being run out of town and losing their water ownership rights.

Earlier this year, 27,000 of the poorest working class households in Detroit had their water services cut off. Forty percent of Detroit lives in utter poverty. The United Nations condemned it as a violation of human rights and international law as well as a public health crisis. A bankruptcy judge, however, ruled that the people of Detroit have no such enforceable right to water.

Detroit, as well as dozens of other cities around the country, is preparing to privatize its water by first doubling and tripling its citizen's water bills. Cold blooded? You bet it is. Profits hold no sentimental feelings about life. Private ownership of water in the hands of the few is contrary to social well being. Do we really want corporations to own and control our water?

Battle lines are drawn all over the country in what people are calling 'water wars.' Fracking, polluting, drought, for sale signs on lakes, rivers, aquifers, and public water filtration systems—the forms are many, but the content is 'class war' with privatized water at once both the prize and the weapon used.



Protest to stop the city's water shut-offs to thousands of Detroit homes.

PHOTO/ DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

The editorial board of the *Washington Post* reminds us that in any war, the first casualty is the truth. "Dead beats and their advocates are marching as if to war to make Detroit safe for freeloaders," they declared. Omitted is the fact that the corporations of Detroit collectively owe more than \$30 million in unpaid water bills. No one is cutting off their water.

Contrast this with children, the elderly, people in wheel chairs, the bedridden, and the ill all going without water in mass. On one side is the cruelty of growing human suffering. It is matched on the other side with growing private ownership of

everything, including the means of life.

During the American Revolution, Thomas Paine inspired revolutionaries to action when he asked the question, "Who needs a king?" The outright theft from

the people of all things public by a few usurpers requires us to revisit that moment in history and ask ourselves, "Who needs corporate rule?"



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

WHY THE MOVEMENT NEEDS A PRESS

From the Editors

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

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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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Publisher: People's Tribune
ISSN# 1081-4787

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Fight every instance of police violence

COVER STORY

The movement to gather support for a murderous, militarized police force while demonizing the victims is growing. Today, the victims are overwhelmingly people of color. Given American history, it could not be otherwise. History also shows us that as the brutality against the minorities becomes accepted by the majority, it is inevitably used against everyone.

The ruling class has declared war on us. Not because they want to, but because they have to. History shows that as new ways of producing change the economic foundation, a new society that fits the new foundation must be built. At this point begins a class war over what kind and whose society will be built. Will it be another society based on the exploitation of labor, or will it be a society based on public ownership of the socially necessary means of production? What people think will make the decision.

The laws that govern political, or class war, are the same as military war. The first of these laws is deception. President Lyndon Johnson once said that if you want to control a group, give them someone to look down on. This deception has been and is the basic tactic of the ruling classes' control of the American majority.

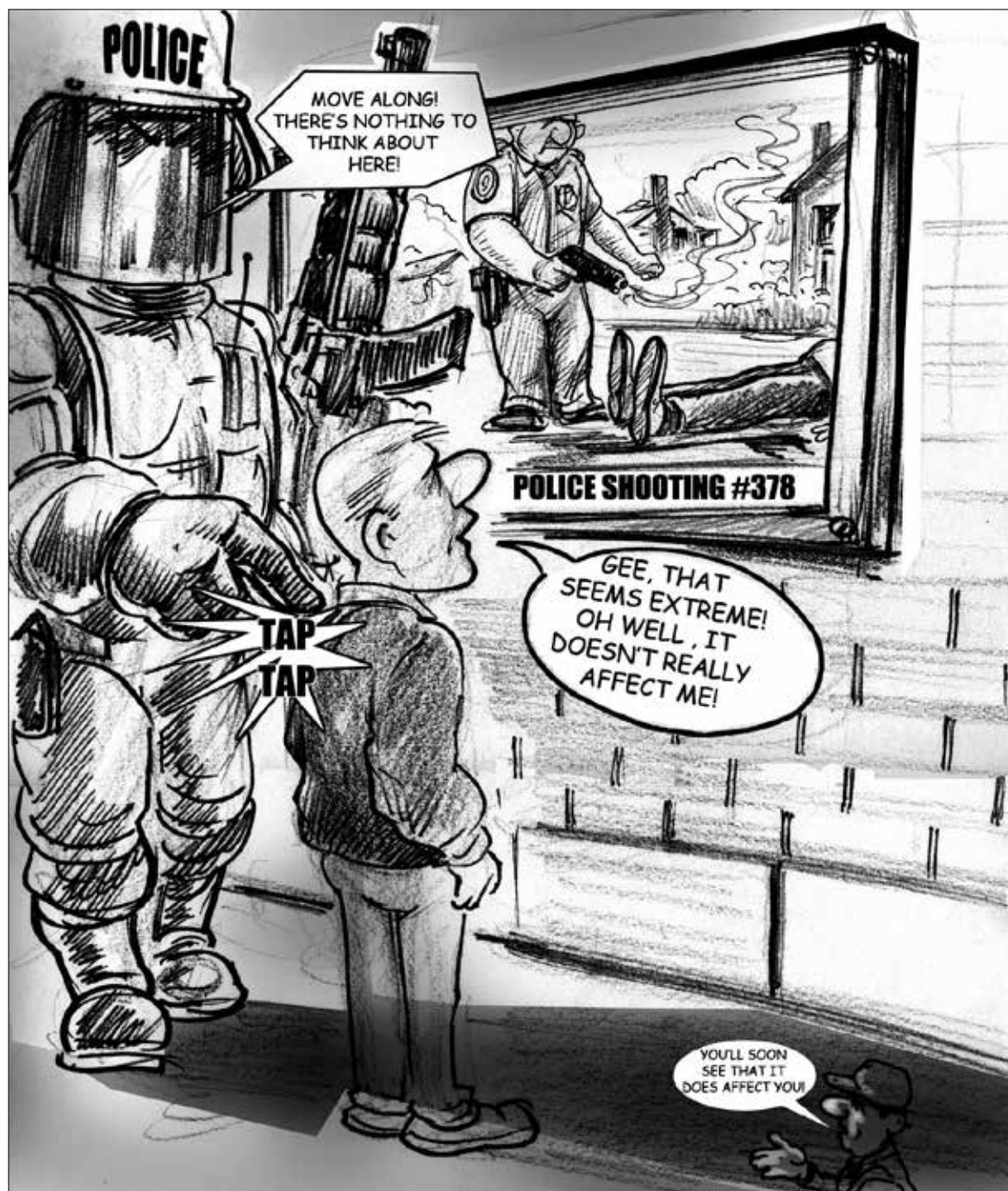
This deception is becoming clear. Are there actually two societies within one country —one Black and one white—where police brutality is necessary to protect one group from the other? Or is the question of race a cover for economic exploitation of both groups—since both are workers?

