

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

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DONATION \$1



Chrysler workers rally to save Sterling Heights, Michigan plant.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

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THE PEOPLE NEED THEIR OWN PARTY

WILL YOU BECOME A DISPOSABLE WORKER?

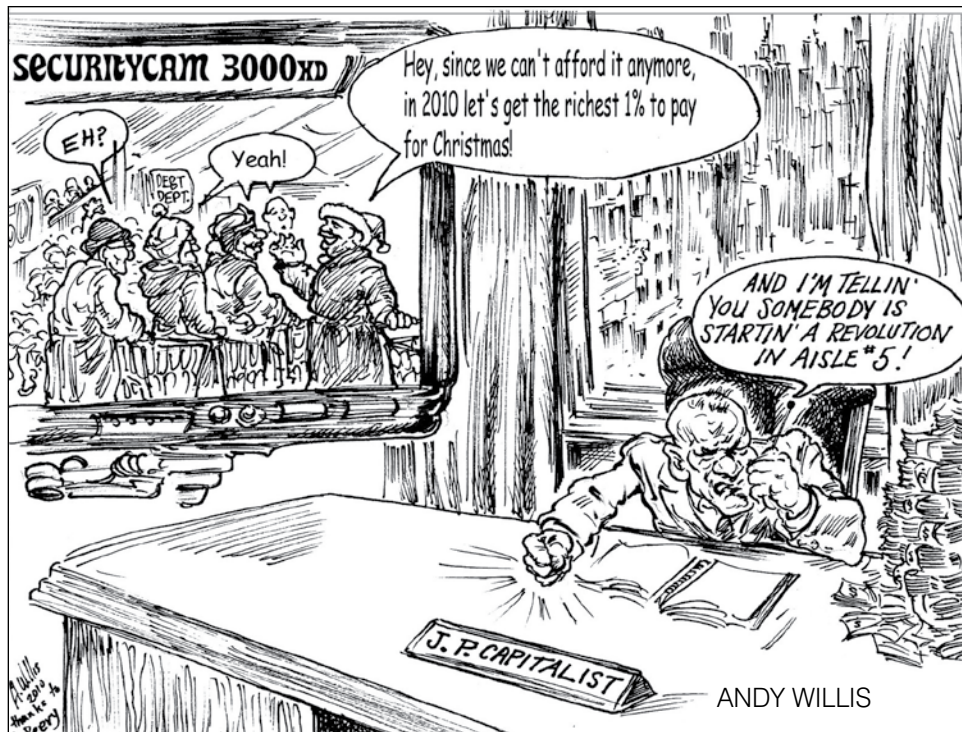
EDITORIAL

Two recent headlines in the corporate press tell the story. In Business Week, the article was headlined "The Disposable Worker." And in USA Today: "Jobless Citizens Seeking Day Labor – More Look for Work Alongside Migrants." Taken together, they reveal the situation facing more and more workers: Nobody's job is safe and no job is permanent. Alongside this it's clear that the refusal of the majority of the working class to defend the human rights of the most vulnerable, including the immigrant worker, leaves all workers vulnerable.

Business Week paints a picture of companies relying more and more on temporary and contingent workers rather than full-time permanent employees. More businesses are creating "just-in-time labor forces that can be turned on and off like a spigot." These workers have "no health insurance, no retirement benefits, no sick days, no vacation, no severance, and no access to unemployment insurance," the magazine notes, adding that "more jobs will be freelance and temporary, and even seemingly permanent positions will be at greater risk." The forecast for the next five to 10 years is "more of the same with paltry pay gains, worsening working conditions and little job security."

By one estimate, 26 percent of the workforce in 2005 was made up such "nonstandard workers" as independent contractors, temps, part-timers and freelancers. According to economists, most of the jobs that have been eliminated or shipped overseas so far during the current depression are never coming back.

Meanwhile, says USA Today, in cities like Tucson, Los Angeles, and Arlington, Va., U.S. citizens are lining up on street corners with immigrant workers seeking any kind of day labor just to pay the bills. By one estimate, the proportion of U.S.-born day laborers has at least doubled since 2006.



Says one organizer with an immigrant rights group, "These are people who used to have permanent positions."

Why have we entered the era of the disposable worker? Because computers and robots are replacing labor in the workplace. Now the corporations can do more with fewer workers, and they are eliminating jobs in order to boost profits. These jobs are gone forever, at least under a system based on private property. A new class of structurally permanently unemployed and underemployed is being created. Profit is all the corporations care about. The lives of the workers are meaningless to them. If we want to have a country where our basic needs are met and each of us has the opportunity to contribute to society, then we are going to have to build a new society where the people own the tools of production and what we produce is distributed according to need. The private property of the wealthy few is standing in the way of meeting the needs of the vast majority of the people.

What do we need to win this fight?

We have to unite around the needs and demands of the new class of permanently unemployed and underemployed. Their needs can only be met by a cooperative society. By demanding that their needs be met, we guarantee that everyone's needs will be met. A key component of developing this working class unity is defending the human rights of the immigrant worker. They are part of our class and they are the most vulnerable workers among us. They are the original "disposable workers." If their rights can be denied, then no one has rights.

The future is up to us. If things continue on their present course, there will only be two groups of workers – disposable workers and the permanently unemployed. We can chart a different course if we unite around the needs of the new class of unemployed. A first step is demanding that the government guarantee that people's basic needs are met.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

The People's Tribune is devoted to the proposition that an economic system that can't or won't feed, clothe and house its people ought to be and will be changed. To that end, this paper is a tribune of the people. It is the voice of millions struggling for survival. It strives to educate politically those millions on the basis of their own experience. It is a tribune to bring them together, to create a vision of a better world, and a strategy to achieve it.

We find ourselves at a historic moment as labor-replacing technology leads us on a path toward the decisive reconstruction of society. Who will win — the capitalists or the growing mass of poor — will depend on winning the hearts and minds of the people to create a society whose fruits benefit all.

We offer our pages as a vehicle for the new ideas rooted in our reality, and to be the voice of those who seek to raise the consciousness of society. Let us gather our collective experience, intelligence and commitment to bring forth a vision that changes America into a society "by the people, of the people, for the people."

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 600 words. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

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Why Revolutionaries Need A Press

From the Editors

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

Visit us on the web at www.peopletribune.org

THE PEOPLE NEED THEIR OWN PARTY

COVER STORY

Official joblessness is 10% and rising. The social effects are already catastrophic. Parents who once had good salaries are eating off their children's breakfast plates at a Florida school cafeteria. Around 27,000 Detroit homes don't have heat or electricity. In the formerly prosperous Macomb County, Michigan, home to thousands of autoworkers, the only expanding establishment is the junior college where workers are flocking to acquire new skills. But where in this electronics-driven, labor-replacing economy, are people going to find work?

