

Standing up to the attack on our lives and the planet

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Protest at Trump International Hotel and Tower in New York City demanding healthcare as a human right. Trumpcare didn't pass, but the struggle for healthcare as a right continues. PHOTO/ERIK MCGREGOR

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Corporate control of energy is killing us

EDITORIAL

One of Trump's first acts as president was to green-light the Dakota Access Pipeline, threatening the drinking water of millions of people. For months, millions of taxpayer dollars were spent attacking Water Protectors so that oil corporations could build their pipeline.

In Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where a new fracked gas pipeline has recently been approved, the people are taking a stand, building an encampment, similar to Standing Rock, on farmland in the pipeline's path. "The pipeline company has trampled on individual people's rights here, taking people's land through eminent domain," James E. Baker, a retired forklift operator, told Fusion. Just like at Standing Rock, the government is doing everything for the corporations at the expense of the people and planet.

Seemingly endless money exists to build more fossil fuel pipelines, yet no money to replace the corroded water pipes that continue to poison cities like Flint, Michigan. Another example where government, this time through an unelected Emergency Manager, ensures corporate profits at the expense of the health of an entire city. Three years on, Flint's water is still poisoned, people unable to drink from the tap or bathe.

Coal waste from industry and mountaintop removal has turned air and drinking water toxic in Appalachia, where many are dying of cancer. Trump lifted regulations protecting against contamination of waterways by coal waste.

These examples show that government serves corporations,

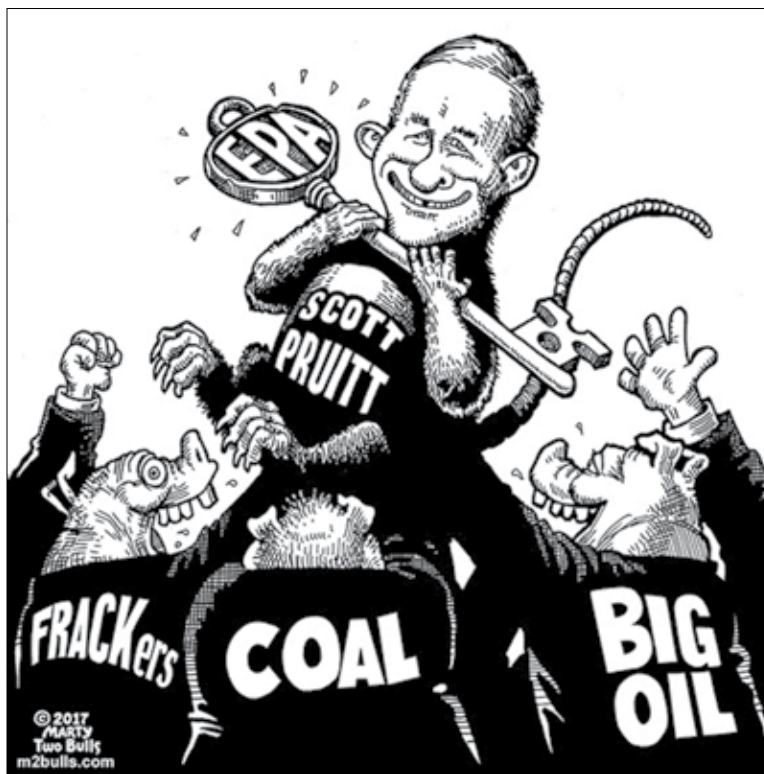
not the people. "That's what fascism is!" Baker exclaimed. "It's a blending of government and corporate power." We are under fascist attack. Our Earth is under fascist attack.

With us separated, fighting for our own communities, it's easier for the ruling class to single us out, building one pipeline after another. The only way to ensure protection of our own communities is to fight for the protection of all our communities. Corporations are on a war-path exploiting the entire planet, destroying it—and us—in the process. This is a struggle for our very survival.

But we are not doomed to destruction. Scientist Bill Nye told CNN, "You could power the United States and most of the world renewably, if you just decided to do it, right now. There's enough wind and solar resources, a little bit of tidal, some geothermal, to run the whole place." We have the tools to power the planet with renewable energy, but corporations are keeping us bound to fossil fuels; the entire energy infrastructure and geopolitics are built upon this industry and they won't give up their power.

This story plays out everywhere in society, where new abundance-creating scientific discoveries and technologies can be used to benefit all, ending environmental destruction, disease and poverty. But in corporate control, these advances are used to expand the wealth gap, threatening the population with austerity and fascism. We live in an age of abundance—we must fight for the people to control it.

We need a political movement to take public control of the energy industry, where all decisions are made in the interest of the people. Corporations



Earth Day and March for Science: April 22

Earth Day activities and the March for Science are April 22. Science and environmental programs face historic cuts that threaten human progress and the Earth. These threats did not suddenly arise with Trump's election and will not magically disappear when he is gone. They are inseparably intertwined with the corporate attack on democracy, truth, water and economic survival.

marchforscience.com
earthday.org

have proven that, so long as they control the energy and policies, they will destroy our planet. We cannot let this continue. Join the

March for Science. Join the Earth Day rallies. Together, we can create a whole new world.

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, 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 Phone: 773-486-3551 Toll Free: 800-691-6888 Fax: 773-486-3552 Web: www.peopletribune.org Facebook: fb.com/peopletrib

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Reach us locally at:
Chicago, IL: 773-486-3551 peopletribunechicago@gmail.com
Ann Arbor, MI: zettlr@gmail.com
Atlanta, GA: atlanta@peopletribune.org
Carbondale, IL: carbondale@peopletribune.org
Denver, CO: info@peopletribune.org
Detroit, MI: 248-629-0897
Houston, TX: P O Box 231281, Houston, TX 77223-1281
Los Angeles, CA: 310-548-6491
Oakland, CA: oakland@peopletribune.org
Washington, DC: pt_in_dmv@yahoo.com

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Standing up to the attack on our lives and the planet

COVER STORY

In a recent townhall meeting with a member of Congress in Arkansas, thousands of people turned out to demand that the government do something to guarantee everyone has healthcare. One woman told the congressman at the townhall that she had a genetic condition and added, “Without healthcare I will die.” That scene has been repeated across America. People want healthcare as a right.

(As we go to press, the intense protests against repealing the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) have at least, temporarily stopped the repeal, but we should not think this fight is over.)

Meanwhile, the people of Flint, Michigan, have gone for three years now dealing with a health emergency because the water coming into their homes has been poisoned by a state and federal government that serves the corporations instead of the people. They are demanding Medicare for all for life, among other things.

Access to healthcare is “not a Democrat or Republican thing anymore,” said an Arkansasan. “It’s an American thing, and the lack of empathy for people seeking basic affordable

healthcare is sickening. Denying people healthcare in one of the richest countries on earth is not conservative, it’s just plain cruel.”

The push to revamp the Affordable Care Act is at the behest of the healthcare plans, hospitals and the wealthy investors who own the healthcare industry. They are losing money on the ACA. And these planned cuts to healthcare are just part of \$10 trillion in federal budget cuts planned over the next 10 years under the president’s budget plan. This would include cuts in Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, food assistance, housing assistance, science, and environmental protection.