The ruling class understands that the antagonism between spreading wage-less production and a society based on wages is irreversible. That antagonism will intensify until it breaks out into revolution. They intend to be prepared for the upheaval that is coming.

The economy is forcing more and more white workers into the economic trench with the Blacks and Browns. In this way what appears to be a color question is stage-by-stage clearly becoming a question of class hidden behind race.

As the class aspects of the struggle become clear, the police more and more separate themselves from society and govern solely through force since the precedent has already been set by the attacks against the minorities.

The blood soaked history of the 20th century shows us that in order to stop a complete police fascist takeover of the country, every instance of police violence and disregard for constitutional rights must be fought. The first step is to reject the deception.



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

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— *People's Tribune*
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Homeless rights are human rights

By Julianna Cheng

Editor's note: This was the talk Julianna gave at the third-anniversary celebration of OccupySF in September, 2014.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — I never thought it could happen to me. I came from a hardworking but also privileged family; and I was taught that if I got my education, and did what I was supposed to do, this would never happen to me. Until I came to San Francisco, and it DID happen to me.

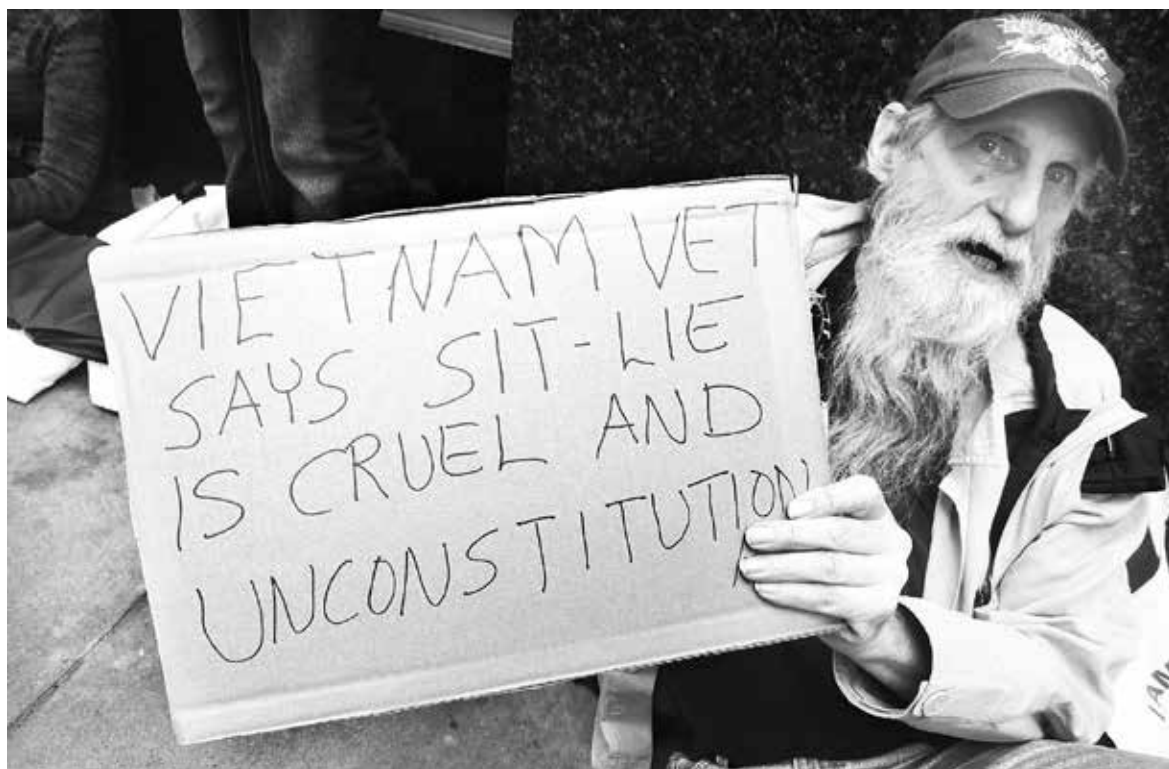
Becoming homeless was one of the best things that ever happened to me because the experience opened my eyes and taught me so much about humanity and compassion, the world we live in, and the way our society values and treats people.

Human beings are the only species on Earth who have to constantly justify their right to exist. Our society only values individuals for their labor and ability to produce. If you are unable to contribute to the labor force, we deny you your basic needs for survival—food, shelter, clothing, health care, and education. Those who have feel entitled and judge those who don't as unwor-

thy and undeserving.

We live in a world of abundance—producing more than many times the amount of food necessary to feed the Earth's population, yet people still go hungry. Houses sit empty while men, women, children, veterans, the elderly, and people with disabilities wander the streets. How is it that there is so much suffering? How is it that people have to go without shelter, safety, and security?

Homelessness is a dangerous and tragic symptom of a sick and failing system. The way homeless people are being treated and criminalized in America is a HUMAN rights issue. From the inhumane sit/lie law used to target people seeking a place to rest during the day, to San Francisco's Penal Code 647E which prohibits illegal structures and lodging, and is used to confiscate people's blankets and sleeping bags—the criminalization of the poor and the homeless has become rampant in the US. They've made it illegal to distribute food and water under the guise of public health and safety, and often require permits that many nonprofits cannot afford. The homeless are targeted and attacked by DPW using water



Member of Veterans for Peace at a protest organized by "First they came for the homeless," against San Francisco's 'Sit/Lie' law that makes it illegal to sit or lie on public sidewalks. PHOTO/SARAH MENEFFEE

cannons and chemicals to torture them. These are just some examples of human rights violations happening right here in San Francisco used to harass and persecute homeless.

The way our society treats those who have the least is a clear indication of what is to come. They first bully the weak,

the vulnerable and those who challenge their ways. First they came for the homeless, and they will be coming for you next. Let us stand together and fight for human rights, and for a society based on sharing, where no one will be homeless because all will have as a human right everything they need.

Julianna Cheng lived in the OccupySF encampment at the Federal Reserve bank, where she was arrested for the crimes of sleeping, 'lodging' and protesting. She is currently housed and lives with her 22 month-old daughter in San Francisco, where she continues her activist work.

Ending homelessness starts with resistance

By Eric Sheptock

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Washington, DC's municipal government—like pretty much any government in the country—is run by outside forces. Since 1999 the business community has put gentrification on the fast track. They convey their will to the DC Council and mayor by means of the city's Business Improvement Districts (BID's). The dispossessed of our nation's capital don't have any such mechanism at their disposal.

Now the mayor of St. Petersburg, Florida, has begun an initiative to address homelessness in his city. He can be seen on YouTube conversing with policy consultant Robert Marbut, dressing up his draconian policies toward the homeless and euphemizing his creation of a "homeless concentration camp" and punishment of the poor for their plight.

Robert Marbut founded San Antonio's Haven for Hope, a 37-acre homeless campus where new intakes sleep on the ground in the courtyard until they "earn" a bed indoors, and they eat bag lunches each evening until they

"earn" hot meals. He attempted to get the city to create laws that would not allow homeless people to be fed in the parks or to sleep outdoors.

