



The Garfield Bulldogs, a Seattle high school football team, unites for justice and against killings by the police, joining athletes across the country who are kneeling in protest. (See Page 10.)

PHOTO/DEAN RUTZ, THE SEATTLE TIMES

## ***ELECTIONS 2016:*** **THE PEOPLE** **DEMAND A** **HUMANE SOCIETY**

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coverage:  
***The Flint  
Water Crisis***

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# Standing Rock: *The people vs corporate destruction*

## EDITORIAL

When the Standing Rock Sioux of North Dakota discovered that a pipeline carrying fracked oil was to be built through their land, poisoning the land and its people, there near the headwaters of the Missouri River, destroying sacred sites and burial grounds, they stood up to block the machinery of destruction. This ignited a resistance that has captured the world's attention, and gathered the support of hundreds of tribes, and massed thousands of supporters to the site in the struggle for water and life.

In response, the governor of North Dakota called out the National Guard on behalf of the private oil company against the protesters. Private security hired by the pipeline company pepper-sprayed and set attack dogs on men, women and children. Because of the defenders bravery and solidarity, construction has been at least temporarily halted. The people have vowed to remain as long as it takes to protect the land.

With their many dangerous pipelines leaking and spilling their poisons everywhere, their mauling of the Earth with fracking, only the oil companies, with immense power over and within the US government, benefit from this plunder. With the poisoning of waters in such cities as Flint MI and across the country, the plundering of the Earth by mineral extraction industries, and the use of water by private corporations, this has become a flash-point in the people's resistance to corporate rapacity.

This struggle represents the unity of working people who have little or no stake in this corporate plunder. The native people at Standing Rock whose land is being decimated suffer from 85% unemployment and the highest poverty rate in the country. A

growing section of the working class is heading in this direction, thrown out of the capitalist system by automation, no longer exploitable, targeted by police brutality and murder, their communities torn apart and their land and water poisoned. The so-called oil boom in North Dakota has mostly benefited the owners of the oil companies, leaving many people who go there for work homeless or laid-off and stranded.

This conflict is coming to a dramatic head as more and more people are driven into poverty, despair and no future. This is unifying us around a common cause, the absolute necessity for a radi-

cal change in the economic system—from one of exploitation, artificial scarcity and destruction, to one of cooperation, with each other, the world around us and the Earth.

Our stand is to hold the government responsible for protecting the Earth and its people. We

can unite to create a cooperative society—this one global, national and regional—based on the abundance the new tools of production make possible, along with a social structure to support it. A new Fire is burning. This is what Standing Rock is to us all.

### Reader thanks *People's Tribune*

"Here is a \$25 donation. I already received a bundle of the August issue and it was so good, I would like another one. THANK YOU! You're doing a great job. The paper is fantastic."

— Springfield, OR

## Dakota Access Pipeline PROTEST



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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.

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# Elections 2016: The people demand a humane society

## COVER STORY



The American people are utilizing the elections to put forth their demands for a government that represents the people.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

America, indeed the entire world, is in crisis. Since World War II, developments in technology have revolutionized how we produce the necessities of life. Electronic production is rapidly eliminating human labor in all sectors of the economy. This fundamental change in the economy is causing a political crisis. How will the ruling class control us when our labor is no longer needed?

Ninety-five million of us in the U.S., and millions world wide, find ourselves driven out of the labor market, working part-time for minimum-wage or below, or as contingent labor. The burning question for us, the workers, is how do we eat, secure housing, get an education, health care and even the most basic of human needs, water, if we have no money to buy it? In response, many of us are turning to the electoral arena asking where is the party that will address our needs and guarantee our future and the future of our children? Our very survival is at stake.

As labor-less production accelerates, the market for commodities shrinks. Jobs disappear as capitalists compete to corner the market by employing even more robots and computers to cut costs and increase profits. The result is deepening misery for us in the midst of an abundance of the necessities of life. We are at a fork in the road.

The corporations need the government to protect their interests. They are doing this by privatizing public goods and services, transferring social welfare to corporate welfare. You only need look to Michigan where elected local officials are replaced by Emergency Manager dictatorships, corporate sponsored legislation, which allows the transfer

of our public resources like water and public schools to private corporations.

The worsening conditions, however, are causing “we, the people” to unite around our common interests for survival. Whether it be for water as a human right, in defense of democracy, against the rampant police killings, against voter disenfranchisement, or draconian anti-homeless laws, we, the people, are showing our humanity and demanding a humane society and government that intervenes on our behalf to make that happen. We are breaking with the two corporate parties and beginning to set an independent course by putting forward our demand that everyone has a right to a fulfilling life, free of police terror. We are utilizing the electoral process to raise our demands.

### Quotes from presidential debate parties:

“I don’t know what either one of them will do for medical care, which affects many of us, especially single parents.”

“My concern is that the poor will get worse because of lowering the taxes on the wealthy. Another concern is inclusion for all—Black, white, gay, straight, all cultures, religions, and ethnicities. No war. No war.”

“My main concern is wealth inequality—it is getting worse.”

It is crucial now to build on the unity developing around our common needs. Throughout the country, concerned people are joining third parties, raising demands within the traditional parties or forming groups to discuss the next step. Wherever we are, we must put forth a program demanding that government use the social wealth we have created over generations to secure the future for us and our future gener-

ations. We must call for the government to take over and run in OUR interests the corporations that “we, the people,” need to satisfy our human needs. We must reject the ruling class “solution” of fascism and war for us while they continue to live with privilege at our expense. This is the first step in creating a just and peaceful society where our children and theirs can survive and thrive in peace.

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# Chicago: Homeless point the way forward

*Editor's note: This is a special report to the People's Tribune based on information from the homeless and their supporters.*

CHICAGO, IL — All eyes are on the presidential debates, but putting an end to poverty and homelessness is not being addressed. In late September, an entire homeless encampment was destroyed in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. The encampment was on public land, in front of the shuttered Stewart school. Supporters claim the local Alderman arranged a deal to sell the school to private developers. The homeless have been evicted, but they are not taking it lying down.

