

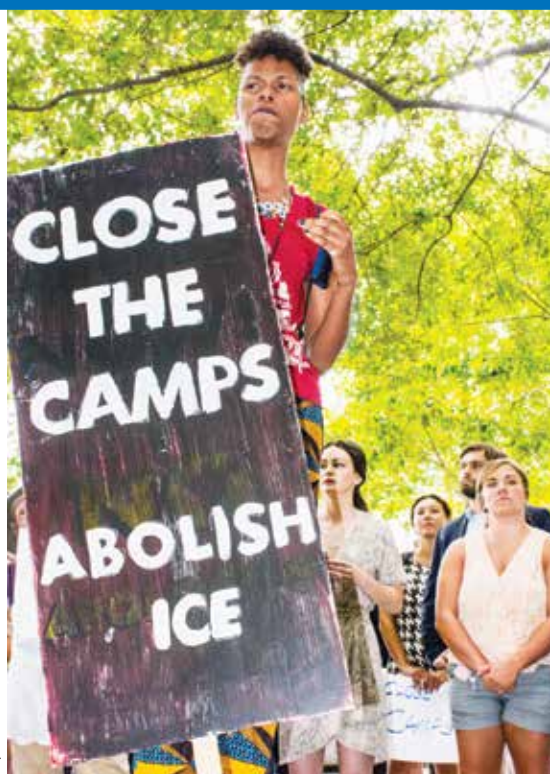
GRASSROOTS FIGHTERS FORCE ISSUES INTO PRESIDENTIAL RACE



March for universal health care in New York City.

PHOTO/ERIK MCGREGOR

**Defending
the human
rights of all:**
*The people demand
the assault on
immigrants end*
Pages 2, 3, and 8



Protest against ICE in New Orleans. PHOTO/TED QUANT

**FIGHTING
TO SAVE THE
EARTH**

Pages 6 and 7

What kind of monsters cage children?

EDITORIAL

“What kind of monsters put children in cages?” reads a woman’s sign, protesting the mass forced separation of thousands of children from their parents seeking asylum at the US/Mexican border, and their incarceration in crowded, filthy, lice and disease-ridden concentration camps. According to witnesses, they are forced to sleep on concrete, are hungry, terrified and traumatized, and subjected to physical and sexual abuse. A doctor who visited one of these camps, full of sick and malnourished babies, compared it to a ‘torture facility’.

Many babies and toddlers are left in the care of also traumatized older children, who don’t know if they will ever see their parents; and their parents are living the worst nightmare, having their children ripped from their arms. Eight children have already died. The youngest of these stolen children was four months old. A mother watched in anguish her young husband and 1 year-old daughter drown trying to swim across the river into Texas.

This horrifying mass crime is being perpetrated by the Trump administration and forces around him, with many others in government complicit, although some are speaking out against this monstrosity. Many have financial interests in the private corporations that are running the camps. One of these makes \$750 a night to cage, torture and starve these children.

These families are fleeing conditions of severe drought and of poverty, violence and oppression, much of the violence supported by the US government in the interests of corporate plunder,

which in countries such as Honduras and many others bankrolls and trains death squads to murder anyone who organizes for their rights. Hoping to come to safety, they are met with this added terror, family separation and concentration camps.

This horror is sparking outrage all across the country, across divisions of politics and background: the separation of families and kidnapping and torture of children is appalling to anyone with a human heart! Protests and mass mobilizations are being organized.

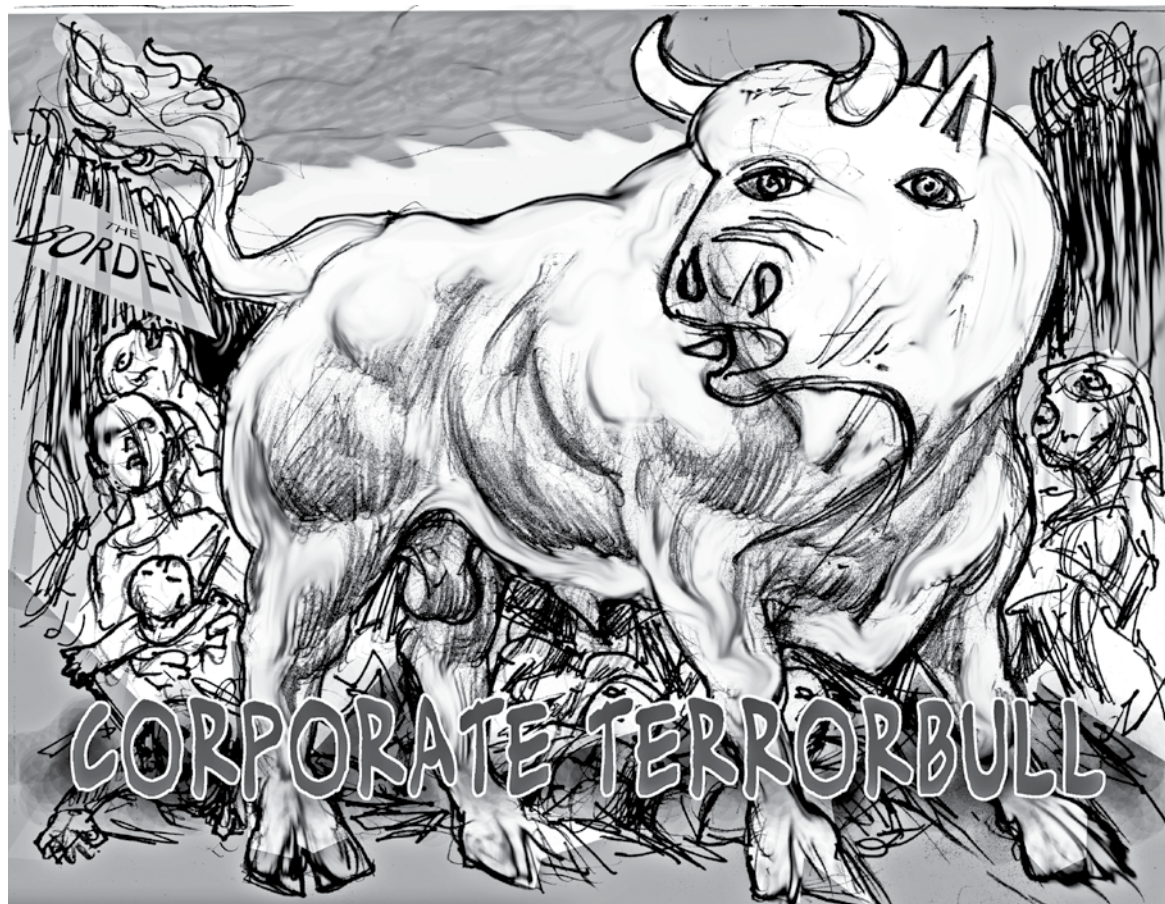
Concentration camps are nothing new in the U.S. Native American children were forcibly taken from their families and placed into prison-like govern-

ment schools. The separation of families under chattel slavery was practiced for hundreds of years; and the slave-catchers of today, the police, can shoot down an unarmed Black or brown child, or any poor or homeless person, and get away with murder. Japanese citizens were rounded up and put into concentration camps during World War II. The ‘welfare’ system has long broken apart families for the crime of being poor. The ‘school to prison pipeline’ guarantees fodder for the corporations of the private prison industry. At each of these times, at least some Americans have stood up to challenge the policy, and today more than ever are standing up.

This kind of isolating and dehumanizing of certain groups

is one of the strategies used by fascist states (such as under the Nazis) to scapegoat and blame its victims for its economic failings. The ruling class of billionaires are beginning to resort to fascist measures because the economy is collapsing, and this is their desperate attempt to hold onto power. People who understand this are uniting in moral outrage in defense of those directly under attack, and must continue to do so. If we don’t the rest of us are next, in a fascist state where no one has rights, and children are tortured in cages instead of cherished as our future and our hope.

Readers please note: This is a combined July-August issue of the People’s Tribune.