What will the corporations and the rich get from the government? Trump’s proposed tax plan would cut \$9.5 trillion in federal taxes over 10 years, with the lion’s share of the benefits going to the richest 0.1 percent of taxpayers (those with incomes over \$3.7million in 2015 dollars). At the same time, Trump’s and congressional budget plans would give a huge boost to military spending.

Whether under Democrats or Republicans, it’s prosperity for the corporations, and cutbacks and endless war for the rest of us. Why? Because for growing millions of us, our labor is no longer needed in an economy where computers



Rally and Die-In in defense of the Affordable Care Act, (Obamacare) in New York City after the proposed new healthcare bill to gut the ACA was released, putting many at serious health risks, even death.

PHOTO/ERIK MCGREGOR

and robots are taking the jobs. As long as this economic system is owned and controlled by a handful of giant corporations and wealthy people, they will make the decisions about who lives and who dies. And, as long as they control the government, they will decide which class—the business class or the working class—benefits from government spending.

People are dying for lack of healthcare, being poisoned by

corporate environmental damage, and sleeping (and dying) in the streets, in shelters, in cars and abandoned buildings because they have no money for housing. About half our population lives in poverty already, and every day more people become poor. Yet we are a rich country. There is plenty of everything.

This will go on as long as we let it. We, the people, are demanding our right to the basic necessities of life—food,

clean water, housing, healthcare—whether we have money to pay or not, and the government must guarantee these rights for us. We are fighting to force the government to be our government, and serve the people, not the corporations. This is the first step toward a new society run by the people—without dictatorial corporations and billionaires.

People’s Tribune is welcome everywhere, says distributor

By Daymon Hartley

DETROIT, MI — I went to the mall near our home. As a kid, we rode our bikes there to go on the escalators and elevators. Macy’s is the anchor store, and it’s closing. They’re having clearance sales and it’s sad to see all of the workers selling off merchandise... as they get ready to be laid off.

I took 100 *People’s Tribunes* and went to every store, handing out papers to the people who work there. I had a little pitch about how we cover the sto-

ries mainstream papers won’t. I mentioned that we were the first to uncover the Flint water crisis. The response was overwhelming. I received donations and several folks wanted more copies for customers. I got into good conversations.

There’s no place where the *People’s Tribune* isn’t welcome. I distribute at rallies, protests, art shows, high school reunion dinners, family and friends.

Order *People’s Tribunes* to share with friends at peopletribune.org or call 800-691-6888.

What and who is government for?

From the Editors of the *People’s Tribune*

If you are elderly, chronically ill, disabled, retired or just plain poor this question—what and who is government for—should now be on your mind. President Trump’s proposed budget cuts and the possible repeal of the Affordable Care Act would deprive millions of people of services they need to survive. A lady that voted for Trump from Jones County, Georgia who suffered a stroke and now depends on the Meals On Wheels program reacted to the cuts like this, “I was under the influence that he was going to help us.”

Yes, government should help its people. Otherwise, why do we need it? But we don’t have a government for the people. We have a corporate government. Corporate government only helps corporate profits.

Homeless people continue to die on our streets while foreclosed homes sit empty. People are dying of drug overdoses, and clinics to help them are closing. Poisonous lead tainted water continues to flow through people’s pipes in Flint (and elsewhere) while those same people get inflated water bills.

Corporate government places more value on profit than on human life. An economic system that refuses to feed, clothe, house and provide healthcare for its people must be exposed and replaced by a system that does.

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 or call 800-691-6888.

— The Editors

Why do corporations want our public schools?



Detroit teachers refused to report for work in a sick-out in 2016 over the announcement of insufficient funds to continue paying them what they were owed. "The school system only spends about \$7,000 per pupil and half of that goes to debt service so this protest is about the kids," said a teacher who after six years makes less than when he started. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

From the Editors of the People's Tribune

The destruction of our public school system in favor of privatized corporate run schools began long before Trump, under both Republican and Democratic administrations. Why do corporations want our public schools? Because they want the annual taxpayer funded education budget of \$607 billion!

One of their first steps has been to target the \$287 billion in public school teacher pay and benefits. In Ohio, for example, charter schoolteachers make 59% of what public school teachers make. If corporations paid all teachers at the Ohio rate, the potential profit could reach \$118 billion. But are kids getting a better education in private schools? Stanford University studied test data from 27 states. In reading, 75% showed no improvement or significantly worse results. In math, 71% showed no improvement or significantly worse results.

Billionaire Betsy DeVos, Trump's Education Secretary, aims to ensure corporate for-profit schools, diverting billions from public education. In her home state of Michigan, Detroit public schools are privatized or left with rats, falling ceilings and broken plumbing. Our only solution is to join the fight for the national public ownership of public education, the only way to guarantee quality education for every child.

(Information from *Yes! Magazine*)

Hungry to learn Contributed to the People's Tribune by educators

Homelessness and food insecurity now affects every level of public education, from pre-school to K-12 through higher education.

At the University of Hawaii 21% of students are food insecure. For City University of New York, it's 39%. More recent reports indicate that over half of the students attending certain colleges in Oregon, Maryland, and Alaska are food insecure. In one of the few studies on the topic, 20% of students reported being hungry and 13% were homeless.

Massachusetts has 29 public college campuses; 25 have

food assistance programs. UCLA is opening a food bank. At California's 23 Cal State level campuses, 20% of students are food insecure. At the state's community college level, 33% of students go without adequate food during each month. The United Teachers of Los Angeles has made one of their contract demands that all schools become community schools with a 360 wrap-around of necessary services. (Data from Wisconsin Hope Lab, "Hungry to Learn" 2015.)

In the 2012-13 school year, 51% of students from pre-

k-12 were eligible for the federal program that provides free and reduced-price lunches. The lunch program is a rough proxy for poverty, but the explosion in the number of needy children in the nation's public classrooms is a recent phenomenon that has been gaining attention among educators, public officials and researchers.

Hunger is increasing in an era when an abundance of food is being produced. How can students learn if they are hungry? What is wrong with this picture?



Signs in support of immigrants are appearing at protests across the country. ICE is the government agency that is rounding up immigrants. Immigrants are unjustly blamed for the joblessness that is systemic to an economic system based on providing billions of dollars for the owning class and impoverishment for the working class. PHOTO/FIBONACCI BLUE

Texans stand up against attack on immigrants

By Bob Lee

AUSTIN, TX – On Feb. 10, as part of a sweep through 12 states, Immigration and Customs Enforcement detained dozens of people in the Austin region and more than 680 immigrants nationwide. While the sweep ostensibly targeted "public safety threats," reports later showed that most of those arrested in the Austin area did not have criminal records.

The raids in Austin fueled speculation that Austin was singled out because of the stand recently elected Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez took. Hernandez said her office would not hold undocumented inmates for possible deportation, except in cases of certain violent crimes. As a result of Hernandez' stand, Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the state to withhold \$1.5 million from Travis County, where Austin is locat-

ed. That money was to be used for family violence education and a special court for veterans.