The Uptown area became known as “Hillbilly Haven” following WWII. Southern workers came seeking jobs in this heavily industrialized city. Now, with the decline of industry and the shift to high technology jobs that employ fewer workers, many of the diverse popu-

lation living in this area, and in the country overall, find themselves unable to afford the soaring rents. Alderman Cappleman has led the drive to gentrify affordable housing and close Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing. Many are forced into the streets and made homeless. They erect tent cities under viaducts where they are harassed. Their belongings are confiscated and they are periodically evicted. Meanwhile private developers are stealing public land, closing public schools, even privatizing life-sustaining resources like water.

A homeless man, among those evicted, expressed outrage. He said neither the alderman nor the mayor have the right to sell public property to developers. He had worked at the very same school he was sleeping in front of as a janitor, as did his father.

The homeless are challenging private property. They are pointing the way toward a new



This homeless encampment was destroyed in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. It was on public land, in front of a shuttered public school. PHOTO/ANDY THAYER

society where private interests—developers, banks, real estate companies and corporations—do not have the right to close public schools and steal

the public's assets for profits. We all have to ask what kind of society we want to live in. Do we want one based on private ownership of all we need to sur-

vive or a new society where the needs of the people are met and everyone can thrive?

## Chicago teachers prepare for strike

By Lew Rosenbaum

CHICAGO, IL — In September, about 90% of the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) voted, and of those, 96% approved a strike. On September 28, the CTU set a strike date of Tuesday, October 11. The teachers have been working without a current contract for over one year. As the quotes below show, both parents and teachers are angry at the conditions under which education is supposed to take place. While the cutbacks that are starving our schools are national, indeed global, in scope, all eyes are on Chicago and the CTU to see what can be accomplished in the battle for public education.

“We’re in the worst 5% of overcrowded classrooms in the entire state... Educators have had enough... the very basis of education and opportunity is being harmed and put at risk and they’re willing to go on strike to fight for those things.”

— **Jackson Potter**, CTU organizing director, on the Wayne Besen WCPT radio program, 9/28/16

“Democrats and Republicans, are they supporting public schools? No! They see

our students as dollar signs. They’re selling off our schools and changing them into charter schools... Our students deserve fully funded schools. They deserve to have a nurse more than one day a week. They deserve a class size of twenty, not fifty! [Schools where] they can drink the water without being poisoned by the water.”

— **Sarah Chambers**, member of the Chicago Teachers Union and of the Caucus Of Rank-and-file Educators, speaking at a campaign rally for Green Party Presidential candidate Jill Stein

“[At] the end of the year... CPS was supposed to transfer the [pension] funds to the Chicago Teacher’s Pension Fund. Of course, we know that for over a decade, CPS never made those payments. We know that it squandered the money on things like SUPES, interest on bad loans, penalties on toxic financial deals, custodial and engineering privatization, and building nearly 40% more schools in a district that is losing students.”

— **Troy LaRiviere**, a CPS principal fired for opposing Mayor Emanuel’s education program, taken from his blog



Chicago students rally for fully funded schools. PHOTO/BOB SIMPSON

“There is a very intentional effort to not give our children what they deserve... We want an end to privatization. We will fight for 10,000 sustainable community schools... The fight for education justice is a Black Lives Matter issue... It’s not just about police violence. Miseducation is state violence.”

— **Brotha Jitu Brown**, from Chicago’s Kenwood Oakland Community Organization, at a Journey4Justice rally outside the first Presidential debate

We live in an era in which jobs are evaporating. Teachers are rethinking what education is actually for if it is not to prepare students for jobs that will never return. It’s time to ask how the goals set in this strike can be achieved, short of turning the focus on the national government to actually be *our* government, meet *our* needs, guarantee the funding of *our* schools. Just being militant is no longer enough. How the unity of teachers, parents and students confront these questions is the context for the significance of this strike.

### The Cause of Our Stress

Test after test  
It’s not really the best  
It causes too much stress  
When can we rest?  
But that is what CPS  
wants, right?  
They want the best  
But how will we become  
the best with all these  
tests?  
Too much stress  
We need a rest  
This stuff takes a toll on  
our young minds  
Are they blind?  
They are breaking our  
body and soul  
We can’t take no mo’

— *Zion, 7th grade,  
Sayre Elementary  
Language Academy*

*Students: Submit your  
poems and other writing  
about education to revolu-  
tionarypoetsbrigadechi@  
gmail.com. See more  
works at projectode.org*

# Homeless youth survive and organize

By Sarah Menefee

BERKELEY, CA — Joker and Jester (Keenan and Eddie) and their friend Chris were confronted by a Walmart employee while they were quietly spanging (spare-changing) outside a Walmart in the San Francisco Bay Area town of Union City. The man told the three young men that his boss wanted them to sign a stay-away order for that stretch of public sidewalk. They declined. When Keenan later researched online whether there were local laws against what they'd been doing, he found there weren't. This is but one small, petty example of how public space is being privatized, corporations thinking they are the law.

Keenan and Eddie, along with many other young people, live on the streets of Berkeley and other cities around the Bay Area. They stay alive by spanging for what they need and sharing with each

other. They have nothing and are given nothing by this society, but survive on their wits. They are also part of a conscious movement. Keenan was part of OccupySF for the two years it held ground as an intentional community downtown, bringing together homeless and housed fighters living side by side in tents and in bedrolls on the sidewalk in the name of social transformation.

This movement and its consciousness lives on, expressed on many fronts. The homeless movement is at the heart of it. The homeless-led group, 'First they came for the homeless' was born out of the homeless presence and resistance that helped hold down Occupy, and has launched numerous actions and occupations since, one that lasted 17 months. These include tent cities, 'sit/lie' law protests, visits to a homeless-bashing Supervisor's condo, the 'AssHat' encampment outside San Fran-

cisco City Hall during the billionaire's America's Cup yacht races, and many informational chalkings, on both sides of the Bay. Keenan has been part of this from the beginning, and Eddie joined and helped hold down two Liberty City intentional tent communities at Berkeley's Old City Hall.

Corporate control over the economy, the government and society is fascism. This extends to the question of who owns the public streets, as well as the large issue of who has rights to what social production creates. Fascism thrives on fear, hate division and enforced artificial scarcity, when all around us is everything we need for a fulfilled life. Cooperation is practiced by a generation of street kids and other youth with no stake in the old way of enforced scarcity. They are seeds of a future that we must achieve if any of us are to survive.