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

The *People’s Tribune* is devoted to the understanding that an economic system that doesn’t feed, clothe, house, or care for its people must be and will be replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a tribune of the people. It is the voice of millions of everyday people who are fighting to survive in an America in crisis. It helps build connections among these fighters and the awareness that together, we can create a whole new society and world.

Today, technology is permanently eliminating jobs. Our needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where we the people, not the corporations, own the technology and the abundance it produces. Then, everyone’s needs will be provided for.

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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Deadlines for articles and art: The deadline for articles, photographs and other art is the first of each month for the issue that comes out at the beginning of the following month. For example, the deadline for the June issue is May 1. Articles should be as short as possible, and no longer than 500 words. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

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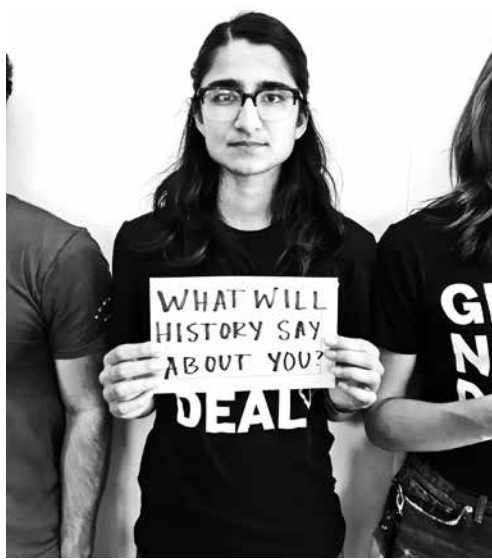
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Teachers protest at Texas child concentration camp. PHOTO/JOE BRUSKY, MTEA



Sunrise Movement pushes Democrats for the Green New Deal. PHOTO/FACEBOOK



Fighting to have a home. PHOTO/SARAH MENEFFEE

Grassroots force issues into presidential race

COVER STORY

Shouts of “Yes! Yes!” and cars honking support. Enthusiastic waves from passersby. That’s what greeted Southern nurses in bright red union T-shirts as they chanted “Medicare for all!” in late June. The demonstrators were rallying outside the Arsht Center in Miami, site of the first Democratic presidential debates.

As the 2020 presidential campaign gets underway, people are insisting that the candidates state clearly how they’ll respond to the huge problems this country faces—the environmental crisis, the lack of health care for millions, the question of homelessness, the attacks on immigrants, and the many other issues that confront us.

“Nothing will change unless we have the guts to take on Wall Street, the insurance industry, the pharmaceutical, the military-industrial complex, and fossil fuel industry.” – Bernie Sanders

The sudden willingness of many presidential candidates to support progressive proposals has not been caused by some miraculous change of heart. It’s the result of pressure from ordinary people, the fruit of decades of organizing and educating by those seeking jus-

tice. For years, grassroots leaders have been fighting around the questions of universal health care and the defense of immigrants. As this hard work begins to change public opinion, politicians are running to catch up with the thinking of an important section of the American people. That’s why we saw every single candidate on a presi-

dential debate stage in Miami raise their hand to support health care for undocumented immigrants, for instance, and why many of the candidates support Medicare for All.

This hard work of changing public opinion needs to continue. We cannot accept a society where

a tiny handful of millionaires and billionaires rule for their benefit.

That point was made well by Sen. Bernie Sanders in his eloquent closing remarks at the Miami debate. Sanders pointed out that we need a movement to confront the corporations which are blocking change.

“Nothing will change,” Sanders pointed out “unless we have the guts to take on Wall Street, the insurance industry, the pharmaceutical industry, the military-industrial complex, and the fossil fuel industry.”

“Bernie Sanders is right,” tweeted the Sunrise Movement, the youth-led environmental group. “Our generation is looking for a president who has the ‘guts to take on the fossil fuel industry.’ We won’t settle for less.”

Waleed Shahid, communications director for the group Justice Democrats, tweeted: “He’s right that only power and a movement of millions coming together can upend our corrupt and rigged system.”

The next Democratic debates will take place July 30-31 in Detroit. The Sunrise Movement has called for tens of thousands to demonstrate outside the site and demand that the Democratic candidates say what they’ll do to confront climate change. That’s the approach we need. Let’s hold the politicians accountable.

We need a movement of millions coming together to take society away from the corporations—before those corporations destroy our society and our planet. During the debates and afterwards, let’s keep the pressure up!

Assault on immigrants: democracy and humanity at risk

From the Editors

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has correctly described migrant detention facilities as “concentration camps.” On July 1, she and 13 other Democratic members of Congress toured some detention facilities in the El Paso area. Ocasio-Cortez said the conditions in some facilities were “horrifying,” and that some Border Patrol agents at the facilities openly mocked and disrespected the visiting members of Congress. Just before their visit, it came out that some members of a secret Facebook group of some 9,500 Border Patrol officers have posted online threats of violence and rape against Ocasio-Cortez and other members of Congress. All of this speaks to the existence of a fascist culture in the Border Patrol, and we can be sure it exists in other police agencies, and elsewhere in government as well.

Journalist Fintan O’Toole, writing in the *Irish Times* last year, called the Trump administration’s assault on immigrant children a “trial run for fascism.” He said that part of the process of replacing democracy with fascism is undermining moral boundaries to get people to accept “acts of extreme cruelty.”

Fascism is open rule by the corporations. Trump is one architect of the turn toward a fascist dictatorship, but

there are Democrats who are going along with it too. The crisis in our country is causing millions of people to question the system that is impoverishing them. Under these conditions, the billionaires and their corporations see democracy as a threat to their wealth and power.

It gives us hope to see growing numbers of Americans from all walks of life demonstrating to demand that the camps be closed and asylum seekers welcomed. It is heartening to see some members of Congress standing up for democracy, and to see some state and local officials across the country refusing to cooperate with ICE to round up immigrants. We can stop fascism, but to do so the people must close ranks to defend democracy and one another. The corporations are the enemy, not our fellow workers, and there is plenty of wealth in this country to take care of everyone’s needs.

The border says stop
To the bird, but the bird sings
Another language.

– Suzanne McDonald



Los Angeles rally in defense of immigrants. PHOTO/MOLLY ADAMS



Homeless in Denver, Colorado. PHOTO/GILES CLASEN

'We all deserve a dignified home!'

All across the country, as a collapsing economy drives more and more people into the streets, housing and homeless movements are finding common cause: the anti-eviction movement, the struggles to protect and expand rent control, and save and build (instead of destroy) public housing, align with the fight of the homeless against criminalization and for the right to housing. Independent tent communities are insisting on their right to exist and self-govern, while they fight for the right to real housing, whether the people have money or not. The common cause of all of these struggles is summed up in the demand: "We all deserve a dignified home!"

Please share your story. Donate! Order papers! Call 800-691-6888 or visit peopletribune.org.

— The Editors

Provide shelter Homeless advocate says: 'Jesus was homeless too'

By R. Joshua Collins

SAN CLEMENTE, CA — Dear friends and fellow homeless advocates, my name is R. Joshua Collins. While in Spokane, Washington, I was a mathematics instructor, had graduated Magna Cum Laude from Eastern Washington University and had never been homeless before. Eventually the LORD JESUS got a hold of me and called me to live with the homeless for over 10 years in various cities on the West Coast.

Starting in Spokane, I traveled to Seattle in 2002, then to LA, Venice Beach, Las Vegas, and Anaheim as well. Las Vegas and Anaheim were the cities where I saw the most persecution against the homeless, and I got heavily involved in advocating for the homeless in both of these cities. I spoke at city council meetings and connected homeless people with attorneys when their rights were violated.