Underlying it all is an unheard of polarity of wealth and poverty. Millions eke out an existence, while profits for America's 360 billionaires and their corporations soar. Such cataclysmic events set the stage for political polarization — the separation in thinking of the people from their rulers and the opportunity for a class-conscious movement for power over the corporations.

Over the years the Democratic and Republican parties — the twin corporate parties — have played a huge role in helping to tie people's thinking to the system. Now we're beginning to see the influence of these parties erode and we have the opportunity to fight for the building of an independent worker's party.

A recent Wall Street Journal/NBC poll finds, "only 35% of voters feel positively about the Democratic Party, a 14-point slide since February." This



Sterling Heights Chrysler Rally in Michigan, September, 2009.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

is crucial because, whereas the Republican Party is somewhat exposed as the party of the rich, for decades the Democratic Party has been touted as the "party of the people," or conversely, as "the lesser of two evils." In reality, each party is a side of the same coin. There might be a few good individuals here and there, but the corporations run both parties. Further, most politicians are beholden to the corporations who give them the money to get elected.

As proof, the Democratic Party holds power in the house, senate and the presidency and is still incapable, even on a moral level, of fighting for health-care for those in need. The healthcare industry spent more than \$1.4 million a day to guarantee this. On the one hand the republicans tried to block the bill at every step, and on the other hand, the Democratic majority allowed the bill to be watered down to where it is a giveaway to the insurance industry and the corporations. Or take the \$663.8 bil-

lion defense appropriations bill that passed Congress almost unanimously. It is a boon for military contractors. Some estimate the actual military budget at \$1trillion annually. Imagine how many schools, hospitals, cultural and recreational facilities could be built with that money. It is worth noting that people's growing dissatisfaction with the Democratic Party is not being translated into affection for the Republican Party. People will bounce back and forth between the two parties, but it doesn't mean they are consciously supporting the Republicans. It is dissatisfaction with the people who are in office.

The Next Step

Political change is not possible without changes in the economy. Up to now the people who make up the "middle" of society have lived relatively well. They have been the stable base of capitalism. Now they are losing it all. As a result,

their ideas are being shaken. Revolutionaries have an opportunity to educate about who are our friends and enemies and the new cooperative America that is possible. Without this education, people can fall prey to the ideology of the fascist forces coalescing to restructure society around the corporate state.

America is at a critical juncture. Nothing can move forward until a broad section of people breaks with the twin parties of corporate power and begins to express itself politically. A workers party is a key ingredient in this process. Here we are not talking about a third electoral party such as the Green Party, which is also a necessary stage in the process of separating the people's thinking from the corporate parties. A workers party would be an organizational center for political activity as well as elections. Such a party would create political programs to achieve the immediate demands of the class. Revolutionaries must prepare for and assist in the building of such a party.

42nd Year
The People's Tribune Needs Your Donations!

The People's Tribune needs your financial help to go on being a voice of the people. We need to raise an additional \$1000 each month. The People's Tribune brings the stories of those who are struggling to move forward in a world where corporate power is threatening to crush them. Along with those stories, we try to offer some strategic perspective to help put the struggle in context and point the way toward victory. Please donate whatever you can. See the subscription/donation form on the right. You can also donate using Pay Pal on our web site, www.peoplestribune.org.

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Avatar: Beyond CGI — A Movie for the Ages

By Andy Willis

As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, the blockbuster movie AVATAR is a pointed arrow aimed at the heart of exploitation. Is there an important message in this visually incredible movie? Absolutely.

An uncomfortable realization sets in soon after the first few dazzling minutes of James Cameron's AVATAR. This is not set in a long time ago galaxy, far far away and despite the fact that you are experiencing a cinematic reality never before experienced by human beings, this is not escapist fantasy.

Avatar is set in the near future on the planet Pandora where an extractive mining corporation aided by the military aims at running things the way imperial expansions have always run things - get the indigenous people to submit or die -

thing about it is that director James Cameron uses his artistry and skills to advance the cause of life itself. The power of this movie is the power of its story that is ancient, modern and universal. We actually do stand on the precipice of ecological disaster.

We humans have relatively recently emerged from the forest with primitive emotions possessing an ideology/theology of medievalism and now the technology of gods. That is a potent recipe for disaster. We live even now on a planet as wondrous as Pandora, with life forms that we are rapaciously extinguishing forever. AVATAR evokes our disappearing rainforests — our dying coral reefs.

What better end could be served for a revolutionary technology than bringing revolutionary ideas through its new medium! The movie makers are clearly asking the audience to



Photo from the film, Avatar.

PHOTO/DONATED

not unlike Cortez or General Custer. To do this they enlist science to create mixed DNA Avatar beings that look identical to the planet's indigenous people, but are forwarding the goals of the invaders.

The invaders are not warriors of a distant evil empire. This is meant to be the U.S. military complete with a disabled marine combat vet who inhabits a ten foot tall athletic Avatar body. The rest of the US military in the movie is portrayed accurately as a multi-national array of soldiers in possession of lethal armament that is as technologically advanced as it is deadly. And why are they on Pandora dishing out death? It seems that by 2154 earth has been ruined and corporations must exploit the mineral wealth of this still vital planet.

Some movies revolutionize all that came before it. Think of the introduction of sound, color, and animation. AVATAR is that type of phenomena. It is the most amazing visual spectacle I have ever seen in the arts, and must see in 3D.

But to me the most wonderful

make the choices faced by the main protagonist. Our decisions could mean life or death for millions - our species and many more. We cannot allow ourselves (minds/bodies) to be used for desecration of life by corporate entities. The technology won't go away - it is unleashed from Pandora's Box. How it is used determines if there is hope.

Many other movies being made today using Hi-Tech graphics are fully supported by the military and serve as gung-ho recruiting tools by glorifying redemptive violence. Avatar does not engender affection for the military - just the opposite. It shows that patriotically putting your life on the line to advance the goals of corporations (YES Iraq and Afghanistan!) may not be such a great idea.

I applaud James Cameron for having the guts and the vision to put this movie in the realm of immediate and vital metaphor. Let the fellow artists take heart and do their duty!

Warning Signs

When land is left vacant,
Pitch up a tent on poles.
Drive ropes and stakes into the ground to secure it,

And a new home is established.
Many more tents will follow.
A village in formation.
Fertile, safe ground.

When foreclosed houses are left vacant,
Fill them up again.
With families. Give each other
a roof.

A home in formation.
Warmer, safe ground.

When the workers lose jobs and the factory floor threatens
to be empty, sit.

Stay. Own & operate
The means of production,
The source of your livelihood.
You don't need a boss.

When the fees for higher learning
increase and teachers & classes
are eliminated because the
Regents hunger for more money,

Sit.
Stay.
The halls of education are yours
To re-shape as you see fit.
Learn as you see fit.
Live outside another's dictates.

The perfect storm
Hit Wall Street one year ago
And only the elite were spared.
The storm's path of destruction
Affected everyone
And before it could bury us,
We took shelter
In occupying
What occupies our lives all along.
It is a right & biological necessity.
What you see are warning signs
Of an insurrection forthcoming.
Bigger than this crisis.

