



Supporters of Bernie Sanders for president listen intently while the candidate speaks at a rally at a UAW local in Dearborn, MI. Michigan was once the center of industrialization and good paying jobs. As robots replace workers, people are losing their livelihood and are seeking answers. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

## ***THE ELECTIONS: HOW DO WE END CORPORATE RULE?***

*The existing economic system can no longer provide basic necessities of life for millions whose labor is no longer needed. The country is moving toward an open dictatorship of the corporations. What must the people do to achieve independence of the corporate political parties?*

*[Read the whole story on page 3](#)*

# Government must guarantee our basic needs

## EDITORIAL

“Our water has been poisoned. Why? Who is wanting to do this to us?” asked a young schoolgirl at a Chicago meeting. Officials knew the drinking water in her school was contaminated with lead yet did nothing to prevent the children from drinking it.

In an investigative report launched in the wake of the crisis in Flint, Michigan, by the Guardian newspaper, officials in 33 out of 43 cities across 17 states reviewed have been “cheating” when testing the water systems for lead. Where’s the government response in defense of the people?

Furthermore, corporations have dumped toxic chemicals into water sources while government agencies look the other way, putting those who must use it to bathe and drink at risk for cancer and other deadly diseases. Recently, 100,000 residents in northern Alabama were warned by their water supplier not to drink or cook with tap water because of dangerous manmade compounds found in the Tennessee River.

And in Detroit, Flint, and Baltimore, water shut-offs to the poorest workers continue while delinquent businesses receive a pass.

Water is the new “gold” for corporations such as Nestlé, the world’s largest bottling company. Nestlé pumps water for free from the Great Lakes Basin while Flint residents are forced to pay for poisoned water. Nestlé was given \$13 million in tax breaks to move its operations to Michigan, and in Fryeburg, Maine, the governor granted a subsidiary of Nestlé a contract to take over their public water system for profit for up to 45 years.

Public control of water and other necessities such as housing,

health care and education, is central to the fight for survival of a section of the working class displaced by automation, and whom the capitalist system and its billionaire owners no longer need in production.

However, the now corporate-run government is helping corporations profit by handing key areas of the economy such as schools, healthcare and water systems over to them while taxpayers foot the bill. This is a form of nationalization in the rulers’ interests. Meanwhile workers are demanding that government help them instead of bailing out the corporations.

The battle against the corporate “solution” to a dying economic system and the growing dispossession of millions of workers is being waged by new grassroots organizations. They are demanding that government fix the nation’s failing infrastructure, get the lead out of the pipes, provide safe affordable water to all, protect water as a public trust, and make Medicare available for all in response to the poisoning of our children. And, they are demanding an end to the spreading corporate dictatorship.

The question is: “Why does anyone have the “right” to privately own our natural resources?” If the corporations cannot provide for our needs, then we must demand that government will. The demand that government provides health care, housing, education and water and guarantees them for the people is nationalization—or government takeover of the corporations—in the people’s interests. These demands are a bridge to a new society where the abundance produced is distributed to all based on need. After all, what is a society for if not to provide for the well being of the people so that we may live peacefully together?



A protest at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality office in Detroit denounces the poisoning of water, dumping of poisons in sewage system, and expansion of the hazardous waste plant.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

## Donate to prisoner fund!

“Would you provide a free subscription to the *People’s Tribune*? There’s no TVs, radios, and newspapers here. Recently, two inmates died from suicide. This solitary confinement is eating us alive. We need something to read and communicate with to help us ease the pain,” writes a prisoner. Please send donations to our prisoner subscription fund at: PT, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654 or via PayPal at [Peopletribune.org](http://Peopletribune.org).

Thank you!  
— The Editors

## Do you like what you see in this paper?

If you like what you’re reading, the *People’s Tribune* needs your help. We have no paid staff and get no grants. The *People’s Tribune* relies entirely on its readers for financial support. Make a donation today. When you distribute this paper to others, ask for a donation. If you hold a discussion group around the *People’s Tribune*, ask for donations. The *People’s Tribune* not only opens its pages to the voices of the movement, it puts forward a vision of a new, cooperative society where everyone’s needs are met and a strategy for getting there. From this point on, the direction our country takes depends largely on how people understand the problem and the solution. We need a press to win the battle of ideas. This paper can only continue to exist with your help. Make donations payable to *People’s Tribune* and send to P.O. Box 3524, Chicago, IL, 60654. You can also donate via Paypal at [www.peopletribune.org](http://www.peopletribune.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.

**People’s Tribune Editor:** Bob Lee

**Editorial Staff:** Ran Dibble, Alex Engel, Brett Jelinek, Sarah Menefee, Joseph Peery, Sandra Reid, Cathy Talbott

**Photo Editor:** Daymon Hartley

**National Office:**  
People’s Tribune, P.O. Box 3524  
Chicago, Illinois, 60654  
e-mail: [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org)  
Phone: 773-486-3551  
Toll Free: 800-691-6888  
Fax: 773-486-3552  
Web: [www.peopletribune.org](http://www.peopletribune.org)

**Publisher:** People’s Tribune  
ISSN# 1081-4787

**Reach us locally at:**  
**Chicago, IL:** 773-486-3551  
[peopletribunechicago@gmail.com](mailto:peopletribunechicago@gmail.com)  
**Ann Arbor, MI:** [zettir@gmail.com](mailto:zettir@gmail.com)  
**Atlanta, GA:** [atlanta@peopletribune.org](mailto:atlanta@peopletribune.org)  
**Carbondale, IL:**  
[carbondale@peopletribune.org](mailto:carbondale@peopletribune.org)  
**Denver, CO:** [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org)  
**Detroit, MI:** 800-691-6888  
**Houston, TX:**  
P O Box 231281, Houston, TX 77223-1281  
**Los Angeles, CA:** 310-548-6491  
**Oakland, CA:**  
[oakland@peopletribune.org](mailto:oakland@peopletribune.org)  
**Washington, DC:**  
[pt\\_in\\_dmv@yahoo.com](mailto:pt_in_dmv@yahoo.com)

# The Elections: How do we end corporate rule?

## COVER STORY

As we approach the 2016 presidential election, America is at a critical moment in history.

Advanced technology and globalization continue to wipe out millions of jobs, permanently. Wages for many still working are driven down to starvation levels. Millions are homeless. Nearly 50 million people go hungry some time each month. Thirty-three million have no health insurance. About half of our population lives in poverty.

The economic crisis and destruction of human lives rooted in labor-replacing technology is destabilizing the country. The existing system can no longer provide basic necessities such as food, clothing, shelter, health care or education to millions whose labor is no longer needed. These unneeded workers are a threat to the rule of the corporate billionaires, since their needs can only be met by a completely different society where necessities are distributed by need, not profit. This threat has pushed the country toward an open dictatorship of the corporations—the billionaires cannot allow democracy under these conditions.

The drive toward dictatorship takes various forms: replacing local elected officials with state-appointed “emergency managers;” eliminating legal rights in the name of “fighting terrorism;” the growing police violence; the imprisonment of millions, and the attack on voting rights to name a few. The government is even targeting activists by bringing false charges against them or their children.