Marbut has moved on to become an inter-city consultant on homeless services. When he signed on with St. Pete, an article explicitly made his case for the homeless being the scourge of the city with their unacceptable behavior and uncouth ways. Mr. Marbut argues that various things done to help the homeless "enable" them to remain homeless, lazy and shiftless. His website for Marbut Consulting lays out seven "principles" that he supports that blame the dispossessed for having been robbed by the powers that be.

St. Pete and San Antonio are in southern states with warm climates on opposite sides of the Gulf of Mexico and have been governed by the Bush brothers. What better places to begin an all-out attack on the homeless dispossessed! It is of concern that the new HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) Director Julian Castro hails from Marbut's home town of San Antonio, Texas, where



ILLUSTRATION/MOLLY KIELY

there is an emerging culture of creating draconian policies toward the poor and teaching other city governments to do the same. Now someone who served as mayor in a city with such a culture is heading the federal department that is charged with housing the homeless.

Let's not "wait and see."

Let's be clear that persecution of the homeless is the only answer we will get from a system organized around private profit instead of public benefit. Let's remain politically involved and continue to bring forth the demands of our class—not just during election campaigns. Let's bear in mind who our politicians

are truly working for and with. Let's be aware of the non-governmental pillars of capitalism, such as Marbut Consulting, and confront them head-on. Let's ensure that all of our efforts are based on a vision of a cooperative society where social resources are distributed according to human needs.

UN officials recommend restoration of residential water

Editor's note: The following are excerpts from a statement from the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization issued by its State Chairperson, Maureen D. Taylor.

DETROIT, MI — On Oct. 20, 2014, United Nations representatives met with the Mayor, and part of his staff to discuss the recent mass water shutoff's plaguing Detroit (Some 300,000 water shutoffs have occurred over a period of years.)

Amid a flurry of "denials" and veiled attempts to discredit the intention of the two United Nations specialists, the Special Rapporteurs pressed for answers about recent water shutoffs.

Since that historic session,

several things occurred. The City issued statements that paint the Special Rapporteur's visit as "nothing but a show." One City employee, Ms. Wiley, labeled the city's initial report as "sad," suggesting they were following a separate agenda that did not reflect the truth about Detroit's water shutoffs.

Over and over again, the City suggested that those unable to find resources to help prevent shutoff or restore water already shutoff were not truthful or that they were too dumb to find simple information. The old, tired... "people want free water" message was dragged out, a phrase that is repeated even though no one ever asked for that.

The Special Rapporteurs'

conclusions include a strong recommendation that all residential water accounts be restored, which allows the City to determine if there are low-income families with children, the disabled, elderly, or veterans living there who need supportive programs that structure payments they can afford.

It is a violation of international law to deprive residents of water if they are too poor to pay. It is patently wrong to disconnect water where low-income people live, and no amount of "American Exceptionalism" can alter that. What kind of city is this? Are our elected officials so drunk with power that they choose not to keep the poorest residents safe and clean? Why didn't some-

one in city government stand up when the Emergency Manager made this life-threatening recommendation for water shutoffs and scream how wrong it was and that as duly elected officials, you would NOT force-march masses of Detroit residents into the crematoriums of poverty and torture?

Along with our city officials stand many members of the clergy who have stood in silence while the torture of the most vulnerable unfolded. The Spirit that many profess to serve has been waiting for you to discover your courage, or your voice. I try daily to forgive your cowardice...

We hope that the legal violations identified by the Special Rapporteurs find their way

soon as written charges to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. All nations should be alerted about these international violations so that sanctions might be discussed and even levied. The U.S. government is ultimately responsible to secure the human rights of the most vulnerable.

As a field general in the army of social justice for vulnerable, low income populations, it falls to me and mine to keep this battle in the face of all humanity. We will take every opportunity to convince those in power that their salvation lies in distancing themselves from the "dark" side in favor of protecting, serving, and advancing the quality of life for all.



Protest against water shut-offs in Detroit.

PHOTO/ DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM



Audience listens to United Nations representatives who came to Detroit to investigate the city's immoral water shut-offs. Some 300,000 water shutoffs have occurred over a period of years. They recommended immediate restoration of all residential water.

PHOTO/ DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

Water unfit for auto production GM tells city: Take this water and shove it!

By Claire McClinton

FLINT, MI — Recently, General Motors stunned the public by declaring it would no longer use city of Flint water because the chlorine levels were too high, causing axle parts to prematurely rust. This caused panic and anger among Flint residents, who are already suffering under exorbitant water rate increases. Under Michigan's Emergency Manager law, an unelected manager, appointed by Michigan's Governor, runs the city. This 'manager' can sell off public assets, strip away collective bargaining rights, and govern by edict. The law allows

the Emergency Manager to take over the powers of local elected officials.

In their zeal to enter into a new pipeline agreement, the city of Flint, under the Emergency Manager, will use Flint river water until a new pipeline is built. Residents complained about skin rashes, foul odors, and discolored water. There have been three water advisories since this summer. No drinking. No Bathing. No brushing your teeth with this contaminated water! One outraged Councilperson accused the Emergency Manager of treating citizens like 'guinea pigs.'

General Motors went on to

negotiate with a neighboring township to install an alternative water line for themselves. They needed the city's permission to sever Flint's water service, which the Emergency Manager happily obliged, despite the fact that the city stands to lose \$400,000 annually. In contrast, the Mission of Hope, a daytime homeless drop-in center, found themselves unable to pay their water bill and their water was turned off. The Emergency Manager refused to make payment arrangements with them. This center now serves as an emergency water site, distributing water to those in need.

Between 2000-2009, Michigan lost 783,000 jobs. In fact, "Twenty-four percent of all private sector jobs lost during this period were in Michigan" (nearly 1 in 5.) Some called it a slow-moving Katrina that hit the state and no one noticed. Flint, home to giant automaker General Motors was no exception. In 1974, 1 in 10 jobs were in auto. Today only 1 in 50 jobs are in auto in Flint. They used to say, when better cars are built, Buick will build them." Now we say, "When better cars are built, robots will build them."

But instead of reorganizing to meet our community's needs in

the face of the new realities, our state government chose to attack the growing impoverished masses. Instead of sending the \$55 million dollars of revenue-sharing the state owes us, they kept it and declared us a financial disaster area. Quality water, and the lack of access to it, is right now the most devastating expression of our plight.

Every day we are gaining more and more experience and lessons with respect to a system that serves corporate interests while the needs of the growing impoverished masses be damned.

TODAY IT'S FERGUSON – TOMORROW IT'S YOU

'My children deserve to not be shot down' says St. Louis mom

Laura Garcia of the *Tribune del Pueblo* interviewed Beverly Jones about the meaning of the police killing of Michael Brown.