Capitalism is on its last legs,

Turning to ruining lives & Fascism
To self-sustain.
It has then, now & always
Been the crisis.

To survive the storm surge, here
is the cure:

Strike. Take over. Occupy
everything.

W: Chanukah 2009
[An open letter to recession's victims.]

— Dee Allen

Letter to the Editor

This is a review of the PBS Frontline program, "Card Game" that is viewable by computer.

Scoundrels have patriotism, lies and an army of straight men to sell their world view. The program "Card Game" is an enlightening example of stating the obvious. In my view, this is a desperate attempt to quiet the righteous rage the American people have been expressing over the bailout and blatant greed of banking executives. Last fall these Captains of Capital had to run and hide. Death threats rained down from an enraged populace.

From start to finish this Frontline report exposes how bank's use everything from "free credit cards" to "free checking" and believe it or not even ATM cards to loot the poorest and subsidize the rich. Some of this may be known to you. However this program puts the whole criminal game right in front of their victims. At the end we are left with no hopeful outcome. We are simply told, "...the bank's have won -- have a nice day..."

Take an hour to go to PBS.Org-Frontline and watch, "Card Game" and email me your thinking after you have.

Yours, John R. Moran <mailto:john.moran.r@gmail.com>

DETROIT UTILITY & WATER FIGHT UPDATE

INTERVIEW WITH MARIAN KRAMER

By Sandy Reid
People's Tribune

Marian Kramer is a member of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization and a long-time fighter for America's poor:

People's Tribune: Marian, are the Detroit protests over utility cutoffs still going on?

Marian Kramer: The protests are continuing in Detroit over the 27,000 or so utility cut offs. They don't want us out here protesting. They sent a security guard out to see if there was anything he could do to end the situation. He said, "What about calling Mr. Dave Johnson (head of the Low Income Department) or others." We said they are nice guys but they don't have the power to do anything. We also told the security person that he needs to be securing us and not DTE — they're the ones out killing people.

PT: What are your demands?

MK: We want the head of DTE Energy, the CEO, to step down from his job. Our demands are no more shut offs and that everyone that has had them shut off gets them turned back on. There will be civil lawsuits filed for the families that have died as a result of DTE's hands. This should all be made public. DTE should be a public entity, owned and run by the government. They shouldn't be making money off our misery. The Michigan Public Service Commission, appointed by the Governor, doesn't

represent our interests. It represents utility companies. All positions should be elected. They just end up being friends for the utility company.

PT: Where are things with the water struggle and the 45,000 homes in Detroit without water?

MK: We're starting a new campaign around water. They have increased the water rates. The People's Water Commissioners are leading the fight for water. The Detroit Water Board meets once a month, and the People's Water Commission decided that each month we would picket their meetings and expose them more and more to the community and what they're doing. We want to get more and more people out there. We want all of the entities of the water department they have privatized, made public and we want the Water Affordability Plan implemented from its original copy and no water rate increases."

Contact the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization at <http://www.mwro.org>



Protest outside DTE Energy in Detroit. Upwards of 27,000 cutoffs have taken place in Detroit alone. See the video of the demonstration at YouTube.com/KennySnod and youtube.com/watch?v=20Hlyk1NLG0

PHOTO/KENNY SNODGRASS
ACTIVIST AND AUTHOR OF "FROM VICTIMIZATION TO EMPOWERMENT"

Government Must Provide Adequate Drug Addiction Rehab Facilities

By Lenette Evans

On December 11, almost 2 months ago, my step-son Bill H. Gardner IV, was in a tragic accident with his friends. They were traveling on Red Arrow Highway near Sawyer, Michigan. Bill was engulfed in flames, broke his back and had a 5-inch metal rod put in his back at Lakeland Medical Center, in St. Joseph, Michigan.

He was in ICU for a week and a regular room for another week. During this time he went through horrible withdrawals from being a heroin user. All the doctors did was give him Morphine, Methedone, Vicodin and other narcotics. He could not sit, stand, or walk. He was given no physical rehabilitation and he was put out on the street with no place to go.

He stayed at a local hotel but returned

back to the hospital because he fell trying to use his walker. An ambulance came to get him. He stayed two nights in the emergency room lobby where nobody offered him food or water.

The hospital could have put him in a room until the social worker who we were working with arranged for him to go to the "Kalamazoo Gospel Mission." You would think if you have a 24-year old in your lobby you would put him in a room and help rehabilitate him. You do not shove a crippled man out on the street and let him stay in your lobby with no help and no water or food for two days.

The hospital security guard drove him to the bus station so he could go to the "Kalamazoo Gospel Mission", until he could get into the drug rehabilitation program at Salvation Army-Turning Point in Grand Rapids.

Unfortunately, it was a struggle there because of his physical condition. He could not climb stairs for the classes because he was in such excruciating pain. A Doctor at Borgess Medical Center gave him narcotics for pain. He also met a man there who persuaded him to go to his home as they shot up Heroin. He later went to Exodus House, where he ended up overdosing and died from the heroin and other narcotics he was taking.

Nobody's child has to go down this road. Nobody has to die from heroin or street drugs or prescription drugs which is becoming more and more of a trend these days. Parents do not give up on your children..... love them!

Our government needs to provide more adequate rehab facilities that are six months to a year programs in our communities and educate our hospital

medical staff on how to treat drug abusers and provide proper medical care for those who do not have it. But instead they become abusive to the patients.

I have become an advocate, speaking on behalf of my step son Bill to help educate and make a difference in the lives of teens, adults and seniors who are on heroin and prescription pain killers-narcotics. Together we can make a difference and save lives! For more information on public speaking at your facility please contact me.



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PHOTO /
BRETT JELINEK

Homeless People Are Not Alone

By Cathleen Williams
and Sandy Perry

It has been just a year since that frigid January day the nation celebrated the inauguration of President Barak Obama and embraced its multicultural identity and history. But that year has passed without any major Federal initiative to relieve the hardship of the millions facing unemployment, foreclosures, and homelessness – and now it appears about to get a whole lot worse.

On January 20, thousands of protesters gathered in San Francisco from all across the West Coast, representing homeless rights' organizations like L.A.'s Community Action Network, Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, and many others, along with supporters from students, unions, and public employees. Organized by WRAP (Western Regional Advocacy Project), they called for housing and

income for 1.4 million people, elimination of In-Home Supportive Services (home care for seniors and the disabled), slashing of Supplemental Social Security grants for elderly and disabled individuals, and elimination of the Healthy Family Program for over 800,000 children. At the same time, he proposes to reduce spending for public schools by \$1.5 billion per year, further cut spending for colleges and universities, and enact a 5% pay cut for most state workers as well as reducing their health and pension benefits.