Eddie and Keenan sign pictures of themselves being awakened, and Keenan arrested for sleeping at the Liberty City 2 tent action, published in the Peoples Tribune. PHOTO/SARAH MENEFE

## Homeless mayoral candidate envisions a new society

By Guy "Mike" Lee

*Editor's note: Mike Lee, who is homeless and a long-time activist in the San Francisco Bay Area, now in the streets, is running for Mayor of Berkeley. He has launched a serious campaign on the rights of the homeless people and others, against the gentrification and redevelopment, the criminalization of the homeless and street artists, and the city's attempts to drive them away. He wrote this statement for the People's Tribune:*



Mike Lee, homeless leader and mayoral candidate.

BERKELEY, CA — Look at me. Elect me. For endless months the circus of electoral politics has assailed even the most hardened of senses. On one hand you have the clown spewing his rhetoric of exclusion. On the other is a gentler kinder jester with a message

wrapped in Tie Dye.

For homeless people there is no difference between the other two candidates, for neither is interested in their plight. Discarded workers left to shiver in America's doorways because they are unable to generate a profit for the ruling class. In the midst of the

national circus is the overlooked sideshow of local contests.

In Berkeley, a homeless man dares to run for Mayor. This candidate puts an end to the accepted stereotypes. Public discussion is now focused on the fact that homeless people are victims of a system which places profit before people. The platform presented speaks to the higher hopes and aspirations of all workers, both housed and unhoused. The other candidates have started to borrow pieces of this platform.

At the end of the day, electoral politics is incapable of solving homelessness. That solution will only be realized when homeless and housed workers link arms, creating a society that places the welfare of people first, and distributing the cities' wealth according to need, not profit.

## Homeless battle corporate attacks

By A. Anderson

Battle Creek, Michigan is facing a grim future. The town Kellogg and Post Cereal built, and the home town of Michigan Gov. Snyder, plans to make homelessness and panhandling illegal with the passage of a new city ordinance. In the debate surrounding the new law, the discussion centered on appearances. "The city council is concerned that the homeless and panhandlers are making the city look bad instead of doing something real about it," says a local activist.

Battle Creek, like so many other Michigan

industrial towns, is declining and unable to support the surrounding community with enough jobs. With just one large employer, Kellogg and Post Cereals controlled and dominated the city's history. Their aim has been to keep profits high and keep other industries out of town so as to not compete for the labor. With robotics taking over production of the cereal industry, they won't even need the few workers that are still employed. Whatever plans the corporate government has for "gentrifying" the area, including kicking out the homeless, the people are beginning to discuss the kind of new society we need.



## Tent encampments rising all over the country

From the Editors

As automated technology throws millions of people out of work, then into homelessness and the streets, we see the rise of tent encampments all over the country, in cities, towns and rural areas. People are turning to this basic and minimal form of shelter, because the government that is supposed to represent them has massively failed to help, and housing under capitalism is not a right. Survival manuals tell you to first seek shelter. Tent communities, besides providing a minimum of shelter and privacy for people, do become communities, where people have each others' backs and share resources. The powers that be, instead of providing people with housing, can only attack them for seeking shelter this way. City governments and police departments go on the attack, stealing and destroying the tents and other possessions, scattering people back to the streets, doorways and the weather. Nothing could express the bankruptcy of the pay-to-play system louder than this. The government should be housing the people—starting with the six houses estimated to be vacant in the US for every homeless person—and making it a priority and a fundamental right. The fight of the homeless for survival and for their rights is, in reality, a movement to create a government that represents our interests and guarantees everyone's basic needs in a new society.

## 2 Years 2 Long Coalition demands: U.S. Senate and House act now to bring relief to Flint water crisis

People's Tribune exclusive

After nearly three years, the residents of Flint say enough is enough! Why did the U.S. Senate recently pass a Flint Fund (bi-partisan) BILL? only to now postpone action by leaving it out of a Continuing Resolution (CR). This means waiting until after the November elections to act. By then, the opportunity could be lost altogether. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives refuses to act at all! This is unacceptable!

We waited while the legislature took a seven-week vacation, only to return from Labor Day, and to date, the response has been underwhelming.

News Flash! We still can't use the water. We are still getting sick. No drinking, no cook-

ing, no bathing in this toxic water! More Legionella is being reported! This is not an Emergency. This is a full blown DISASTER and Congress's failure to act is a crime against humanity! We have marched, lobbied, participated in Congressional hearings and shouted to the rooftops seeking relief.

The Flint water crisis is the result of the draconian Emergency Manager law and as Representative Dan Kildee stated, "a failure of government at every level." Why then can't Flint get Medicare for all impacted residents? Why is the Army Corp of Engineers on standby at Standing Rock ( North Dakota) to permit companies to dig gas and oil pipes on sacred Native land when they should be in Flint replacing



People in Flint held a press conference demanding that Congress release the fund it is sitting on to help alleviate the suffering of a poisoned community.

life-saving water pipes? Finally, why are politicians playing politics with desperately needed Federal Funds for Flint? Without these funds, the Flint Water Crisis will not go away and neither will we.

Call Senator Mitch McCon-

nell (202) 224-2541

Call House Speaker Paul Ryan (202) 225-3031

Call the White House (202) 456-1111

Tell them FLINT LIVES MATTER! Pass the FLINT Fund Bill NOW!!!

Contact 2 years 2 Long Coalition on Facebook: FlintH2OJustice

## ELECTIONS: RAISE THE DEMANDS OF THE PEOPLE

On these pages are voices of the people in this election season. The struggle in Michigan, where public assets such as water and public schools, are being taken over by corporations via a governor appointed dictatorship, eliminating democracy, is showing what is in store for all of America. People throughout the country are becoming aware and are crying out for a new kind of government and a new society that is responsible to we, the people, not the corporations.

— People's Tribune



Bernie delegate Eddie Cisneros stands up for the truth at the Democratic National Convention.

PHOTO/FACEBOOK

## 'The status quo doesn't work'

The Peoples Tribune interviewed Eddie Cisneros, President of Students for Bernie at De Anza College in Cupertino, CA. Eddie was an elected Sanders delegate and attended the Democratic National Convention in July.

Peoples Tribune: Why did you start Students for Bernie?

Eddie Cisneros: The first time I heard Bernie speak, I said to myself, he needs to be our next president. All the active students at De Anza wanted to join the campaign, so we formed an organization. For people our age, the only presidents we have known are Obamas, Bushes, and Clintons. For us, they represent the status

quo and the status quo doesn't work. Before Bernie, people gave up on the system. We had the lowest voter turnout in decades.