Laura Garcia: What happened the day Michael Brown was killed?

Beverly Jones: My daughter called me and said, "Ma, did you hear what happened?" And I said, "No baby." She said, "There is this boy who just got killed and the police shot him..." So with my daughter I have come out here pretty much every day.

LG: What makes you keep coming back?

BJ: I have known there has been this problem in St. Louis for a very long time. The issues are not new to me. I have been trying to be a community organizer. We've organized on issues of jobs, health, education, and housing. All of them stem from from a bigger problem.

LG: There's been other police killings and protests. What was different about this?

BJ: The element of this killing was so different. This young man was killed on a public street in the middle of the afternoon on a Saturday when everybody was

home. When they left him there that thing inside of us kept growing to the point where it exploded like a volcano.

LG: How do you feel about thousands of people coming to St. Louis to join the protests?

BJ: It's wonderful to see all these people. St. Louis and the killing of Mike Brown pulled the bandaid off a festering sore, not only in the St. Louis community, but across this nation. When that bandaid was ripped off, everybody rose up and said, "We are sick and tired of being sick and tired of you all oppressing us just because you can. Stop it, we don't deserve it. I should not need to have a conversation with my children about the way you act when you see the police. Other people don't have to raise their children like that. Why do I? My children deserve an opportunity to live and not be shot down."

LG: People expected this to die down, but it hasn't, why?

BJ: Once a group of people commits to doing something, it's gonna happen. And now that all eyes are on St. Louis, we cannot afford to lose the opportunity to make change.



Thousands from around the country came to Ferguson, MO to protest the police killing of Michael Brown. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

LG: What struck me was seeing on CNN a militarized police, together with national guard troops and the FBI.

BJ: It's ironic—we go all over the globe telling other people

how to live. I am 51 years old. I was born and raised in St. Louis, and all of a sudden I see a military vehicle in my neighborhood. Oh my God, where am I? I don't think people understand what

people across the globe saw here versus the way ISIS is acting. You treated us the same way, and we're Americans. And so the imagery of the United States and of America has been damaged.

Uprising was 'eye opening' say Ferguson protesters



Michael Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden (left) on stage at the St. Louis Peace Fest, the day before burying her son.

PHOTO/BRETT MYERS, YOUTH RADIO

The *People's Tribune* interviewed Derrick Givens and Torriuan Gibson, of FM Photography. They are in the frontlines of the Ferguson, MO protests.

People's Tribune: How did the Ferguson uprising change you?

Derrick and Torriuan: It was eye opening. Before it happened, we were already on the move toward developing a team of our own for change. The incident sped up the process. It was shocking that something like this would occur in our cities. It

has been happening around the world, but not here. Once we got involved and saw how many people were involved, we knew we had to push our word out. We could see how CNN switches stories. Being out in it and seeing what's on TV are two different stories. I learned to do more research, to go to multiple sources. It opened our eyes to a lot of stuff happening around the world—from police brutality to the way they move with the system.

PT: What is the mood of people?

D&T: Everyone is waiting for the verdict. A lot of people are on edge. What they are laying out in the newspaper about Mike Brown taking the gun is totally different from what eyewitnesses say. I don't know what is going to happen; I think it will be a terrible outcome not just here, but around the country. A lot of people will react in their own personal way. If Darren Wil-

son was to get sentenced, that would be weight off the world's shoulders. People would believe there's some type of hope in the system.

PT: What is your vision of a different society?

D&T: First there needs to be justice. Then we can move forward, making the community better after this tragic incidence. I want everybody to have equal rights. They should change the laws, stop pulling Blacks over. I should not have to take off my hat when I'm driving so they won't think I'm a thug or have drugs. I want to see change. Ferguson needs to be rebuilt. It needs to be led by less negativity; it has to be all positive. We have a long way to go. We need to organize and figure out the next step. The youth are feeling there is no hope for the future. They've got to see that there can be a better future, but it will take organization and

positivity. There's so much work to be done. The FM movement will press positivity and organize events. We're planning a homeless charity thing, give them food and clothes and try to get people out and try to speak positive words for a more positive future.

As far as racism, it seems it has come back alive. We were protesting peacefully, walking by the Pizzeria. People in the restaurants were treating the protesters with negative gestures like they didn't understand why people were out. That's where we are with racism and ignorance. There should be a way to enlighten some of these people and convert them over. Eventually it will hit home to them too. It's not affecting their lives now. It will come soon.

You can contact Derrick and Torriuan at 314-695-6923 or 314-299-8740.

Given American history, it could not be otherwise that today's victims of police brutality are overwhelmingly people of color. History also shows that as this brutality becomes accepted by the majority, it is inevitably used against everyone. To stop a complete police fascist takeover of the country, every instance of police violence and disregard for constitutional rights must be fought.

— People's Tribune Editorial Board

Imprisoned immigrant workers stand up for us all

By Atty. MariaElena Castellanos

Editor's notes: *The brutal treatment of immigrant workers in U.S. jails, as this article illustrates, should be of concern to everyone. This is immoral. And, depriving one group of workers of their rights sets the stage for depriving everyone of their rights.*

HOUSTON, TX — David Vasquez, a labor leader and lay pastor to detained youth, was one of the leaders of a hunger strike earlier this year by up to 500 "civilian" migrant-worker detainees at the Joe Corley Detention Center, north of Houston.

The hunger-strikers protested human rights and labor-rights issues, including: low wages (paid less than 50 cents per hour); increased deportations by the Obama administration; lack of medical attention; cruel and inhumane living conditions at detention centers throughout the U.S.; double punishment—including deportation following convictions and completed sentences; denial

of opportunity to re-open old convictions which involved plea-bargains accompanied by ineffective assistance of counsel; failure of defense lawyers in criminal cases to correctly inform the immigrant defendant of the deportation consequences of a "guilty plea;" and disrespect for human rights of undocumented children and adults throughout the U.S.

The strikers' demands and reasons for carrying out the hunger-strike, which on the last day turned into a labor-strike, were summed up in a 6 point, handwritten document after the 12-day the strike came to an end.

This was after detention authorities had cast David Vasquez and other leaders into "the hole." This is a tomb-like chamber, poorly lit, where David Vasquez was subjected to nine days in a dark hot chamber. David was removed from "the hole" to shower after three days, but was completely bound by chains that crossed his chest and shackled his hands and feet. Throughout the 12-day period, David Vasquez was NOT

allowed to do any physical exercise in the designated areas. When "human rights inspectors" investigated accusations of "torture" and "human rights violations," the privately-employed detention administrators brought Vasquez and the other strike leaders out of their individual holes WITHOUT chains and shackles to deceive inspectors.

The lack of exercise and lengthy confinement in the hole caused great pain and diminishing muscle mass and weakness. But David Vasquez did not break. Throughout the strike, he refused all food, drinking only water and juices. After 12 days, the strikers came to a negotiated end. David Vasquez and the migrant-workers Defense Committee need your help. David Vasquez is facing imminent deportation.