These proposals are the living proof of a failed economic and political system. This is not just about the poor and unemployed – the budget targets children, women, public employees, school teachers, immigrants, college students, the newly unemployed and many, many others who thought they would never experience this level of hardship and insecurity.



Protest outside DTE Energy in Detroit. See the video of the DTE Demonstration at YouTube.com.

PHOTO CREDIT/KENNY SNODGRASS, ACTIVIST AND AUTHOR OF FROM VICTIMIZATION TO EMPOWERMENT

civil rights for all Americans, saying they have had enough of temporary shelters, police harassment, empty promises, and makeshift charitable solutions to the crisis. They demanded that government restore the \$54 billion a year in today's dollars that have been cut from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs since 1978. Beginning in the early eighties, these cuts triggered the mass homelessness that today is flooding our streets, with families living in cars and people struggling to survive as they unroll their blankets in doorways and encampments.

The WRAP rally came only days after the January 8 release of Gov. Schwarzenegger's brutal new California budget proposal. This document proved beyond a shadow of doubt that homeless people are not alone in facing a devastating attack on the "social safety net", which historically has been provided to protect and support the basic needs of the American people.

If the State does not receive additional Federal funds, Schwarzenegger calls for elimination of CalWORKS

The breathtaking scope of these attacks clearly indicates the need to bring together the broadest possible social movement to protect our people. A government that exists in a sea of affluence and deliberately starves women and children and forces people to live in tents and shacks has lost all moral authority. Clearly it has been taken over by corporations with no conscience or human values. At the very moment the State government proposed these cuts, it enacted changes in corporate income taxes to benefit the largest companies in California – a loss of revenue of more than \$8 billion in 2008-2009 and 2015-16. In a year that saw bailouts of banks and increased military and war expenditures amounting to trillions of dollars, it is time to fund people as the new priority.

This is just what the thousands who massed on the streets of San Francisco demanded. In these dark times, the year begins with a strong and unified call to organize and unite beyond old identities and across traditional barriers. The lives of all of us depend on it.

The River

for the 'Where's Our Change?: Housing is a Human Right' march and gathering, January 20, 2010 San Francisco

shoulder to shoulder
face by beautiful face
marching thru the rain

oh my people
oh my sisters and brothers
come from everywhere
and from every struggle
each with a singular heart
to add to the work of justice

my revolutionary sister
speaks of the newborn who died
in the homeless cold
and the millions of hungry children
in this land of abundance:
how can we not be marching
for the overturning
of any system that murders
its new life this way?
this illegitimate order
that builds prisons for us
instead of housing

do you see us coming?
with our little brass band
with our visionaries
with our radiant faces
thru the cold rain
thru the storm demanding
'house keys not handcuffs'
humanity not death
cooperation not despair
a revolution: a turning-around
into an order of love and justice

it starts here: it continues here
every small stream
coming together from everywhere
a mighty living river of us
into the human future

—Sarah Menefee

Our People

Our people are writing this poem
an unusual people
in their borrowed clothes
in their paper clothes and cardboard slippers
together leaning forward and going on.

We are coming from the jail
coming from the cold of the penitentiary
coming from the iron rain of the doorway
from the camp in the thicket where
the trash glitters under an American flag.

We are coming from a house of earth
the one with a little yard out back
the one where we were born.
Maybe you think
you can scatter us along the river

maybe you think we are lost and gone and
cannot make it back to
the house where we were born.
But we are coming, coming
and we are writing the poem

with our fingers in the dust
like a song made of names
each name indestructible
even if it disappears like a star
as the wave of night withdraws.

—Cathleen Williams

Cabrini Evictions Part I

By Joseph Peery
for the People's Tribune

Editors note: After a holiday moratorium, Cook County Sheriffs Officers resumed evictions in the Chicago area. One of their targets was Cabrini Green, where as many as 14 families may have been evicted. The following is an excerpt from an interview with Willie Fleming, a long time resident of Cabrini Green and an organizer for the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign.

People's Tribune: Can you give us an update on the eviction of Lenise Forrest and others in Cabrini Green?

Willie Fleming: Lenise's eviction has gotten stranger as time transpired. Her belongings were seized by the management company and held for eight days, violating her rights. Several national legal institutions are looking at this case. For instance, the housing authority was contracted to provide residents with services to help them become economically self sufficient, like the Section 3 Program, which is supposed to supply jobs. Other federal grants are to help prevent residents from being evicted or becoming homeless. The inability to provide Lenise and others with these tools may open a window of op-



Protest about the recent efforts to evict people at Cabrin Green in Chicago.

PHOTO/CHICAGO ANTI-EVICTION CAMPAIGN

portunity or technicality in the law. If it's the responsibility of the housing authority and their social service agencies to deliver protective services to residents and that doesn't happen, then what went wrong? This sheds new light on the evicted residents as not perpetrators of crime, but as victims. And so, how do we give victims assistance in all the small technicalities that may come up? We're trying to figure out what that means for all the evicted. There's no instant answer. It's going to take people stepping forward like in Lenise's case where the cost to evict her was far greater than if they would have allowed her to stay. When she was evicted, money was spent on extra police and private

security, maintenance workers, movers and public relations. What's really going on here? I mean in whose interest does the housing authority have in mind — those companies getting paid all this money or the people?

PT: You described this as a seizure and not just an eviction, Why didn't they put Lenise's things on the street like what's usually done?

WF: There was a huge police show of force to prevent her from going back into the house to retrieve her things. They wanted to make an example of Lenise, to let it be known this is what will happen to anyone who puts up a fight. We then found out her house was broken into and some of her things were

stolen after the eviction took place.

PT: With such a large police presence, how was someone able to break in?

WF: Both the Chicago Police and armed private security were there protecting that unit so that we, the Chicago Anti-Eviction Campaign, don't move her back in, so that we, the Chicago Anti Eviction Campaign, don't help her exercise her constitutional right to gather her belongings. Now what's the likelihood of someone breaking in and not being directly tied to the police or security?

PT: What about the young man that was shot?

WF: A guy was shot less than a block away. You've got police out there, news media and residents who have come out to see what's going on, and this person is hit by gun fire as he comes running around the corner and he drops within feet of the police. The police look at him bleeding there and then turn around and walk back toward us as if they have decided it is more important that all of them defend that property than see to the needs of that human being bleeding on the street.

The second part of this interview will be in the March edition of the People's Tribune

D.C. Safety Net in Peril, Homeless Change Tactics: Housing Takeovers Planned

By Eric Sheptock

In Washington, D.C., homeless advocates align their activities with the annual budgetary cycle. During the February-May budget hearings, advocates for the poor and homeless do their best to have sufficient tax revenue allocated for the populations they serve.

When budgets are cut in the middle of the fiscal year, many will return to City Hall to demand that those budget cuts be restored and that the social safety net be preserved.

But now, the safety net is in peril. City Hall tried to cut the budget for homeless services by 30 percent. But when Catholic Charities threatened to cease its shelter operations in the capital altogether, the mayor scrambled to restore \$11 million of the \$16 million cut.