Some workers have been misled into seeing Trump as representing the hope of jobs coming back, but his campaign is actually helping to build a fascist social movement. Others, clinging to the “mainstream” Democratic Party,



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

have turned to Clinton. Many have turned to the Green Party or the Sanders campaign. As things have evolved, a large section of the working class has used the Sanders campaign as a vehicle to fight for their demands for food, housing, health care, education and more. The rising demand that the government be taken away from the billionaires and that its power be used to resolve the people’s problems, and the open discussion of socialism prompted by the Sanders campaign, are important. It opened the way for a broader discussion about what it will take to reorganize our society

in the interests of humanity.

While there is no question that Trump must be defeated, the reality is that the Democratic and Republican parties are the twin parties of the corporations. At this point it looks likely that the next president will be either a Democrat or Republican. Regardless, they will tow the corporate line. This means more poverty and the further elimination of democracy.

The significance of this election lies in the unprecedented nature of our times, and that a section of the working class has taken a step, especially through

the Sanders campaign, toward declaring its political independence of the ruling class parties. The effort to push this independence forward must continue now and after the election.

Revolutionaries can advance this process by putting forward the demand that the government guarantee the basic needs of the people. This will move the people toward building their own party where we can make a real fight for a society where the abundance we can produce can guarantee peace and prosperity for all of us in a country that is of, by and for the people.

**Contribute to the People’s Tribune:  
100% volunteer run  
100% donation funded**

The *People’s Tribune* strives to bring clarity and to unite the movement around a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it. It has no paid staff and gets no corporate grants. We need your support to continue telling the truth.

One-time donations are welcome. If you can spare \$20 a month or more, you’ll be a hero. Make donations payable to People’s Tribune and send to P.O. Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654. You can also donate via Paypal at [www.peopletribune.org](http://www.peopletribune.org).

— People’s Tribune Editorial Board

## SUBSCRIBE TO THE PEOPLE’S TRIBUNE! ORDER BUNDLES

- Please send me a one-year individual subscription [ \$20 ]
- Please send me a one-year institutional subscription [ \$25 ]
- Please send me a bundle of \_\_\_\_\_ PTs [ at 50 cents per paper ]

**Enclosed is my donation of:**

- \$20  \$50  \$75  \$100  \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*My check or money order made payable to “People’s Tribune” is enclosed. Mail this coupon to: People’s Tribune, P.O. Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524*

# Silicon Valley's Homeless: Like the canary in the coal mine

By Sandy Perry

SAN JOSE, CA. — It has been 18 months since America's largest homeless encampment here, known as the "Jungle", was destroyed by bulldozers.

Now the city is carrying out a relentless and escalating campaign of sweeps, arrests, destruction of personal property, and persecution to make sure that nothing like it ever comes back. As one park ranger told the homeless, "Our job is to make your lives so miserable, you leave town and never return."

San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo went to the Vatican last year and publicly admitted that, "We live in one Valley, but two worlds. Over 4000 residents find themselves homeless each night...only a 30-minute drive from the headquarters of Google, Facebook, Oracle, and their billionaire CEO's homes." But Liccardo's incremental programs to address homelessness have been ineffective.

The homeless are just the tip of the iceberg. They are the visible sign of the failure of Silicon Valley's (and America's) vaunted "innovation economy". The same technology that enriched these companies has created these

homeless, by eliminating the jobs that used to sustain them. But it does not stop there.

The automation of the entire service industry is rendering millions of workers unnecessary and superfluous. In areas like Michigan it is impoverishing and destroying whole cities. In financial and tech centers like Silicon Valley, in addition to creating homelessness, it is driving hundreds of thousands of service workers out of cities altogether. Right now, some 672 residents of the rent controlled Reserve Apartments in San Jose are being evicted to replace their homes with market rate housing they will never be able to afford.

Real estate tycoon Ken DeLeon explained it in the recent YouTube video "Million Dollar Shack": "Silicon Valley is such a small little area, it's inevitable that prices will rise... I think the person who's working hard at Google has more of a right to be here than somebody just because their parents were here, and they complain they can't afford a home."

Displacement is not a strong enough word for what is going on. As sociologist Ananya Roy has pointed out, it is more appropriate to call it "banishment" of



Mercy Wong and Eva Martinez speak out against the mistreatment of the homeless in San Jose, CA. Silicon Valley, where over 4,000 residents are homeless each night, is only a 30-minute drive from the headquarters of Google, Facebook, Oracle, and their billionaire CEO's homes. PHOTO/SANDY PEERY

an entire class of people.

But all is not lost, if we build a movement out of the resistance to these colossal injustices, and

build a new society that puts the sanctity of human life before private profit. San Jose's homeless are continuing their battle for

permanent housing for all and for sanctioned encampments as organizing centers for building their movement.

## The neighborhood is not for sale!

By Bhaskar S. Manda

CHICAGO, IL — What does a community that is being displaced look like? Along Milwaukee Avenue in the heart of Chicago, where 10+ story towers are going up to dwarf Victorians and 100 year-old two-flat brick buildings on the next block, it is clear that the old-style is being pushed out. But so are current residents, through means that are not as evident—extravagant rents for the new apartments, over two times what a similar space went for a year ago, multi-tenant buildings converted into single family homes, and vacant lots and tear-downs held till the right price comes along. Then, the landlords raising rents 30 percent, up-zoning applications, commuter and transient-oriented housing replacing that for families, and neighborhood public schools shuttered. This is a neighborhood being gentrified, getting rid of its lower- and middle-income, usually minority residents, using euphemisms like transit-oriented development, or urban renewal, in order to provide speculators

with the inputs needed for their business.

For the last year, *We Are/Somos Logan Square* has organized hundreds of community members to advocate for the inclusion of more truly affordable housing in the Milwaukee Avenue area. This spring, they protested 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Alderman Moreno, who is ignoring the welfare of the community in order to provide real estate capital the returns it seeks. On March 26, they marched on a rental property company, M. Fishman, who routinely acquires buildings and then raises rents 20-30% with minimal improvements. On April 9, they shut down Milwaukee Avenue in front of a 200+ unit luxury tower development under construction, until police cut the demonstrators from the blockade one by one using electric saws, bolt cutters, and sledgehammers, while those on the sidewalk sang "we shall not be moved" and chanted "how high's the rent, too damned high!" Six activists were arrested. Following that, on May 21, they marched from the office of the alderman who routinely ignores

community opinion in favor of luxury building developers, to the site of the towers, in order to raise awareness and seek redress.

The organization and its members are seeking community benefits agreements from developers and actions from elected officials to retain and increase the supply of affordable housing, to stop the on-going displacement of low-income and minority area residents caused by this gentrification. They have been joined in this struggle by organizations such as Lifted Voices, the Logan Square Ecumenical Alliance, and other community-based and independent political organizations. *We Are/Somos Logan Square* is an organization of current and former residents of Chicago's Logan Square, Humboldt Park, Avondale, and surrounding neighborhoods. They organize for affordable housing, and against evictions, rising rents and developments that are imposed without taking the community's voice into account.



Chicago residents join forces against gentrification of their neighborhood. PHOTO/ANNE SHAW

### Help get the People's Tribune out!

Job loss and soaring rents are forcing millions in America to live in cars, tents and even swamps, only to be arrested and driven out again and again. Those of us who are morally outraged at these indefensible living conditions are coming together to build a powerful movement that demands that the government provide for the people, not the corporate class. This battle for government to be our government is key to the fight for a new America—where food, housing, education, healthcare and all we need to thrive are provided simply because we are human beings. Help build the movement by ordering the *People's Tribune* to get out to others! Order at [peopletribune.org](http://peopletribune.org).