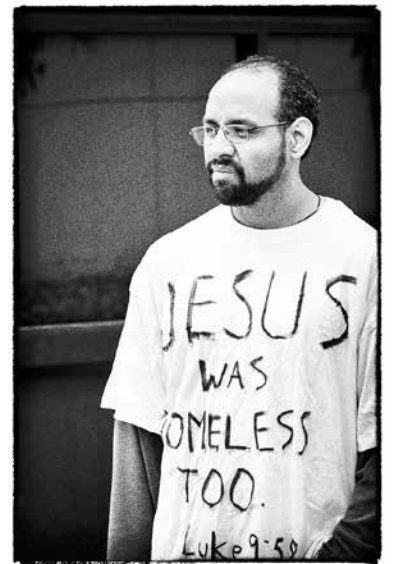
I of course experienced firsthand some of these human rights violations, and did many peaceful protests that caused me to be arrested many times in Las Vegas. I fought over 30 cases as my own attorney, and through my study of the law I learned the city of Las Vegas was guilty of treason and

great hypocrisy for their promotion of immorality and oppression of the poor.

One thing I know, just because you are financially stable now does not mean that will continue in the future. Sickness, legal issues, divorce, death of a family member, the end of a work opportunity, high rents, low wages, physical and sexual abuse, and so many other factors can cause one to become homeless. My request would be that we all pray for the advocates and for those who are so angered by the homeless that they may not think clearly.

As an advocate for affordable housing, I am not condoning criminal activity by the homeless as some may claim, but I do believe not all the homeless should be judged the same. I also know much more needs to be done in the area of affordable housing. San Clemente still has not built a homeless shelter in their city, and instead provided a dirt lot for the homeless to sleep in despite Judge David Carter's request that shelter be provided for the homeless before they are forced to leave public areas where they may be camping.

A UCI study stated it is about twice as expensive to keep the homeless on the street as it is to provide permanent supportive housing. Let us pray those tax-



Joshua Collins is an advocate for the homeless and affordable housing.

PHOTO/DAVID FREEMAN

payers who are against permanent supportive housing will soon realize they are only defeating themselves. Let us also pray GOD's love fills every heart, and that we can stay free from materialism, hatred and pride and see people as GOD does, knowing that JESUS was homeless too (Luke 9:58). Thanks so much for your prayers and support friends, and may GOD bless you as you seek first HIS kingdom always!

The author welcomes correspondence at his email address: servingjesus99212@yahoo.com

Google's billion dollar deception

By Liz Gonzalez and Cecilia Chavez

SAN JOSE, CA — Google's investment in Bay Area housing only benefits Google.

At first glance, the announcement that Google is investing one billion dollars towards housing might sound like a great idea. Wow! This corporation really cares about its displacement of thousands of longtime residents in the Bay. **WRONG!** When you look closer, you see that nothing is really happening.

Deception #1: The money is not really new investment in housing

\$750 million of the Google money is for 15,000 market-rate housing units, to be permitted by rezoning commercial land it already owns. Google would lease out its land, and become a Corporate Landlord, mainly for its own employees. 5,700 of the

proposed 15,000 homes were already promised to Mountain View in 2017.

However, 15,000 homes are not enough to house projected new Google employees in San Jose alone, much less the other thousands of new employees Google is planning around the Bay.

What about the \$250 million supposed to be used to "incentivize" developers to build 5,000 affordable housing units? Most so-called "affordable housing" is not affordable for many. Allowing tech giants and developers to determine what housing is built, for whom, and where housing is built and when, only intensifies inequality and exclusion.

Deception #2: The money doesn't help those facing housing insecurity now

Waiting ten years for a minimal number of housing units is not worth the descriptor of bold.

Only someone not in housing distress could agree that waiting ten years is something to applaud.

Bold are the most impacted folks who are defending their homes, fighting for rent control, tenant protections, and safe spaces and housing for the unhoused. Bold would be public officials standing up for the public good, curbing real estate interests, and prioritizing new housing models that come from the community itself.

Deception #3: The Billion dollars IS NOT a solution, it is a publicity stunt

Google can't just throw money at the problem they create and expect it to solve itself. That doesn't change an unjust system. People who are directly impacted need to be at the forefront of finding solutions. How many unhoused people and renters were in the conversations when Google was coming up with

its Billion dollar plan?

A complete shift is required in the way we look at housing, in how we talk about it, how we build it. We all deserve a dignified home. Housing is a human right.

Housing should guarantee stability not profits. We must shift into permanently affordable housing models, like the recently incorporated South Bay Community Land Trust in San Jose.

End housing speculation— buying a home to make a profit should be prohibited.

Community members should lead and determine development, especially in areas undergoing and at risk of displacement.

Enact policies that allow tenants to transition into ownership and stewardship of their homes like a Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA).

Freeze rents! The people are the caretakers not only of this land, but of each other. Profiteers deserve no part in the fundamen-



Homelessness went up by 42% after Google announced in 2017 that it was expanding into San Jose. This is called the "Google effect." Land values, rents, evictions, and homelessness skyrocketed.

CARTOON/VERONICA ELDREDGE

tal building block that is home.

Tragedies and celebrations

By Jeremy Nicholls

CHICAGO, IL — Most days I walk about three blocks down Wilson Avenue in Uptown, Chicago, to and from work. The street tells countless stories: a few apartments occupied by those once homeless; an abandoned Burger King turned into an expensive glass high-rise; activists protesting our authorities trying to prevent people from feeding and giving shelter to the poor. I've seen developments grow before my eyes. I've seen the embrace of friends and the beauty of forgiveness. I've watched the tragic gutting and destruction of the Wilson Men's Hotel, causing a traumatic path of homelessness and loneliness. I've had people dangle their keys in front of me, proudly revealing their journey from homelessness to housed.

To me, one building cries out more than others: the Stewart School Lofts. These luxury apartments used to be an elementary school that had a playground and a little park adjoined to it. Cultures would come together, kids would play, friends would unite on the benches, and families would picnic in the grass. Then

the city's Mayor Emanuel and his aldermen (including Uptown's Alderman Cappleman) shuttered over 50 schools, Stewart School included.

This closing caused an uproar. It reeked of gentrification, catering to Uptown's elite. It was also a vicious punch in the gut to the poor and homeless! More than the sad reality of children losing their neighborhood school, this affected kids that stayed at Cornerstone Community Outreach, the homeless shelter I work at. Many community people wanted the abandoned school to become something redemptive: community center, food co-op, subsidized housing, or another homeless shelter. We watched the systematic criminalizing, targeting, and isolating of those who are poor and homeless. The city held meetings, but they didn't listen to the poor and activists. The goal of the alderman and his friends was plain and simple: displace actual Uptown residents, and create luxury housing that the poor could never afford!

The city tore playgrounds down. The police slowly drove through that stretch, frequently asking for IDs. The park benches

disappeared. Despite the targeting, they couldn't eradicate the community. Another Tent City formed in the grass. It grew, and the community helped and supported the residents. The authorities eventually came in with military weaponry, uniforms, fences, and threats of criminal trespassing, shutting them out with nowhere to go! Rejected once again by those paid to serve and protect.

An elderly man told me how his father was Stewart School's janitor. Decades later he ended up sleeping in a tent opposite the abandoned school, only to be forced out into homelessness by the authorities. This man passed away about a month ago. He remained homeless, and used to sit daily on the local Church steps, shut out and excluded, with the luxury lofts looming eerily in the background. Community has been lost by this gated luxury apartment complex with "no trespassing" signs and security cameras everywhere. No soccer, no one sits and chats to their friends, no kids climb the playground equipment. All the people who invested so much into this once vibrant area could never afford their elaborate prices.



Graeme Stewart School, one of 50 schools closed by the Chicago School Board in 2013, has been turned into luxury apartments. PHOTO/ JEREMY NICHOLLS

Low income tenants organizing for justice

By Pancho Valdez and James Hamilton

SAN ANTONIO, TX — On March 19, San Antonio Police were summoned to 1215 Fair Avenue, the Fair Avenue apartments owned by the San Antonio Housing Authority.

On the 11th floor police discovered the decomposing body of 43-year-old Thomas Lyons. Lyons had been shot several times and stuffed into the closet of the apartment. Lyons, a plumber by trade with drug addiction issues, was not a resident of the Fair Avenue apartments. Despite tenant complaints of the odor, their complaints were not taken seriously until maggots crawled under the door onto the hallway on the 11th floor. The manager, Antonia Lopez, ignored complaints as usual and has a history of mistreating tenants.

