

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

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Feeding the homeless in Michigan. An abundance of food is produced in America. That food is controlled by a handful of giant corporations. The corporate control of food is the cause of the growing hunger. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

INSIDE:

NATO and threat of world war	2
Murder of Trayvon Martin	3
World Courts of Women	6
Environment: Fight for the future	8
Benton Harbor: Whirlpool "buys" NAACP	12

END HUNGER IN A NEW AMERICA

[Read Story on Page 3](#)

NATO and the growing threat of world war

EDITORIAL

Every day the world seems more unstable, divided and dangerous. We see economic crisis, cutthroat competition among the capitalist countries for markets, the rise of fascism, and the drive toward war based on the national and geopolitical interests of competing countries. What is going on? And how do we divert resources from warmaking to human needs?

In his book on war and military strategy, published in 1832, Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz wrote that "War is not merely a political act, but also a real political instrument, a continuation of political commerce, a carrying out of the same by other means." This was true when he wrote it and is even more so today.

It has also been said that "politics is a concentrated expression of economics." If we couple this understanding with Clausewitz' description of war, we get a clearer picture of what is happening in the world.

The giant corporations cannot get their profits without actually selling things, so they need markets. In particular they need the huge Chinese market. They want China to be a submissive buyer of US goods and a source of cheap labor, not a producing competitor for global markets. The US also does not want competition from Russia.

Thus the US has been seeking for years to surround and dominate Russia and China both economically and militarily. To threaten and weaken Russia and China, the US has imposed itself economically and militarily in the region running from North Africa across the Middle East, Central Asia and South Asia and north to South Korea. In particular US capital wants to dominate the Middle East and Central Asia militarily and also control the world's oil supply to get an economic stranglehold on its competitors. This is why the US organized NATO to attack Libya. This

is why the US invaded Iraq and Afghanistan. This is why the US is threatening war against Syria and Iran.

Politics is a concentrated expression of economics, and war is politics by other means. The world's markets are shrinking as technology replaces labor and wipes out jobs. The competition among capitalists for shrinking markets is getting increasingly vicious, and will lead to more war. The capitalists' ceaseless drive for profit requires them to drive down the cost of production by replacing labor with computers and robots. As they eliminate jobs, cut government budgets and drive down wages, they eliminate buyers. Poverty grows and the markets shrink further, and the drive toward war increases.

There is gathering resistance to this process by the world's peoples, and the capitalists seek to crush this resistance by instituting fascism. So we see that poverty, fascism and war go hand in hand under capitalism in the era of electronics and globalization. The threat of another world war—a war that could destroy humanity—looms on the horizon.

The upcoming G8 meeting in May will bring together the political representatives of the world's most powerful capitalist countries. They will talk about how to maintain their power and wealth in the face of shrinking markets and spreading popular resistance. And when the NATO ministers gather in May, they will talk about how to use this military alliance to crush any resistance to the aims of global capital.

The peoples of the world have nothing to gain by fighting one another in the interests of capital. Humanity is ultimately fighting for a new world, where the people own and control the technology of production and use it to cooperatively produce food, housing, health care and everything else we need for a civilized life. Humanity's immediate demand is that resources be diverted from



Take back Chicago rally. Humanity's immediate demand is that resources be diverted from war-making to meet human needs.

PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK

warmaking and the drive for world domination, and be used to meet human needs. The new technology gives humanity the opportunity to at last unite and

create a bright future for all of us, but we have to act. The future is up to us.

COST OF WAR AT \$1.3 TRILLION

It is estimated that the cost to the United States of all the wars its been involved in since 2001 is \$1.3 trillion. Imagine how many schools, hospitals, cultural and recreational facilities could be built with that money.

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

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

An economic system that doesn't feed, clothe and house its people must be and will be overturned and replaced with a system that meets the needs of the people. To that end, this paper is a tribune of those struggling to create such a new economic system. It is a vehicle to bring the movement together, to create a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it.

Labor-replacing electronic technology is permanently eliminating jobs and destroying the foundation of the capitalist system. The people's needs can only be met by building a cooperative society where the socially necessary means of production are owned by society, not by the corporations.

We welcome articles and artwork from those who are engaged in the struggle to build a new society that is of, by and for the people. We rely on readers and contributors to fund and distribute this paper.

The People's Tribune, formerly published by the League of Revolutionaries for a New America, is now an independent newspaper with an editorial board based in Chicago.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE EDITORIAL POLICY: Articles that are unsigned, such as the cover story and editorials, reflect the views of the editorial board. Bylined articles reflect the views of the authors, and may or may not reflect the views of the editorial board.

Deadlines for articles and art: The deadline for articles, photographs and other art is the first of each month for the issue that comes out at the beginning of the following month. For example, the deadline for the June issue is May 1. Articles should be as short as possible, and no longer than 600 words. We reserve the right to edit articles to conform to space limitations.

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END HUNGER IN A NEW AMERICA

COVER STORY

On national average, one out of every six men, women and children are hungry in America. They are unable to get enough food to maintain active, healthy lives. Just in the last two years, 25 universities and colleges opened campus food pantries to address growing hunger among their student populations. This is happening in the richest country in the world, where an abundance of food is produced. This abundance is controlled by a handful of giant agricultural and financial corporations. We need a new America, an America where nobody goes without the food necessary to live a productive, active and healthy life.

Hunger is steadily increasing in America. The national hunger rate in 2011 was higher than the 2010 rate and the trend continues. When asked by the Gallup organization, "Have there been times in the last twelve months when you did not have enough money to buy food that you or your family needed?" more people answered "Yes" in the third and fourth quarters of 2011 (19.2% and 19.4%) than in any period since

the fourth quarter of 2008. And in a recent poll conducted in January 2012 for the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC), nearly seven in 10 (69%) said the federal government should have a major role to ensure that low-income families and children have the food and nutrition they need.