He thus averted a tragedy right before hypothermia season -- and also a lawsuit. However, this is only a reprieve; the fight is expected to heat up in the spring.

Advocates fear that the city will spend more than five months' worth of its homeless services budget during the hypothermia season and then decrease homeless services in the spring, owing to budget shortfalls. This will result in a large number of homeless people losing their shelter beds.

People are already preparing psy-



Eric Sheptock (right) and others discuss the issues of homelessness and housing while attending "Social Justice Camp".

PHOTO/DONATED

chologically for a different kind of fight — a fight against the all-out, elimination of social services. On January 19, a *Washington Post* article explained: "Service centers that process welfare and other aid applications in the District are understaffed and overwhelmed with needy residents, forcing some to essentially camp out for days to try to get assistance."

Mayor Adrian Fenty closed two Income Maintenance Administration service centers last year to save just under \$1 million. This resulted in as many as 350 people per day showing up at one of the remaining service centers, which can only serve 150 people.

As many as 100 people get turned

away at the end of the work day without being served, often after waiting in line for eight hours. This is in the capital of the wealthiest nation in the world.

Meanwhile, right-to-housing advocates are planning takeovers of empty housing. Leaders of successful takeovers in other cities are coming to D.C. to teach their tactics.

Other activists are circulating a petition to "recall" (oust, get rid of) Mayor Fenty, who has broken many campaign promises — including the promise to create affordable housing. While ousting Fenty won't change the system, it will empower the residents by proving that they can actually pull it off.

Finally, an increasing number of

people are getting involved in advocacy. High schools and colleges in the D.C. area are requiring students to learn about homelessness. My fellow homeless advocates and I regularly speak to student groups and have begun to organize students, thus increasing our support base.

It is not yet clear how all of these efforts will jell, but it is just a matter of time. This much is certain: our work is changing. The homeless and the poor are seeing the rug pulled out from under them and are on the verge of going into "survival mode." Those who are involved in the national movement are preparing to descend on the city. And the number of young, local activists is increasing.

It would seem that all of the ingredients of a movement for fundamental change — in effect, a revolution — are there just waiting to be stirred.

As a city, we have begun to shift away from begging for social-service funding and toward realizing that our government is not going to save us and that we must organize and create change.

Eric Sheptock is a leader of the homeless in Washington, D.C. He is also part of the national Right-to-Housing Movement. Read more commentary on his blog, "On the Clock With Eric Sheptock" (streetstv.blogspot.com).

All Employees Deserve a Living Wage

By Gloria Slaughter

On Monday, January 11, 2010, school employees, parents, students and community members stood together outside the DeKalb County Board of Education building to protest the \$15,000 raise that the DeKalb County School Superintendent received on January 4th. The School Board voted 8 – 1 to approve the increase in salary. The Superintendent receives a \$2,500 a month expense account (which amounts to \$30,000 a year) and a monthly contribution of \$1,250 to his tax sheltered annuity. In contrast, the school bus drivers have taken a 29% pay cut. The Superintendent's expense account is more than bus drivers make and

many cafeteria workers find themselves with a \$12,000 salary.

The members of the Organization of DeKalb Educators (ODE) are outraged that a raise was granted to the Superintendent in this economic turmoil. Due to funding cuts to public education in the state of Georgia (\$2 billion in the past eight years) there have been losses of support personnel in areas such as art, music, reading, media centers, and Plant Services which lead to larger class sizes and decreased student options. The school buses are overcrowded. COLA was not given in 2009 nor raises for experience, and the loss of the local retirement plan deposits, but there was increased insurance premiums, furlough

days and, in addition, there was a loss of local supplement portion of the teacher's salary.

The 2010 Legislative session begins with a \$4 billion smaller budget than two years ago. This means that teachers will see an increase in furlough days, a shorter school week, and a loss of jobs for school and state employees.

On January 23, 2010, the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE) led a rally at the Capitol and a call for change. GAE has done some research and has begun to look into the tax cuts given to the corporations to come to Georgia. Ironically, a state audit also states that it is not sure that the cuts given to the corporations actually create the jobs the corporations say they will bring to Georgia. The Governor has declared that there will be more funding cuts for education, more furlough days and a merit pay proposal that will begin in 2014 with beginning teachers. The teachers already employed can opt in. Fifty percent of the merit pay will be based on student performance, observation by the administration and evaluation by a co-worker. There will be no extra pay for advanced degrees.

2010 promises to be a very busy year regarding the demands from ordinary citizens who want

to make Georgia work for us and not just the corporations and the wealthy.



Rally at Georgia state capitol —“Invest in Education Now, or Pay Later” by the Georgia Association of Educators.

PHOTO /JOHN SLAUGHTER

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SCIENCE DESK

Should women under 50 get mammograms? Part 2: The answer is prevention

Dr. Isaac Wolfe

The debate about mammograms has been presented as a discussion on how to save lives by optimizing the identification of what is the best way to save lives. However, while the early detection of breast cancer certainly saves lives, the best way to treat cancer is to prevent it. This was ignored during the recent debate, although hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent on breast cancer prevention.

The major theme of the breast cancer prevention studies has been “life style” or “how you caused your cancer,” and it seems like new warnings of what “not to do” are published every week. For example, on March 19, 2009, *The Guardian* (www.guardian.co.uk) reported the preliminary results from a study of 1.3 million British women and the results indicated that smoking, drinking alcohol and being overweight increased the chances of getting breast cancer.

While a lot of money and time

have been spent on determining what a woman should not eat or drink, there has been little said about what is in our food and water. The focus has been on “life style” even though there is clear evidence that the major risk factor is the contamination of our environment and food by cancer causing chemicals. This situation is illustrated by a group of chemicals called endocrine disruptors (EDs). EDs have been shown to cause a variety of diseases, including breast cancer, and are found everywhere.

How serious is ED contamination? The Washington, DC area gets almost 90 percent of its drinking water from the Potomac River and 8 out of 10 of the male smallmouth bass in this river are growing eggs (The Washington Post, November 24, 2009). These intersex fish are due to the EDs washed and dumped into the river.

EDs also pollute the food we eat, and are specifically used as growth hormones in the beef and poultry industries. An example of this is diethylstilbestrol

(DES), a chemical that until 1971 was administered to millions of women to prevent miscarriages. While the drug did not significantly affect the mothers, it produced generations of “DES daughters” who face increased risks of breast, vaginal and cervical cancers (www.descancer.org). DES was not just prescribed by doctors, it entered our food chain as a growth hormone in the cattle and poultry industry. Although DES was “phased out” of the food industry in the 1970's, it has been replaced by other additives which are also EDs.