Please contact David Benitez; coordinator of the Defense Committee; davidb010@hotmail.com; or Attorney MariaElena Castellanos, at castellanoslaw1@gmail.com; cell: 832-244-7506.



David Vasquez, a leader of a hunger strike of up to 500 detainees in a private prison for undocumented workers. David was subjected to nine days of total isolation in a dark hot chamber for this activity. PHOTO/MARIAELENA CASTELLANOS

Poverty and police violence spare none

By Danny Alexander

KANSAS CITY, MO — In an August issue of *Time*, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar responded to the racial politics surrounding the killing of Michael Brown, calling for "more protests across the country," saying "the middle class has to join the poor and whites have to join African-Americans in mass demonstrations." That same month just on the other side of the state from Ferguson, Missouri, a documentary and two acts of violence against white teenagers made it clear why such organizing needs a clear understanding of the relationship between racial and class politics.

The day before Michael Brown was killed, the documentary *Rich Hill* debuted in Kansas City, Missouri. The movie is important because it takes a close look at lives ignored, vilified or mocked by most mass media. It tells the story of a year in the life of three young white men growing up in the rural poverty of a dying farm town about an hour south of the city. The result is an American tragedy of youth offered no future, at least one

of the boys in the film without needed mental health support.

Two weeks later, Joseph Jennings, an 18-year-old boy much like those in *Rich Hill* (but on the other side of the state line) was killed by police within three hours of his release from psychiatric care in Ottawa, Kansas. Police said he moved as if he had a weapon, but no one has claimed he was killed with a weapon in hand. During the confrontation, his uncle offered to tackle the boy, but police threatened to shoot the uncle if he tried. Though his aunt ran to the scene yelling that the boy wouldn't harm anyone, police reportedly shot Jennings 16 times. Now, the case is being reviewed by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Two weeks later, Bryce Masters, the 17-year old son of a Kansas City, Missouri police officer suffered cardiac arrest after a traffic stop by an Independence, Missouri police officer. The Independence police said that the teen refused to roll down his window, so he was tased and pulled from the car. Masters' heart stopped, and he now suffers brain damage. His family awaits the results of an F.B.I. investigation.



People protested in Kansas City, MO while things in Ferguson, MO were heating up.

PHOTO/KEVIN VANEMBURGH

Both families want to make the system work. Many poor white Americans are still taught to believe it should, though the system only serves economic power they do not have. Many ethnic minorities have long understood the system works

against them, and that's an understanding that needs to be shared across racial lines.

Stories about white victims of police brutality get little attention because American racism was made to divide the poor while serving the rich. But the

hard lives and cruel deaths of whites suffering under the system reveal the lies behind this division. In truth, we all need each other to understand our story, and only together will we build the future our youth deserve.

Ebola shows weakness of healthcare system

By Rita Valenti, R.N.,
and Salvador Sandoval, M.D.

ATLANTA, GA —Ebola is now in the United States. This fact can serve to clarify the international bonds of humanity and the urgent need to address such threats in a manner that protects international as well as U.S. health.

The Ebola virus is not new. It has been around at least since the early 1900s, isolated by dense rain forest in Central and Western Africa. However, deforestation, incursions into the bush, globalization, and international travel have now thrust it onto the world stage.

The mortality rate in Africa since the Ebola virus was first identified in 1976 averages 66%. Little has been done to find a cure or effective treatment, partly because it was restricted to Africa, which at that time was not attractive to multi-national companies. Finding a cure for Ebola was not considered a profitable investment opportunity.

The death of Eric Duncan in a Dallas hospital puts the United States mortality rate at 17%. Survival from Ebola that has

killed 4700 in West Africa, but only one in the U.S. appears to be associated with early, appropriate and aggressive treatment. Mr. Duncan, was uninsured. Despite reporting that he had recently returned from West Africa, he was initially evaluated and released, only to be readmitted later when much sicker—and consequently exposing several others.

His death was not due to a lack of healthcare resources. Health Texas Resource, the parent company of that hospital boasts assets of over \$5.3 billion. Eric Duncan shared the fate of thousands in America, Africa, and around the world who die needlessly every year because of austerity imposed by those with wealth and power in the midst of abundance.

The legacy of African slavery, colonialism, neocolonialism, murderous proxy wars, assassinations, chaotic incursions into the rain forests by ‘agri-greed’, oil, diamond and rubber companies and their rapacious resource extraction have laid a foundation for the ongoing polarization of wealth and poverty of global capitalism.

At a time of heightened need, less than 10% of world-wide medical research is dedicated to diseases that affect 90% of the world’s people. The World Health Organization lost 50% of its budget in the last 4 years. Instead austerity measures are imposed on countries that need the help

In the U.S. the situation is quickly becoming dismal as well. The Center for Disease Control has lost \$600 million in funds since 2010 and the National Institute of Health lost \$1.55 billion, while health corporations, pharmaceutical companies, and military contractors amass fortunes and power.

In the U.S. we are ill prepared to deal with threats such as Ebola because our public health infrastructure has been decimated, as our responses to Hurricanes Sandy and Katrina showed. The latest public health crisis still festers with Detroit’s water shut offs and the grave threat of dysentery and other diseases that simple sanitation and water supply can prevent.

Indeed, for the sake of humankind there can be no lasting solution to Ebola or any other



Protest in Chicago to stop the cuts to public education and healthcare in the schools. PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

public health crisis without the distribution of healthcare on the basis of need, not money. Ebola serves as a “wake-up” call. We

are all part of an interconnected world, and our survival as a species depends upon acting on this fact.

‘What you do to the land, you do to the people’

By Tabitha Tripp

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS — “What you do to the land, you do to the people,” echoes a statement spoken by Jeff Biggers, acclaimed writer and speaker, originally from Eagle Creek, a family homestead just outside Harrisburg Illinois that was strip mined by Peabody Coal. Biggers came to southern Illinois in October to give three presentations and to share the legacy of resistance and restore hope through ideas of regeneration for the future.

Each presentation was slightly different and focused on extraction-based economies versus sustainable economic models. He reminded us about the importance of honoring historical events that happened in Southern Illinois on October 12, 1898. Coal Miners Day was where labor union conflict claimed the lives of eleven people. It was a reminder to all that corporations will stop at nothing to make a profit, while erasing the history from textbooks.

Southern Illinois was known

for resistance and standing up against the oligarchy, home of the Illinois Coal Wars to protect the rights of workers.

The presentation in Carbondale was especially moving. Biggers told a story of two realities, one where the earth is fractured by a huge seismic event induced by hydraulic fracturing and how that world would look, or we could end the fossil fuel extractions and move forward to a community that is self sufficient and regenerative, making their own food and living sustainably.