— The Editors

# L.A. Skid Row: Blueprint of an outrage

By General Dogan

LOS ANGELES, CA — In late April I was approached by Tommy Little to help get his property back. He had been cited two weeks earlier for committing the crime of “sleeping on the sidewalk.” His arrest in late April, at his tent on the sidewalk, was for the crime of failing to respond to the earlier citation two weeks earlier. Tommy was released four hours after this arrest but his tent and all his belongings had been confiscated by the city’s Sanitation Department. He was told he could reclaim his property at a designated site by showing a claim slip.

At his arrest, the Sanitation Department arrived with a crew, dressed in haz-mat suits and masks, to confiscate all of his property. They surrounded his tent with yellow tape as if to alert anyone walking by that they might become infected with something. The Sanitation Department then “disinfected” the area with high-pressure spray wash machines.

When Tommy asked about confiscated belongings, the

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) said, “Oh we don’t remove any property, the Sanitation Department handles that.” So Tommy and I went to the official storage unit designated by the city for homeless residents’ confiscated property. We went to the address listed on his property claim and found a big vacant lot with a small shack in the middle.

When we asked the clerks for the property and showed them the claim slip, they said it wasn’t there. They didn’t know for sure but perhaps it was at the Parker Center, the old and now abandoned police headquarters which had been replaced by a new, eight-story, \$437 million police headquarters located across the street from city hall.

We went to Parker Center, talked to a clerk, and were shown 18 shipping containers filled with homeless residents’ property. They couldn’t find Tommy’s property until I discovered they had mixed up his name with his neighbor. The police write the name of the homeless person whose property is being confiscated on hazardous tape



Skid Row in Los Angeles, where an estimated 4,000 people live on the street in one of the wealthiest cities in the world. PHOTO/CHRIS VENN

before the sleeping/living site is razed.

Finally the clerk brought out a large bag from one of the containers and at the very bottom of the bag were two of Tommy’s possessions: a plastic tarp, still in its original packaging, and a clay figurine of Jesus.

Tommy could hardly believe

what he saw. He wept. Before the Sanitation Department’s confiscation, all of his property in his tent was new. He had carefully folded his belongings in his tent at the time of his arrest. Now only these two items remained.

This is a stealth war against the homeless, powered by real estate billionaires and messaged

by Democrats who weep about the homeless and then evict them—or evict them and then weep to their constituents.

*General Dogan is an organizer with the Los Angeles Community Action Network, located on Skid Row.*

## Smell of sewage radiates out to Texas communities

By Andrea Guzman

ALAMO, TX — Hi, my name is Andrea Guzman. I’m 16 years old and I live in a community called South Tower Estates. In this community, we have a serious problem. This problem is a bad smell. I never really knew where it came from or what caused it until this past summer. Through our organization, ARISE, we participated in several trainings on social and environmental justice. Josué Ramirez, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Co-Director of Texas Low-Income Housing Information Service, gave us a presentation on environmental justice. With that information, Imma De Stefanis, RSCJ and Reyna Gonzalez, RSCJ from the Stuart Center, helped us develop our plan to make a change in our community.

In our trainings with Mr. Ramirez, we learned basic information, such as what was causing the smell and where it came from. The odor is caused by an open lagoon wastewater treatment plant in our community. This plant is over 65 years old, and it runs on solar panels. Because the plant is an open lagoon style plant, the smell of sewage radiates out to the surrounding com-

munities, like mine. Through our trainings, we learned that there are 14 colonias affected by the smell in all. We also discovered that the waste that is treated at the plant is not even ours—it comes from the city of Alamo!

We started to understand our problem as an effect of environmental racism. Just because we are a low-income community doesn’t mean we have to live with this smell. After we had gotten all the information we needed, we took the next step: to go to our community and pass out flyers so that people are aware and know where the smell is coming from.

We also went to talk to the Commissioner’s Court of the City of Alamo, and met with representatives of Precinct 2 of Hidalgo County. We encouraged residents to record odor logs whenever they experience the smell so they can report it to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) so that the organization would come and investigate to see if the plant was violating its permit. We also learned the difference between the plant we have, an open lagoon plant, and a mechanical plant. The mechanical plant actually helps decrease

the smell and is a more effective plant. We hope that our next big step is to get a mechanical plant and make a big impact on our community.

*“ARISE has been working in this community for 20 years, and we have seen how the odor has affected the quality of life of residents. Our youth volunteers began the South Tower Power campaign to advocate for cleaner air for their families and neighbors.” says Andrea Landeros, ARISE staff member. For more information, visit [arisesotex.org](http://arisesotex.org).*



Youth in Alamo, Texas, campaign for cleaner air. The smell of sewage is affecting the community’s quality of life. PHOTO/DONATED

*‘Without vision, the people perish.’  
— Traditional saying*

*“We are called to be architects of the future, not its victims.”*

*— R. Buckminster Fuller, futurist, inventor, creator of the geodesic dome*

*“Eventually, we will have had enough. And we will rise up and take back what has been stolen from us.”*

*— Mike Zint, homeless activist, “First they came for the homeless”*

# FIGHTING THE CORPORATE DICTATORSHIP IN MICHIGAN

## We Are One

By Eban Morales

HIGHLAND PARK, MI — My heart has been heavy for weeks now as I visualize first-hand the tragedies of this war waged upon the people. But I am not the only one. The people are agitated as their consciousness is being awakened. But consciousness comes with a price, because once awakened and your mind aware, going blind again is not an option. The heart becomes engaged and it beats just a little differently now.

Over and over the scenario is the same, and the attack and process by which the people are warred upon identical. Justice must be had, and the issues corrected to still a riled people who know all too well they didn't start this war, but that they must win it for the sake of life and future.

What is occurring is not just gentrification of cities but the attempted elimination of a class and total disrespect for human existence. Even the Earth that we have the responsibility for caring for and protecting is in grave danger, and at the root of it all is money. Money over humanity and earth, and neither the life of man or that of the Earth and all its inhabitants matter

except for the sake of profit

The very Laws that once protected us are being changed to better implement the attack on Earth and Humanity. New laws are set into place to make the act of civil disobedience against injustices a crime, and fighting for the right to survive a felony. They try to silence our cries by replacing our voice with zip ties around our wrists. They ticket us, fine us, jail us, punish us into submission and compliance. Corporations now govern and Judges bow to their will.

Corporations and even government are bailed out and are unaccountable for their crimes. Contracts are broken and pensions are stolen. Rivers and lands are poisoned as oceans and air is polluted. Education is unequal or deprived altogether, in school-to-prison-pipelines. Homes are foreclosed on and stolen. Yet as people are displaced, being homeless is made a crime. Panhandlers can be ticketed, and giving to the hungry is now punishable.

I have walked with Water Warriors, Keeper's of the Earth, Protector's of The Children, Stop The Violence, Black Lives Matter, No More Emergency Managers, Stop The Foreclosures, We The



Eleven squad cars showed up at the eviction of a Detroit mom and son. The real estate company stole her money and gave her a fake deed (they recycle this house over and over). Police laughed when the mom broke down and her son burst into tears. The dumpster company broke one protester's leg in two places and attacked another protester.