Some people in Austin were arrested at their homes. Some who came to the Travis County courthouse to take care of unrelated legal matters were arrested by ICE at the courthouse as they left. One woman whose husband was arrested at the courthouse told the Texas Tribune, "He didn't even get to say goodbye to me, or to his son, because now we don't even know where he is going to be." She also said that her husband was arrested with their rent money in his wallet, totaling \$1,300. When agents returned his belongings to her, the money was missing.

Across Texas and the country, people are standing up to defend the immigrant workers. Churches, unions, community groups, and individuals of every nationality,

documented and undocumented, are coming together in defense of the immigrants. The first week in February, the Texas legislature began hearings on SB 4, a bill that would ban sanctuary cities for undocumented immigrants in the state. More than 500 people from all over the state testified against SB 4. The Senate has approved the bill, and it is now pending in a House committee.

People defending immigrants is an important development. The immigrant workers are part of our working class, and the attack on them is an attack on every worker. Deporting immigrants will not create the jobs we need. We, the people, are in a fight with the billionaires and corporations over who will run this country and who the government will serve. We cannot allow the billionaires to divide us if we hope to win that fight.

women all
along Drumm St
now young and old

girls with their
sleeping dogs

Lee with her
whitened face
like some goddess of
the crematorium
of the Age

she told Mike Z
she used to
teach English

today she writes
in a little journal
at the curb in
the sun

— Sarah Menefee

Medicaid still in crosshairs: The best defense is a united offense!

By Rita Valenti

ATLANTA, GA — The legislative defeat of the American Health Care Act unleashes the path to a real solution for guaranteed healthcare for all. Defense of Medicaid remains essential for the class unity necessary to go on the offensive for improved Medicare for All and a universal public healthcare system.

Democrats and Republicans alike have battered the vestiges of a healthcare safety net for decades. On the one hand, the ACA subsidized the private insurance industry without disallowing explosive premiums and unaffordable deductibles. On the other hand, the Medicaid expansion under Obama's healthcare law was the first time that health insurance was provided on the basis of low-income, unrestricted by health or age status.

Today Medicaid covers 74 million Americans. Surpassing even Medicare, it is the largest single insurance in the U.S. Over 11 million people with incomes at or below 133% of poverty account for more than half of the enrollment in the ACA. Trump's 2018 budget proposes to cut Health and Human Services by 16%. HHS Secretary Price's tremendous regulatory powers already encouraged governors to impose work requirements for Medicaid recipients and dilute 'essential benefits' like emergency room coverage and maternity care. These changes threaten everyone's fragile health security, especially those



Philadelphia protesters, many of whom are disabled, fight to save Medicaid, a program that serves and saves the lives of millions of low-income people. PHOTO/HARVEY FINKLE

on Medicaid.

What is striking is *how many* people have qualified for this insurance despite the refusal of 19 States to expand Medicaid. Georgia, Texas, Florida and North Carolina alone make up 64% of the poor in the 'coverage gap.' They are part of the 29 million, including the undocumented and many immigrants who remain uninsured. The explosion in Medicaid and the uninsured corresponds to the drastic decline in employment-based health coverage to less than 50% of the insured. The defeat of the repeal of the ACA does not change that reality.

The highly disruptive process of 'repealing and replacing' the ACA has made it abundantly clear that the government is the only entity with the power to guarantee healthcare. 'Replacement' efforts that relied on shunting responsibility for healthcare to states, ran into a

buzz-saw of corporate interests feeding at the trough of public funding for health programs.

The road to universal healthcare requires the elimination of the private insurance industry and necessitates the public ownership of healthcare resources. Any health system based in capitalist market principles whether extreme or 'regulated', runs counter to achieving universal, equitable and comprehensive healthcare.

People are in the streets and town hall meetings demanding healthcare and not corporate care. Defense of the status quo is not enough. The millions on Medicaid alone compel the distribution of healthcare based on need and not money. Its time to stop the bleeding from a thousands cuts. Improved Medicare for All is a step toward a national truly public and comprehensive delivery system of healthcare for all!

Why can't healthcare be free in America?

From the Editors of the People's Tribune

If you're dangerously ill, good healthcare may be the only thing between you and dying. Yet in America healthcare has become a profit-making \$3.2 trillion-a-year business, and you will be allowed to die if you don't have insurance or money. It's estimated some 45,000 people die every year in America because they lack health insurance.

Neurosurgeon Russell Andrews writes about how the profit motive interferes with providing healthcare in the US. He complains that the long-term doctor-patient relationship has been replaced with impersonal "corporate medicine," and that American medicine has morphed "from a function of humanitarian society into a revenue stream for healthcare professionals, drug and medical device companies, hospitals, and insurance companies."

The top five health insurers—UnitedHealth, Anthem, Aetna, Humana and Cigna—handed out nearly \$30 billion in profits to investors (in the form of stock buybacks and dividends) from 2013 to 2015. Aetna's CEO was paid \$28 million in 2015. The private insurers make their money by charging as much as they can and paying out as little as they can.

The profit motive is standing between us and universal healthcare, and it's wasting hundreds of billions that could be spent on care and save lives.

The next step for America is a single-payer system (Medicare for all) where everyone has publicly financed health insurance. And that is just a step toward where we really need to go: a publicly financed health system that completely removes the profit motive and rising prices, that nationalizes every aspect of healthcare—doctors, pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, emergency services, etc.—and that guarantees high quality healthcare to everyone who lives in our country. Healthcare is a human right, and should be available to everyone who lives in our country. Healthcare can be a for-profit commodity, or it can be a human right, but it can't be both.



Philadelphia protest to save Medicaid. PHOTO/HARVEY FINKLE

American Nationalism is destroying our access to healthcare

By Retirees for Single Payer Healthcare

DETROIT, MI — On January 27, the "new" president signed an executive order called "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States." The order barred people from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen from entering the US for at least 90 days, and it barred entry by Syrian refugees indefinitely.

The order was challenged in court, and in February a federal judge issued a restraining order temporarily halting enforcement of the ban. On March 6, a revised

ban was signed by the "new" president. It was challenged once again in court by several states, and on March 15 a federal district judge issued another order temporarily halting enforcement of the ban. The Trump administration is appealing the ruling.

Specifically with respect to Syrians, in effect, the "new" government is telling us that 5 million refugees from Syria and another 6.5 million Syrians who are displaced within that country are causing poverty in this country. The reality is that less than 15,000 refugees from Syria are in this country.

What does this have to do with our healthcare?

With respect to people from the other six countries included in the president's latest travel ban, "Immigrant doctors from the six Muslim-majority countries included in President Trump's revised travel ban play a critical role in caring for Americans, especially in many of the Rust Belt and rural areas that voted heavily for the Republican, according to an analysis by graduate students in economics at Harvard University and MIT." (See "Doctors from banned countries serve millions of Americans, analysis finds," Boston Globe, March 6, 2017.)

Today there are over 165,000 immigrant doctors in this coun-

try. Some 7000 of them are from the six nations covered in the new "ban." There are many reasons for this. But the main reason is that almost half of the people in this country are either uninsured or participants in Public Health Programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, VA Health Administration and the Indian Health Service.