Then he would flip back to the fossil fuel reality, and all the pain our children would suffer if we made the wrong choices today. Weaving poetic story telling with facts about renewable energy and the horrors of continued addiction on fossil fuel, his performance was a picture of two worlds and hope for a brighter future.

In Harrisburg, Biggers recalled stories from Pappy, his grandfather, who helped to bring about that 8-hour day so many have come to take for granted,



Illinois residents view contaminated remains of the old Will Scarlet strip mine off route 45 near Stonefort, IL in Williamson county. PHOTO/GREGORY WENDT

and the fight for workers rights in the coal mines and the fact that America loses three coal miners a day to black lung disease. Biggers visited local schools, only to find text books were missing local historic events and people who have been pivotal in social and political changes. He took the opportunity to share local history with students and encouraged them to learn more about local historic events.

“What you do to the land you

do to the people...” Let us not forget the power in telling the story of our heritage, where we come from, and what we have done.

Southern Illinois is as rich in history as it is in beautiful scenic landscapes and people. Biggers encouraged his audience to seek regeneration and a brighter future through sustainability.

Listeners from southern Illinois experienced poetic activism and the power of personal

storytelling from his presentations. Always inspiring to hear, Biggers’, visit to Carbondale was part of his tour for his newly released soft back edition of his book, “Reckoning at Eagle Creek: The Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland.”

For more information about Jeff Biggers, visit www.jeffrbiggers.com

Special coverage: Chicago elections

Andy Willis, Leslie Willis, Allen Harris and Lew Rosenbaum contributed to the articles on this page

Electoral battle moves to the wards as Karen Lewis withdraws

CHICAGO, IL — We have written in these pages about the anger in Chicago's communities that sought relief through the channels of reform and only found deaf ears in the chambers of city government. In particular, the promise of universal, fully funded, quality education is being jerked away. Already struggling for the means of survival, now the people of Chicago are losing hope for the future of their children. With city elections coming up in February, many of these "dispossessed"—parents, teachers, community activists—are taking to the streets with a different agenda: challenging the city council puppets of Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

A Facebook page for Progressive Aldermanic Candidates of Chicago (PACC) promotes a common platform and seven prospective candidates. They come from a variety of backgrounds and parts of the city. For example, Denice Davis, chief of staff for former alderman Schiller, is running in the North Side, 46th Ward; mother and education activist Zerlina Smith in the West Side 29th ward; and PhD candi-

date Byron Sigcho, in the 25th ward, the Pilsen neighborhood. There are far more challengers to the incumbent alderpuppets than we can include here. Look in the January and February, 2014 issues of the *People's Tribune* for more coverage.

PACC positions on the issues in this campaign: Elected School Board; Re-Entry Programs; Raise the Minimum Wage; Stop School Actions; Affordable Housing; Abolishing TIFs; No Standardized Testing; Developing Infrastructure to Provide Jobs; Restoring Cuts in Social Services; Development without Displacement; Stop the Outsourcing of City Services.

As we prepared this article for publication, Karen Lewis, Chicago Teachers Union president underwent emergency surgery for a malignant brain tumor. She will be undergoing chemotherapy while she recovers. The union Vice-President, Jesse Sharkey, is taking over her union responsibilities for the time being. She has withdrawn from the race against Mayor Rahm Emanuel, and has endorsed County Commissioner Jesus (Chuy) Garcia



Chicago Students Union march for elected school board.

PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

for that office. A shock to her loyal supporters, this situation nevertheless reinforces what Lewis had pointed out in exploratory meetings: this is not a

campaign for a single candidate but an opportunity to build a movement. One of the questions confronting this movement, as it engages in both mayoral and

city council campaigns, is how clearly the movement will break free from the Democratic Party stranglehold.

Three candidates for alderman: Their visions for Chicago

CHICAGO, IL — *Tim Meegan is a social studies teacher at Roosevelt High School, a member of CORE, a leader in the CTU strike of 2012, running in the 33rd Ward, who has written for the People's Tribune:*

"We live in a time where the gap between rich and poor grows ever wider. Democrats and Republicans look more and more alike; corporations are people, and politicians receive unlimited financial contributions. Democracy itself is threatened as big money has come to dominate politics.

"Nationally, when corporations hedge their bets by contributing to both political parties, both parties prioritize the interests of the 1% over the working class. In Chicago the Republican Party lacks any real power. The mayor is a Democrat as are all 50 members of the city council, so the mayor can act with impunity.

"We have seen a neo-liberal Democratic mayor transfer money out of our neighborhoods and into downtown. He has cut funding for schools, parks, and libraries. He is responsible for

closing half the city's mental health clinics and 50 public schools, while expanding charter schools by the dozen.

"Despite massive popular resistance he can do whatever he wants, because politics in Chicago is effectively one party rule. This is why a new political movement is needed. As an independent candidate for alderman I am dedicated to representing the working class by standing for economic justice, fully funded public schools, and an end to privatizing the city's assets and public services. Contribute or volunteer today at www.meegan-4ward33.com."

Michael LaFargue, who in the 1980s was a transportation official under Mayor Harold Washington, is endorsed as "the



Protest against fracking at the James Thompson Center in Chicago.

PHOTO/CHARLES MILLER

people's candidate" by the 9th Ward Aldermanic Search Community Council headed by Dr. Carmen Palmer, an activist and retired Chicago Public Schools teacher.

"We lean toward letting the people participate in their government. Having an alderman who is approachable. I will introduce a collaborative approach to running the ward. We will bring an approachable feel to the aldermanic office.

"We have many schools that are on probation. We believe in an elected school board. We

believe in a bottom-up approach in governing the schools, the LSCs [local school councils] and the most important element, the parents.

"We believe in workforce development. Local businesses could participate in the extension of the CTA Red Line [rapid transit train] from 95th Street to 130th Street. In turn, that project can provide employment to many of our residents."

On the city's alternate funding called TIF: "There needs to be reform in how it's used. A lot of TIF money is now spent downtown. Don't you think it would be great to have that money spent [in the 9th Ward] on Michigan Avenue?"

Susan Sadlowski Garza is an activist against corporate dumping

of petcoke and other toxic waste in the 10th Ward on the South-east Side, a historically industrial area. If elected, she will be its first female alderman.

"Fifty years ago, we were a vital community. There was a restaurant and bar on every corner. Jobs were plentiful. When the steel mills went away, so did the jobs and so did the restaurants. Now we're just left with basically nothing.

"For a very, very, very long time we have been the toxic dumping ground of the city. Residents on the Southeast Side feel like their voices are not heard. I know that people have had it with that process. I'm going to take a strong stand on the environmental issues."

On "Lakeside," a new community to be built on the site of the old U.S. Steel South Works plant, Garza said local residents are being excluded.

"We're just asking them to give us a seat at the table. They owe it to the steel workers who gave their blood, sweat and tears there, and sometimes their lives. They owe it to them. And to us."