The problem is that our government remains unresponsive to what the people need and how the majority of Americans feel. Our elected representatives are beholden to corporate campaign contributors. In fact, our government and the corporations have merged to protect the interests of the corporations, not the people. The entire political system is corrupt.

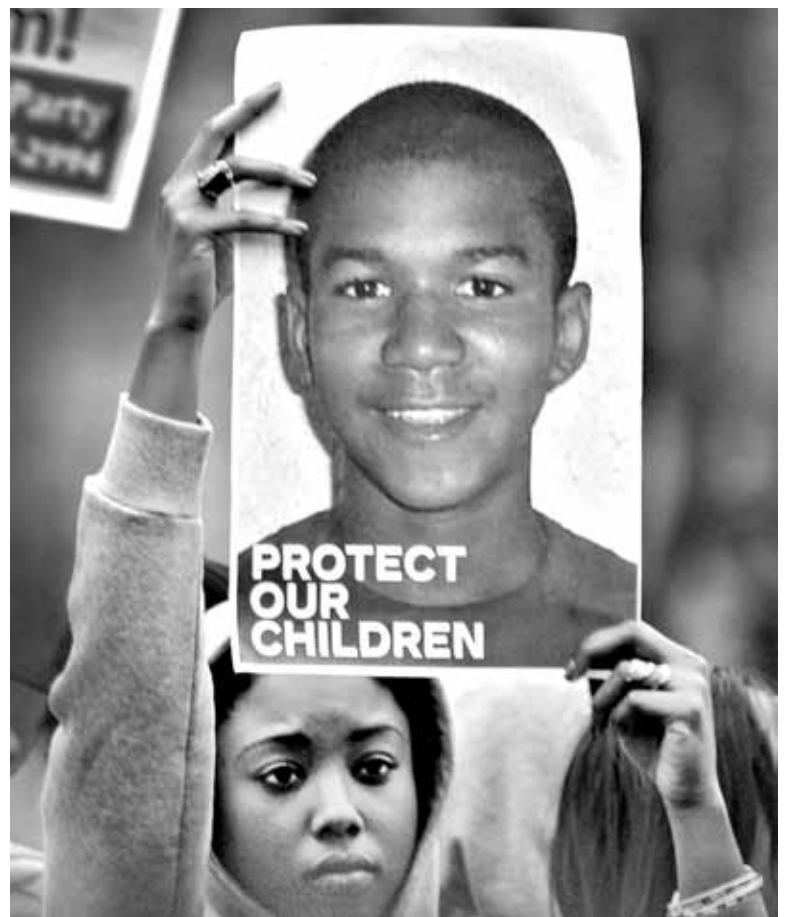
We have begun to see a growing social response to the worsening economic conditions of the American people through the Occupy movement and other social expressions. From this social response will certainly come a political response. At a certain point the American people will exert their political will to create a government that is responsive to the needs of the people.

The food industry needs to be among the first to be nationalized to guarantee all Americans the basic freedom from hunger. There is

an abundance of food produced in America. In fact, with today's high-tech, electronic production methods, food is produced in such abundance that every person on the planet can be fed. This productive power needs to be taken over to distribute the social product for the public good. There is no reason for anyone to go hungry. Only the corporations and a government that protects them and their dying market based economy stand in the way.

Electronic production is rapidly replacing human labor in the production process. As a result, it's objectively destroying the capitalist foundations of its market-based economy. Society is polarizing as wealth and property concentrate and poverty expands. This is the first time in human history that the labor of human beings is not necessary to the production of the necessities of life. And it's the first time in human history that economic scarcity is being eliminated and replaced with economic abundance.

It's time to begin building the political will to take over the corporations and create a government to distribute the abundant social product to all who are in need. It's time to create life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in a new America.



MURDER OF 17 YEAR-OLD SHOWS FACE OF FASCISM

From the Editors

As we go to press, outrage is growing across the country over the February 26 killing of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida. Throughout American history, the capitalists have kept control by dividing the common people along lines of color and nationality and pitting people against each other. Trayvon Martin's murder must be seen in this context, and in the context of the growth of fascism. As economic crisis and poverty sweeps the globe, the rulers are turning to fascism to contain the growing movement for a just society and to try to save the dying capitalist sys-

tem. To accomplish this, they are introducing fascist ideas. The brutal murder of Trayvon Martin is therefore connected to the murder of a mother of five in Los Angeles who was beaten to death because she was Iraqi. This attack is connected to the ruthless murder of Afghan women and children and others at the hands of the US armed forces. The point is that a global fascist culture is being created that says, "If you don't like someone, kill them—and you'll get away with it." This is the face of fascism. We have to fight fascism wherever it rears its ugly head. Every one of these murderers must be bought to justice. The future of humanity is at stake.

PHOTO(ABOVE)/ MIKE FLESHMAN
CARTOON(LEFT)/ANDY WILLIS



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— The Editors

FIGHTING THE LONGER SCHOOL DAY

CHICAGO SCHOOLS

By Lew Rosenbaum

CHICAGO, IL — On August 23, Chicago Public Schools CEO Jean-Claude Brizard announced a plan to extend the school day from 6 hours to 7.5 hours. After refusing to go along with the contractually agreed-upon salary increase for teachers, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) then turned around and slapped the teachers with a longer school day. The Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) responded that more work time should be accompanied by an increase in pay. They also opposed the change since CPS had no plan for how the extra time would be used.

This battle has gone back and forth since August. The current CTU contract expires at the end of this school year, and what the new school day will look like has become the subject of contentious negotiations for the new agreement.

What is the battle around the longer school day all about? CPS says that keeping kids in school longer will improve their test scores. Some parents, grasping at any straw offered, see some possibility of salvation. Others fear releasing their children to the streets. But as Karen Lewis, CTU president, maintained on a Chicago Tonight (WTTV) interview, there is no research that indicates that a longer school day in itself improves education. More time in school does not equal better learning.