PHOTO/EBAN MORALES

People, Take Back Our Streets, Walk For Justice, Black, White, Muslim and a multitude of other groups... All under attack.

Our strength is in unity. It is not a bunch of little fights that we face, but a single attack on our

existence and rights as human beings, and what is just for us and our children. We are One... Now is the time, from city to city, state to state and yes country to country, to begin unifying, networking, planning and fighting. Each one

teach one. Speakers teach others to speak, leaders, organizers train others and remain undivided in this war. From a few hundred to a few thousand to a million and growing, now is the time for accountability and respect for us who are ONE.

## No more poison in Detroit's water and air

By Dorthéa E. Thomas

DETROIT, MI — For too long, corporate polluters have put the profits before human lives in Michigan. The corporation US Ecology has been seeking permission from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to expand its toxic waste disposal operation from 15,000 to 330,000 tons a day on Georgia Street in Detroit. The corporation transports, treats, and disposes of radioactive, chemical, hazardous and PCB waste from all over the country and then the liquid waste (arsenic, cadmium, cyanide, lead, etc.) is dumped into the Detroit public sewerage system.

The expansion is raising health concerns among our families, friends and those who live directly in the area. The facility is currently located within a mile of a number of schools, houses of worship, a hospital and even a senior center. One minor accident or fail in infrastructure could

majorly contaminate the water and poison the entire city of Detroit, including surrounding suburbs that share the same water sources.

We, the *Coalition to Oppose the Expansion* and Michigan United gathered together and protested outside the state offices in Detroit on May 26, and demanded a meeting with officials from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) on spot to discuss the need to put environmental justice first in Michigan. Our list of demands included:

- Stop the 10-fold expansion of this hazardous waste plant.
- Stop dumping toxic and radioactive waste and contaminating Detroit's water.
- Continue forward with the CPP state implementation process and support Michigan efforts to move forward with the Clean Power Plan (CPP).
- Conduct public input hearings in communities across the state that are most impacted by carbon pollution to hear how this

pollution impacts our daily lives.

Valerie Jean of the Detroit Coalition Against Tar Sands (DCATS) initiated the conversation, saying "We are coming together to let the state of Michigan and MDEQ know that they have completely failed us on all fronts."

Afterwards, I spoke on behalf of Michigan United. Because meanwhile in District 6 where I live, the area code 48217 is the state's most polluted zip code, the Marathon refinery continues to expose residents to toxins that cause a wide variety of health problems. When President Obama decided to issue rules for energy production that would address such problems, Governor Snyder said Michigan would come up with its own CPP rules. But when the Federal plan was challenged in court, Snyder halted the process here. Our communities are being poisoned and, for too long, big dirty energy companies have profited from the



Groups gather at Detroit's Michigan Department of Environmental Quality office to denounce the poisoning of water, dumping of poisons in sewage system, and expansion of hazardous waste plant.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

destruction. They've left communities like Detroit with dirty air, poisoned water and dangerous, dead-end jobs.

Our Coalition wants the MDEQ to put the health of our people before corporate polluters and profits. We will not take any

of the environmental racism and genocidal practices to destruct our communities anymore. The revolution will not be televised.

Dorthéa E. Thomas is an environmental and climate justice organizer. Contact her at [dorthea@miunited.org](mailto:dorthea@miunited.org)

# Notes from the Flint water front

*Editor's Note: The People's Tribune received these notes from the Flint water front. Please send your stories, too. Email info@peopletribune.org*

FLINT, MI — While Congress and State officials continue to hold meetings, hearings and investigations, Flint residents still live their lives using bottled water and sink filters while coping with health challenges. The struggle continues for us.

Recent grass roots mobilizations, lobbying and phone banking, resulted in passage of a multi-million dollar package to begin any serious effort to replace the pipes still tied to the toxic water. No such mobilizations were needed when General Motors sounded the alarm about Flint water rusting their engine parts back in 2014, six months after the switch to Flint River water. The resolution to GM's issues was swift and sure. The people in Flint have lived with this over 2 ½ years and still do.

Meanwhile, a recent letter from the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) to Governor Snyder warns that much more needs to be done to avert future crisis. The letter expressed concerns about the "city's capacity to add chlorine and caustic to maintain residual chlorine levels and optimal pH for corrosion control," for the long term. These failures generated the lead disaster and the Legionella out-

break gripping the city of Flint today. The letter underscored the need for additional personnel, updated equipment and additional resources (AKA money). The letter mentioned the fact that Flint water rates are among the highest in the country. The EPA confirmed what water activists have charged all along.

As we go to press, water warrior activists Gertrude Marshall was found guilty of misdemeanor assault and battery and attempted assault and battery. She and other activists protested last October at Flint Farmers Market—a facility stolen from the people of Flint by the Emergency Manager and given to corporate investor Uptown. Ms. Marshall was accosted at the market when a man (later identified as a security guard) snatched her bullhorn out of her hands. In an effort to retrieve it, an altercation ensued. Michigan activists in pursuit of clean, affordable water and democracy continue to face persecution: Reverend Edward Pinkney (*see page 12*), Eric Mays, Detroit's Homrich 9, and now, Gertrude Marshall.

The struggle continues here in Flint and across Michigan. We demand disaster relief status from the Federal government to replace all the lead pipes. We demand Medicare for all regardless of age to confront this enormous public health disaster. Finally, we demand an end to dictatorship under the Emergency Manager system with the restora-



**Above: "Children from Detroit, Flint and other Michigan cities march against unaffordable water shutoffs that force low income families to fear being reported by teachers and department of human service officials to Children's Protective Services. Households without water are at risk of babies and kids being removed from their parents at no fault of their own. This crisis affects us all and raises public health concerns too. Children's lives matter, especially the poor ones!"**

— Sylvia Orduño, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization  
PHOTO/VALERIE JEAN

tion and expansion of democracy in Flint and all other Michigan communities.



**Above: Flint resident shows rash on arm from poisonous water at Two Years Too Long commemoration of the poisoning of Flint.**

PHOTO/MEGAN KREGER, ISOMESOMEDIA



**Above: Water fountain at Flint, MI hospital. Little progress has been made since the water crisis erupted.**

PHOTO/DONATED

## 'Home'

— Shemy featuring Damon McKenzie

*Editor's note: Please listen to the video at [youtu.be/92mzz8EinYE](http://youtu.be/92mzz8EinYE)*

*Below are excerpts.*

... I see capitalism alive and well  
while my friends and family are living hell  
Rick Snyder help poison Flint  
but when you're that rich you don't go to jail  
and when you're that rich you don't give shit  
about socioeconomic statuses  
unless you benefit from them tax breaks, then the  
1% receive accolades  
while my grandfather worked 5-5 in General  
Motor's for 25  
just to take a buy-out in 05, and still worked hard  
until the day he died

now you're telling me that's the American Dream  
and my kids can be anything  
if they go to college for a hundred thousand  
and never live a day out debt free  
Sounds shitty  
we don't want pity  
all we ask for is a fair chance  
equal education for every body  
and a drinking fountain with no lead...