While the dangers associated with the use of EDs in food production have been established, the knowledge derived from the laboratory studies has not been incorporated into the “risk factors” determined in the “life style” studies. For example, more than one major study has established a relationship between eating meat and breast cancer, (see for example www.cancerproject.org), but the dangers of EDs and the “life style” recommendations have not been connect-

ed, nor were the causes of breast cancer brought up during the mammography debate. The reason for this is quite clear. It is important for the Capitalists to have you believe that you caused your own disease by living a risky life style.

Thus, no one is to blame but yourself and all change is necessarily on an individual basis. But, this is not the case. Breast cancer is an environmental disease fueled by an economic system that places money ahead of health with the accompanying rape of the environment. If we really want to save lives and effectively fight cancer, the first step is a society based upon the collective benefits for all, where the goal is to prevent disease and alleviate suffering, and where humanity replaces exploitation.

Race to Nowhere: Mayoral Takeover Bid Stalled in Milwaukee . . . for now.

By Todd Alan Price

Over the last several months, a soap opera has played out in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Taking place in the Milwaukee Public School District, the storyline, includes dismantling the elected school district, appointing an unelected advisory board, and cutting costs (following the orders of an outside private firm, the notorious McKinsey Report on Education). Mayoral Takeover, as it is called, would save the city some revenue, the business community would prosper, and all's well that ends well.

The lead cast, starring Mayor, State Superintendent, key state legislators, and featuring the Governor's office, expected to win a quick victory. Yet this opening act concludes with their hostile, Mayoral Takeover plan being stalled.

Another supporting cast entered the story, and began to upstage them.

It seems almost as if the Mayor, Governor, and legislative supporters did not consider that their "well meaning" efforts would be questioned, let alone contested. These savvy and successful politicians apparently could not envision that a Takeover effort would first

outrage and then unify much of the community at large, a community who crave real education reform and urban renewal. Despite putting on the best face, the Mayoral Takeover crew, Mayor and Governor, ignored the turn of events, and, running the show with orchestrated "press" events, played on with a poker face. A few legislators stepped up to do the Governor's bidding, and The Mayoral Takeover Bill, S.B. 405 The TEACH Act, was launched with much fanfare from the city's public school-hating newspaper.

Yet they were dealt a major setback, if not an outright defeat.

Enter stage right, the supporting cast.

The supporting cast includes a stand up Milwaukee School Board and its dedicated President, Michael Bonds.

Milwaukee's parents, teachers, social workers, special educators, concerned citizens, and other public education advocates, including the students, have for years called out for real education reform and an end to the sustained attack on the public school system waged by privatization forces. Having weathered the pain of a dual educational system,

one the traditional public schools, the other a voucher and charter school system draining the public school coffers of sorely needed revenue, the citizens had finally seen a glimmer of hope, electing a truly proactive school board.

This school board, composed of educators, social workers and community advocates, was unlikely to sit quietly in the face of a proposed coup.

Factor into the plot other key state legislators, who offered alternative legislation S.B. 462 The Race to Success Act (The Partnership Bill) to circumvent the more egregious S.B. 405 The TEACH Act (The Mayoral Takeover Bill).

The Coalition to Stop the MPS Takeover led the charge, convening regular meetings, protesting the legislation sponsors, rallying at City Hall and generally keeping the heat on as the Mayor and Governor kept changing the storyline and rationale for the proposed takeover.

The School Board continued with their work and debated the Mayor and allies at public forums . . . and winning.

Despite the seemingly futile effort by Mayor and Governor, behind the

scenes, lay the omnipresent corporate interests and their lobbyists.

Each of the members of this soap opera have played their part well; we have opportunistic politicians eyeing their own careers with ambition, intrigue, and finance . . . we have the corporate financiers, stealthily pulling the strings, aiming for the high stakes "business" of education. We have a courageous school board, and teachers and educators doing the best they can in one of the most economically challenged urban districts in the country.

And then we have the public who believe the stakes are high; they are the interests of public education itself.

Todd Alan Price is Associate Professor of Education, National-Louis University, Chicago. His writings include The Myth and Reality of No Child Left Behind: Public Education and High Stakes Assessment; Bailing out the Foes of Public Education; and Wiring the World. He was the Wisconsin Green Party candidate for State Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction.

No Cuts, No Fees: Public Education Must Be Free!

By Steve Miller

Last fall, the Regents increased fees for California's nine public universities by 32%. Fees were increased by about the same amount for all the states, 3.5 million students attending public higher education.

But the Regents had *already spent* the UC increases *before* they voted. How could this be?

The increases had been "securitized," i.e. converted into financial loan guarantees. Harvard University responded to the financial crisis by halting all construction. UC continued to build. The increases were guarantees for new Wall Street loans at much higher rates than before the Meltdown. Higher-education students now pay billions more a year—a nice way for banks to generate their cash-flow.

Speculation now drives the economy. Wall Street couldn't last a minute without credit. This allows investment banks and hedge funds of the Casino Economy to make huge profits on paper by making financial bets. Speculation, however, requires regular cash flow to cover at least a portion of the bets.

Some 49 states are facing financial crises resembling California's. State and local governments spend hundreds of billions of dollars. Wall Street wants to turn this revenue into their own pri-

vate ATM, not unlike America's already privatized health care . . . but this revenue must be separated from public control. Today government, supposedly charged with guaranteeing the wellbeing of the public, is leading this charge.

The economy today, based in electronics, is so productive that most corporate profits are no longer invested in producing the means of life for people. Computer driven robotic production cannot produce profits. These come only from human labor. Consequently, profits on paper are turned into the parasitic speculative sector, driven by hedge funds and speculative bubbles, that feasts off the so-called "real economy." The university fee increases mean that thousands cannot continue their education, but it's good business for Wall Street. This is one side of the crisis.

Another side is that electronic production no longer needs much human labor, and corporations are not going to educate a workforce that they don't need.

Gov. Schwarzenegger claims that the budget crisis is a result of low tax revenue, since business is suffering. But more that 50% of the profitable corporations in the state pay no taxes at all! California's budget contains billions of dollars in hand-outs to corporations, such as the water subsidy for the giant agribusiness corporations.



University of California protest in September over student fee hikes and budget cuts.

PHOTO /PAULA CRAIG STEELE

The Gubernator's solution? Eliminate all income taxes for corporations! Clearly, the "Budget Crisis" could be solved by increasing corporate responsibility to the public, ending the free ride and making them pay.

Couldn't the \$13 trillion used so far for the Wall Street bailout be used to bail out the people?

Obviously the government could finance anything if it chose. But governments everywhere are systematically dismantling their responsibility to help the public, and re-directing all public

revenue to corporations! This is now open class warfare, from the top down. Governments are organizing the class warfare for the corporations.

These choices are codified in law by human beings; they flow from political power. Without revolutionary changes in which class of people exercises political power, there is no way to make changes.

America has never before faced the open destruction and elimination of the powers of the public. This will not be reversed with the Politics of Begging. Neither can we go back to the "good old days" before the Meltdown. The system is not reformable.