Just as important, test scores do not really measure learning any-

way. There is no plan in place to introduce funding for art and music teachers, or for more staff to cover recess periods—elements that have been removed as cost-cutting maneuvers. The battle is really not about effective education.

At first the effort was part of a campaign to vilify teachers. CPS launched its attack on teachers with the refusal to grant the pay increase already agreed upon, and then accused the CTU for being greedy. The school day battle followed the same script: The CPS announced its plan, the CTU objected, and the CPS characterized the teachers as only interested in money, not in children.

Reality check: CPS public education policy is being decided in the interests of a certain group of wealthy adults, the Commercial Club of Chicago, and that plan has starved public schools of needed resources for almost two decades. It has created a two-tiered public education system, with high performing magnet schools at one end and a mass of so-called failing schools at the other. Whitney Young and Northside Prep, two of the highest performing magnet schools, have circulated a petition to *opt out* of the longer school day. *They know they don't need that extra time.*

The city's scheme to privatize "failing schools" into charter schools has not improved the children's learning. A longer school day that could mean increased class size and even more test preparation will not improve it either.



Students, parents, and teachers march to Chicago Mayor's home to protest school closures. The government must be held responsible for providing education. Education must be taken out of corporate hands.

PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE

CPS does not take into account that 80% of the children in public schools qualify for free lunches. The poverty rate, along with class size and prevalence of high stakes testing, limits instructional quality and makes the US rank 24th among 29 industrial countries in educational achievement.

Public education cannot be quick-fixed by increasing the in-

structional day. The framework of our educational apparatus is stacked against us. The Commercial Club of Chicago has no need to educate most children for the fewer jobs available, even for college graduates. Necessities of life are abundant, but produced without people having jobs. People are being replaced by "smart" electronic technology.

All children in all neighborhoods need an education that will prepare them to understand and act on the fundamental changes our society is undergoing. We must take education out of corporate hands and hold the government responsible for providing these resources. Discussion of a longer day cannot take place outside this context.

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF OCCUPY

By Chuck Parker

Like modern day Johnny Applesseeds, seven members of Occupy San Diego and Occupy L.A. have launched OCCUPY WALK USA to walk across America talking up their message of social and economic justice. They are walking all the way from San Diego, California to Zucotti Park in New York City spreading the word and organizing local protests and Occupy groups. The idea first sprouted in discussions at Occupy San Diego in November, and they held their first meeting on January 11. They made contact with members of Occupy L.A., and the walkers set out on February 18.

Their plan is to arrive in New York by December, but they are going to stop along the way for discussions and consciousness raising events, so they are not tied to any fixed schedule of so many miles per day. When they reached the edge of the California desert on March 6, they were greeted by



From left to right, Adam, D.J. and Mike. Some of the walkers on Day 32 of the Occupy Walk from California to New York.

PHOTO/HOMER KLINEFELTER

supporters from the local Occupy groups. There were social gatherings, and the walkers spent an entire day passing out leaflets and introducing Occupy Walk to the people of Yucca Valley, many of whom had never heard of Occupy Wall Street before.

When I talked with them at the home of a member of Occupy Coachella Valley who put them up for two nights, there were eight walkers: Jason, Eugene and William from Occupy San Diego, and Mike, D.J., Adam, Richie, and Britton from Occupy L.A.. Even

though they had just been buffeted by high winds in the Banning Pass, their spirits were high as witnessed by their official anthem, "I Whistle Because I Can't Sing." It was composed by Adam and played by Jason on his trumpet. They wanted to express their

thanks to everyone who has offered their generous support so far. They are encouraging others to join them as they go along.

Everyone can follow their progress live online at: ustream.tv/user/ OccupyWalkUSA, on Twitter @OccupyWalk, on Facebook.com/OccupyWalk, or email OccupyWalk@gmail.com.

One of the walkers, William, explained his commitment this way, "Occupy is about getting your voice back. Before joining Occupy I didn't have a voice. When we were camped out in our tents we found ways to get along and to communicate with each other because we had to. Now that our encampment has been broken up by the police, we have to find other ways to keep the group alive. Some people have told us that we have a great idea, but it can't be done. Why does it have to be that way? The way I see it, if we keep going we will get our voice back. Once we have our voice back then we can decide what we want to do with this country."

EQUALITY HAS ARRIVED IN THE FORM OF EXPLOITATION AND DEPRIVATION

By Roshawn L. Harris

DETROIT, MI — Public Act 4, Michigan's draconian Emergency Financial Manager (EFM) law, has had dire consequences in the communities where the EFM was instituted. Benton Harbor, Flint, and Pontiac, Michigan have suffered many losses of public assets. The sell off of public goods and services hits these communities with a soul-quivering blow. In the press locally, many have attributed the EFM institution to a revival of old racist tactics traditionally associated with the Michigan political culture. For years the state government has antagonized chocolate cities across the state with harsh cuts and, in the case of Detroit, outright theft. Many see the problem as one of a racial equality. But take a closer look.

Ecorse, Michigan is a community that is not majority Black yet they have been imposed upon by the EFM dictate. In 2011 the union contract for the city's fire department was dismissed. Along with that dismissal came a 57 percent cut in fulltime fire fighters. Those services had to be outsourced to surrounding municipalities who are themselves under distress due to finite resources in a tough economy. This causes an imminent threat to the public safety of those living in and around Ecorse. If a house is on fire with a family trapped inside, yelling, screaming, sifting through smoke and flames, looking for an



Occupy Detroit protestors rally against illegal foreclosures by the Bank Of America headquarters in downtown Detroit. PHOTO CREDIT/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

escape route to save their lives, one might think an immediate response would be necessary to give them the best opportunity for survival.

Whether those babies in the house are White or Black is of no consequence. "Them our Babies", as one Detroit preacher so eloquently put it. What that says is that human suffering knows no color line. Lives being put at risk for fiscal solvency is not the solution in a free and democratic society.