Treat my city like you treat your daughters  
And love my city like you love your dollars  
Everybody screaming ra-hey!  
Living life in strife from day to day  
Everybody screaming ra-hey!  
You better treat my city like a HOME...

The media will persuade us  
to think politicians can save us  
Make America Great Again

by dividing up all the races  
religions and social class  
as if that's all that matters  
like we aren't all human  
dealing with different circumstances...

then it hits home and our youths poisoned  
IQ's are lowered, futures shattered in a city where  
hope was already broken  
of course they tell us don't politicize it  
while state employees drank clean water  
citizens were dying  
now celebs visit and donate  
we throw concerts and fundraise  
but before the water was ruining lives  
it was strays from the AK's  
I just hope ya'll don't forget  
when Flint's no longer trending on twitter  
cuz even when wounds are no longer visible,  
people with scars will always remember

# Social media policing is criminalizing our youth



**Tomas Nico Gaete, victim of Chicago police frame up.**

PHOTO/COURTESY OF FAMILY

**By Rodrigo Starz of Rebel Diaz**

CHICAGO, IL — On the weekend of June 10, Nico, the son of my cousin, Carolina Gaete, was kidnapped by Chicago Police and

## *The case of Nico Gaete:*

is being held on \$750,000 bond on trumped up and false charges. He's charged with shooting another young man three times over some weed.

I've known Nico his whole life and this young man wouldn't hurt a fly. He's not in a gang, he doesn't have access or own a gun. He's just not about that life. He's all about peace and meditation and not into violence at all. If anything, he's the type to stay in his room all day and write raps.

Nico's case is not an isolated case as the way he was identified is a new wave of social media policing that is going on that as a woke community we need to be aware of and start adapting to. The Chicago Police seem to have gathered a data base of pictures

of young men from the neighborhood from Facebook and other social media and are using these pics instead of police line ups to show victims for identifying suspects.

Think about it—this young man has no criminal history—yet his picture was used as being a possible criminal?! And it just happens that he was falsely identified!! The picture used was two years old. This is a mother's worst nightmare—her only baby taken away by police and held for a 3/4 Million Dollar ransom for a crime he obviously didn't commit.

The craziness of it is alarming because we are clear this is happening all over the country. In New York City, 120 young men were arrested in the Bronx's East-

chester Houses with Rico Law charges and conspiracy charges on cases mostly built off of social media surveillance. Basically a whole community was under military siege and all the young people in the area criminalized instead of the police doing their actual job and investigating who was really doing the crimes.

Nothing on Nico's social media pages is even about violence or drugs or gang affiliations, but he was caught up as a result of this new type of policing. His mother, Carolina, has been a tireless social justice organizer in Chicago. Their family, like mine, is here as Chilean exiles who were forced to leave their homeland because of a CIA-funded military coup that overthrew the socialist government of democratically elected Salvador Allende.

Nico grew up with values of loving your community and organizing in it. His Mother was one of the Hunger strikers whose actions led to the building Of The Little Village High School. For Us This hits close to home because he is One Of ours, a member our extended, exiled Family. He's a seed of a struggle for a Better tomorrow. He can't remain behind Bars as he doesn't belong there!! His Mom and Us have supported many struggles and shown International solidarity, today. We need your help. #FreeNico #FreeEmAll

*As we go to press, Nico's bond was reduced to \$300,000. The family and supporting community made bail and he returned home to await trial. Defense contributions can be sent by PayPal to: bt.housingorg@gmail.com*

## Model of toxic politics in 2016 elections

**By Joyce Mills**

OAKLAND, CA — Community College teachers and students, leaders in the fight for housing, as well as community leaders in the fight for healthcare, recovery, prison rights and the fight against police killing were among the many participants in a Bay Area Teach-in Series held in Oakland and San Francisco May of this year. The subject that brought everyone together was the shocking poisoning of thousands of small children with lead and other toxins, including water borne E Coli and carcinogens, as a result of the switching of Flint's water supply to the polluted Flint River. Community leaders in and around Oakland and the Bay Area wanted to know not only how the crisis in Flint happened, but what does it mean for our communities, for our society and for the political life of our country? As we go into the heat of the 2016 elections, the lessons from this tour and Flint itself are critical.

Teach-in student participants told stories of living "rough" or commuting after being displaced from Bay Area communities; ex-prison inmates told stories of prisoners having to drink tainted water or face heat-stroke during California's drought. Urban working-class Oaklanders to rural "Valley" residents told of local fights for access to education, water, healthcare, and jobs; all responded to the story of Flint. They understood how Flint's "asset grab" policies mirror the struggle over Wall



**Teach in at Laney College in Oakland about the toxic system in Michigan that poisoned Flint's water and that it could come there!**

PHOTO/RANDOLPH BELL

Street loans bankrupting our cities. Most of all, they began to see the significance of the emergency manager system in the bankrupted cities of Michigan. As more and more of us lose our jobs to robots, and as every aspect of the public's control over our government comes under attack, local government is a first line of political defense. Californians are familiar with the use of the emergency managers—as State appointed corporate "skills"—in replacing school boards in particular. The emergency manager system in Michigan is "toxic politics on steroids." It aims to make any local political recourse impossible.

Speakers noted that as presidential candidates debate what some politicians have called, "the right-wing takeover of local government," nothing has been done to end corporate rule in Flint. Those poisoned by what even

President Obama admits is a "preventable disaster" still don't have the right to healthcare regardless of their ability to pay. The corroded pipes to Flint's water system, and indeed water systems throughout the US have not been replaced. Calls for Michigan's Governor to step down, and for the jailing of the emergency manager culprits are being ignored.

The message came out loud and clear. The destruction of America's water and public health infrastructure are the "canaries in the mine" for destruction of America's democracy. The immediate need is for government to guarantee that all public assets, both water and healthcare be nationalized in the interests of the public's health—for everyone. The reinstatement and expansion of democracy is the only way to guarantee it. The 2016 elections are about nothing if they are not about this.

## Justice for Freddie Gray

**By Jim Fite**

BALTIMORE, MD — Freddie Gray died of homicide while in the custody of six Baltimore City police officers. Thousands demonstrated demanding justice. The Baltimore City Prosecutor indicted the six police officers and three have been tried. None were convicted.

Millions of dollars and words have been spent to defend the police actions. In addition, over a billion dollars has been spent by military and police agencies to study Baltimore and prepare to defeat any popular uprisings. Face recognition software is used to scan photos of demonstrations and other public gatherings.

The conditions for all people, but particularly for Black men, are worsening each day. Good jobs in manufacturing and construction are disappearing. Police terror is legitimized to defend private property. The business and rich residential areas cannot exist without a massive police force to terrorize the unemployed and homeless.

These trials made that terror legal. It destroyed the democratic rights this country was founded on.

Democracy is being replaced by a police state.

We must have a society where everyone works together for the common good, where the wealth is owned communally and distributed based on need.

A major step toward this new society is to fight for justice for Freddie Gray and every other victim of police terror, which will continue spreading to all of society if not stopped.

## *Speakers for a New America*

Invite speakers to your city who fight for the right to water, homes, health care, against police terror, and for a new society where everyone's needs are met. Call 800-691-6888.