Bernie spoke about student debt. We have students at De Anza College who are homeless or who work three jobs. I was lucky to be able to live with my dad and have time to get involved.

PT: What lessons did you learn from your experiences at the Convention?

EC: Well, the whole campaign was like a political hazing. I had to raise money to get to the Convention. Then I had to go through all the dirty tactics they used against us there. It was a very unifying Convention. They said, "stronger together," but there was no togetherness.

Before we even got there, they blocked Medicare for All and Anti-TPP from being in the platform. Those were our bottom line issues. All the security staff at the Convention were pro-Hillary. This

was not what we were fighting for, so we resisted. The first day we were able to get to the front, and we booed all the Hillary speakers. We even booed Bernie when he asked us to support Hillary. The Bernie campaign kept texting us, telling us not to protest, but we protested even more.

The second day, security blocked us from getting to the front. They took away our signs. So we chanted during the speeches. We chanted "No TPP." When Leon Panetta spoke, we chanted, "No more war!" Our delegates started getting blocked from the floor, even when they had credentials. Their seats were given to Hillary supporters, who had no credentials.

That is why so many of the delegates are supporting Jill Stein now. The two-party system doesn't represent us. We need a third party. Whether or not the Green Party can be that party depends on what it does now.

## Candidate pledges to battle corporations

By Jim Fite

BALTIMORE, MD — In September, hundreds of people gathered in downtown Baltimore to support Green Party Candidate for Mayor, Joshua Harris. Years of one-party rule by the Democratic Party has left Baltimore in shambles. Now many people want a new alternative. A lot of new energy and new people are developing around this campaign.

The People's Tribune asked Joshua his views on the recent Baltimore City Police Department scandals. "We need a civilian oversight board. We need to hold police financially accountable. We have to have transparency," he said. On the Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) plans where Baltimore citizens pay for borrowing money for large developers' projects, Joshua said, "No more corporate bailouts or welfare. No

programs that publicize the debt and privatize the profit. We want to turn from the corporate development approach to one that is sustainable for all the people in the city."

When asked what he would do, as Mayor, to find the missing millions from city departments, he replied, "We must put measures in place to audit agencies that have not been audited for four decades," adding, "My program is to shift the power from the corporate interests in city government to the people who are impacted most. It's about giving power to people who have been neglected for too long."

When asked about homelessness, Joshua said, "We want to put thousands of Baltimore's people to work, we want to transition from a Blue Collar Town to a Green Collar Town. We want everyone to have a job and be self sufficient."

## Speakers for a New America

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

Call 800-691-6888.

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Young "Water Warrior" challenges Michigan's Gov. Snyder at recent Trump visit in Flint, MI.

PHOTO/PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

Editor's note: As we go to press, Congress sits on a Flint Fund that could help alleviate the suffering of the poisoned people of Flint. On September 26, people in Flint held a press conference and attended a City Council meet-

## Voices from the Flint water crisis

ing, demanding that Congress release these funds. Here are some of their voices:

"We hear that help is on the way. People are still getting sick. We need to not only let our voices be heard, but put our feet to the pavement. The medical situation is serious. I'm 39. I'm not entitled to medical because I'm over 21. We're looking for answers."

"Flint lives don't matter. The government says our lives don't matter. It is two years too long. My eyes still burn. I'm still losing hair. People think, because of the media, everything is fine. People are aching, sucking on this water. We're all standing here in pain and dying. We ain't killing each other—we're being killed. One woman stood here for five weeks by herself. Here she

still stands. I don't care what color you are. We are sick. That's what color we are. We're suffering. We can't let this go on. We need to let them know we stand together."

"The city leaders are drinking the privatization Kool Aid while the people are drinking toxic water."

"I have pneumonia. My doctor wanted to put me in the hospital. I said I don't have the money. He sent me home with antibiotics and inhalers. I get out of a shower and have to take my breath inhaler. I'm sick. Why? The water."

"They need to come and do all of the pipes. America, this is injustice. If this can happen to this small city in Flint, it can happen to you, too. In November,

make a decision. Change our politics, change our government. This government is not working for us. The government is supposed to make sure our needs are met."

"My sister developed diabetes. She moved to Atlanta. I was going down every week but couldn't afford it. I went to pick her up from the hospital. The doctor brought the police in. They said if I brought my sister home, I would be arrested. They wouldn't be liable for releasing her to a city in a disaster. I cry every day for my sister."

"The governor is a liar. Jail Snyder... We demand clean water. No justice no peace... If we don't get it shut it down... We demand justice for ALL."

## Keeping public schools public for Detroit's children

By Elena Herrada

Editor's note: Elena Herrada is a member of the Detroit School Board—in exile. The elected school board has been stripped of its authority by the governor appointed Emergency Manager that serves corporate interests.

DETROIT, MI — There are 62 people in Detroit's school board race. New legislation allows only seven board members. It allows this body only one thing: To privatize public education. All public schools would become charters. Four people can vote to charter the whole district.

This is the why so many are

suddenly interested in the school board race. There are candidates who worked for the non-elected Emergency Manager, Keyvyn Orr and Mike Duggan. There are many who have never attended a school board meeting. There are candidates who have been far removed from the reality of Detroit under emergency management, and from Detroit without the residency requirement for city employees that provided our tax base. People say they love Detroit Public Schools because they graduated during the era of our heyday. This is no time for nostalgia or delusions that we

have control of our school district. We do not. We are under the financial review commission who answers to bankers and bondholders. They were not elected and do not have children in Detroit Public Schools.

This is why I ask for your vote. There are a small number of candidates who support public education. Many have their marching orders from Judge Rhodes, Mike Duggan, and Governor Snyder. Here is the list of those who can be trusted to defend public education and the right of equal resources to all children in Detroit: Tawanna Simp-

son; Ida Short.; Reverend David Murray, Patricia Singleton, Elena Herrada, Yolanda Y. Peoples, Victor B. Gibson, LaMar Lemmons, Herman Davis, John Telford

There are others but their close ties to Mike Duggan make them suspect—we do NOT want mayoral control. We cannot go the way of New Orleans, of Muskegon Heights, Inkster, or Highland Park. Please help us. Everything is at stake. This is not about personalities. This is not about political posturing. This is about keeping public schools public for Detroit children.