Some 3,700,000 of us are treated by doctors from those six countries in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Today, there are 73 million people on Medicaid and 58 million people on Medicare. The Medicare population is projected to grow to 80 million people in

the next few years.

Although America is not the planet, American Nationalism would have us believe it is. One of the aims of this nationalism is to destroy the Public Health System in this country.

We must resist this insanity by supporting the Nationalization of Healthcare Access. HR 676 – Expanded and Improved Medicare For All Act, has 61 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. This is a political struggle with the "new" government. Do not fall for "American" Nationalism. The planet is much larger than America and we are all the same human beings.

The demand for housing is a demand for a new world

From the Editors of the People's Tribune

In Berkeley, CA, a plan to put homeless people into a camp that resembles a refugee or prison camp, with fence and guard shack, has outraged the homeless and others there. They have called it a concentration camp and see this as a plan to round up people and step up the harassment against anyone who refuses to go there.

In response, homeless people are creating self-run tent communities where cooperation and sharing is practiced. The whole of society can be organized in this communal way, with decent housing and everything we need. There is more than enough for all of us. The demand for housing is a demand for a transformed world. The government must represent us and guarantee these necessities.

The *People's Tribune* has long been campaigning around homelessness. We emphasize stories on these pages from the leaders of the homeless movement themselves, and we will continue to indict a system based on profit as the cause of this senseless human catastrophe. We are calling on people active around homelessness to write, send photos, give your feedback. Call 800-691-6888 or email info@peopletribune.org.



Denise calls the bed of the Santa Ana River home.

PHOTO/MARIAH CASTANEDA

Santa Ana Riverbed

Take a walk along the river's trail, move the tents to no avail
 Little do they realize, each is a house for a pair of eyes
 Will they ever realize?
 Or continue spreading more lies
 In the wake
 Public works mistake
 Misguided hate, perpetuate
 We're band aiding a bullet wound
 The bleeding, not over soon
 Sweeping the dust under the rug
 Hateful words take place of hugs
 A society so self absorbent
 They're all yearning to feel important

— John Safari



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

Homeless in Silicon Valley

By John Betts

SAN JOSE, CA —I first ended up homeless when I had to move out of an elderly man's house who allowed me to live there in exchange for ten hours of work a week. I was a live-in handyman, doing chores, repairs, and driving him around. This started about 2008. Then I met my girlfriend, who had housing, but lost it because of issues she was dealing with due to her daughter's health problems. She had to start car-dwelling at about the same time I did, so together we learned the ropes of homelessness, and found out how little help there was for people like us.

The biggest problem with car dwelling in those days was to not have it show that you were sleeping in your car. I had a couple of windshield sunscreens I put up, but my girlfriend figured out that having a car cover to put over the car at night was better. Then you just climb in under the cover, and no one sus-

pects anything. The other problem we had were mechanical breakdowns, and police towed our cars away for being abandoned, without ever posting a 72-hour notice.

We heard about a few housing places that only take a third of your income, but never seemed to find them. We would get on waiting lists of various low-income housing, but then when they have an opening, they require you to pay \$30 per person for a background check. Each different facility refuses to accept a background check you already have from somewhere else, even when it's only a month old. And if the place changes ownership, they won't honor a background check you got there from its previous owners.

We've also been told about a housing place program called Housing 1000, which is supposed to assess the most chronically homeless people and give them housing for a third of your income. We have been

on it for years but never hear anything.

Currently the City of Mountain View allowed vehicle camping because of the desperate need for people who can't afford the horrible rent in Silicon Valley. There is a several block strip of road by the railroad track, and one side of Rengstorff Park, where about 40 RVs, vans, and a few cars park. We have been parking our van there, and feel that everyone parking there is really nice, and they help each other out. They make a big effort to not leave trash around too.

I have attended some City Council meetings where solutions to housing were discussed, including car camping lots. We keep thinking if cities would build cooperative living places for the homeless and near-homeless population, everything would be way better! That is how many people lived around here until the "me generation" mentality took over some years back.



CARTOON/JOHN BETTS

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Chicago housing crisis

By Leslie Willis

CHICAGO, IL — Fear of losing the “roof over our heads” is at an all time high in Chicago. Rampant gentrification is destroying once stable communities. Small homeowners can’t afford the ever-increasing taxes leveled against them and renters are driven out by impossible to pay rent increases. Public housing is disappearing from the landscape. Is it any wonder that we see thousands of homeless people (including children) roaming and even sleeping on the streets of Chicago? Add to this, the new reality for millions of families who are doubling up and taking in relatives or friends.

What does the housing crisis look like?

Foreclosures, Evictions and Homelessness:

- 52,000 homes were foreclosed in Cook County (from 2013 through March 2015)
- 18,400 eviction cases were filed in 2014, up 20%
- 8,000 households forcibly removed by the Cook County Sheriff in 2014
- 140,000 people are homeless in Chicago (ABC Investigative News, 2015)

While 11% of Chicago’s

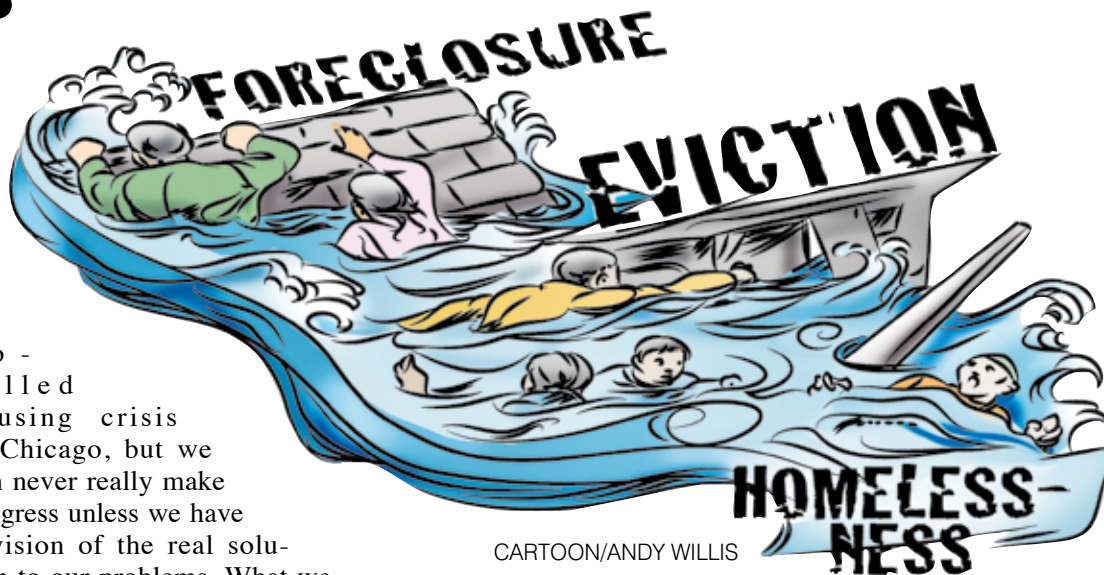
housing is now vacant, gentrification is causing the rents to skyrocket in many neighborhoods. Today a family must bring in \$22.62 an hour to afford a typical 2-bedroom apartment in Chicago. With good jobs disappearing and a low minimum wage, is it any wonder that 10,000 people left Cook County in one year (*Census statistics of 2015*). Many neighborhoods in Chicago have poverty rates from 40-60% and some communities are well over the 60% mark.