Email [info@speakersforanewamerica.com](mailto:info@speakersforanewamerica.com)



# A Time of the Phoenix Compendium Book Review:

By Andy Willis

CHICAGO, IL — There are places and times that linger, producing an aching humanness that outlives those who populated those spaces. The ghost towns of the cities of the US were once so infused with yearning people from the South that they changed the culture of the world. The Uptown neighborhood of Chicago in the 1950's through early 1970's was such a place.

Blues, R&B, Country (Chicago once competed with Nashville as the Capitol of Country). The “good stuff” was birthed in these hot spots, North and South, places where those who left the hopelessness of rural poverty took their chances in the city. The brokenness they tried to escape often remained, but the expressions of their hearts shook the world.

In Uptown in the late 1960's the young also began to organize in opposition to the poverty and oppression they faced daily. One of their tools was to publish the poetry and voices of the people. The poetry and documents found in the pages of *Against the Picture-Window: A TIME OF THE PHOENIX COMPENDIUM*, are of an honesty that is hard and unblinking. These are the voices of the poor. Many of the pieces written 40 years ago still go straight through and make no mistakes or diversions. These

are universal and timeless poems and contemplations, thankfully preserved and not lost. Many of the authors have passed on.

As Hy Thurman, one of the leaders of the Young Patriot Organization, instructs, “*A Time of the Phoenix* should not be read for entertainment or literary value. Instead it should be read with the understanding that within its covers are real life stories of people who witnessed unimaginable hardship and horrors.”

Jobs are gone and today the electronic technologies, which if collectively controlled could free us, are in the hands of rulers who want us to disappear. Our uselessness to them made clear daily. We, on the other hand, have to deepen and strengthen the unity that threatens the rulers. This is the unity of the dispossessed that the original Rainbow Coalition tried to forge long ago. Forty plus years ago, the coalition of Black, Brown and poor White workers so terrified the FBI and Mayor Daley that they spared no effort to destroy it in its infancy. This effort included the murder of Fred Hampton in 1969. Now we know that unity is our only hope to get from here to another place, another time. This book is the stuff of a living dream.

Visit [thisisbeyondrepair.com/store/against-the-picture-window-a-time-of-the-phoenix-compendium](http://thisisbeyondrepair.com/store/against-the-picture-window-a-time-of-the-phoenix-compendium)

## The Storm

As they look down from their mighty throne

Out onto the land that they ruled

All they saw were people

People fighting

People dying

And the people were crying

We are not going to stay down here anymore.

As they scream the sky grew dark and the rain began to fall,

And the people began to push from the back, people from all

Places and they spread over the throne and over the land.

And then the sun came out behind the clouds and then you

Saw the water so calm and so clear and an inch higher

— Bobby Joe Wright, 196? *Time of the Phoenix*



Members of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign hold a press conference about their lawsuit in federal Court for their right to march during the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Call 215-869-4753 for information. PHOTO/HARVEY FINKLE

## Voice of poor will be heard outside Democratic National Convention

By Cheri Honkala

PHILADELPHIA, PA — On July 25 at 3 pm on the south side of City Hall in Philadelphia, the poor and homeless will march in the March for Our Lives 2016 on the opening day of the Democratic National Convention. This isn't just your normal march. It's turning into a march that is declaring our freedom and declaring our Independence!

The march is happening in the largest, poorest city, where \$43 million is being spent on security when we have not housed anyone in this city for months, and where huge sections of permanently unemployed men are going weeks with absolutely no money. Together we are trying to figure out how to survive. The foot of the Democratic Party is on our neck and we intend to Free ourselves.

By the time this goes to print we will be in court with the ACLU fighting to hold on to the one thing we can't let them take away from us... our voice. The ONLY people granted permits are the people directly or indirectly connected to the Democratic Party.

Nobody is allowed to speak out and march anymore because we are no longer speaking out just about our poverty—we are talking about the very people who are passing the laws and keeping us impoverished—both Republicans and Democrats!

The Democratic Party is working with law enforcement around the clock to figure out how to hide us or remove us. Our “progressive” Mayor put together a team to end homelessness in four of the center city Zones. The real truth is, he put together a team to clear the city of any poverty or

homelessness that can potentially be seen by the world during the convention. They are also decriminalizing protests, which really mean you no longer have a right to DUE Process. The police can now just detain and hold you and then issue a ticket later. The police essentially are in charge.

The March for Our Lives 2016 will go forward with or without a permit. We need the eyes of the world on us as we march. We also need you to distribute this newspaper so that our country really knows what's going on! A new country is coming. We are getting organized. We need more education and more and more of you stepping forward to spread the truth. We will make 2016 the year that we free ourselves from the two corporate parties that have been killing us and people all over the world.

### Unifying to solve common problems

From the Editors

More than half of Americans have less than \$1000 to their name and are vulnerable to being wiped out by the least emergency. Millions stand on the edge of the abyss, or have already fallen into the streets.

The powers that be do everything to distract us and divide us against each other. But a hungry stomach has no color. This reality is bringing people together to demand what they need as a right.

In one city, a group came to a homeless encampment with flyers attacking undocumented workers. This got zero cooperation because many of the homeless were undocumented themselves, or lived beside their fellows who were.

People are waking up to the fact that there is no reason why anyone should be homeless, hungry, or deprived of education or healthcare in this age of abundance, and that they must unite around their common problems. This unity is necessary to achieve a successful struggle, whose solution demands a new society that provides for all.



Mural created by NUKE features incidences in Flint, MI and Southeast Los Angeles related to the poisonous policies specific to lead and contamination that is impacting communities. PHOTO/LUIS RAMIREZ

By Luis Ramirez

LOS ANGELES, CA — The poisonous policies impacting Flint, Michigan allows for deeper conversation regarding ongoing partnerships between government and corporations. These ill policies provide the impetus toward an independent political movement fighting the poison surrounding such corporate-government partnerships.

These poisonous policies endanger lives beyond any one city, state and/or country. We

have been inflicted by multiple incidences of contamination. The fight for public ownership of water and the environment on behalf of our interests, taking it away from privatization for the sake of our wellbeing, is necessary.

Policy and profit become more important than human life. To date, the lives of over 200,000 people in Flint, Michigan, and the South East of Los Angeles (SELA) are now severely impacted by lead contamination. As active residents of South

# Lives in Flint and Southeast Los Angeles endangered by lead contamination

East of Los Angeles, we are in the midst of environmental violence. We continue organizing to ensure awareness of health risks, which impact our emotional and physical health.

The source of lead contamination in South East of Los Angeles is Exide Technologies. Exide's focus is battery recycling. It processes over 25,000 car batteries annually. Exide was allowed to operate for over 33 years with a temporary permit, renewed annually, and approved by the Department of Toxic Substances Control, an agency of the state of California.

During its years of operation, Exide amassed over 100 health violations, which included both lead and acid leaks, and large foundational cracks causing high levels of lead in the soil outside company grounds. In total, Exide paid over \$800,000

in fines. Importantly, since 2015, Exide has been permanently closed. Exide has also seen facilities in both Pennsylvania and Texas closed by regulators. In fact, in 2001, it was ordered to pay fines totaling \$27.5 million for knowingly selling defective car batteries, leading to their CEO being sentenced to ten years in prison.

This all leads to an important question regarding such poisonous policies: why allow a company with continual disregard for environmental safeguards to operate without care for the health of communities for so long, if at all?