Berta Caceres, a resident of Fair Avenue, stated that drug dealing and prostitution is common due to no security measures. The June 2nd issue of the Express-News reported that SAHA has cut security funding by 42%.

On April 4, a group of tenants from three different buildings picketed the SAHA Administration building at 818 S.

Flores. These tenants were organized by the Tenants Union of San Antonio.

On April 17, a group of SAHA tenants met with SAHA Board of Commissioners chairman Dr. Morris Stribling, Commissioner/Resident Charles Clack and newly appointed Commissioner Sofia Lopez. The Commissioners appeared astounded after listening to the testimony of tenants from Fair Avenue, Lewis Chatham and Marie McGuire apartments. They heard about the corrupt manager at Chatham who tolerates racism and favoritism. They viewed color photos of an elderly tenant beaten by a younger, bigger tenant. The victim has been evicted and the assailant continues living at Lewis Chatham.

An older male resident from Fair Avenue testified about how the drug dealing and the prostitution are all tolerated by SAHA management. There have been more than two murders at this building in the past.

In the end, Marie McGuire tenant Pancho Valdez testified how management has allowed a self-admitted member of the Ku Klux Klan to grope women on the elevator, refer to Black tenants as n****rs, committed a terroristic threat with a knife and more recently assaulted his girl friend

in the building, and yet remains. This snitch, James Hogue, apparently has close ties to SAHA management, as I have seen people of color evicted for far less violations. SAHA CEO David Nisivoccia's response to me when I complained was; "Isn't he entitled to due process?" Due process after three years of terror?

On June 6, tenants from three buildings and the ex-wife of Thomas Lyons all testified at the SAHA Board of Commissioners meeting. While we were small in number our message was heavy.

People should know how SAHA bosses are denying low-income tenants their rights. The community should also know that HUD, a federal agency that is mandated to oversee SAHA, told us they are NOT authorized to enforce the agency's own regulations!

Thus we organize with the Tenants Union of San Antonio aka TUSA to demand and secure justice. We ask for supporters to email David Nisivoccia the CEO: david_nisivoccia@saha.org. Demand that he end the favoritism, the tolerated violence, the racism, and to beef up security.

Pancho Valdez and James Hamilton are organizers and tenants of SAHA.

I heard
survival's flute
behind me in the street

— Sarah Menefee

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Flint residents in pensive mood upon hearing devastating report from the Michigan Attorney General's office. PHOTO/JAKE MAY, MLIVE.COM

Flint is still broken

From Flint correspondent

FLINT, MI — When the Michigan Attorney General's office dropped the bombshell on Flint residents—through the mass media—announcing the dropping of all charges in the case of the Flint water disaster, we were not prepared for the shocking reasons they gave. After the announcement, a public meeting, (two weeks later...) was held to explain their reasons.

State prosecutors Fadawa Hammoud and Kim Worthy outlined damning information from the previous charges. Among other things, they said that over 20 million documents were recently found and had not been vetted. They went on to say that numerous phone searches had not been done and that the previous special prosecutor, Todd Flood, had worked with the defense attorneys to minimize the evidence to be presented. Furthermore, what was supposed to have been plea deals (essentially dropped charges) for lower-level officials in exchange for getting some of the "bigger fish" in the probe has netted absolutely no convictions three years later. None.

The new team also shared that there was only nine months left for most of the charges to go forward. They promised the audience that they were doing everything possible to bring Justice to the residents of Flint. The case against former head of Michigan DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services)

Nick Lyon, charged with involuntary manslaughter, has also been dropped pending further investigation. Promises were made to the Flint residents that they would uncover as much as they could and go wherever the evidence leads them.

Despite shock and awe of the new information, residents, though visibly shaken upon hearing these new revelations, managed to ask probing questions. Will this new team pursue corruption charges related to the bond deal that allowed the new pipeline which resulted in the poisoning of this city? Will Veolia (a transnational water corporation) who acted as a consultant be brought up on charges for their role in this debacle?

Flint residents, though resilient, are beginning to wonder when and where Justice for Flint will show up. One thing we know for sure, we the People, will fight on and decide and dictate what Justice looks like.

Flint Still Woke!!

In the meantime, former Governor Rick Snyder was hired as a Senior Fellow by Harvard Kennedy School Taubman Center, but the backlash was swift and severe. Pushback included current and former fellows, faculty members, students, along with many Flint residents, calling foul against the university through an explosion on social media along with phone calls etc. As a result, Rick Snyder withdrew his appointment.

People's Tribune: a voice in the fight for a clean environment

On these pages are voices from the movement to save humanity and earth from corporate destruction. The people are demanding that government protect the environment on which all life depends while meeting everyone's basic needs. The corporations are demanding that government destroy our movement to insure their interests and profits. The recent laws passed to criminalize pipeline protesters are but one example. But our fight for a clean environment will continue to keep advancing toward public control over the corporations if we are to save humanity and the Earth.

Cherri Foytlin (arrested and charged under Louisiana's new law) says it well: "They think that by upping the punishment they're going to keep people from protesting, but what will happen is we're going to do things that are more worth getting the felony. Because now if we're going to jail, then damn it, we're going to go all in." (See <http://bit.ly/protestpipelines>)

It is in this spirit that we ask you to support the People's Tribune as a voice of and for the movement by becoming a subscriber, ordering bundles to distribute, and making one time or monthly donations. The future is up to us, the people! Visit peopletribune.org — *The Editors*



Residents of the Metro-East St. Louis communities are outraged after the EPA announced it will allow Veolia North America Trade Waste Incineration to relax heavy metal emissions monitoring. On June 19, protestors stood outside the three incinerators in Sauget, IL (seen in the background) and spoke to the press denouncing the decision. PHOTO/CATHY TALBOTT

Illinois communities vow to fight Veolia's poisonous power

By Cathy Talbott

On June 19, residents from communities of Metro-east St. Louis gathered to protest the decision of the EPA to allow the multi-national corporation Veolia to pump poisonous toxins such as mercury into the air from its three incinerators in the heavily industrialized town of Sauget, IL without sufficient monitoring. Trump's EPA relaxed provisions of a permit issued under Obama's watch.

Reverend Jennifer Warren Hauser, representing the United Congregations of Metro-East, told the crowd, "We mobilized over 100 people at the EPA hearing and we rejected the revised permit. But despite our misgivings and pleas, the EPA approved it. At the hearing, I said that if the #MeToo movement and similar things in our culture were showing us anything, it's that people are tired of being exploited by those in power. All deeds done in darkness will be brought to light. A recent issue of Scientific American detailed specific deeds of darkness done by multi-national corporations like Veolia that have been issuing rules that aren't subject to con-

gressional oversight and are restricting the scope of data that can be measured by the EPA. What we don't measure will still kill us. We need the original permit. We can't choose what air to breathe but we all have a 'right' to know what's in it."

Mamie Cosey, a great-grandmother raising her great-grandchildren, spoke of the grave illnesses she and her family suffered living in the area. She said the kids' blood levels for lead are so high. In an impassioned plea to Veolia to "do the right thing and put the monitors up," she declared, "I'm here to fight the good fight; to fight for my children's lives. We live in a toxic world. I'm 78 years old but the fight has just begun. This company knows what they're doing! If they were concerned about the children and seniors they would be glad to put up a monitor. Is money more important than life? Never!"

"Yesterday, EPA ruled in favor of the company after telling us they considered all viewpoints but they only considered one viewpoint, [Veolia's]," said Cheryl Sommer. She, along with residents of her hometown, stopped Veolia from privatizing their water. "We plan to appeal this decision."

Minden, WV demands gov't act on PCB contamination

By Brandon Richardson

MINDEN, WV — On June 8, over 150 Minden residents and allies from all over West Virginia and six surrounding states marched to bring awareness to the long-term impacts of PCB exposure. They took to the streets to memorialize the Minden residents who they believe lost their lives to PCBs, to support those who are currently suffering from PCB-related illnesses and to pay tribute to the activism that first brought attention to toxic dumping in Minden in the 1980's and 1990's.