Why is there extreme poverty in the City of Chicago? Once upon a time in the industrial age of production Chicago was sometimes even a boomtown and jobs were more plentiful. As we enter ever more deeply into the era of electronic production, those jobs are gone – forever! And they are not being replaced with other types of jobs. Anything new that is needed in this economy is quickly replaced with robotics and more advanced software.

It may be that technology is replacing the need for human labor, driving our value as workers down, but can we allow the new “winners” in our society to dictate the fate for the vast majority of us? Of course we have to continue to fight the daily battles for survival that are the result of

the so-called housing crisis in Chicago, but we can never really make progress unless we have a vision of the real solution to our problems. What we have now is a system where the wealthy owners of private property get richer by callous disregard for the welfare of the people. What we need to survive is completely ignored. Only money counts – only money gets its way in Chicago.

We can’t live like this anymore. Housing is a human right and must be protected by any government that calls itself “for the people.” There’s no scarcity of housing. There is plenty to go around. Whether we are renters, homeowners, or homeless – We all need to join together with one voice on this issue to demand that “we the people” be guaranteed housing no matter what our income!



The real plight of the homeless told by the homeless

By Mike Zint

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, CA — Housing is not a reality. How many years do you have to wait? So, until then, you are a target. No stability at all. Keep your gear close. They are coming for you. No place to hide, no place to go, no choices left. Except drugs or insanity.

The real plight of the homeless!

During police sweeps you have a few minutes to save your belongings if you are lucky. Cities have no intention of preserving or keeping it for you. The intention is to purposely steal it as punishment for being homeless in public. To fight back is impossible. You need money to do that. Or lawyers. And good luck getting a lawyer. They want big bucks.

Things I used to own: baby pictures, multiple warm sleeping bags, cell phones, computer, extra clothing, backpacks, inhalers, and

a jewelry making set up that took years to develop. This has happened multiple times.

Why do they do it? Because there is no room for poor people anywhere. Harass them, steal from them, abuse them, torture them, and maybe they will move along.

Mental disabilities and drug use are often the end result.

Class warfare waged by the Chambers of Commerce, commercial districts, business associations are the reality. And it won’t stop until enough people get screwed by the corrupt, greedy system!

Homeless people get almost no choice. Shelter system, sleep on the sidewalk, hide a tent.

Shelters are one step above jail. Abuse by staff, violence, lice, bed bugs, exposure to illness, these exist in shelters. So, is it really a choice?

Sleeping on the sidewalk (exposed) is horrible too. Card-

board for meager insulation, no padding except for a sleeping bag, no privacy except what exists between your nose and the blanket you are hiding under. Yes, hiding is accurate. For mental stability, privacy and security are needed. When a blanket was what I had, that little space had to do. Fear never leaves either. Will I get rousted by cops? Robbed? Beaten? So, the longer you live this way, the worse your mental state becomes.

So, hide a tent is left. This works until you are found. When found, your gear is usually confiscated. You are ticketed. And you spend the next few nights in a shelter, or on a sidewalk exposed.

Think about that. Understand why a tent city is so important. And ask yourselves why we aren’t allowed to take care of ourselves? Changing that could end homelessness.

California homeless hit by floods



Amanda Fukamoto (left), with volunteer Jamie Foberg (right), was displaced from her encampment when San Jose’s Coyote Creek flooded in February. Along with hundreds of other homeless people impacted by the flood, Amanda was declared ineligible for housing assistance because she “had no address.” You know the system is broken when Silicon Valley, the richest and most technologically advanced area in the world, forces thousands to live in tents and under bushes.

PHOTO/SCOTT WAGERS

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Third year commemoration of the poisoning of Flint

From the Editors of the People's Tribune

April, 2017 marks the third year commemoration of the poisoning of the water and the people of Flint. As a tribute to their monumental struggle, which has put the fight for clean water in the national spotlight, the People's Tribune is devoting a full page to Flint's struggle, which continues.

The People's Tribune has been reporting on the poisoning since Day 1, long before corporate media paid attention. We were among the first on the scene because the People's Tribune is a true voice of the people.

We open our pages to those who are paying the price of the corporate takeover of our country and are leading the fight for a resolution in favor of all of us.

Included below are excerpts from some of the many stories we published on this corporate-made human catastrophe.

Please visit peopletribune.org to read the complete stories below, and more. Subscribe, contribute stories, poems, and photos.

Water unfit for auto production

"General Motors stunned the public by declaring it would no longer use city of Flint water because the chlorine levels were too high, causing axle parts to prematurely rust."

November 2014

Emergency Manager law enables corporate takeover



People at the Federal Court in Cincinnati, Ohio, where a challenge to Michigan's Emergency Management (corporate dictator) law was raised to the federal level. The law allowed for Flint's poisoning. PHOTO/ANNIE KUYKENDALL



Some of the People's Tribune editions that put a spotlight on Flint.

of Michigan's water

"The drive to turn over water—that is life—to corporations is well under way in Michigan, and moving rapidly."

August 2015

Dictatorship in Michigan: Flint Water Warriors expose the truth

"Under the notorious Emergency Manager law, several municipalities and school districts in Michigan have been denied the ability to control or make decisions about their communities."

February 2016

Why are they poisoning our children?

"My trust in everybody is completely gone, out the door. We've been lied to so much,

and these aren't little white lies. These lies are affecting our kids for the rest of their lives..."

February 2016

Flint Water Warriors expose the truth

"I believed in my government. Flint is not rich, it's minority. Poor whites, poor Blacks... And they knew about it? That hurts."

February 2016

Flint in forefront of battle for health care for everyone

"Bringing Medicare for All to Flint, including prescription drugs, would build on the precedent set in Libby, Montana and create a health care model for the whole country."

April 2016

"Here's to Flint," a new documentary about the poisoning of a city

"It is very much about the children; also about the adults and teenagers that have been poisoned... it's up to us to light that fire and start holding people accountable..."

April 2016

Judge sentences Flint activist - Likens her actions to Dallas killings

"Gertrude Marshall was arrested... while protesting the water situation at the Flint Farmers Market. Judge Cathy Doud... [compared Gertrude's] role in the incident to 'what happened



Marchers on the "Water Justice Journey," a 70-mile march from Detroit to Flint for water as a human right. PHOTO/VALERIE JEAN

in Dallas."

August 2016

"Don't forget us! We need some help!" say Flint women

"They don't care. They...fixing a few [pipes] but it's still just as bad."