Often, small-knit communities are at the mercy of politics from government officials who favor manufacturing businesses over environmental health. It is a culture of power. Sean Hecht, UCLA Environmental Law Pro-

fessor, suggests that governmental regulatory agencies play into threats from companies about their bottom dollar, saying that more regulations will lead to future closures. These threats impact how laws are made and obeyed. The actions existing between government and corporations are complicated because they choose for it to be. Decisions such as these, as with Exide, allow businesses to create distrust in communities.

Corporate business, and the money it generates, dictates immorality: the environmental health of communities and its own workers are impacted by poisonous policies by government and business. We need to redefine what democracy truly means through the very nature of collective ownership. The solutions are with us and require us to be attentive and active.

## In this polluted Alabama town, speaking up gets you sued

By Lee Rowland, Senior Staff Attorney, ACLU Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project and Dennis Parker, Director, ACLU Racial Justice Program

*Editor's note: These are excerpts from a longer article at [aclu.org/blog/speak-freely/poor-black-polluted-alabama-town-speaking-gets-you-sued](http://aclu.org/blog/speak-freely/poor-black-polluted-alabama-town-speaking-gets-you-sued).*

"We all should have the right to clean air and clean water."

In Uniontown, having the audacity to fight for your fundamental human rights—by saying the exact sentence above—can get you sued for \$30 million in federal court by companies seeking to silence their critics.

And that's exactly what has happened to four Uniontown residents who banded together to create Black Belt Citizens for Health and Justice—a community organization dedicated to fighting pervasive racial and environmental injustice in Uniontown. And now, they are four residents living through the terrifying reality of being sued for millions of dollars by Green Group Holdings and Howling Coyote—the two

companies that own the town's coal ash landfill—in a meritless lawsuit that risks silencing the kind of political advocacy that lies at the core of the First Amendment's protections.

These four diverse and passionate people—Esther, Ben, Mary, and Ellis—have crossed longstanding lines of race and class to fight together for human rights in their community.

In Uniontown, seeking health and justice means highlighting a municipal sewage "system" that sprays fecal water onto a field while emaciated cattle graze nearby. It means fighting the suffocating smell of aerated whey that is shot into the sky, making the town reek like putrid processed cheese. It means following the trail of a \$4.8 million Department of Agriculture grant that residents feel evaporated without any benefit to the citizens it was intended to help.

Fighting for justice in Uniontown means opposing the trains that roll into town carrying hazardous coal ash to deposit it at the Arrowhead landfill—the very same coal ash that catastrophically

leaked out of a Tennessee facility in 2008 and destroyed the surrounding environment before it was hurriedly redirected to Uniontown. It means holding the hands of friends and relatives as they die of cancer.

The type of environmental exploitation that the residents face every day is impossible to explain without taking race into account. The town's numerous problems reflect an abject failure at every level of government to value residents'—Black residents'—lives and health.

In the lawsuit, Green Group and Howling Coyote claim that by advocating against hazardous waste in their town, Esther, Ben, Mary, and Ellis have engaged in "defamation" that's harmed them to the tune of \$30 million. Fortunately, the First Amendment protects a person's right to do precisely what they have so bravely done.

*We all should have the right to clean air and clean water.* Would you say it if you knew a powerful corporation would sue you for (more than) everything you've got? No one should have to make that choice.



These people in a poor Alabama town are asking a federal court to dismiss the \$30 million defamation lawsuit brought against them for standing up to the corporate environmental exploitation of their town. Corporations are seeking to silence their critics. PHOTO/ACLU

The ACLU is representing Esther, Ben, Mary, and Ellis to make sure their voices are not silenced.

© 2016 American Civil Liberties Union

## Reclaim the Earth

From the Editors

We cannot allow the earth to remain a plaything for profit in the hands of private corporations. There is no guarantee today that we as a species will survive. The environment has become a strategic front of struggle against corporate power and the private ownership of things indispensable to society. There is no way to quantify our demands. This time it is the earth itself. We have to reclaim the earth and build a humane economic system worthy of the people who inhabit it.

# Pandemic in Chicago: *Mental illness*

By Kathy Powers,  
Advocacy is my therapy

CHICAGO, IL — Stigma 101: the mark of disgrace that sets a person apart. To comprehend *what this looks like to an observer*, picture a middle-aged woman shabbily clad who laughs, cries and talks too loudly to herself outside. What do you think or do? Most people try to avoid her or call the police because they feel unsafe. If you know that woman is there every day, do you choose another route? What if she is your mother?

To understand *what it might feel like being this lady*, imagine shark music *sounding* in your personal background constantly, with voices talking to you and events happening around you like a dream. This mixes in with real people looking strangely at you, avoiding you, yelling at you, police arresting you. You

don't know why this happens. You can't tell what is real. As time passes, the shark music, the real and unreal voices get lurid, violence escalates, on your side and theirs. You end up beaten, robbed, hospitalized, jailed or dead. Repeatedly.

*Chicago: Big Mamma:* One would think that public health professionals who deal in the treatment of mental illness would understand that a positive, deescalating approach does more good than harm. In Chicago's Department of Public Health (CDPH), where people do not have private health resources, one realizes that discrediting of persons with mental illness symptoms metaphorically demonstrates the disgrace for mental illness by the image shown. How does Chicago stigmatize its clients? First, it demoralizes its clients by showing them no dignity, voice, nor participa-

tion in their treatment plans due to "lack of funding."

The Lawndale Behavioral Clinic (LBHC) is a perfect metaphor. The signage on LBHC defies the very posture that a treatment center could take. The buildings inaccurate signage, with faded, incorrect, outdated information from at least 2006, and the appearance of "Mental Health Center" purposely whited out, "to protect patient's privacy," says Tiosha Goss-Bailey, Deputy Commissioner, Clinical Services.

If only the city of Chicago would stop stigmatizing mental illness by boarding up treatment centers in generally forlorn warehouses like its patients, the fight for mental health justice could begin. A society which provides health care for all its people could begin with a colorful sign that reads: "Mental Health Inside. All Welcome!"



"No Smoking" signs, a No Guns" symbol, a gang-tagged "Reserved Parking" sign completes the city's welcome to mental health treatment.  
PHOTO/KATHY POWERS

## Unequal

When you divide the people  
You divide the power

When the power is divided  
The problem multiplies

This is the algebra of the situation

The situation that poisons water  
The situation that pollutes air  
The situation that kicks all of the jobs out of the neighborhood  
The situation that kicks grandma out of her home

Then blames you

blames you For needing to drink the poison water  
blames you For needing to breathe the polluted air  
blames you For needing to work for money  
blames you For needing to live to have a life

There is no Unknown in this equation  
There is no Hidden variables

There is only a forced set of inputs  
To create a predetermined set of outputs

We the people refuse  
to be functions of this destructive equation  
We the people refuse  
to be canceled out in this demented calculation  
We the people refuse  
to be anything other than people

and we the people demand  
what is due to all  
that are people  
that are human  
that are of Earth.

— Christopher F. Brown, 2016

## Shorter College: Another underground railroad

By Raymond L. Smith

LITTLE ROCK, AK — Throughout its existence, Shorter College as an institution, has experienced similar crisis to the ones experienced by the segment of society that it was founded to uplift. The ups and downs that Shorter College enjoyed or endured over the years can all be attributed to the bishop or the administration at any particular time. The college as a gateway to opportunities is vastly more important than any self-serving bishop or a misguided president who was at the helm during periods of assumed or alleged misuse.