Therein lies the issue. This is no longer a democracy when EFM dictators can strip a city of

its ability to protect its citizens. Michigan State Senator Phil Pavlov of St. Claire Shores released a statement touting the success of the EFM system in Ecorse. He made the statement, "The alternative is bankruptcy, which is truly the elimination of democracy in a community. If bankruptcy were to occur, a single judge from the federal government would wield far more power than any Emergency Financial Manager ever could."

Excuse me Senator Pavlov but doesn't the EFM hold the same arbitrary responsibilities of selling off

public assets to provide an economic solution that appeases the same banking institutions and bond hold-

ers as a bankruptcy Judge would? In the end of it all, the citizens of Ecorse are hung out to dry in the same way as the good folks in Benton Harbor and Pontiac.

What it shakes down to is that this conundrum is not a racial issue but a class issue: the one percent versus the 99 percent. This being a majority white country, and Michigan being a majority white state lends itself to the notion that while Blacks have suffered for centuries, harsh racial and class oppression, whites are now being introduced to the superficiality of their "whiteness." What good is it to be white when you are treated like somebody's "nigger?"

Blacks and whites need to wake up to the realization that no one is exempt from the guillotine of capitalism. In the words of Warren Buffet "It's class warfare and our class is winning." He obviously is speaking on behalf of the one percent and not the white majority that he could, ever so conveniently, identify with. Wake up everybody!

The end of social services BATTLING CORPORATE CONTROL IN MICHIGAN

Editor's note: The People's Tribune interviewed General Baker from Detroit about the fascist conditions that are emerging in Michigan.

By Sandy Reid

DETROIT, MI — Here in Detroit—we're not even under the dictatorial Emergency Manager—yet all of the police stations are only open eight hours a day. If you need the police, you go to a station and use the phone on the outside wall to make a report. The governor has a plan to increase police presence by hiring state troopers for high crime areas. They will be like mercenaries, two steps removed from the community.

In Highland Park, we still have no streetlights on any residential street. The Highland Park School District was blackmailed into accepting another Emergency Manager in order to get a loan from the state to pay teachers salaries. The school district will be dissolved at the end of the school year. The kids have to find another school in another District. The Detroit School District announced that, under the Emergency Manager in Detroit, they are taking 15 schools—six high schools and nine elementary schools—and creating a special board to run them. The school year will be extended. These schools will be open for 210 days a year which will be the second longest school

year in the country. Meanwhile the Emergency Manager in Detroit's School District was extended a contract for another year for \$250,000. All major bus lines in Detroit now close at 10 pm and don't start back up until 4 in the morning. In Pontiac, the water and sewage has been privatized—sold to United Water Company out of France.

The governor and his forces have been rushing to get as many cities to do as much damage as possible before Michigan's petition effort to outlaw the Emergency Manager law reaches maturity. Once the petitions are certified, the Emergency Managers will have to leave town. We turned petitions in on the 29th of February. They have 60 days to certify them. Once they're certified, they cannot do anything. There's a real battle going on. The governor's office issued a consent decree to the city of Detroit; this is part of the Emergency Manager law. This means the mayor would have the authority to strip us of our democratic rights and act like the Emergency Manager. It was rejected by the City Council.

Meanwhile, with all of the cuts in services, families are pretty much confined to staying in the house. Everything is gone. There's no lights, no police, gas is \$4 a gallon. We got to keep on fighting. More forces are joining up. The fight is on.

Pierced by a Thorn My Heart Bled

Pierced by a thorn my heart bled.

It bled for all the Native American Indians who were victims of genocide;

Whose lands and cultures were stolen and for all whose blood was shed.

It bled for all of the "disposable" people in our country;

Who desperately struggle so urgently for their voices to be heard.

It bled for all our Military Forces the Army, Navy, Coast Guard Air Force and Marines;

Our Veterans who so valiantly are serving & have served America, both the living and the dead.

It bled for the scores of Veterans, who at long last, are returning home from wars;

Who are suffering with brain injuries and PTSD, living daily with nightmares in their heads.

It bled for the millions of children in Our Country and in the World;

Who day after day, live in misery from pangs of hunger or from being underfed.

It bled for the countless number of displaced and homeless Americans;

Who have lost all hope of a place to live or having a roof to cover their heads.

It bled for our country's disabled, the elderly and the poor;

Who worry about their benefits and how they will pay for their meds.

It bled for all Americans whose civil rights are being stolen by thieves in the night;

Because of these reasons, so many of my Countrymen now daily live in fear and dread.

It bled for the corruption and greed by big corporations and our elected officials;

Who, with no thought for others, are destroying America, while Lady Liberty's tears run red.

It bled for Mother Earth, and all the atrocities, misuse and abuse which she has borne;

She has cried so many times, that we'll never be able to count the number of tears she has shed.

Pierced by tens of thousands of thorns;

Over the anguish, the pain and the plight of my Countrymen and the World,

My heart bleeds.

— Mary Anne Morrow Barbour

WHY THE WORLD COURTS OF WOMEN?

By Ethel Long-Scott,
Joyce Mills & Shamako Noble

The World Courts of Women (WCW) comes out of areas of the globe experiencing the worst impacts of capitalism. The Women's Economic Agenda Project is hosting the first ever held in the USA. Its goal is to give voice to women, men and families who feel silenced by the violence of poverty. The WCW recognizes the importance of a transformative dialogue about our society. This is important because women bear our future generations who will need access to affordable healthcare, childcare, education and economic stability. In the U.S., the world's richest nation, the number of people in poverty reached 49 million when measured by new Census Bureau

formulas. That's 16% of the population, or 1 person in every 6, the highest proportion in 15 years. And nearly half the U.S. population falls into the government category of low income. The WCW event hopes to acknowledge suffering, heal wounds and envision a new society based on values of abundance, love and faith in what is possible. This will require new concepts outside our current social contract. We must ask ourselves what else is possible?