Zerlina Smith, activist mom and Jill Stein campaign Illinois coordinator, brought the crowd to its feet at the People's Church in Chicago.

PHOTO/SANDY REID

# Interview:

## Chairman Dave Archambault II of the Standing Rock Sioux

*Editor's note: Wesley Elliot, Haudenosaunee from Six Nations of the Grand River, interviewed Dave Archambault II, Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux, for the People's Tribune (excerpted for publication).*

*Wesley Elliot: It seems that the corporations and the government work together. How are you dealing with that?*

**Chairman Archambault:** We're just exposing that. The reason why there's a merger is the way federal laws are created, and the way the federal laws that are in place infringe on indigenous rights, indigenous peoples. So, there's a natural merger, saying this is legal, for a corporation to punch a pipeline underneath one of purest, cleanest bodies of water that are left in the United States.

So the laws reinforce this merger and so we have to expose the wrong, and we have to expose how laws, no matter how legal it is, it is just wrong to infringe, to continue to infringe, on what is important and what is precious to indigenous peoples.

*Wesley: Can you talk about the importance of water?*

**Chairman.** So, we have a saying called mi-ni-wi-chon [phonetic spelling]. We have another saying mi-da-ky-a-se. What it means

is that there's a web of life, and everything in that web of life is related, and it has a spirit, has a na-vim, like a soul...

Everything that has a spirit or a soul is occupying something that needs water, so we all need water, so water is life, and so water is not a resource, a subject or a matter, water is more than that, it's like a relative, and when all things that have a connection, and are related—we're related to the four legged, or the winged, or the ones that crawl or the ones that swim, or the ones that flower or the ones that grow—if you are related to them, you can communicate... But until that water is gone they will always be our relatives. So water is life for every thing.

*Wesley: Can you discuss the issues of poverty and oppression here in your territory?*

**Chairman:** So, poverty exists. If you look at the ten poorest counties in this nation, two of them are here on this reservation, we straddle North Dakota and South Dakota. Five of the poorest counties are in the Great Plains. It's not because of what we have done to ourselves it's because of the oppression that has been put on us. It's happened for 200 years.

It's been the ramifications of federal policies... taking of our



resources, taking our land, taking—never protecting what is ours, taking our children, beating them when they spoke the language, giving us a piece of land, then saying you only get this much and we're going to open it up for settlers. Flooding the Missouri River, that was once a river, now it's a lake. Flooding our most pristine land, the land that bore the most fruit, the land that had the game, the land that had our shelter, the land that had the cottonwood trees, flooded and destroyed forever...

When you're in a state of oppression, a state of poverty, that is not your fault, it's because of all the wrongdoings that have been done to your people, that created this state. When you're in that state, it's really hard to not think about yourself, because you're struggling, you're trying to survive for yourself. It creates individual interest.

So you have to try get



Standing Rock, North Dakota protests.

PHOTO/JOSUÉ RIVAS

beyond that, and say, I'm not worried about myself any more, I'm worried about what's going to happen in a hundred years, and what I do today, can that make a difference for those children and

their children who aren't even born yet, and are they going to have a world to live on.

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Contact us: (800)691-6888, info@peopletribune.org

## State of Texas must provide for the poor

By Friends of the People's Tribune

WESLACO, TX — The State of Texas stopped assisting the poor with their light bills on August 31, 2016. Over 700,000 Texans who relied on assistance were affected, like Francisca who is a 68-year-old retired farmworker living on SSA and SSI benefits. Francisca says in the summer months, "The Texas heat is too much—we have 80 to 90 degree mornings and by noon it is a scorching 105 degrees. To top it off, we are all adults or senior citi-

zens in this housing project and not one of us received any notice that this assistance with the light bill had ended. We as elderly depend on this assistance and it is just not right that we find things out after the fact."

Texas has one of the highest poverty levels in the country and none of our Democratic lawmakers have tried or stepped forward to resurrect the program. It is so sad that the champions of the poor have stayed silent, supposedly they are the ones that "fight for the working poor and elderly." This just shows that little by little, we the elder-

ly, part time employed and unemployed, are losing our right to live. Our numbers of poor are increasing daily. We are being put up against the wall.

We as humans have the right to live a comfortable life, since we have worked all of our life harvesting the fruits and vegetables that are consumed day in and day out, throughout this country. So we ask and demand from our state government that the State of Texas take over these utility corporations and run them where it benefits all of society.



Lupita Mena, outspoken for her community since the 1960s, applied for "Lite Up Texas" only to be told the program had ended. In August, her light bill was \$144.

# Coal miner's daughter fights for clean water

*Editor's note: Sandy Reid of the People's Tribune interviewed Paula Swearengin, born and raised in Appalachia, about the*

*poisoned water, sickness and drug addiction among West Virginians.*

My family moved to North Carolina because my father couldn't find a job. My hair was orange from the water. We moved back because my grandfather was dying from black lung. My little sister was born with a birth defect. My brother, grandmother and grandfather lost their teeth—my grandfather picked his teeth out with a fork because of the water pollution. People are turning on their faucets and the water is black. We have the most diseased rivers. Our water has been polluted for years by the coal industry. They're not cleaning up the mess. They're not going to develop green technology. There's so

much propaganda here—they pose it as the “tree huggers” vs. coal miners. They think we're after your job. People are fighting to survive.

So you have these areas highest in the nation for Hepatitis because of the drug use in one of the poorest, sickest states. It's a trickle down effect. Poor economy. Many here are in pain from not having a promise for the future. Coal is far from being over. They're planning to make billions and still poison the water. Even if they quit, we still have polluted water and air, and are still living in conditions of a third world country. There's beautiful people here. We live under a stigma that we are hillbillies. We have brains. But we are so divided with propaganda

from the industry and our leadership. Some people are ready to stand up but don't know who to stand up to. There is no support for people in the southern coalfields. We are collateral damage. I've had threats on my life for standing up.

Activists have fought the energy companies for years. There is an old abandoned coal line that pumps out acid that goes right to a creek and all the vegetation is gone. Poison is seeping from old mines. It won't go away until somebody cleans it. They wash coal with a couple hundred chemicals. Thousands of sticks of dynamite are right next to this big sludge of toxic chemicals. Those open dams are held together by earth. Anyone that has well water has poisoned water. The compa-

nies don't care—its profit. Now it's starting to spread out of these borders—people in Detroit, Florida, all over America are faced with water pollution. It's time for America to stand up. We should not be begging for clean water.