We are going to have to fight forward to something new. The process begun with the Declaration of Independence must be finished: "whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends [of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness – ed], it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

The government is the block between the people and their rights, even as it organizes the corporate agenda. It must be forced to guarantee every human need.

Hell is Privatized in Haiti

By Steve Miller

Many of the people reporting on the radio from Haiti talk about how hard the post-earthquake situation is on the poor. For the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, this is the vast majority of the people.

do the job; the private sector is best equipped to provide services and solve social problems.”

New Orleans, too, experienced Privatization-Hell. Hurricanes and earthquakes are natural occurrences; but the withdrawal of social support for suffering people is planned and implement-



A street in Port Au Prince, Haiti.

PHOTO /UNITED METHODIST NEWS SERVICE

There is water, the reports go, but it is only for sale on the streets as bottled water. The public delivery of water, already quite decimated by years of government cutbacks, is non-existent – unless you can pay. Food is available, too, but only at a price. If you can afford it, you’ve got it. If you can’t, you go without.

Haiti may be Hell on Earth, but it shows that Hell, too, has been privatized. The government of Haiti, full of criminals, since the 2006 coup, and re-empowering fascist death squads, totally bought into something that might sound familiar: “Government is the problem, not the solution; it needs to be shrunk down; big government simply can’t

ed. It was all privatized, to operate at a profit for private corporations. Haiti’s government abdicates all responsibility toward passing out the necessities of life to devastated people for free. Why that’s the role of the market!

This monstrous crime has been organized internationally for years by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In country after country, in exchange for loans, they have demanded the end to social services, like price supports for cooking oil, government support of health clinics, and public government infrastructure projects. This destroyed any semblance of a safety net. Everything is for sale. Clear out if you can’t afford it.

HELP THE PEOPLE’S TRIBUNE GROW: *Internet Help Needed*

The year 2010 promises to be a crucial year. The changing economy is bringing about greater poverty and despair, and, along with it, many new leaders who seek a vision of a new America. The People’s Tribune disseminates that vision and a strategy for achieving it to the leaders who are stepping forward. We need to get the People’s Tribune into their hands. One important step in this direction is to maintain and expand our web presence. Please contact us if you have the skills and can work with the People’s Tribune on this important effort. We don’t have money to pay. But you will be part of making history! Call us at 800-691-6888 or email info@peopletribune.org.

— The PT Editorial Board

Oh Haiti

oh Haiti! you are the battered face
of what we do and what we are

poorest of poor: poor made poorer
crushed and abandoned with
the vultures of exploitation
wheeling around your broken bones
dipping their beaks in your blood
sending in their soldiers and guns
to keep you again
from what you need:
a scrap of food a rag to lie on
when all the blankets are laid across
broken bodies

oh Haiti! thin from your fare of starvation
your stomach on fire from your diet of mud
left to you by the global profiteers
in your immiseration
by sweatshop-peddling ex-presidents
and the crooked gamblers
of ghoulish capital
by the architects of slums
the poisoner privateers
the mercenaries of hunger

behold: the tender babes
thrown into the jaws
of a man-made earthquake

we’ve seen it here: how they let us drown
and bring in the troops to gun us down
when we try to take what we need
out of the ruins that nature makes everyone’s

how much violence will it take
to enforce this separation
of food and mouth of life and limb?
how much more will it take
till we take it back again?

will they who have least of all
and nothing to lose and all taken all
show us how it’s done
out of this utter rubble?

—Sarah Menefee

EZILI

the world
responds
to the horror
with what
you are---Love

Ezili
the eyelid of a dead
child of nine
feels your
kiss

Everyone
wakens and knows
to be or to be not
is the same.
How much

has died? Can you
weigh it? Will it
answer
your question
about

whether there is
rock and roll
in heaven?
I promise I will
keep you

like a caress
in my days ago.
All who die
before
their time,

but how can
that be?
Nothing is
without a
cargo of smiles

on the boat
that is
carrying
even hell
home.

—Jack Hirschman

HIP HOP CONGRESS PARTNERS WITH U.S. SOCIAL FORUM & ALLIED MEDIA CONFERENCE FOR THEIR MIDWEST SUMMIT AT UNIV. OF MICHIGAN – ANN ARBOR FEB 5-6

From the Hip Hop Congress

Hip Hop Concert Features M-1 of Dead Prez, Black Milk, One-BeLo, Invincible, Buff 1, DLabrie and Emmanuel Jal

Hip Hop Congress (hiphopcongress.com) hosts its 6th Annual Midwest Summit: “Hip Hop Activism and Social Justice” sponsored by the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs at University of Michigan – Ann Arbor (www.mesa.umich.edu) from February 5th to 6th, 2010. This year’s Summit partners with the U.S. Social Forum (www.ussf2010.org) and Allied Media Conference (www.alliedmediaconference.org) leading up to major conferences and activities in Detroit (June 2010) focused on strengthening communities locally and around the United States.

Don’t fall into the trap of assuming that Hip Hop Congress means drugs, guns, and scantily clad women. Hip Hop Congress advocates a broader vision of Hip Hop culture than the stereotypes often seen on TV and Radio. Hip Hop Congress (HHC) provides the Hip Hop Generation and the Post Hip Hop Generation with the tools, resources and opportunities to make social, economic and political change on a local, regional, national and international level. Drawn from evolving Black cultur-

al expression, the Summit will connect this modern multicultural phenomenon to U of M’s celebration of Black History Month by also hosting the Black History 101 Mobile Museum.

The Summit will bring together a diverse group of individuals encouraging participants to educate themselves on issues, organize action, and recognize how hip hop can be used to create positive change.

HIP-HOP CONGRESS - HAITI BENEFIT SONG - (SPIT 8BARS)-
All Proceeds Go To The People Of Haiti

ATTENTION!! All Artists Worldwide Unite For Haiti - Ongoing Rap/Song Quilt.

Send back separate tracked out wav files of verse 8 Bars (rap, poem, spoken word, singing, drops, instrumentals) ASAP.

This requires our immediate attention as artists. Let’s Unite for a Powerful message when it counts.

Send verse here DLabrozia205@yahoo.com and cc Hiphoppa13@aol.com WAV’S please!!

This song is also in honor of Oakland Legend “Too Short” who has always made songs that spoke about struggle and issues in the world such

as “The Ghetto”, “I Want to be free”, and the Mega-Hit “Life is Too Short”
List of Artists in Support so far:
Add your name....

DLabrie, Rahman Jamaal, Nobody (Hieroglyphics), E-Dawg, Sir Mixalot, Bigg Mann, Bueno, Swisherbox Studios, RDV Promo, Ms Jay, YDMC, Blaze 5, Kev Choice, Kung Fu Vampire, Saiko Delic, Fta Boys, Bambu, Selassie, Akil the MC of Jurassic 5, GorillaPits, YDMC & mjore.

Download instrumental w/ hook and Logos to Promote supporting Haiti here:

INFO LINK & BEAT – www.divshare.com/folder/665795-754 or www.hiphopcongress.com/ click on Haiti.