February 2017

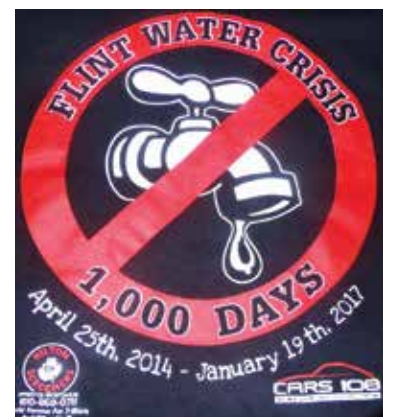
No justice, no water peace in Flint, MI

"Our community is being devoured and sliced by the stakeholders and Gov. Snyder with the consent of our elected officials' participation."

March 2017

Water for life, not for profit

"The Flint experience makes clear that the corporate politi-



The water crisis continues in Flint, going into year three.

cians and parties can't represent the people... Water should be publicly owned and the government should guarantee that everyone is able to get safe, clean water, regardless of ability to pay."

January 2016

Pennsylvanians take a stand against pipeline

From Malinda Harnish Clatterback and Mark Clatterback

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA—The Lancaster Stand was established on a farm in southern Lancaster County, Pa., on March 4. The encampment has brought together opponents of the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project in an effort to stop the pipeline, which opponents say will damage the land, threaten waterways and farms, fragment woodlands, and destroy and desecrate indigenous historical sites. Construction of the 180-mile, \$3 billion fracked gas pipeline is scheduled to start in mid-2017.

At a March 4 press conference at the Stand, Malinda Harnish Clatterback, a Lancaster county resident, said, “We are here today—Lancaster Against

Pipelines—members of the community, and a number of indigenous brothers and sisters, standing before you to speak out against the injustice and raise our voices in solidarity... that the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project... is not worth the damage it will do to our world. The ASP is slated to damage and destroy what we hold dear and depend on for our livelihood, enjoyment... and ultimately life. It is a violation against our rights as residents of this land, and mostly for the private gain of an industry whose economic future is questionable.”

Mark Clatterback said in statement that Lancaster residents had been fighting the pipeline for three years, and that they had learned that “our system of government is thoroughly rigged in favor of billionaires and corporate interests—billionaires who



The Stand, an encampment where a community in Pennsylvania is taking a stand against a pipeline project. PHOTO/MALINDA HARNISH CLATTERBUCK

build their empires on the backs of local communities and the exploitation of the environment. Today, as we continue to set up camp on the very same field where generations of Susquehannock families built their villages,

raised their families, and protected their land and water—today, as we set up camp on this hallowed ground that gives us life, we are done looking elsewhere for salvation... Change—and justice—is only going to come from where it

has always come: from the grassroots up.”

See the full text of their statements at peopletribune.org

‘Our streams run orange and black,’ says West Virginian



Bernie Sanders and Paula Swarengin.

By Sandy Reid

WEST VIRGINIA — Paula Swarengin, a coal miner’s daughter, and uncompromising leader in the fight for clean water and air in Appalachia, spoke with Senator Bernie Sanders at a Town Hall meeting in McDowell County, WV in March. “We need your help,” she told the senator. “I’m a single mom. I want to work together with you and do something for WV. We don’t have the support of our leadership here. Jim Justice is one of the biggest polluting coal barons in WV and he’s our democratic governor.

His mine is three miles from my house. I buried my Daddy. I’ve buried so many family members. I’ve watched my friends die fighting for WV.” The two embraced warmly, with Sanders agreeing he’d do what he could.

In Charleston, the audience cheered at a Town Hall meeting when Paula told Democratic Senator Joe Manchin, “There’s not a stream in the southern part of the state that’s not been impacted by coal pollution. Our streams run orange and black. The cleanest water in the world is destroyed. Who’s going to clean up the mess when coal is gone, Senator? What is Plan B? And, fracking is not acceptable either. We are tired of being collateral damage. We want clean and safe jobs and a future for our children.”

In February, President Trump signed a bill lifting restrictions on pollution of waterways by coal industries. Before signing, Trump shook hands with the CEO of one of the largest coal companies who once called the Stream Protection Rule the coal industry’s “biggest threat.”

Editor’s note: Parts of this article are from a video by Annabelle Parks and Stan Williams.

Why I am joining the March for Science

By Irving W. Wainer, Ph.D., DHC

WASHINGTON, DC – I have been a working research scientist for almost 50 years. I will join the March for Science in opposition to the current threat to science and scientific theory. The dangers faced by the scientific community are inseparably intertwined with the attack on democracy, justice and economic survival. These threats did not suddenly arise with Trump’s election and will not magically disappear when he is gone.

Like most of the scientists of my generation, I am a product of the era which began on October 4, 1957 when the Soviet Union placed the Sputnik satellite in orbit. The US needed to catch up and by the next school year, my elementary school was flooded with pro-science lectures and movies, followed by advanced placement courses in high school, National Science Foundation funding for undergraduate studies, and NIH funding for graduate and postgraduate fellowships.

My schooling and training took place during the Civil Rights, Women’s Rights and Anti-Vietnam War movements

and, like most of my fellow students, I was drawn into the struggle to revolutionize the world and to make it a better place to live. My contribution was in the development and use of new cancer drugs. Other scientists working in the physical, chemical, engineering and natural sciences have helped bring the world to the edge of profound revolutionary change, a world where hunger and disease could be absent.

There is clearly a lot more that needs to be done, and it is getting harder to do. When I finished my training and began looking for work, the major question was which job offer to take. Today, my students begin looking for work at least two years before they are ready to leave and are lucky to have more than two offers.

Forty years ago, one out of every three research grant applications was funded. Today, fewer than one in 10 applications are successful. When I began publishing my work, the major questions raised by management concerned originality and progress. Today, the first question is “can we patent this?”

Formerly, there was abundant money for new buildings, high-tech equipment and research staff. This is no longer the case. Increased representation of women and minorities in our profession was a major goal. Today, these goals are still unmet.

When I began studying and then teaching, I did not have to fear successful challenges to basic scientific theories, such as evolution. Today, the attack on the objective analysis of material facts is gaining the upper hand.

Basic scientific research, which is aimed at producing ideas, not commodities, is useless to a system that needs to continue expanding profits. Today, everything needs to be directed at making money, not at making the world a better place to live. Our dreams are in danger and it is time for my colleagues and me to join the march, to defend science and to unite with the active struggles for a better world. I’ll see you in D.C. on April 22.

The national March for Science in Washington will be on Saturday, April 22, the annual Earth Day observance. For more information, go to www.marchforscience.com

Water protector asks: 'What is American culture?'

The following are excerpts from an interview with Nirvana Anulekha (Muscogee Creek Nation), Water Protector and journalist with Indigenous Live Movement, at the Oceti Sakowin camp in Cannon Ball, ND, in October, 2016.

By Nirvana Anulekha, as interviewed by Adam Gottlieb, Diana Zwinak, and Brett Jelinek

CANNONBALL, ND — We're uniting as people of culture, not people of color. And that's powerful. And not yet have we been recognized, but this will show that recognition of people of culture, no longer the separation of people of color. No white, no Black, no red, no yellow. Eventually we will be seen as people of culture. All of us. And that's the way we need to be treated, because we're human beings, you know?