Philadelphians fight cuts to teachers' healthcare

By Rachel Mazzaro

PHILADELPHIA, PA — We live in a world where children are denied the right to proper education. School funds are constantly cut and now the School Reform Commission (SRC) in Philadelphia decided they are going to try and fix the school system by cutting health care benefits for teachers! What about all of the funds going towards the prison system and oil companies? This past month Shell Oil was provided a \$1.7 billion tax break while \$0 was allocated for textbooks. Teachers are told it is their time to make sacrifices but they have been sacrificing all along with limited resources, over crowded classrooms and fulfilling extra roles such as counselor and nurse, due to a lack of funding for full time staff.

On October 9, the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC) stood with parents, students, and teachers to demand that Governor Corbett explain himself and provide full funding for our schools. They shut down the elevators, blocked our access to the Governor and kicked out the media. They even went as far as to arrest Cheri Honkala, Na-

tional Coordinator of PPEHRC and parent of a student at Julia R. Masterman School who attempted to deliver a citizen's arrest against the governor for crimes against education and our children.

On October 15, the Philly Coalition Advocating for Public Schools organized a press conference in front of the headquarters of the School District of Philadelphia in response to the SRC's decision. During this press conference, Cheri Honkala's message was clear: "Don't mess with our babies' education!"

The following day, October 16, more than 1,000 teachers, parents, students, and community supporters gathered in front of the headquarters of the School District of Philadelphia to continue to protest against the SRC's decision. During the protest, Cheri Honkala testified in front of the SRC to address the cancelation of teacher's contracts along with 59 other speakers.

They continue to cut back but we will continue to fight back! Our schools will be saved no matter how long we have to fight against this broken system! We are very proud of the students, teachers, parents, and



Moffet Elementary teachers join a rally in Kensington, PA to fight for full school funding. Over 27,000 teachers have been laid off state-wide. Now they want to cut teachers' health benefits.

PHOTO/HARVEY FINKLE

community members that continue to protest during these important demonstrations. There

is no change without the people uniting together and demanding it! The people united will

never be divided and we will win!



The Sit-Lie law makes sitting or lying down between the hours of 7am and 11pm illegal in San Francisco.

PHOTO/SARAH MENEFFEE

Capitalist America

Welcome to America,
where the government strips away
any and all rights under the Constitution.
The 1% send out the police, the poor
can't even survive in this capitalist system.
The banksters are the big gangs.
You know what? We don't need this
governmental system.

— Keenan Putansu

flame

last year this time
sleeping out there
he was so cold he dreamed
he'd spontaneously combusted
at 4am

jumped up in flame
and walked around the rest of the night
to keep from freezing he said

flame of the revolution we need
simply to be warm

— Sarah Menefee

Silicon Valley divided

By Peggy Elwell

SAN JOSE, CA — At 5.5%, Silicon Valley of California has a lower unemployment rate than many parts of the country, due to the economic engine of the tech industry. Yet a study by Working Partnerships USA of San Jose, associated with the South Bay Labor Council, has highlighted the polarized employment situation of Silicon Valley, home of tech giants such as Google, Apple, Facebook, Yahoo, and eBay. While technical professional employees average \$62/hour, the support workers who clean, guard, maintain and cook on tech campuses are contract employees whose average wages are \$13/hr. Although only 3-4% of the technical personnel are Latino or Black, they make up 76% of grounds maintenance, 72% of janitorial, and 41% of security guards.

Thirty percent of Santa Clara County households live below the Basic Self-Sufficiency Standard of what it takes to make ends meet in the Valley—\$19.36 per hour for a family of four with two fulltime workers (and we all know how hard it is to get a full time job these days!). A study by

the U.S. Conference of Mayors showed that San Jose had the fewest middle-income households of all the top 357 metros in the United States.

With the influx of the highly paid tech workers driving housing prices through the roof, low wage workers of all nationalities are living on the edge, and the most vulnerable are forced into homelessness. Whole families are crowded into rooms, and individuals rent sofas, floors, and even one side of a bed. In reality, Silicon Valley could now be called Silicon Bay as it extends into San Francisco and those working in the industry also live in Oakland and the East Bay. Thousands are forced out of rent-controlled housing in San Francisco with Ellis Act evictions, which allow conversions to condominiums; even Oakland's Fruitvale District is being gentrified.

One solution that has been proposed for San Jose is a Housing Impact Fee on developers to raise funds for affordable housing. The Sacred Heart Housing Action Committee and the Affordable Housing Network mobilized hundreds for rallies and hearings on the housing crisis



Rally for Affordable Housing in San Jose.

PHOTO /JOAN SIMON

with the slogan “people who work here should be able to live here.” Another proposal is for a Living Wage of at least \$16/hour for all workers employed by Santa Clara County and their many contractors. The County Human Relations Commission recently held hearings entitled, “The Price We Pay for Living in Santa Clara County,” attended by hundreds, many of whom testified passionately about the toll that the high cost of living in Silicon Valley is having on them.

There are also current campaigns by SEIU’s United Service Workers West to organize security guards at Apple and Google, and by the Teamsters to organize the drivers at Facebook, all employees of contractors.

All of these movements are important in highlighting the problem and putting forward interim solutions. Some leaders also pointed out that the Silicon Valley 150 biggest corporations have \$500 billion parked offshore for tax avoidance purposes.

This keeps public funds low and leads to austerity policies that are responsible for cutting housing, education, health care and other safety net and public services.

We have to build the independent political power necessary to force these corporations to pay their fair share at national, state and local levels, and to force the government to serve peoples’ needs, rather than the corporations.

Michigan’s corporate dictatorship impacts California

By Steven Miller

OAKLAND, CA — Corporate dictatorship is naked in Michigan, but California Governor Jerry Brown is keeping his pants on. Corporate forces are already enforcing their will in the state through the collaboration of state and local government. California must learn from Michigan before it is too late.

The ongoing Detroit Bankruptcy is having a seismic impact on California. One corporate goal is to bring down the largest sector of public workers in the country by going after their pensions.

The Detroit judge held that private bankruptcy law trumped the state constitutional guarantee of public worker pensions. They are contracts, he said, the same as any other debt. This was the first legal precedent.

When Stockton, California went bankrupt in 2012, pensions were ruled untouchable. But last month the judge ruled that cities can use bankruptcy to wipe out pension responsibilities. This was legal precedent



San Francisco protest against big chemical companies turned agribusiness, and their efforts to monopolize seed (food and commodity) production through the control and sale of GMO's.

PHOTO/BPITTINGER, 2014

number two.

Cities all over the country are teetering on bankruptcy. Every municipal government body, from cities to water departments, pays millions a month directly to Wall Street. This is because they were suckered into predatory hedge fund deals that are similar to predatory mortgages on homeowners. The latter is the dispossession of families; the former is the collective dispossession of the public. Aspects of these contracts have been found illegal.