Our challenge is that technological revolution has altered the relationship between human labor and production. It has set the stage for an economic and social revolution. One expression of this is the robot. The robot eliminates the need for human participation in the labor process. Since exploiting labor

power is at the core of capitalism, the system is breaking down. We can debate the value of capitalism all day, but we have already begun moving past it objectively.

Our planet is naturally abundant. Capitalism exploits that abundance for profit. To do so, capitalists try to convince us that there is scarcity so we compete for crumbs.

The solution is reorganizing society on a cooperative basis. Competition is central for capitalist exploitation. The market competes. Labor competes. This leaves the people divided and unable to take control of resources they need to survive.

While social entrepreneurship offers a model for those who want to impact their environment, entrepreneurship is one of the cornerstones of capitalism. It perpetuates

competition and scarcity and does not address the larger systemic issues of exploitation.

Trying to find a way to survive by "finding a fit" in capitalism doesn't solve our systematic problems. Often entrepreneurs are thought of as "small businessmen," one of many approaches of "pulling yourself up by the bootstraps." The reality is that only big-business can ultimately survive in a world of speculative capital. This propaganda results in people forced to "work for themselves" like a beggar works for him or herself. This kind of "work" is an expression of instability and low-wage survival. Small business, like the "middle class," is at the heart of what is being destroyed, not a way to move up the success ladder.

India is a popular location for the off-shoring of technology jobs. India is shouting louder about the exploitation of farmers and genetic technology by Monsanto. Monsanto is using genetically altered crops to destroy, then seize land. The same process exists in Africa. It is also similar to what is happening in Benton Harbor, Michigan, with Whirlpool's takeover of the town. More technology "jobs" will not eliminate problems of scarcity or corporate exploitation.

A cooperative society is rooted in abundance, love and equal distribution. The microchip is a natural part of human progress. It creates the opportunity for the just generation and distribution of resources according to the needs of all, if we build a society to make sure it does.



Women's Economic Agenda Project (WEAP) & Allies
Stand Up and Build a New America!

WESTERN REGION

World Courts of Women on Poverty in the U.S.
Thursday, May 10th through Sunday, May 13th, 2012
Laney College, Oakland, CA

Event page: <http://tinyurl.com/WCW2012> Blog: WCWWest.org
www.weap.org/wce/wcabout Twitter: @WEAPorg
Facebook: [weap.org](http://www.facebook.com/weap.org) Phone: 510 986-8620
Flyer by BOSS

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC AGENDA PROJECT Snapshot of Health Care in the United States

- The United States is the only wealthy, industrialized nation that does not have a universal health care system. Source: Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.
- In 2006, the percentage of Americans without health insurance was 15.8%, or approximately 47 million uninsured people. Source: US Census Bureau.
- Millions are uninsured in California, and 4 of 5 people are members of working families.
- At least 1 in 3 uninsured people come from households with an income above \$50,000.
- Private insurers spend 30 cents of every dollar on administrative and shareholder costs, and despite the rise in obesity, chronic disease, and threats of bioterrorism, less than 4 cents of every health care dollar is spent on prevention and public health.
- America is the only industrial nation that links healthcare to jobs and yet only 59% of Americans are covered by their jobs.

Learn more about the struggle for
Health Care for All and the Women's Economic Agenda Project
www.weap.org and <http://wcwest.org>

We Must Rise and Occupy

Awakened by police again
sleep deprivation never ends
we can't lay down we can't sit up
no tarps no tents no matter what
so if it rains we just get wet
I bet they hope we catch our death
but rain or shine we occupy
the 99% is why
we've been sold out as they were 'fed'
the dream of a one percenters head
they took the money and stole the gold
so we must rise and occupy
true democracy can't be left to die
stand and let your voice be heard
let's take back all that we deserve

— Nick Anthony Shaw
[Nearly Pantless Nick]
OccupySF

THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS PROTEST CALIFORNIA HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET CUTS

By Marlene Christine Hurd

Thousands of California students representing the nation's largest public higher education system descended upon the front steps of the State Capitol early in March demanding the right to a quality public higher education for all.

Students from the two-year Community Colleges, the four-year California State Universities and the top-tier University of California system asked Gov. Jerry Brown and state legislators to "Fund our Future" by reversing crippling budget cuts to higher education funding. Students across the state were "fed up" and had enough with the ongoing budget cuts and tuition increases.

This year's budget cuts are the worst in history, averaging 20% for the state's four-year public colleges. And they come on top of years

of cuts and fee hikes. Next year students face at least a nine percent hike in tuition that could rise even more if the state's budget crisis gets worse instead of better. Students in the 23-campus California State University system will pay nearly \$6,000 in fees each semester.

The gathering was a peaceful non-violent demonstration of grassroots organizing at its finest. Parents as well as faculty, classified staff, senior citizens, union members, system partners, members of the occupy movement and various community organizations turned out in great numbers. A small number were peacefully arrested when they refused to leave the Capitol Building.

California Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom said to the crowd, "The future is not in front of us, it's inside of every single one of you." State Sen. Democratic President Darrell

Steinberg told protestors he has "Participated in making billions of dollars of cuts to higher education and I've hated every minute of it." While students listened they still wanted their elected officials to know that they did not want to see business as usual. They wanted action taken to stop these cuts.

During the 1960s California adopted a visionary Master Plan for Higher Education which called for "tuition-free" higher education for all Californians. Today students and their families see the opposite and ongoing broken promises.

Kevin Feliciano, President of the Student Senate of California Community Colleges which represents 2.6 million students stated, "Our future depends on the state fully funding higher education. Balancing the state budget on the backs of students and their families must end."