There's no need for division. We all have culture, whether you're from Europe, or whether you're from Africa, or Asia, or even America—American culture. And that's the biggest issue we have right now, *what is American culture?* And that's what we have to face and we have to see the truth... not pull the wool over



(Left) The 1851 Treaty Camp at the front lines of the Standing Rock struggle against the Dakota Access Pipeline. (Right) Nirvana Anulekha, shortly after returning to camp after being attacked and imprisoned by police. PHOTOS/BRETT JELINEK, OLAFIMAGES.COM

people's eyes about what history we are really sharing.

And once we tear down those lies and start beginning to see the truth, we will be able to walk more in unity and solidarity together, because we're healing from the trauma together. Because we all carry the trauma from our ancestors. Whether you're European or Native, whether you're African American, or whatever, we all have to deal with the trauma. That's where we need to break the cycle now, to move forward to

build as people of culture, not people of color. That's all we can do.

[We need] *true* American culture. There's a lot of trauma here. But what we're doing is gonna break that cycle. We need to continue doing that because it's not just for water. It's for the planet, it's for the people. It's for humanity. It's for everything. This very movement, what we're doing, the way that we move, is through sacredness. That's important. This right here is gonna change the world, and I tell you,

I feel it. It may not be easy right now, you know, you don't always see the light at the end of the tunnel, but there is.

So that's the way we have to continue to move. And it's worth the sacrifice, whether we die, or whether we live to tell the stories. Whatever. It's totally worth it. Because it's not just us here. It's not just this physical group here. It's what's after... And we owe it to our ancestors. Whether our ancestors were a part of what was wrong, or whether your ancestors

were a part of what was good, I think we owe it to our ancestors to unite in solidarity, to change this planet for the better.

Cuz this is our life source here. This is a living organism, it breathes, and we breathe. Just like the blood veins in our body, just as the rivers of this earth, we are one in the same. So it's important that we respect one another as brothers and sisters, and it's important that we respect this planet as if she were our mother. Cause she is.

Military force by Feds threatens Chicago

By Dion McGill, Educator and Activist

CHICAGO, IL — Recently, John Kass, columnist for the Chicago Tribune, posted an article entitled "A plan for Trump's feds in Chicago" in which he laid out a master plan to solve the gun violence problem here in Chicago. He proposes surrounding and cordoning the neighborhoods of Austin and Englewood, and flooding them with soldiers and law enforcement.

This plan has so many issues, I can barely think where to begin. In addition to wanting to cordon off multiple predominantly minority communities, John Kass is proposing taking communities whom, for decades, have said they are under siege by the police... and actually putting them UNDER SIEGE. With no projected beginning or end date in sight, Mr. Kass wants to take the proverbial "ghetto" and turn it into a literal ghetto.

I truly believe that it goes without saying that unlike Mr. Kass' strange assumptions, this move would not in any way, shape, or form improve community/police relations. Following the

scathing report recently issued by the Department of Justice following their investigation of the Chicago Police Department (CPD), I'm beyond reluctant to put full faith and confidence in the CPD and military personnel with no personal stake in the city to stay focused on a mission of "Protection and Respect" as John Kass insinuates.

The truth of the matter is that there probably is not a band-aid for the gun violence problem that we see in Chicago. It is a complex problem, with an equally complex solution, and the only thing we can "immediately" do to combat the problem is start on long-term solutions... now.

The host of problems these areas face, including unemployment and extreme poverty will not be fixed by an occupation. Mr. Kass is willing to spend "millions and millions" of dollars to box depressed and disenfranchised people in, but not to get them better educations and jobs? That argument speaks volumes.

The most immediate solution we have available is to actually begin rebuilding relationships and trust between the police and the community, so that when violent



The Healing Corner started in the West Humboldt Park neighborhood of Chicago in response to violence in the community. It offers an alternative to police force in their neighborhood.

PHOTO/COURTESY OF THE HEALING CORNER

crimes happen, people in the community will actually step forward to help bring the perpetrators to justice. And that means that yes, there is some onus on the community to step up and take ownership of their community.

We need to figure out how 14-year-olds get their hands on

guns. We need to make sure that straw purchasers are not allowed to continue putting guns in the hands of our babies and in our streets, and we need to make sure that gun dealers who are doing bad business are not allowed to do so. And yes, we need to figure out why guns continue to emigrate by

the thousands from Indiana and end up on Chicago streets.

Let me say unequivocally: I will never think the occupation of minority communities, of any communities, by military forces in Chicago is a "solution". And I find it hard to have respect for anyone who does.

May Day 2017: It's time to create a new world

From the Editors of the
People's Tribune

May Day is the day when we the workers put forth our demands and demonstrate our strength and international solidarity in the struggle for a new world. May Day 2017 finds us faced with new opportunities and with grave dangers.

Our opportunity lies in the new conditions that are opening the minds of millions. It's seen in our fight for a living wage. In the millions marching for women's equality. In the Town Hall meetings for healthcare for all. In our fight to house the homeless. In our demand for No Wall! No Ban, and No Police killings. In our fight for clean water, science, and saving the Earth. Our demands are not separate fights. They express our longing for a moral society, for democracy and freedom from corporate rule.

Underlying our movement is the new economy. Robots and computers are doing more and more of our work. This could be a good thing. It could free us up to enjoy our lives and contribute

to society. But as workers, our only means of surviving is to sell our labor and, given automation, the jobs are few today. Recently a young woman in Alabama who had just found work was crushed as she tried to repair a robot on an assembly line. It started up abruptly while she was working on it. A coal miner expressed the situation this way. "We have made these companies billions of dollars. And what do they do? They take our lungs. They take our dignity. Maximum profit is their priority, regardless of our health and the environment, and it's getting worse."

As automation replaces our labor, we are cast out into the street. The ruling corporate class is not going to provide healthcare, housing, food or anything to workers whose labor they can no longer exploit. Millions are already homeless, drinking poisoned water, and going to bed hungry. Corporations own everything and we either pay or do without. They can get away with this because they own the economy. They own the government. This will go on as long as we let it.

Can we envision a different way of organizing society? Where the abundance the robots produce—and the industries that produce it—are owned and shared by all? Where corporations and the likes of Trump and the rest of the billionaires are a thing of the past? Where even having to work for an employer is a thing of the past?

The possibilities are immense, but we have to come together as a class to win. The ruling class is trying to divide us by blaming joblessness on the immigrant, the refugee, the poverty wage worker—while robbing the country blind. The corporate class has no solution except to keep amassing their wealth. The future is in our hands. It's time to create a shared vision of a cooperative world and how to achieve it.

Contact the People's Tribune if you would like to talk! Email info@peopletribune.org.

A mother and organizer for Fight for \$15 had her hours unfairly reduced and supporters converged on McDonald's demanding justice. PHOTO/JOE PIETTE



Saving the human race and healing our Earth

From the Editors of
the People's Tribune

In a 2010 interview with Larry King, the famous scientist Stephen Hawking said, "We are in danger of destroying ourselves by our greed and stupidity."