The march was a 30th anniversary historical reenactment of an event in 1989, when Concerned Citizens for Fayette County organized a march to demand that the government provide clean up and relocation for Minden residents. Meeting a goal that was made by those same marchers decades ago, Minden was recently added to the National Priorities List of Superfund sites. The EPA's National Priorities List is reserved for the most toxic sites in the U.S. Placement on the list gives Minden more access to funds for testing, clean up, and potentially, for relocation.

The Minden Community Action Team has three major demands. First, members demand that those who wish to leave

receive government support for relocation. In addition, the group believes it is essential that past and present residents should have access to specialized healthcare for those who have been exposed to PCBs and other chemicals. The group also is demanding a thorough cleanup and decision making power for those who may choose to stay after the community is relocated.

As Jean Evansmore stated about the marchers who travelled many hours to stand in solidarity with Minden, "People realize that this issue affects all of us because we're all humans who want to put an end to suffering. If it's hurting you, I don't care where you live ... it's hurting me."

Thinking of those organizers decades ago, Percy Fruit reflected, "My thanks goes out to Lucian Randall, Larry Rose and John David, who started out a quest to make a wrong right. So many lives have been lost to cancer. Thank you pioneers. ... The fight will continue."

Sixteen year-old Mar cayla King expressed her desire to see justice for Minden residents. "Even with the death tolls rising, with family and neighbors getting sick, we've been told that it's safe and there's nothing to worry about. The only solution is to relocate so people have an opportu-



Minden, WV march to bring awareness to the long-term impacts of PCB exposure in the town and to demand government act. PHOTO/STEPHEN SMITH

nity [for] a better quality of life."

Kimberly Duncan spoke about the loss, grief and illness PCBs have inflicted on her body and the lives of family members. "Our kids used to play in mines where they didn't know the PCBs were dumped. I was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2007. I went from being an inde-

pendent person to needing help with everything." Reflecting on the activists of the 80's and 90's, Kimberly noted, "The women who marched then were called hysterical housewives. But those women were right."

While residents and allies grieve for the lives that have been taken by PCBs, they continue to

have faith in the power of community as an instrument for hope, change, and justice. Remarking on Minden's placement on the NPL list, Lois Gibbs said of the Minden Community Action Team, "You might not have had a perfect victory, but you have power, and you are a force to be reckoned with."

Sunrise Movement, Chicago: A vision of a just future

By Patrick Baranovskis

CHICAGO, IL — This summer, the Sunrise Movement has been on a "Road To a Green New Deal Tour"—more than 200 town halls across the country bringing the national conversation to cities. At the end of May, Chicago had its turn. In addition to two of Chicago's Congressional representatives vowing their commitment to a GND, the town hall consisted mostly of local activists, labor organizers, and community leaders of all ages from across the city presenting on how their work connects to the GND. Here are some of the highlights:

Chyann of GoodKids MadCity, an organization of Black and Brown young people united in fighting to end violence: "Black and Brown people are disproportionately impacted by more pollutants than they cause. That urgency starts right now in [our] communities on the South and West sides, where our babies are eight times

more likely to die from asthma than white kids."

Allysa from the Rebel Bells Collective in the Calumet region of SE Chicago, an area with a legendary history fighting for a clean environment against corporate interests and racist policies: "Environmental and climate justice is having clean, safe, and walkable neighborhoods... free mental health services in every neighborhood... a job with a living wage that isn't going to make you sick... access to quality education in a clean space. [It] is about having a life worth living, and we're not going to stop fighting till we get it!"

Byron Sigcho-Lopez, one of six newly elected Democratic Socialists of America members on Chicago's City Council: "Our community had to live with coal plants in our own backyard for decades. And the only reason this was acceptable was because we have a corrupt political class who are supposed to represent the

best interests of the community, but were being paid by the same polluters that were literally killing our own people. ... The same thing goes in my home country [Ecuador]: Chevron, Texaco and many other corporations left massive pollution; neoliberal policies that continue to affect many millions of people living in poverty and environmental injustice. That's why this fight is so vital, because it's a global problem. And it affected me at 17 years old coming to the U.S. ... where many immigrants were suffering from the same problems: environmental injustice, high asthma and cancer rates that continue to kill."

Demond Drummer, co-architect of the GND Resolution, coiner of the phrase "zero-waste, zero-carbon, zero poverty economy", and Chicagoan: "The GND is an idea whose time has come. Building on the long struggle of the racial, environmental, and economic justice movements, [it's] a WWII-scale mobilization



The youth-led Sunrise Movement gathered in Chicago as part of the "Road To a Green New Deal Tour." PHOTO/CHARLES E. MILLER

of all of the resources of our country to not only address the present and existential threat of climate breakdown, but to do so in a way that rebuilds our economy, and repairs decades and centuries of... violence this country has vis-

ited upon indigenous peoples and nations, black and brown people and communities, women, and all others who have been systematically shut out of everything that is good in this country."

On direct action to defend immigrants



Defense of immigrants rally in Milwaukee, WI. PHOTO/CHARLES E. MILLER

Editor's note: The following is excerpted with the author's permission from a longer piece posted on Facebook.

By Teka Lark

Direct action is a tool that should only be used when it needs to be used. Protesting with a permit is not direct action. Anytime you appeal to authority in a way that puts them in the position of reasonable, you're not doing direct action.

What is direct action? When you resist with your body or with your wallet. The Montgomery Bus Boycott is an example of direct action.

The most effective direct

actions understand that the system is corrupt and unreasonable, not parts of the system, the ENTIRE system and people resist accordingly. You can't call the police on ICE.

I have been involved in three direct actions in my life, [all involving] law enforcement and children [when I was a teacher]. ... I realized I needed some kind of code to guide me, one of them was I don't help the police and I don't help LA Migra (now ICE), because I was not in education to make things worse. ...

The #ICERaids are delayed, but they aren't stopping, they never will. The point of #ICERaids is to terrorize people into shutting up, so they can be

exploited.

What I really want you to do now is to understand your power. When you are on social media, when you watch the news, what they are trying to do is take away your courage, take away your power, to convince you that YOU CAN NOT make a difference. I know for a fact that is a lie.

If we all understood our power, we could stop injustice. When ICE comes for your neighbor (regardless of who is president), I don't want you to go on FB Live and record them taking your neighbor away, then edit music into it, and share it with thoughtful words of how angry you are, what you need to do is to STOP them.

We all occupy different spaces in oppression, currently your job is this, if ICE comes for someone in your physical space you need to do whatever you can to stop them from taking away the person in their custody. Get creative, but we need to all mentally prepare ourselves that ICE doesn't work, because we're not going to let it work.

We all say: If it was during Jim Crow, I would have... If it was during Slavery, I would have... If it was WW2, I would have been fighting the NAZIs like Josephine Baker...

Here is your chance to put on your best lipstick and do something. They can't arrest everyone, not if we all decide that no one is going anywhere.

Direct action, it will work, if we all agree that is what we're doing.

So you agree, right?

Rallies demand: End criminalization of immigrants

Men, women and children from all walks of life rallied in 50 states (and 13 foreign countries) in defense of immigrants, with demands to protect children, close the abhorrent detention camps, stop deportations and abolish ICE.

Also, mayors, city officials and police departments are rejecting Trump's mass deportation raids. The Chicago mayor directed the police department to not cooperate and broke the city's contract with ICE. The San Francisco mayor said the city will not cooperate and directed people to call a hotline to help immigrants. The Los Angeles police department is refusing to participate in or enforce ICE's deportation efforts. New York City, Atlanta and Denver issued statements in defense of immigrants.

Activists are demanding that officials in these cities do more. What these officials have done so far has been propelled forward by the people in these cities, those who have expressed their outrage at

the inhumanity of the U.S. government in rounding up workers.

After Wayfair, a Boston furniture store sold furniture to the camps, hundreds of workers walked out. Rosanna Rodriguez, a recently elected Chicago Alderperson, reacted with this post on Facebook: "So, I think it's time to walk out. We can't continue to stand and watch the horror without taking meaningful action against immigrant concentration camps. I know this is not an easy thing to organize . . . we are also organizing against raids and to protect our neighbors right here. I also need to believe that we are able to show solidarity and humanity during these times of horror. There is real power in withholding our labor. Chicago, are we ready to walk out?"