Photo:
K Boots

Hamtramck Mayor Karen Majewski tells the crowd gathered for the city's first Take Back the Night anti-crime march: "Tonight we join in love and anger to reclaim our streets. The women of Hamtramck will not be intimidated. We do not surrender our freedom of movement. And the men and women and children of Hamtramck will not be kept from enjoying our streets, in the most walkable city in Michigan." Moments later, Majewski led the group of about 200 people in a march down Hamtramck's main street.

PHOTO CREDIT K. BOOTS

Women under attack:

DEFEND AMERICA'S WOMEN AND CHILDREN

By Marian Kramer

DETROIT, MI — Women around the world celebrate March 8 as International Women's Day. When women on all continents, often divided by national boundaries and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their Day, they can look back to a tradition that represents centuries of struggles for equality, justice, peace and development.

However, everywhere we turn today, we are experiencing increased attacks on women and children.

Here in Michigan, Governor Snyder, once elected, began attacking jobs and programs that were mainly populated by women. Home Health Aids were among the first. The governor stopped their union dues deduction. The teachers (MEA/AFT) saw an increase in class size — in the number of students per teacher. Through the governor's appointed Emergency Manager (under Public Act 4), a great number of schools were closed. The governor went after the teachers and state public employees by passing a law to tax their pensions. Then he cut out certain jobs from the Department

of Human Services (DHS) (which at one time were majority women workers). He increased their caseload beyond the ability of the workers to manage.

The most horrifying attack was the signing into law of a four-year time limitation (48 months) retroactive back to 2009 for families on TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families). This represents the systematic extermination of thousands of families. This is genocide. This is also fascism. Many of these families are being forced into homelessness, hunger, and a lack of healthcare. Where is the morality in these cuts?

And if this is not enough, we have two young women in Hamtramck, Mich., who are missing. They were kidnapped at gunpoint and put in the trunk of a car. One of the girl's texted her sister from the trunk of the car about what was happening. The car was found burned. No bodies have shown up. Also, a young child, not even two years old, was in a car that was hijacked. Her father reported that the car was missing, but the child was gone. They found the car, but not the baby. In another case, a young man, 14 years old, was angry at his mother because she was trying

to convince him not to be in the gangs. He retaliated by killing her. All of these incidents are a product of the dog-eat-dog capitalist system that devalues human life. The lives of women and children are looked at as nothing. It is the duty of all sections of the working class to stand up against the abuse of women.

We must put families into homes and demand that the government provide for everyone in need. The government bailed out the Banks. We need the government to bail us out. International Women's Day is about the celebration of ordinary women as the makers of history. Let's all make history and take up the cause for a better world. Let's stop this government from representing the interests of the capitalists and make them work for us.

If you are interested in joining this movement, join Michigan Welfare Rights Organization. Call (313) 964-0618. Also, keep reading the People's Tribune and stay up on what is happening.

Hip Hop Congress announces partnership with Women's Economic Agenda Project and the World Courts of Women

By Shamako Noble

OAKLAND, CA — Hip Hop Congress is proud to announce its endorsement of and partnership with the Women's Economic Agenda Project (WEAP) of the Western Region World Courts of Women on Poverty. The World Courts of Women (WCW) were founded in 1992. To this date, there have been over 37 of them hosted throughout the world in places like India, South Africa, China and various other international locations. This is the first World Courts of Women ever to be hosted in the United States in the historical city of Oakland. The purpose of the WCW is to advance the "vision and principles of the right to economic justice as a means to end violence against women and the poor." The mission of Hip Hop Congress is to utilize Hip Hop and Culture as a tool to empower leaders who are creating economic, social, spiritual and political change.

Hip Hop Congress National Director Shamako Noble said of this partnership, "We are proud and honored to be part of this historical moment in History. To be a part of something so internationally recognized as it's entering the US in a city with a legacy that cover the Black Panthers, Anti-War Work, Media and Youth Justice, Civil Rights and of course a rich history of Hip Hop in every element is an amazing opportunity." With the tremendous increase in layoffs, unemployment and underemployment, it becomes more and more clear that concrete steps must be taken in order to ensure the safety and security of families living in the US. Structural poverty places people at higher risk of being victimized by crime and physical violence in this country. This violence is also being enacted in our communities each time a new incinerator is built in a poor neighborhood. It is apparent when industrialized agriculture sprays cancer causing pesticides in a field that is worked by poor migrant workers. This violence impacts us in each uranium mine that is brought onto Native American lands, causing deadly birth defects and diseases.

WEAP Executive Director Ethel-Long Scott stated that, "We know that Occupy has helped make very urgent and real the concerns that people in the United States have with the direction of our economy



and government. What we are proposing is a focused look at that and the impact it has on the mothers, daughters and sisters of our community, along with the men, children and general community. What we need now is a vision for the future. We need clarity on our challenges, and visionary approaches to addressing those challenges in a cooperative way." Hip Hop Congress and the Women's Economic Agenda project have been working with each other for over five years via the International Coalition of the Poor People's Economic Human Right's Campaign.

National Outreach Coordinator of Hip Hop Congress and CEO of Rondavoux Records DLabrie states, "Oakland is the perfect city for an event like this. With the energy of things like Oscar Grant, Occupy and the history of movement in this city, we expect it to be a great success." This was echoed by West Coast Regional Coordinator and Artist Rahman Jamaal, "We knew from the very beginning that this was where we should be. And even though Hip Hop is male dominated, the contribution of importance of women to this culture cannot be denied."

The details of the specific location and date are still being determined and will be released soon. Contact Shamako Noble at shamako@hiphopcongress.com or 408-401-8313. You can learn more about this event at weap.org, hiphopcongress.com, and weap.org/world-court-of-women-2/about-the-world-court.htm.