In a 2016 follow up interview with the same Larry King, Hawking said, "We have certainly not become less greedy or less stupid."

When asked, what is the greatest danger to the human race, he answered, "The increase in air pollution and the emission of increasing levels of carbon dioxide." Then Hawking posed, "Will we be too late to avoid dangerous levels of global warming?"

When asked various questions about possible dangers of artificial intelligence (AI) Hawking responded, "Governments seem to be engaged in an AI arms race, designing planes and weapons with intelligent technologies." "The funding for projects directly beneficial to the human race, such as improved medical screening, seems a somewhat lower priority." "AI will impact our economies, our decision making and our lives."

Science has given us the ability to create wondrous technologies. However, such technologies in the hands of corporations are only used to secure maximum profits for themselves. Witness the growing military budget, nuclear arms race, war danger—and possible extinction of the human race.

When humanity takes control of science and technology out of the hands of the few to work in the interest of us all, it ceases to be a force of destruction and becomes the means of saving the human race and healing our Earth.



IMAGE/JIMMY IURII,
SHUTTERSTOCK.COM

We all know it takes a whole lot of wildness
For pain to gain and conquer the mind
To keep it thoughtless
Throughout its time
Of living
It's best to say expressive then to hold in
We know the path our roots the inconvenient
So why trash the gift given
From Ancestors to give
To generations like this
That live in foul conditions
They set stones so we to rise
Forward and not behind
To live unblind

— David Tojin aka Astrow



"On the morning of the Women's March in Washington, DC, Michele and Rick Tingling-Clemmons of the Central NorthEast Civic Association and founding board members of the National Welfare Rights Union met up with 19 Welfare Rights activists from Detroit and surrounding Michigan areas at the Denny's on Benning Road NE. The group discussed plans for the upcoming June Social Forum in Detroit. The group was welcomed by Denny's owner, Sylvia Ehilen, who offered their usual exemplary service. The contingent was traveling with the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom and included National NWRU Co-Chair Marian Kramer and Michigan Welfare Rights Organization State Chair Maureen Taylor." — Michelle and Rick Tingling Clemmons

Brokenness but still winning the war

By Rev. Edward Pinkney

BROOKS FREMONT CORRECTIONAL FACILITY, MI — I read Bryan Mercer’s book, *Just Mercy*, and the story seems very similar to mine. I would like to quote you from his book. “My main years of struggling against inequality, abusive power, poverty, oppression and injustice has finally revealed something to me about myself. Being close to suffering death [and the cruel and unusual punishment inside the prison system] did not just illuminate the brokenness of others in a moment of anguish and heart-break. It also exposed my own brokenness. You can’t effectively fight abusive power, poverty, inequality, illness, oppression or injustice and not be broken by it. . . We are all broken by something; we have all hurt someone and have been hurt. We all share the conditions of brokenness even if our brokenness is not equivalent.

We can embrace our humanness, which means embracing our broken nature and the compassion that remains... Or we can deny our brokenness, our compassion and, as a result, deny our own humanity.”

I definitely wanted mercy for the residents of Benton Harbor, MI, and would have done anything to create justice for my fellow brothers and sisters, Black, White Brown, Red, Yellow and all others. I cannot pretend that the people’s struggle was disconnected from my own. We have choices. We all owe the people who have fought inequality and oppression and for justice.

I have been threatened, terrorized, wrongly accused wrongly, condemned, but I never gave up. I survived the humiliation of three trials and several different charges against me. I survived two guilty verdicts and several wrongful condemnations by the State of Michigan, and while I

didn’t survive without injury or trauma, I still came out with my dignity.

I told people that I have overcome what fear, ignorance and bigotry and oppression has done to me. I stood strong in the face of injustice; this made the rest of us a little safer, slightly more protected from the abuse of power oppression and the false accusation that almost killed me.

I suggest to my friends and family that my strength, resistance and perseverance were a victory worth celebrating, an occasion to be remembered. The establishment tortured me but I am still standing. The establishment lied on me but I am still standing. The establishment sent me to prison with absolutely no evidence to convict but I am still standing. The establishment gave me 30 months, which would be a death penalty for a 66-year-old man, but I am still standing. The all white jury was motivated by



Rev. Edward Pinkney and his wife Dorothy outside the courthouse in St. Joseph, MI. In spite of the severe punishment handed down by the government to Rev. Pinkney for his leadership in his community’s fight against Whirlpool/corporate power, he continues the fight for a better future for all of America. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

something other than the truth but I am still standing.

Let’s make this struggle a victory for us all who in the

struggle against the oppressor, and the corrupt criminal justice system, in every town and city in America.

‘Hard Enough’

By Yael Chanoff

TAHLEQUAH, OK — Life is hard enough. Growth and death and love and loss. Responsibility to those around you, those who came before you, those still to come. That’s life, and It’s beautiful, and it’s hard enough.

But life doesn’t have to be like this. This wealth-hoarding and discrimination. Self-love and love for others and dignity and peace of mind assaulted so the powerful can profit. Whole systems breeding poverty and hatred and fear, fueled by violence and death, set up so the

powerful can profit. People miserable when they work and miserable when they aren’t working. People terrorized and traumatized and divided and conquered. That’s not how life has to be. It doesn’t have to be like this. We must keep fighting so some day it won’t be like this.

Twin cities rally together for justice

By Pati Heinz

BENTON HARBOR, MI — The first “Resist Trump Tuesdays” protest was held in St. Joseph, MI in front of Whirlpool heir Congressman Fred Upton’s office in January. Dr. Eric Lester, Chair of the Berrien County Democratic Party, said they were “opposing Trump’s immigration executive order” and that they’re “against Trump in general.” Patrice Grant, MoveOn SW, MI, is one of the organizers in this area.

Many of the supporters are concerned about the affect the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) could have on them. Duncan Kime organized a petition that got over 600 signatures, asking Congressman Fred Upton to hold a Town Hall meeting with the people (it’s been over five years since he has!) and delivered it to Upton’s office February 22 during another protest.

These protests take place every Tuesday at 12 Noon on Main St., downtown St. Joseph, MI. This is good because our Rally4Justice protests for the freeing of Rev. Edward Pinkney, imprisoned for leading the fight against the takeover of Benton Harbor by the Whirlpool Corporation, go on every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. We (Dorothy Pinkney, Emma Kinnard and I)



Protest in St. Joseph, MI at Whirlpool heir Congressman Fred Upton’s office, demanding a Town Hall meeting as people are concerned about Trump’s repeal of Obamacare and they oppose Trump’s immigration order. PHOTO/PATI HEINZ

plan to join their protest, and we hope to see some of them come to the Courthouse and join us.

Although the people in Benton Harbor and St. Joseph seem to not have much in common, I think people are beginning to realize that we’re more alike than we know. We ALL want freedom, justice, and the ability to raise our families and live our lives without a tyrannical government breathing down our back.



Youth defending the earth

“Earth Guardians,” a movement with youth in the forefront of the struggle for a new world in Denver, CO. PHOTO/CHRIS GOODWIN, DESROWISUALS