— From the Editors

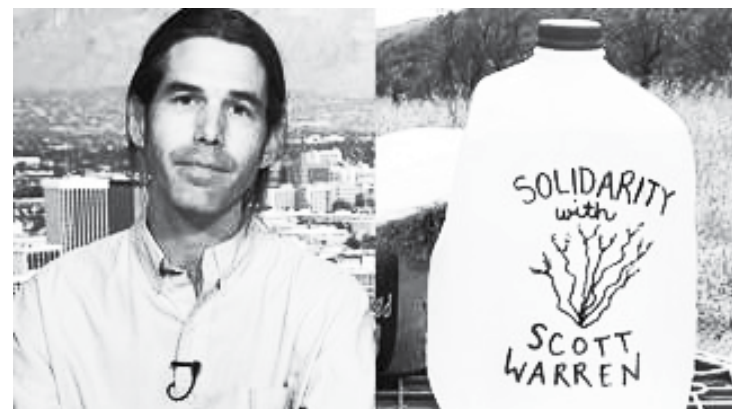


This is one of the drawings by children after release from US custody that reveal a world of cages. Drawings released by the American Academy of Pediatrics. VIDEO STILL/CBS NEWS

"Today it seems to be legal to murder and put in concentration camps thousands of our people. Our children are killed right before our eyes. Central American migrants escaping violence from the military and drug cartels are escaping for survival and no walls will stop them. For centuries, the owners of the transnational corporations have gobbled up what's useful and expelled what's become disposable. To do so, they have put presidents and politicians alike on their payrolls, shackling the little democracy that existed. Our race, the human race, is slowly being eliminated. Only a select few will survive. Why? Because, we are no longer useable to our rulers—driverless trucks, automated banks, robot-driven factories need very few workers. We are witnessing and entering a new epoch. Either we start dealing with this new situation, or we will perish."

— Manuel Torres, Valley of Tears, Rio Grande Valley

'No more deaths' on the border



Scott Warren is with "No More Deaths," a humanitarian group that leaves water, food and meds for migrants who face death in their journey across the hot desert to sanctuary in the U.S. Warren was just tried for conspiracy but the trial ended with a hung jury. Now, the state of Arizona has decided to retry him. Interestingly, Warren's arrest in 2018 came hours after the group released a scathing video showing the inhumanity of Border Patrol agents dumping out and destroying water that had been left in the desert for migrants. Warren's defiant response to the retrial is: "Since [my arrest] in January 2018, no fewer than 88 bodies were recovered from the Arizona desert. ... The government's plan? Policies to target undocumented people, refugees, and their families. Prosecutions to criminalize humanitarian aid, kindness, and solidarity. And now, the revelation that they will build an enormous and expensive wall across a vast stretch of southwestern Arizona's unbroken Sonoran Desert." "Providing humanitarian aid is not a crime," said United Nations human rights experts, who urged U.S. authorities to "immediately drop all charges against Scott Warren." The American people need to make sure this happens. VIDEO STILL/DEMOCRACY NOW!

Medicare for All! Now is the time!

By Rita Valenti

“Hey hey, ho ho, Everywhere we go, people want to know, who we are, what we stand for. We are the nurses, mighty mighty nurses, fighting for our patients, fighting for their rights, Medicare for All, Medicare for All Now!!”

Scores of southern nurses marched through the streets of Miami just before the first Democratic Party candidate debate on June 26, chanting and singing for improved Medicare for All!: “Everybody In and Nobody Out”. We were greeted with enthusiastic honks and shouts of support from passersby.

Marissa, one of the nurse leaders, told a story about a pregnant patient in labor who had health insurance, but couldn’t afford to use it because of high deductibles and co-pays. The patient didn’t qualify for Medicaid because her income was too high, over \$1,983 a month and she had job related insurance anyway, though unusable. Between her work schedules and having unaffordable health insurance the patient had no prenatal care. She hemorrhaged and the nurses and doctors rushed treatment to save her life.

This story is repeated thousands of times in Southern states with no Medicaid expansion. “These traumas are preventable if we had Medicare for All, that secures all the healthcare coverage we need from prenatal and mental health to dental, vision, primary care and long term care,”

said Marissa.

And, a national public health insurance that is comprehensive and all-inclusive would be a huge step in ending all the gross health disparities that are experienced in southern states, like Florida, that did not expand Medicaid.

Five southern states, with Ohio and Missouri following suit, passed the most restrictive abortion legislation in the country. These same states suffer from the worse maternal outcomes. Georgia’s maternal death rate is 37.2 deaths per 100,000 births, the highest in the country and the first state that restricted abortion to six weeks of pregnancy after the legislature passed the so-called ‘heart beat’ bill this year. Mississippi also claims the title of #1 in maternal deaths at 20% higher than the national average. Black women are most at risk accounting for 80% of pregnancy related cardiac deaths. And the issue isn’t just about abortion. It’s about reproductive justice as defined, developed and fought for by the women of color reproductive justice collective of SisterSong: *“As the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.”*

Every section of government from the electoral arena to the judicial system is being challenged from the bottom up, not just to resist the onslaught against our current fractured corporate healthcare system, but to take a giant step forward and win



Nurses marched through the streets of Miami before the first Democratic Party presidential debate on June 26, chanting and singing for Medicare for All. PHOTO/RITA VALENTI

universal government guaranteed secure health coverage for all.

As the nurses say in our value statement: We value a *“single standard of care that is safe, effective and therapeutic and NOT based on ability to pay!”* We

are literally fighting for our lives and the lives of our patients. Now is the time for Medicare4All!

Marchers tell AMA: Back Medicare for All or get out of the way



Doctors, nurses, medical students, patients, and others protest outside the AMA meeting to demand that the AMA support Medicare for All.

PHOTO/ILSINGLEPAYER YOUTUBE

CHICAGO, IL — On June 8, doctors, nurses, medical students, patients and others gathered here where the American Medical Association was holding its annual meeting. The AMA, which only represents about 20% of doctors, is opposed to Medicare for All, and the activists rallied to demand that the AMA support Medicare for All. Below are comments from some of the marchers, excerpted from a video of the march.

“Being a nurse and seeing patients denied healthcare, denied medicines because they can’t afford it, working all their lives, losing their retirement to medical costs—it’s not acceptable. We need Medicare for all. The AMA needs to quit taking their money from the pharmaceuticals and from the insurance industry and they need to back and take care of their patients.”

– A nurse

“The AMA still defends and protects the private health insurance industry and I have no idea why. It’s time for them to give up on this private-profit medicine and treat it as the social service it ought to be.”

– Dr. Peter Orris

“My daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 32 and has been through holy hell with the insurance companies to get the care that she has needed. She lost her breast. She had a horrible time getting it reconstructed and it was all because of insurance companies being despicable to a young woman who had a great school age child to raise.”

– Glenda Monet

“My husband was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis three years ago, and through his illness, my family has seen that this current healthcare system not only does not work for no income and low income people, it doesn’t work for middle class families who are struggling to get by either, and we have to fight with the insurance companies that we

pay so very well just to get them to cover what we need.”

– Jennifer Epps-Addison

“We live in a world of abundance, not want or scarcity. We make abundant resources scarce through privatization by making it so only the wealthy few have access.”

– A doctor

“I am here because I’m Native American and I grew up all my life knowing that

the Indian Health Service is where you go to die. And this is unacceptable.”

– A doctor

“The current corporatized, profit-above-all health system is causing great harm to patients and healthcare workers alike, while lobbyists and executives get rich off of our suffering.”

– Rex Tai, medical student

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Automation and job elimination in LA/Long Beach Harbor



Longshore workers at a Los Angeles City Council meeting protest automation at the Port of L.A. “We will not be replaced. Robots cannot replace human beings,” said the woman in this photo. Gary Herrera, Vice President of ILWU Local 13, posted on the KCRW blog that, “Technology is supposed to enhance our lives. It’s not supposed to eliminate the ability to have a life. And I think what we’re facing today with AI and robotics is that they are getting rid of the human factor with all of this. And I think it’s time to stand up and have a revolution to fight for humanity right now.”