We're having a rally to save Coal River Mountain on October 17 at the Charleston, West Virginia, Department of Environmental Protection. Coal River is one of most endangered rivers in America. Come to Appalachia. We'll be happy to give you a tour! Let's get together!

Contact Paula Swearengin at paulawv99@gmail.com



Paula Swearengin

## East Chicago, Indiana: The poisoning of a community

By Kit Cabello,  
Co-Founder of Veracity in Defiance

EAST CHICAGO, IN — The West Calumet housing community was once home to a lead refinery center. This community was built between the late 1960s and early 1970s, and mostly houses African and Latino Americans. Unfortunately, due to low regulations on the refineries, the people were exposed to the hazards of lead seeping into the soil. The ground itself was poisoned affecting people who for over 40 years lived with this dangerous amount of lead poisoning. No official at any level of government did their job in informing the people of the danger that was literally right at their doorstep.

The crisis of toxic manmade disasters are leaving a scar on our country. The U.S. government has had a laissez faire approach to big industry because many industrial businesses donate to our elected officials and these large industries are given tax breaks. If there is a disaster at one of these indus-

trial facilities, they are given low fines and the business is allowed to continue its practices. Should an industrial center be torn down, what was made in that facility can still remain, affecting the environment for years to come. My fellow co-founders of Veracity in Defiance began covering a story in the East Chicago community of West Calumet, where people were poisoned.

When we started interviewing the people and community leaders we were informed that letters were sent to people stating they needed to move out as it was deemed a hazard zone. Unfortunately, many of the people are either underemployed or unemployed. If they moved out, they still needed to pay rent, and if they didn't have the right paperwork when moving, the vouchers to help them relocate could be denied. There was fear amongst the people in West Calumet. No one could really inform them on what was going to happen to them or even explain the long-term effects of the lead poisoning they

were exposed to.

We made three more visits to West Calumet and received information in regards to the blood tests for the children. The result was that the lead in many children was at high levels, with many parents saying their children have headaches, breathing troubles, and other physical ailments. Lead can cause developmental problems in young children that in the long run can prevent them from progressing forward in their education.

Indiana has for years been an area for large industry, especially on the lakefront. Thomas Frank, an organizer helping the people, made it clear there is more to this problem. He said, “Indiana has some of the most relaxed environmental laws in the country. That's why a lot of these industries locate here. That's why we have the largest tar sands refinery here. That's why the largest blast furnace is located here. The environmental regime is more conducive to their interests and not to the people.” There are



A federal EPA lawn sign warns children in a housing development in East Chicago, Indiana, not to play in the lead-poisoned dirt there. The development was built on land contaminated by oil refineries. For over 40 years no one in government alerted the residents.

PHOTO/VERACITY IN DEFIANCE

more dangers out there and from what we have seen with the toxic tour that Thomas Frank took us on, it is evident this is only the beginning. Stories such as this go unnoticed but it is only a matter time before it is at your door-

step or your favorite Chicagoland/Indiana beach.

Follow Veracity in Defiance on Twitter: @veracitydefy

### two poems

care 2 help  
suggests his  
little scrap

help a hungry  
old goat  
sez his sign

— Sarah Menefee



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# Stop the killings! Anger at police murders grows

By the People's Tribune

CHICAGO, IL — Hardly a week goes by that there isn't some new video going viral on the Internet clearly showing police officers brutalizing and gunning down Americans. The police are becoming a law unto themselves.

Terrence Crutcher was gunned down in September in Tulsa, Oklahoma, seen in videos walking away from police who had their guns drawn on him with his hands up. Just three days later, Keith Lamont Scott was gunned down by police in Charlotte, North Carolina. Police said he had a gun, but eyewitnesses said he did not and was merely sitting in his car reading a book while waiting for a school bus to drop off his child. In one week in July, 2016 five Latino men were killed by police. These wanton killings, which are disproportionately aimed at Blacks and

other minorities, are increasingly spreading to broader sections of America, even to children. As of this writing, a Louisiana judge just released a police body cam showing officers firing multiple rounds into a car, killing a six-year old white child in 2015.

While the police and the ruling class they serve would like to see the growing protests against this inhumanity confined to one community, they are spreading everywhere. Athletes from amateur to professional are getting down on one knee during the national anthem in protest. When asked why he started protesting, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick said, "There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder." The widespread anger of the people at the slaughter of human lives, and the questioning of the police themselves by many who have previously supported them,



Protest over the police killing of Keith Lamont Scott who was gunned down by police in Charlotte, North Carolina. PHOTO/ ZACH NESMITH

is very important. Underlying the anger is the demand of the people for a humane society.

We are witnessing the rise of a fascist police state that will brutalize anyone who stands in its way. It is aimed at the growing numbers of us that the economic system no longer has any need for, especially the youth. Capitalism can no longer provide jobs on

the scale it once did. Automation is taking those jobs. The rulers are using the killings to polarize society politically based on race. At the same time, the poverty brought on by the economic crisis affects millions regardless of color, and is pushing society toward polarizing based on class interests. The rulers' goal is to prevent the workers from uniting

as a class, yet we have no possibility of survival without uniting as a class to create a new society that is democratic, prosperous and free of police violence.

If the American people can get behind the "stop killing us" motion and unite it with a vision of a whole new society our cause will take on real force. Time is short and the future depends on us.

## 'We want freedom' Lessons from the original Rainbow Coalition

By Andy and Leslie Willis

CHICAGO, IL — "I am a revolutionary!" the crowd declared in unison as a salute to Fred Hampton, to close the "We Want Freedom" event.

A packed house gathered at the Uri-Eichen gallery on September 9 with veterans of the 1960's Rainbow Coalition (*not associated with Rainbow Push*) between the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords and the Young Patriots organization, and later, Rising Up Angry. Surrounding them on the walls of the gallery were the imagery and press clippings from that era.

Billy Che Brooks of the Black Panther Party described the intense atmosphere of Chicago in 1969. He and others who were participants outlined the concepts and practice of the original Rainbow Coalition, which united poor people of Chicago across race and nationality lines. Their unity was based on what people had in common: inadequate housing, food and clothing and poor health care.