OPPOSING ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION: *Fight for the future*

From the Editors

On December 17th, 1903, Orville Wright's plane flew for a 12-second sustained flight covering 120 feet. The earth was covered with lush grasslands, huge forests, and clean water. The skies were clear and the air refreshing. Today—a hundred ten years later—space ships are probing the limits of our solar system. Behind them, a haze of poisonous gasses blankets the earth, spawning blitzkrieg-like assaults of tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and drought. As science allows us to reach for the stars, the destructive capitalist system threatens to pull humanity into the depth of hell.

What in the world is happening?

The world has entered the most decisive, epochal social revolution in human history. It is more than a class struggle against existing governments or social orders. It is the second stage of the revolution that began with humanity's conquest of fire. That revolution partially freed humanity from "natural law"—that is to say the law of the jungle. With fire, uninhabitable areas supported human life, and food became much more available. Everything associated with "civilization" rested on the control of fire. Today's new electronic, on-going social revolution will completely free humanity from reliance on nature and the labor associated with it. Humanity is at the edge of becoming human—totally separated from the animal kingdom.

As with all leaps forward, danger and opportunity are entwined—developing and crippling each other. This social revolution could not develop without globalization. Yet globalization opens the



Environmental activists dressed as referees call "foul" on members of Congress for supporting the Keystone XL pipeline while taking millions of dollars in campaign contributions from the fossil fuel industry.

PHOTO CREDIT/RICK REINHARD

world up for capitalist exploitation of resources everywhere. The result is an international scramble for energy, timber and resources. This dog-eat-dog contest is carried on without regard to social consequences. If a country or industry cannot get electricity for energy, they are compelled to use fossil fuel or be gobbled up by the competi-

tion. The capitalists are not fools; they know fossil fuels cause global warming, and they know the consequences. Since a law of capitalism is anarchy of production each capitalist must mimic Rear Adm. David G. Farragut, of Civil War fame, who supposedly shouted during the battle of Mobile, "Full speed ahead and damn the torpedoes!"

We can't "damn the torpedoes." They are coming at us in the form of heat waves, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods and droughts. Every month, old heat records are shattered and frightening new natural disasters appear. No one can disregard the implications of a recent devastating tornado in Michigan during the winter months.

Our revolution is not simply about class – it is about humanity. Along with opposing the oppression, wars and brutality, we have to show and oppose the environmental destruction caused by the system.

Every day it becomes more clear, if we do not fight for the future, we will not have one.

EVICTING OCCUPY NASHVILLE, CRIMINALIZING HOMELESSNESS

By Andrew Krinks

Editor, The Contributor, Nashville, Tennessee

Editor's note: The following article is excerpted from a longer version.

NASHVILLE, TN — In an effort to evict Occupy Nashville from Legislative Plaza, Tennessee legislators are preparing to further criminalize homelessness across the state.

A bill filed as HB 2638/SB 2508 was introduced in the Tennessee General Assembly. If passed, the law would make it a Class B Misdemeanor to "camp on any property owned or operated by the state knowing that the area on which camping occurs has not been specifically designated for use as a camping area by the agency in charge of such land." The purpose is to "limit damage to

and deterioration of state properties and natural resources" so that all state property is "available for access and use by all citizens."

The bill defines "camping" as the use of temporary structures for living accommodation activities such as sleeping, or making preparations to sleep. The bill also states that "camping" includes, "the laying down of bedding for the purpose of sleeping, or storing personal belongings, making any fire, doing any digging or earth breaking or carrying on cooking activities."

The tents at Occupy Nashville function as a primary means of the groups' communication. Besides, if money—in the form of campaign contributions—constitutes free speech in our country, then sleeping in a tent as part of a 24-hour protest must certainly constitute free speech as well.

The bill's sponsors and supporters feel threatened less by the clearly articulated "speech" of Occupy Nashville—the message that the influence of corporate money should be removed from politics—and more by the message communicated by the sheer visibility of protestors and homeless people sleeping in public spaces. To face the sight of people sleeping in public is to face the reality that all is not well in our world.

Thus, beyond the threat of evicting a protest movement, the more serious threat is to people who literally have no other option but to use public space "for sleeping."

There are currently more than 500 people on Nashville's Section 8 housing waiting list. Hundreds or thousands are eager to add their name to the closed list. As for transitional housing, there are an esti-

mated 1,500 beds available on any given night—not nearly enough for the estimated 4,000 who call our city streets home.

In such a context, places like Nashville's former Tent City, and now, to a degree, Legislative Plaza, are inevitable and necessary, at least until our collective priorities regarding housing change.

Because "state property" extends well beyond Legislative Plaza, the bills give the state power to fine anyone who lays down bedding for the purpose of sleeping on any property owned by the state anywhere in Tenn. If anything may be rightly called "criminal," this is surely it.

Update: the bill passed the state senate with an upgrade to a Class A misdemeanor, punishable with up to 11 months and 29 days in jail and/or a \$2500.00 fine. The tents have been cleared from the Plaza.

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The People's Tribune encourages our readers to form groups to study and discuss especially our cover stories and editorials. Call or email us to find out if there is a People's Tribune study group in your area. Call 800-691-6888 or email info@peopletribune.org.

Purdue Calumet sanctions bigotry in the classroom

By Samuel Barnett

HAMMOND, IN — Last month, Purdue University Calumet (PUC) officials cleared Associate Professor of Political Science Maurice Eisenstein on nine counts of violating the university's Code of Ethics. The three-month investigation followed a vigorous campus protest throughout the Fall 2011 semester, with students charging that Eisenstein creates a hostile and intimidating classroom environment. The verdict disappointed a diverse coalition of student activists and campus organizations, whose successful demonstrations forced the university to finally act on a professor with a long history of making intolerant and harassing remarks about Blacks, women, and Muslims.

According to two complaints filed last autumn, Eisenstein remarked in a lecture on August 30 (Eid al-Fitr) that "Muslims are corrupting the world and the only thing Muslims are good for is their food." A Facebook row with other PUC students broke out in November when Eisenstein made a post blaming Muslims for the murder of Black Christians in Nigeria. Within days, vocal demonstrations attracted local and Chicago media to the generally quiet commuter campus.