VIDEO STILL/KTLA.COM

Editor’s Note: At a July 4 celebration at Liberty Hill in San Pedro, CA, Greg Mitre, President of the ILWU (International Longshore and Warehouse Union) Pensioners Associations, spoke about the automation of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor. This event was organized by San Pedro Neighbors for Peace and Justice. Excerpts from his speech are below.

“Los Angeles Long Beach Harbor is the largest port in the U.S. by volume and tonnage. And we (the ILWU) also handle the most containers of any port in the U.S. So right now, we’re at a crossroads in the ILWU... in a position that we probably have not seen since the early sixties when we invented this big square box called a container.

As you guys know, in the old days, there was no such thing as containers and everything was shipped in bulk... shipped inside

the hold of a ship and unloaded by hand or put on pallet boards and taken out of the ships and then put onto trucks on forklifts, on jitneys and it was moved around by labor, by ILWU Longshoremen...”

“You all remember the... early days of San Pedro when men used to walk down and gather right where we’re standing. And they would get in a huge crowd and offer bribes to the bosses of the ships, and they would bring down loaves of bread, half gallons of whiskey... whole fish, and they would bribe their way to get a job. It was called the “shape up” and they would get a job for 90 cents an hour working on the ships and you’d work on that ship until it was done... We’ve been fighting ever since against the bosses...”

“Most of the automation we’re seeing in container handling cargo right now around the world is mainly to eliminate labor and it’s not a lot cheaper and it’s not a lot faster. It doesn’t move

cargo any faster. In fact, it actually moves it slower, but it eliminates a very, very large percentage of the labor. The new equipment they’re bringing in that is going to replace 500 Longshoremen a day are automated straddle carriers. When the container is set on the ground, an automated straddle carrier drives over the top of it, picks it up and shuttles it to wherever it’s going to go into the yard.

They’re (Maersk Line, the world’s largest container company) looking out for themselves, their shareholders, and they don’t care about the employees. They don’t care about labor... So, a just transition is something... our employers are not embracing. So that’s where we’re at. Well, we’re in a transition period now. We’re gonna transition into being the largest port that employs the least amount of longshoremen.”

Representatives head to largest-ever DSA Convention

By Mary Bricker-Jenkins

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) has experienced explosive growth, especially among millennials—a generation characterized by more debt and less wealth than their parents, notably large income disparities, and an inclination to the left in their political affiliation. Membership grew from 6,500 in June 2016 to over 50,000 in nearly 200 local chapters in 2018, and many chapters are in small cities and rural areas.

Although DSA has been around for a quarter century (since 1982), its older core workers are being displaced by young activists. Members’ median age in December 2016 was 33, compared to 68 in 2013. In Y-DSA, the youth-oriented section of DSA, there is a strong presence in community and four-year colleges. This is the first generation to grow up in—and try to survive in and shape—the post-industrial, electronic/digital age.

In August, about 1,000



The Green New Deal Coalition rallied in Detroit in January to demand that the Polatown plant that GM is closing be taken by eminent domain and converted to public use, and create green union jobs.

PHOTO/JIMWESTPHOTO.COM

elected chapter representatives will converge in Atlanta to decide on leadership and DSA priorities for the next two years. Recent

interviews with the co-chairs and delegates from the small-city (pop. 180,000) Chattanooga, TN Chapter revealed the energy, hopes, and challenges felt by many in an organization experiencing growing pains but committed, as Delegate Jefferson Hodge says, “to fight like hell for a bright socialist future.”

Exactly what that future looks like to members of this emphatically “multi-tendency”

organization is varied, but includes programs to meet the “felt needs” of its members in the areas of health care, labor and employment, and the environment. Chapter co-chair and delegate Kaiti Johnson says she is “solidly middle-class” but, having two daughters, is “involved in all this organizing [because] our current political system and political choices are not working for a world that I feel safe send-

ing them into.”

Members, through their delegates, will make decisions that range from the health of the organization to the health of the planet as well as strategy and tactics to achieve them. Kaiti’s co-chair, Geoffrey Meldahl, is an active member of Ironworkers Local 704. He considers priorities with urgency and optimism: “We’ve got to develop a more vigorous presence IN labor, not just showing up as supporters, restructure our organization without fracturing, stop climate change, and many other things, but there are many astonishingly competent people involved in this organization, and I believe, as we say, that we will win.”

Winning in the electoral arena has been a major focus of DSA activity since its national electoral strategy committee made a major shift two years ago from “assisting the campaign” of candidates espousing progressive positions to “building a sustainable socialist political organization.” Preparing for Atlanta, Delegate Hodge says, “DSA was once an organization of hundreds and is now a powerful force of tens of thousands. ... I think the serious issue facing comrades at this convention will be assembling this growth into a more organized machine up to the tasks of 2020 and beyond.”

We want to hear from you!

The *People’s Tribune* welcomes your comments. Your feedback helps us stay on course as a movement paper that points the way forward to a new America. Email info@peopletribune.org or call 800-691-6888.

— The Editors

Protests, lawsuit after South Bend cop kills Black man

By Allen Harris

SOUTH BEND, IN — At a funeral in a black community church, hundreds of people came to pay their respects to Eric Jack Logan, a black father of seven known by the nickname “5’9” for his height. One of his sons also came, escorted by Indiana correctional officers.

A daughter eulogizing Logan broke into tears when she started to say to him in his casket, “If I could have saved you ...” Regaining her composure, she finished with, “Although I have to carry on without you, I will carry you in my heart.”

Logan, 54, died on June 16 from a gunshot to the abdomen by Officer Ryan O’Neill, who said that Logan approached him with a knife during a pre-dawn encounter on a street. At a news conference later that day, police chief Scott Ruskowski did not say whether a knife was recovered at the scene.

O’Neill was wearing a body camera, but it was turned off when he shot Logan. O’Neill and his partner put Logan in their squad car and drove him a mile away to a hospital where he was pronounced dead, according to the Indianapolis Star newspaper.

In late June, members of Eric Logan’s family sued the South Bend police and the city. The family is seeking compensatory damages against the city and O’Neill, punitive damages against O’Neill and is demanding a jury trial, according to the Star.

On July 3, at the request of the St. Joseph County prosecutor, a judge appointed a special prosecutor to investigate the case. On the same day, O’Neill said in a statement via the police union that he and his family never expected “being thrown into the middle of a Presidential campaign,” according to the Associated Press.

Immediately after the shooting South Bend mayor Pete Buttigieg—already beset by stories of

other race-related controversies during his seven years in office—interrupted his presidential campaign to come home and manage the public-relations fallout.

Later, in the televised Democratic debate, a rival candidate slammed Buttigieg for not simply firing O’Neill outright.

The South Bend Tribune reported that 15 of the police department’s 241 officers are black, representing 6 percent of the force. In 2012, Buttigieg’s first year in office, there were 29 black officers, about 11 percent of all sworn officers. According to the most recent census estimates, 26 percent of South Bend residents are African American, the paper said.

In the wake of Logan’s death, protests against the mayor and the police erupted in a town hall meeting and outside police headquarters. Speakers at the funeral told of “a diversity problem in the police department” and when a family member said Buttigieg



Family and community members protest outside the South Bend (Indiana) police headquarters on June 29 after the funeral of Eric Jack Logan, who a white cop fatally shot on June 16.

PHOTO/ALLEN HARRIS

“should put people in authority who are better trained,” mourners applauded.

The Washington Post keeps a national tally of people fatally shot by police. It listed Eric Jack

Logan as being the seventh such victim in Indiana so far in 2019.

‘Close to home, close to my heart’

By Diana Berek

CHICAGO, IL — Another shooting death hits close to my home, and close to my heart. His name was Quintin Brown, 17-years-old; a boy with a goofy grin and a sense of loving the moment he was in, a boy who called my daughter “Momma Bear” and called me “Grandma” so much I was beginning to think he was one of my grandkids.