In the 1960's the Black Panthers under the leadership of Fred Hampton met with Puerto Rican youth and poor white youth from the Uptown "hillbilly ghetto." All were experiencing constant police oppression in the midst of terrible poverty. Working from a simple 10-point program that specified exactly what people wanted and needed, these young warriors put themselves in direct opposition to the Richard J. Daley machine and to the federal government that was carrying out a war in Southeast Asia at the time. No branch of the government wanted poor people uniting to oppose them so they struck, assassinating Fred Hampton.

On the panel was Brian Boyer who was the first reporter in the apartment after the assassination. He saw what had happened there and wrote a truthful article, quitting his job at the Chicago Sun Times when they cut out the facts in his article and buried it on page 39.

Mareo Phillips who spoke on behalf of MASK (*the Mothers Against Senseless Killing*) chap-

ter in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago) reflected on the event: "Last night, I was a speaker at a panel... What caught me off guard was these groups were mixed. It wasn't just all Black people but Latinos and whites too. They talked about how informants and Cointelpro\* brought down the Panthers and why solidarity is needed to beat the system... It just let me know that to navigate through this life, at times, someone's past can help your future."

A war is constantly being waged against the organizations of the dispossessed and we must learn from our past. Some things are the same as the 1960's, but we must reckon with what is new in our environment today. We live in a time now when the same technol-



Panelist Billy Che Brooks of the Black Panther Party (standing right) addressed the history and legacy of the original Rainbow Coalition at the Uri-Eichen Gallery in Chicago. PHOTO/STEVE DALBER

ogy that is eliminating jobs, will have to be controlled by the working class so we can guarantee that basic needs are met for everyone. The unity of the dispossessed is still the order of the day for revo-

lutionaries. And it has never been more possible and necessary.

\*COINTELPRO was the FBI's counter-intelligence program of covert action against domestic groups.

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The People's Tribune welcomes your comments, especially on our covers and editorials. Your feedback helps us stay on course as a paper that points the way forward to a new cooperative society. Email [info@peopletribune.org](mailto:info@peopletribune.org) or call 800-691-6888 toll free. — The Editors

# Fight for fair democratic elections

By Greg Miller

SAN JOSE, CA — Electoral politics is one path the 99% can use to achieve economic and social justice. However, the 1% created forces and rules that make it difficult for the 99% to exercise power through elections.

The Bernie Sanders campaign illustrated how even the exceptional enthusiasm, resources, and energy of dedicated people fighting for a bold, righteous agenda can be thwarted by the ruling class's law and practices. For example:

As soon as the US Supreme Court gravely weakened the 1965 Voting Rights Act in their 2013 *Shelby County v. Holder* decision, 21 states created measures making it more difficult to vote, measures like voter ID laws that targeted youth, elderly, poor, and minority populations.

State and local election officials have the power to purge rolls of voters likely to support

candidates and measures for economic and social justice. Laws that prohibit voting by the incarcerated and felons who have served their time in prison is one example. The 122,454 voters in Bernie Sanders' native Brooklyn, NY, who found on primary election day, that they had been suddenly removed from the rolls, even though many had voted for years, is another.

Voting officials can arbitrarily limit the number of voting locations or machines in certain areas. Such limitation can suppress the vote of certain communities. During the 2016 Arizona primary, there were only 60 voting locations in the heavily Democratic and Latino Maricopa County (greater Phoenix) for two million registered voters. No wonder there were long lines of hundreds of voters waiting for hours. Many left without voting.

Electronic voting machines have been found to be easy to hack into, making the results

questionable and impossible to verify.

In the 2016 California primary, hundreds of thousands of "no party preference" voters, most of whom, according to polls, wanted to vote for Sanders, were forced by election authorities to vote on provisional ballots; most were never counted.

The two major pro-capitalist political parties have passed laws that make it difficult for smaller parties to participate in elections.

There is a multitude of ways the election processes can be manipulated beside those outlined above. The time period and methods to challenge results are very limited. Therefore, electoral campaigns for social and economic justice must have a robust program, involving a large number of committed people, for monitoring elections and intervening to prevent fraud and protect democracy.

## A bubble of revolution is on the brink of bursting

By The Ultimate R.A.G.E.

CHICAGO, IL — Science is the "intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment." The more humanity understands the world, the more humanity *can* understand the world, improving the ability of developing tools, meeting human needs, educating others, creating better mediums of communication, and enhancing the quality of life overall. These improvements lead to the creation of technology.

Technology is defined as the "application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes." The abilities gained from technology accelerate scientific innovation and feeds humanity's insatiable hunger for existential curiosity. From the first discovery of fire, to the invention of the wheel and industrialization, technology has advanced exponentially and become a natural part of human



The Ultimate R.A.G.E.

society.

Currently, science's crowning achievements thus far are the development of the Internet (the "worldwide web") and smartphone devices. These tools allow individuals to seamlessly communicate with others around the world who they otherwise would most likely NEVER interact with due to distance and circumstance. They also enhance the ability for people to quickly and easily learn, educate, plan, organize, travel, and cooperate en masse.

This could be the key to solving the myriad existential crises

humanity faces today, such as war, climate change, pandemic, and/or devastating celestial events. The current state of affairs in global society, in conjunction with humanity's need for survival and thirst for truly understanding existence, have brought people closer in levels unseen in world history. The global corruption of plutocratic oligarchy, unfettered capitalism, and environmental destruction are driving the world toward either neoliberal corporatocracy (dominance of corporations) or neofascism (take over of right wing despotism). These catalysts have created a bubble of revolution which is on the brink of bursting in the very near future.

*The Ultimate Rage is an emcee, producer, and intellectual. He is the Co-Founder of Veracity In Defiance; theultimaterage@gmail.com, SoundCloud, Facebook*



## The separation of families is immoral

In this photo a young boy weeps as he leaves the US Mexican border wall where he visited his grandmother who is dying of cancer. This inhumane wall that separates children from grandparents, parents from children, shows the immorality of a system that cares nothing for human life, only values profit. This wall, an attack on those whose labor is no longer needed, is the billionaires attempt to blame the country's joblessness on immigrant workers. But the wall can't hide the fact that growing numbers of workers of all colors and nationalities are being permanently thrown out of automated factories and fields. The rulers do not need our labor on the scale they once did. Their twin corporate parties foment divisions with mass deportations and walls because they have no solution to the elimination of jobs by electronics. They have to keep us disunited. We are one class and we are beginning to show it. Growing numbers of us are coming together around our common struggles for life itself. Tear down the wall!