This is a form of blackmail! If pensions are contracts, why are judges ruling that these contracts can be broken, while the criminal ones with the financial industry are untouchable? Governments claim that their job is to improve the lives of the people, to extend the public interest, and, as Thomas Jefferson said, create public happiness.

This pension scam shows that the system is rigged. Government that is of, by and for the corporations is one that organizes massive displacement

and gentrification.

The Detroit bankruptcy judge gave his opinion that people do not have an inherent right to water. This was a direct challenge to the UN, which is investigating water shutoffs to over 300,000 families in Detroit. This opinion has vast implications.

Water wars have gone national this year with massive shutoffs in West Virginia, Toledo, Ohio and elsewhere. Most of Detroit’s water debt is owed by corporations, but they are

not being cut off. Fracking destroys millions of gallons with every well.

Nestle pumps 65 million gallons a year out of the Colorado River, which no longer reaches the sea. Drought-stricken California depends on this river for water to drink.

Agribusiness corporations get 80% of California’s water. Water is distributed in the state by private water contractors who get it for next to nothing and sell it for a profit. Corporate water is highly subsidized by charging the people high rates. Gov. Brown’s Proposition One doesn’t create one drop of new water; instead it diverts billions of dollars to corporations to escalate the private control over water for profit.

The legal precedent that people have priority over corporations for water was eliminated in California in 1994. Their next step will be to follow Detroit and establish the legal principle that people have no right to water at all. We must hold government accountable and demand it reverse the corporate dispossession of the public’s water.

Special coverage: **Conviction with no evidence!**

Statement from Rev. Edward Pinkney on the verdict

By Rev. Edward Pinkney

BENTON HARBOR, MI — I could not believe they could find me guilty without one piece of evidence. This is about more than an all white jury. They attacked me because of my class — I'm not wealthy. Now everybody in Benton Harbor is in jeopardy. They are saying they don't need evidence to send someone to prison. It's time to take a stand.

Here, Whirlpool controls not only Benton Harbor and the residents, but also the court system itself. They will do anything to crush you if you stand up to them. That's why it's so important to fight this. I'm going to fight them until the end. This is not just an attack on Rev. Pinkney. It's an attack on every single person that lives in

Benton Harbor, in the state and around the country.

I thought the jurists would have enough heart, enough courage and righteousness to do the right thing. They didn't just fail me. They failed everybody that lives in the city of Benton Harbor.

There was no evidence, period. The only thing they possibly had was that the petition belonged to me, but it went through several hands. They only had one target and that was me.

Any time you live in a society that doesn't take care of its people you have a problem. And that's what we have here in Berrien County. I am standing up for the people.

We want them to understand this fight is going to continue with or without me. In that

sense, I'm happy today because people can take a good look at this system. It's a class war. It's us against them. Rich against poor. That's what it adds up to. The point is we have to take a stand. It's about you, your children, and your grandchildren. I never thought for a minute that the system could be this broken and would go to this extreme. They could care less about you, me or anybody else. They only have one thing in mind. That is to make sure they protect the rich.

We got to fix this jury system. There was not one person from Benton Harbor, not one person from Benton Township on the jury. Anytime a Black man is sitting inside that courtroom and the jury is all white, that is a major problem.

There's a lot of things that we



Reverend Edward Pinkney and his attorney, Tat Parish in the courtroom where Pinkney was found guilty of vote fraud with no evidence. PHOTO CREDIT/JOHN MADILL

can do now. We are working on an appeal. We are continuing to fight this battle. We're going to stand firm. This is all about the people.

Voices in support of Pinkney

"We were very surprised by the verdict. I believe there simply was no evidence whatsoever that he did the deed. There might have been evidence that somebody forged the dates. The problem of course is that the prosecution was allowed to argue that it was circumstantial evidence. Circumstantial evidence, as close as I can tell, is just suspicion. There will be an appeal."

— Tat Parish,
Attorney for the Defense

"It's a modern day lynching. After hearing the 'evidence,' it would seem that the decision was made before the trial began. They are looking at Michigan as a glove for dictatorship. And the predominantly Black communities are the test tubes. When you stand up against the largest manufacturer of appliances

in the world, of course there will be a backlash. Also, Rev. Pinkney was accused of writing and changing my date on a petition when, in fact, I wrote my own date and changed it after realizing I had put the wrong date down."

— Mary Alice Adams,
Benton Harbor Commissioner

"Benton Harbor is losing more and more ground. The school system is failing. Over at City Hall, things are manipulated. They're giving off the land to the developers for nothing. With the arrests over the recall election, people are now afraid. They want people to say, 'Don't kick against the system.' This is wrong."

— Emma Kinnard,
Delegate, 3rd Ward,
Benton Harbor

"The prosecution dragged 42 people into court to testify. Many were poor workers, visibly angry at the police harassment and threat to their rights. One witness told the prosecutor, 'You're trying to switch my story.' Another said that police 'tried to get me to say I signed a paper on two different days and I didn't.' In addition, at times it seemed like a community organization, BANCO, was also on trial. Witnesses were asked if they were a member, whether they had a membership card, who was at meetings, if Rev. Pinkney was the organization's head, and what was talked about. All in all, the poorest among them stood up to this assault. This shows the peoples' ongoing fight for a just America."

— People's Tribune



Benton Harbor, MI: Fighting the Corporate Dictatorship in America's Rust Belt

Order copies of this pamphlet today. \$4 each,
or \$3 each when ordering five or more.

Donate via PayPal at peopletribune.org
or send to PT, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654.

People's Tribune statement on the significance of the trial

From the Editors of the *People's Tribune*

It was a sad day for justice in America. Rev. Edward Pinkney, a staunch leader in the struggle for justice and for the needs of the poorest workers in the community of Benton Harbor, MI, was convicted of changing dates on petitions for the recall of a mayor that the community believes is a "yes man" for Whirlpool. There was no evidence to convict him. This case is about Rev. Pinkney's political activity on behalf of the people and against the corporations. For this he could be separated from his family and community for years.

This case shows the consolidation of the power of the corporations. For a long time, they have been setting aside the *spirit* of the Constitution. Now they are setting aside the *word* of it. They are trying to create a situation where you can't stand up to them. When you run the risk of being thrown in jail for recalling a public official, it shows how dangerous the political environment is. How do you convict someone when there is no evidence?

Michigan is a test case and model for the complete fascist takeover of America. These situations are going to be happening more and more. We need to fight every attack wherever they arise. The question is: who is going to control society? Will the corporations control it in their interests or will the people control it in their interests? The future is up to us.

The People's Tribune is your paper. Send your stories. We encourage our readers to send donations for Rev. Pinkney's appeal. Send to BANCO, 1940 Union Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022.

Important: Attend Pinkney sentencing. December 15, 8:30am, Berrien County Courthouse.