At this time there are strong indicators that the current and 45th president is heading in the direction that the inspired founders intended. Dr. O. Jerome Green is moving swiftly and precisely to improve and expand the Shorter College legacy. While the tuition rates at government-sponsored schools have skyrocketed, Shorter College has always managed to educate thousands of socially and economically deprived students while charging reasonable admission fees. And at the very least, students are elevated to become

productive members of society.

Among those who attended Shorter College were civil rights pioneer, Scipio A. Jones who became nationally known during the 1919 Elaine Arkansas race riot. Also, civil rights legend, Daisy Bates who guided the Little Rock Nine while integrating Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Many other former students of Shorter are scattered around this vast country.

It should not be overlooked that Shorter has not forgotten those who are incarcerated. A program, started by the late civil rights activist Rev. J. F. Cooley in the mid-70's, takes college classes inside of prison walls. The program is now being continued by the current administration.

During the height of the Civil Rights Movement, students and staff at Shorter were keenly aware of the unstable racial climate around the country. Between 1964 and 1966, students from Shorter and other central Arkansas Black Colleges participated in marches organized by the Little Rock NAACP, protesting segregated facilities in downtown Little Rock. Other times, marchers headed down west Capitol

Avenue to direct attention to the segregated cafeteria in the State Capitol building.

Although Shorter College was established to render a quality education to many who were denied that right, academics were not the only opportunity provided. From time-to-time the school sponsored extracurricular activities.

Historically, Black people made up one hundred percent of the student body at Shorter College. However, during the last couple of decades, students of other races and cultures, including whites, have found their way to Shorter. The vision which inspired the Founding Fathers to establish Shorter College now includes all people who are seeking a path to a better life.

Contact Shorter College at 604 Locust Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114, call (501) 374-6305 or visit [www.shortercollege.edu](http://www.shortercollege.edu). Some information in this article was provided by Rev. Mary Williams, Director of Alumni Services, Shorter College and Mr. Cary Bradburn, North Little Rock History Commission.

# Stand together – all for one and one for all



By Rev. Edward Pinkney

MARQUETTE PRISON, MI — To the American government: I wonder if your morals and spiritual progress is commensurate with scientific process. It appears to me that your morality lags behind. Your mentality out-distances your morality. Your civilization outshines your culture.

We must determine how to live in an economic system that doesn't feed, clothe and house its people. The only answer is that it must be and will be overturned and replaced with a system that meets the needs of people.

The struggle that has taken place in Benton Harbor reflects this need, and holds lessons for the American people. The fight is a war over whether America will have prosperity and democracy or live under the heel of open corporate rule.

My conviction with absolutely no evidence by an all white jury that was motivated by something other than the truth is just a

piece of the puzzle. It is a direct attack on democracy in Benton Harbor and around the country. It shows that the corporate power structure is determined to crush anyone, poor Black, poor white, poor brown, poor red, poor yellow, and all others who stand in its way. The corporate war will use me and you if necessary to accomplish its goals. It is part of a process underway across America, of the powerful trying to save a dying system.

We must remember that God does not forget his children, who are victims of this spreading evil form of corporate government rule. It is common for law officials, the establishment, and criminal justice system to use terror and brutality against the poor. Due process is virtually nonexistent because the courts are controlled by corporate judges, corporate prosecutors, and all white juries that consistently rule in favor of those who control the system. The largely white corporate power structure makes

the decisions about how the public resources of the cities are to be divided among them. But it is bigger than the white judges, white prosecutors and all white juries. It is the entire system—the class in power—that is the problem.

Democracy, brotherhood in society, equality in rights and the economy, and universal education foreshadows the next higher plane of society to which experience, intelligence and knowledge are steadily tending. It will be a revival in a higher form of liberty, equality and fraternity. It will not be rich against the poor or have against the have-nots. It will dispel the deep perception that the individual family, the economic unit of a faulty system, is the cause of the division in society. The truth is one class has nearly all the rights. The other class has nearly all the duties. We must confront this system at all costs. We must stand together—all for one and one for all.



## 'Look out for all our young people!' says Benton Harbor activist

By Pati Heinz

BENTON HARBOR, MI — When hanging out at home recently, my daughter noticed a little girl (5-6?) crying at Sorter School (well, what USED TO BE!) and went out to see what was up. The girl had cut her hand on broken glass from windows on the back of the building. So, Jess went out with the first aid kit and bandaged the little girl up. Her sister was with her, not much older, 7? 8? ANYWAY... Someone called the police on these precious little girls without knowing the FACTS! I see them play everyday, they're good little girls!

The younger one got cut because, as she put it, "I want to save the school! I want to save them ALL!" (They were trying to clean up the glass!) The older girl said she attended school there and was sad she couldn't go back. She said she and her little sister, "Really, really LOVE God—and His Son, Jesus." The younger one informing me, if I don't "love God and try to be good" I might not make it into Heaven. (Bless them, Lord!) I thanked her for her wise advise, and let them know, I

do love the Lord.

Next thing I know, a Benton Harbor Township car pulls into the school's rear parking lot, then an SUV (Benton Harbor Township), then a janitor, and then a THIRD Benton Harbor Township SUV!

The girls had left their bikes by the school, and wanted them, but were afraid. The older girl told me, "I know police are supposed to be good, but I'm scared of them kinda." I told her not all cops are bad, I know some good ones. So I walked them over to their bikes and made sure they got on their way home.

This incident made me a little irritated, for a few reasons.

1. Earlier, three boys (8-14 yrs. old?) had BB guns, next to the school, firing them TOWARD Pipestone Ave.! But, no one came to stop THEM!! (not being funny, but they are white)

2. The fact that these little girls FEAR Public Servants they should feel safe about.

3. I spoke to the neighbor who I suspected made the call, and asked how it was reported. "Oh, I told them (the police) kids were messing around by the school, breaking in. I *thought* they broke



Pati Heinz, left, stands with another protester at Occupy PGA in Benton Harbor, MI. Protesters rallied in defense of the imprisoned Rev. Edward Pinkney who was convicted with no evidence for leading a fight that challenges corporate rule in Benton Harbor, a town ruled by Whirlpool.

PHOTO/DONATED

the window!" This seemed a bit much for two itty bitty girls! I let this person know THAT is exactly the kind of miscommunication that caused Tamir Rice to be killed by police in Cleveland!

PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE! They are the future, and a very special *present*.

## The Politics of Water and the Drought in California A new booklet

Our hearts are sickened and our anger boils over about water shutoffs to workers and intentional poisoning of the children and grandchildren of those who built this country's auto industry. Once part of the American Dream of a job and "middle class" life, they have been discarded as no longer of use. On the other side of the country, water meters are being installed for everyone except large corporate interests. Wells that serve impoverished farm workers are running dry while large agribusiness fields have plenty of water. Water and its control is what these struggles have in common. Water, like the air we breathe, should not have a price on it. Order "The Politics of Water and the Drought in California" so together we can plan out the next steps in securing a bountiful future. Send a \$5 donation plus \$1 postage to PT, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524 or order at [peopletribune.org/](http://peopletribune.org/)