Hip Hop Congress is in full support of the Hip Hop 4 Haiti Movement 38 events Nationwide!!



ORDER THIS BOOK: MOVING ONWARD: FROM RACIAL DIVISION TO CLASS UNITY

By Brooke Heagerty and Nelson Peery

From the preface of this book:

Unifying the new class of unemployed and underemployed is created by automation today’s most pressing political question. In America, creating unity means confronting the legacy of slavery, white supremacy and racism. White and Black have been shaped by this legacy, a history which has consistently been bloody and brutal, at times almost unspeakably so.

Race, and its companion ideas, racism and white supremacy, aren’t ideas that sprang up out of nowhere. Like all ideas and attitudes, they grew out of the material conditions of the society that invented them. Race, racism and white supremacy were created along with the development of capitalism. They took root as the capitalist system became the



dominant form of economic and social relations; they were consolidated and spread with the worldwide expansion of that system through imperialism.

Today, production with electronics is not only destroying the economy but tearing apart society’s fabric. No idea can survive the destruction of the material foundation for its creation; as that foundation is swept away, the old idea itself shrinks in importance — it no longer explains or facilitates the changing material environment.

Old ideas do not simply disappear. New ideas must be brought into the process, struggled over and fought for. Electronics promises a world in which humanity can be freed from backbreaking toil. Upon its foundation a new society can be built in which all can share equally in its fruits.

It is the revolutionary’s profound duty to understand clearly the nature of the changes going on, and to form and spread the new ideas which reflect that new reality.

Send \$10 for a copy of the book, “Moving Onward” to Speakers for a New America, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524 or pay via paypal at speakersforanewamerica.com/books

VOICES FROM BENTON HARBOR, MI

Whirlpool — the global bloodsuckers — wins in Federal Court

By Dorothy Pinkney

“A federal judge in Grand Rapids, Michigan has dismissed a lawsuit that claimed the National Park Service and the Army Corp of Engineers failed to follow environmental laws when they allowed Benton Harbor’s very own Jean Klock Park and beach to be stolen from the residents of Benton Harbor for a private Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course,” as reported in the Michigan Messenger. What they did was criminal. “There were several major factual errors and flaws in the ruling, which if left unchallenged, open local and state parks across the country to privatization,” said Terry Lodge, attorney for the plaintiffs. Whirlpool, “has a plan to profit from the public’s legacy.”

Whirlpool, a racist global bloodsucker, continues to disrupt the community by building the golf course, on 530 acres of prime land, centered around luxury housing. This is a Billion dollar project designed to drive all Black Benton Harbor residents from the city. Whirlpool is trying to make the city a tourist attraction. They figure that Black people commit all the crimes so they want them out.

This is called gentrification. Let’s define gentrification. It is when the (GENTRY) like a Whirlpool — the upper ruling class — want to take or steal land from the poor. Why should the rich be able to force, push or kick out the poor and the homeless? Anytime the police find homeless people living in abandoned buildings, or in the park, they normally arrest them. That is their way of getting rid of them. The homeless were living in the area of the park, anywhere they could. They are trying to drive them out because of the golf course. Nobody is defending the homeless except us.

The struggle goes on. It is a growing problem of social injustice toward the homeless and is hurting people as Whirlpool continues to suck the life out of Benton Harbor. Rev Edward Pinkney will continue to fight for the homeless and to stop racism.

A former Whirlpool employee says Mr. Tedderic, a white supervisor at Whirlpool, openly practices racism with the blessing of his superiors. They have closed every avenue by which light may enter the minds of the residents of Benton Harbor. They are just one step away from accomplishing their goal of destroying all the African Americans that live here. They think, if they can extinguish the capacity to see the light, their work would be completed. They would then be on the level of the beast of the field and they should be safe.

We, the people, must continue to speak truth to power and stop gentrification everywhere. We need to take over the corporations before it is too late. It is getting closer and closer. Now, with the latest Supreme Court ruling, the corporations can back any candidate they want and put their money on them. They can tell the corporations “you are in control” and put whoever they want into office. They used to do it under cover. Now they can come right out with it.

HOW CAN THE POOR UNITE?

By the People’s Tribune

The race question in America has always been used to divide and control the working class as a whole.

In the past, America’s poor could not unite in a struggle against the corporations, despite a common poverty. To maintain the divisions among the workers, the powers that be gave petty social privileges to the white poor over the Black poor, making unity impossible.

People could not unite when they were unequally oppressed and exploited.

Today we are entering a new period. Computers and robots are permanently replacing the labor of growing sectors of workers. Therefore the economic foundation for racism is changing. A poverty which knows no color is developing. The world’s population is being reduced to two categories — the global rich and the global poor. This new international corporate ruling class cares no more for and has no more need of the worker in Chicago than the one in Haiti.

The growing equality of poverty among workers of all colors and nationalities is the foundation in which unity can be fought for today. That unity must be rooted in the struggle for the basic necessities — food, clothing, shelter, education and healthcare. This movement must have as its guiding star a vision of a new America where the needs of all people, not the corporations, are paramount.

JOB OPENING: Community Educator position/Benton Harbor. Apply at recruiter@ppmchoice.org, by visiting www.plannedparenthood.org/midsouthmi or call 734-973-0710.



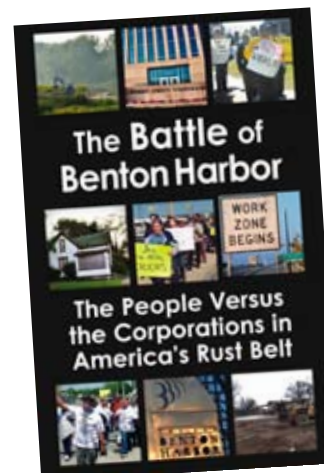
Rev. Edward Pinkney speaking in Detroit on Martin Luther King Day

PHOTO /DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

COMMUNITY QUOTES:

“The earthquake that struck Haiti has caused extensive damage and the death of untold numbers of people. The U.S. government has announced the deployment of 10,000 troops and a humanitarian relief effort to the tune of only \$100 million, compared to \$741 Billion for the war.” — *Joyce Anderson*

“Many activists, organizers and visionaries came together on Nov. 3, 2009 and we won. Now we must come together for the recall or replacement of Commissioner Dennis Knowles, known as the long ranger. We can strategize together ways to build a new Benton Harbor for the people.” — *Rev D. Smith*



THE PEOPLE VERSUS THE CORPORATIONS IN AMERICA'S RUST BELT

A new booklet by the People’s Tribune discusses the victories and next steps in the struggle against the corporations in Benton Harbor. A battle has been won, and this should be celebrated, but there is still a war going on. Will America have prosperity and democracy, or live in poverty under the heel of open corporate power? Will the American people move to take over the corporations before they take over society? Send \$3 for each one or order 10 for \$20 to People’s Tribune, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524.

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