— The People's Tribune

PHOTO/PEDRO RIOS

## America

Welcome to America  
where the Constitution is used  
for toilet paper, the poor people have  
no rights, the rich get richer  
and the police brutalize  
peaceful protesters and senior  
citizens for fun

— Keenan Putansu

# 'Mr. Colin Kaepernick, you are my hero'

By Rev. Edward Pinkney

WEST SHORELINE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, MI — Mr. Colin Kaepernick, you are my hero. I will take a knee with you. Mr. Kaepernick, by not standing during the singing of the national anthem you have exposed that the Constitution of the United States is not meant for all. There is no right to free speech for all of the poor, Black, white, brown, yellow, red.

Mr. Kaepernick, regardless of what anyone else may think, you have contributed an indelible moment for me that helps me define this intense era we

are living in. Twenty years from now, we will look back on this, as we did with Mohammad Ali, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, and take our hats off to you, Mr. Colin Kaepernick, for exposing the system and establishment and for making them so uncomfortable.

Mr. Colin Kaepernick, your actions have also helped expose a fascist news media, the Herald Palladium in Berrien County, which is owned by the wealthy Paxton family out of Paduka, Kentucky.

Mr. Kaepernick, you are my hero. I support you. I would never ever stand for the nation-

al anthem or the pledge of allegiance to this nation. This nation's hypocrisy has no limits. One nation under God? Which atrocious action by this nation do I stand? The murdering of Native Americans or the slaughter of African American women and children by the US government? Which atrocious action do I stand? I need you to tell me. The over 10 million Africans kidnapped from Africa who died on their way to America or the remaining five million forced into slavery, raped and beaten and forced to work until they dropped dead? Or the homeless people and all of the people

who go to bed hungry, for all of the people who are clotheless, for all of the people inside the prison system who are tortured by this government? Mr. Kaepernick, do I stand tall and put my hand on my heart for this?

I sit in prison today convicted by an all white jury that was motivated by something other than the truth. Five counts of forgery with absolutely no evidence that could have convicted me. This government has stolen 30 months of my life. Do I pledge allegiance to the flag and say one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all? Please show me your lib-



Rev. Edward Pinkney, who is in prison for fighting Whirlpool Corporation's takeover of Benton Harbor, MI, and challenging the state's democracy-stripping Emergency Manager law.

PHOTO/FACEBOOK

erty and justice for all. Mr. Kaepernick I stand with you. I take a knee with you.

## Free Rev. Edward Pinkney!

From the Editors of the People's Tribune

CHICAGO, IL — The *People's Tribune* met Rev. Edward Pinkney of Benton Harbor, MI, just after the 2003 rebellion. The police murdered a young man in a high-speed car chase and the town erupted in outrage, shaking the corporate power structure there. Driving the uprising was racist police terror and unjust courts, along with the dire poverty in this industrial ghost town ruled by the giant global corporation, Whirlpool.

As industry left the area or automated, Whirlpool stole the city's lakefront properties. It was Rev. Pinkney and others who exposed it. When the judges railroaded youth into prison, Rev. Pinkney exposed them. At that time, cities throughout Michigan were restructuring around high tech and "gentrification." Cruel welfare cuts to the poorest of the poor, immoral water shutoffs and new draconian emergency manager laws to guarantee that public assets were turned over to the corporations were ushered in. The poisoning of Flint is a product of these fascist laws.

Rev. Pinkney began to educate the dispossessed workers in his town about corporate power. These workers, if educated and organized, can inspire millions in the fight for a new world—and the powers that be know it. For this reason, the corporate power structure went on the attack. Rev. Pinkney faced vote fraud trials where no evidence of guilt was presented. Rev. Pinkney is now in prison serving a 30 month sentence. All his appeals have been denied by the state. Recently a challenge to the dictator emergency manager law that Pinkney and others throughout the state fought, was denied by federal court. The people continue to fight. The fight is about life itself.

The *People's Tribune* is honored to have printed monthly articles by Rev. Edward Pinkney for more than a decade. The only month missed was when the prison prevented him from communicating. We will continue running stories from the people of Benton Harbor and others throughout Michigan. We will do so until the battle against corporate power and for a new society is won.

Write to Rev. Pinkney:

Rev. Edward Pinkney, #294671  
West Shoreline C.F.  
2500 S. Sheridan Drive  
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

## Voices of Benton Harbor

*"I know we all live, only to die, but no mother should ever lose a son the way I lost my son, Martell Walker-Hadley. He died in police custody, at the Berrien County Jail, on Sheriff Paul Bailey's watch. Jesus died a cruel death, so did my son. In the end, I just want to know what really happened to him, I have to know."*

— Ladona Walker,  
Martell's Mom

*"A 17 year-old boy in jail wasn't given proper medical treatment for an ear-infection, which resulted in a BRAIN INFECTION! THIS is one more reason Paul Bailey doesn't need to be Sheriff anymore! Prisoners are still HUMAN BEINGS, and deserve to be treated as such! Obviously, that \$1.5 million [settlement for not giving her son medical attention] didn't mean anything to Berrien County. They STILL mistreat and abuse the inmates, and at times they are ending up dead in jail—under Bailey's watch. He MUST be voted OUT!"*

— Pati Heinz

## September 6, 2016

Happy Birthday, General B,  
You can never be far from me —  
Times are tough, just like you said  
Corporations positioned to see us all dead.

They don't need us to work, so  
Our value feels low —  
Computers been hired, so  
We all can just go.

In the hands of these pirates,  
Our tomorrows seem dim;  
We remember your words,  
Fight, Fail, Fight once again.

You are here in our thoughts,  
In the years we all shared,  
Clarity guides us, so  
We ain't hardly afraid.

A new world from technology,  
Stands close at hand;

All that is needed is for the  
World to demand.

So on this September, we pledge  
For us all;  
To demand a better life where  
Humanity stands tall.

Happy Birthday, General B...  
You will never, ever  
Be too far from me.

— Maureen D. Taylor,  
*MichiganWelfare Rights*

*Editor's note: General Baker, a nationally and internationally known labor leader from Detroit, a life long-revolutionary, educator of the people, and contributor to the People's Tribune, died in 2014.*