Quintin’s mom is having a hard time finding a funeral home because the police determined his shooting was gang-related. Funeral homes are skittish about gang retaliations. Quintin isn’t being mourned in the media as an “innocent bystander caught up in another senseless killing.” But I knew Quintin. While he was no angel, he was no monster, either. Quintin was always respectful toward me and my daughter, who wrote this about him on social media: “I remember Quintin and my boys singing, rapping and clowning around in the house; I remember them trying to cook and burning all my pots and pans; I remember the three of them trying to teach themselves how to do laundry. Now that was as funny as a Saturday Night Live skit!”

This is the reality: Our kids may not be angelic, or “innocent” by bourgeois standards, but they’re not monsters, either. They are children struggling with a negative narrative that the police and the media have thrown over them like a poisoned blanket. They are children who love music, children who love to eat; children who don’t want to move every damn year because they’d been profiled by police so it tripped an alert to the landlords who then demand they vacate because of “Crime-Free Ordinances” or the family has to move again because the rent’s getting raised; children who watch their moms cry over not having enough to pay for the rent or the utilities; children who just want to not feel like the whole neighborhood hates



Pencil enhanced photo of Quintin Brown. Photo/Diana Berek.

them because they wear dreads and hoodies; kids who don’t want to have to duck out of sight because the police turned a corner.

We must create a compassionate society that supports struggling families. We have to stop criminalizing every damn thing! We have to cut the strangulation of bureaucracy that makes resources so hard to access and schools so inflexible, so adversarial and off-putting that the kids give up and drop out. Housing security, food security, education and healthcare must be available to all!

People putting forward a new morality

From the Editors: People are standing up for humanity across America and the world. Their voices are asserting the essential unity of the human species. Their morality stands in stark contrast to the rising, global corporate dictatorship that cares only about profit. Although the entire People’s Tribune expresses the voices for a society that cares for us all, below we share a few more.

Student: “My valedictorian speech was cut short because I said the names of black children who had become victims of police brutality. Our principal signaled for my mic to be turned off as soon as I said, ‘Trayvon Martin and Tamir Rice.’ Pathetic,” wrote Rooha Hagar, whose family immigrated from Iran. “I was close to their age and knowing this is a reality that Black families have to deal with,” she told KXAS, adding, “Schools want to raise socially conscious students... who are able to think for themselves. ‘That’s what I was doing.’”

Mayor: “I was elected mayor of Palermo [the capitol of the Italian island of Sicily] with a victory of



PHOTO/CHRIS GOODWIN

74%. That means people think I’m right,” said Leoluca Orlando who is fighting for migrants to freely enter the European Union states. Every time a ship with rescued migrants enters the harbor of Palermo, the mayor greets them. “Welcome,” he says. “The worst is over. You are citizens of Palermo now!”

Quote from the late John Trudell, Native American author, poet, musician, political activist:

*“Every human being is a raindrop
And when enough of the raindrops
Become clear and coherent they
Then become the power of the storm.”*



[Above and left] The people of Benton Harbor protest Michigan Gov. Whitmer's attacks on their schools. VIDEO STILL/WSBT 22

Governor attacks Benton Harbor schools, creating crisis



byron

By Rev. Edward Pinkney

BENTON HARBOR, MI — Let the truth be told by the people of Benton Harbor. The tentative agreement between Benton Harbor's school board, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and other state officials to "save" the Benton Harbor schools, was never on the table. There was no deal.

Gov. Whitmer and the Whirlpool Corporation are working together to destroy the city of Benton Harbor. Whirlpool wants to close Benton Harbor High School and steal over 625 acres of lakefront land that the school sits on. This is nothing but a land grab.

Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Treasury indicated in May that it was planning on shutting down Benton Harbor's only high school. A letter was sent from the Treasury Department to

families stating that under a plan starting in 2020, students will be able to attend one of seven high schools in the county. All are white schools.

Even in the tentative agreement, Gov. Whitmer didn't guarantee she would not close the high school in the future. The agreement requires academic improvement and that the city's \$18 million debt go away. That is why the compromise ought to be viewed critically. The factors triggering the threat of closure haven't changed. I do not see dramatic and positive changes offered. And it is impossible for a system that has been abused for so long to change in just one year. Gov. Whitmer is not forgiving the Benton Harbor district's debt, that the state helped to create by forcing the schools to accept anything the government wanted, and then pointing the finger at Benton Harbor.

"If a Republican administration were offering the kind of bitter pill that the Whitmer administration is now trying to shove down the throat of Benton Harbor, my cellphone would be filled with messages alleging all kinds of racist treatment in this poor black city. There would be no talk about personal responsibility, and all the mainstream black civil rights groups would be pre-

paring for statewide press conferences to make the case that it is a pattern of historic disinvestment in black cities. They would cast the fight as an Armageddon battle," said Detroit News columnist, Bankole Thompson.

Who would give a school district one year to improve or be closed down? What kind of government administration would even attempt to destroy a whole city by closing down its only high school? The question should be how can we save the city and the high school. We must stand together and fight back.

Whirlpool has taken over Benton Harbor. It has engaged in stealing land from the city for a long time. It is a sordid history that previous governors Granholm and Snyder participated in. Gov. Whitmer is under big pressure from Whirlpool and their business partners. They're a billion dollar corporation with an abysmal human rights record. Rep. Fred Upton, the Whirlpool corporate heir, has a history of racist views and is a major player in the hostile takeover.

I guess the residents of Benton Harbor have to go on bended knees to beg the governor to not close our high school. We must confront the evil empire, Gov. Whitmer and the Whirlpool Corp.

Voices of Benton Harbor

Benton Harbor community demands high school stay open

"Closing down the high school will be educational genocide. The much-trumpeted zero percent college-readiness is false. I have about 15 friends who are college ready—some going to Grand Valley State, Oakland State, Ball State, Arkansas Baptist College and other schools. This is deliberate misinformation. Benton Harbor will always be home. I plan to pursue studies in education so I can return to teach."

— Greg Hill, college bound Benton Harbor High graduate

"I like the school because I am in the band and that makes me feel comfortable because all my friends go there and work together. Closing down the school will separate us from what we want to do with our lives."

— Damarion Lewis, 16. His sister, Janyia Lewis 15, who wants to be a veterinarian, said "some friends have already switched schools."

"I don't want the school to close. All we have left of Benton Harbor is the high school."

— Dori Sallie

"The closing of schools is about removing people from urban spaces. This is happening all over the country."

— Jitu Brown, Journey for Justice Alliance

"The Master Plan came down from the notorious Whirlpool Corporation to tear down the school about 10 years ago. The map showed the high school as condominiums. It looks to me like the Whirlpool Corporation needs something to make the current mayor look good around election time. It's typical big government politics on a local level."

— Jamie Davis, candidate for mayor of Benton Harbor

People's Tribune launches fund drive

For decades, the People's Tribune and its bilingual sister publication, the Tribuno del Pueblo, have opened our pages to the growing movement in America, to give the fighters a platform from which to speak to society and to each other. The papers also advocate for a cooperative society that is of, by and for the people, and that takes care of its members.

We have carried stories representing the tens of millions in America who are struggling. They are fighting for such basic needs as food, housing, health care, quality education and water. They are demanding that climate change be dealt

with. They're fighting pipelines and other sources of environmental destruction and pollution. They're fighting for a future for our youth. They are defending the human rights of immigrants and refugees. And they are demanding peace, equality, justice, and an end to the growing corporate dictatorship and police repression. We are proud to be part of this movement, and are thrilled to be part of the revolutionary awakening that is spreading across America. The People's Tribune and Tribuno are needed now more than ever.

We rely entirely on the financial support of our readers.

During October, we will conduct a fundraising drive. The goal is to enable us to send correspondents to hot spots around the country, such as the southern border, and to expand our reach in print and online so we can more effectively challenge the corporate narrative and insure your voices are heard. We will publish more details on the fund drive soon. Please be thinking of what you and your friends might do to help raise funds for the paper in October!

— From the Editors