The students presented their case at a forum in late November 2011 organized by the Social Justice Club, the Muslim Student Association, the Criminal Justice Club, the Student Secular Alliance, the Veterans Enlisted Student Association, and the Student Government Association. Steve Brumfield, an Iraq War combat veteran, told of an angry confrontation with Eisenstein at a campus memorial on the 10th anniversary



Purdue Calumet students leading a demonstration against harassment and bigotry on campus.

PHOTO/BRANDON HAYES

of 9/11 after the professor claimed that the United States has not "done enough" in the War on Terror and that "all Muslims should be annihilated."

Also featured were two ten-minute raw audio recordings from lectures purportedly delivered in Eisenstein's spring 2011 Jewish Studies course. In one clip, he claims "if you look at it historically, for 2000 years (*sic*) Muslims have contributed nothing to society. If they never existed it wouldn't really make a whole lot of difference, except for raping four year olds, they've not done anything." On the other hand, he

asserts that "nothing happened to Blacks in the 1960s, in the United States. I mean, they had an easy time with it... a couple of hoses, water sprayed on them, you know, like a cold shower, not a real problem. But God forbid I use the 'n-word' in class."

Relegated to online teaching for the spring 2012 semester, Eisenstein has continued making inflammatory Facebook posts, opining that there are "too many Muslims" on American campuses, that "Jew hatred is central to ALL America's universities" (emphasis his), that the Muslim Student Association is "part of a terrorist

organization," and even claiming his employer was "the most Israeli and Jewish hating institution in Indiana." Emboldened by the university's decision, he has even posted insulting personal remarks about the student who filed the initial harassment complaint.

The decision has left the students asking if the university tolerates racism, sexism, and Islamophobia, what else will it tolerate? Eisenstein has accused the protestors and the university for infringing his right to free speech and has alleged variously that he is being attacked for his conservative political beliefs, his religion,

or his ethnicity. The university and the media uncritically echoed Eisenstein's 'free speech' claim, framing this as an issue between a Jewish professor and Muslim students. Lost in this spin is the protestors' diversity and the student's right to freedom from harassment and bigotry.

Undaunted, the students have appealed the university's decision and are continuing their campus organizing efforts and demonstrations. They have also begun enlisting the help of national civil rights organizations. With a coalition this diverse, one thing is certain. United, they cannot be defeated.

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO FREEDOM

By Simuel Ramey & Matt Perry

Education is the key to a health society. During slavery, the slave power made it against the law for the slaves to read. I see why. For the slave who is fighting to end their slavery, education is key.

Affirmative action was fought for so that education could be guaranteed. Little Rock Central High School was the first school integrated in the South, but the state admitted this year that it did not fulfill all the requirements of the integration law. The rich white students went to school upstairs and the poor black and white students went to school downstairs. Today, students around the country are protesting against rising tuition fees and the end of affirmative action. They are being denied an education because it's being priced beyond their means.

To have a healthy and functional society, society must be educated and have spirituality. Education is the key to freedom and a civilized society. The ruling class is destroying society as we know it. The American people must take the power of the people and force the government to serve the people, as the Constitution says, for the people, by the people, not by the rich and for the rich. This is what society is lacking and why it is in chaos.

This dysfunctional society was planned. The ruling class is destroying human beings and Human Rights with an unjust society. The government is serving the rich and not the people. The way to end the senseless killing and chaos is to educate the people with the truth. Once informed, the people will know what to do. They always

do when faced with injustice. The oppressors have manipulated the poor by dividing them, causing poor to fight poor, while the rich become richer from their labors.

It is not only about color, it is

about class – the have's against the have not's. When the American people come to grips with this, we can stand on "Yes We Can" and fight for it. We demand Human Rights now. Build schools, not prisons. Educa-

tion is the key to freedom and a civilized society. Power to the people.

The People's Tribune is the voice for the disenfranchised and the oppressed to let their story be known in the search for Justice.



Simuel Ramey standing in front of Little Rock Central Highschool. During the 1960s, the High School became a national and international symbol of resistance to desegregation.

PHOTO/DONATED

Immigration: THE ROOTS OF THE PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

From the *Tribuna del Pueblo*, sister publication to the *People's Tribune*

The immigration issue—the exploitation and mistreatment of millions of undocumented migrant families in the U.S.—has sparked confusion and fear. It has also called some to protest, march, and to speak out for what is moral.

Backed by the capitalist class they represent, the Democratic and Republican parties have campaigned to label undocumented workers as criminals. This is creating a deepening humanitarian crisis.

This is best exemplified by the immigration policy adopted by Alabama. That state's new immigration law is creating an environment of fear and racism that is leading to frightened immigrant parents keeping their children home from school, pregnant women afraid to give birth in a hospital, and families suffering as their water is cut off.

The U.S. is not alone. The migration of jobless masses around the globe has created a global humanitarian crisis. In almost every country, governments are putting forth policies and laws that criminalize the victim, the migrant worker.

To resolve this crisis, we have to look at its roots—the imperialist era and the new conditions of globalization.

In search of maximum profits, capitalists have scavenged the world, creating and employing political forms which most advance their profits.

Backed up by the U.S. military,



Tens of thousands of immigrant workers protest at the Capitol in the March for America. They demanded that President Obama keep his promise to push for Immigration Reform. PHOTO/ADRIAN GARCIA

for more than 100 years, companies from United Fruit to Conagra, Standard Oil to Chevron, Anaconda Copper to General Motors, have raped and pillaged Latin American countries and their workers.

U.S. corporate imperialists erected borders and prohibited the free movement of workers throughout the hemisphere. Indeed, U.S. Imperialism has been

all about borders.

In the 1820s the Monroe Doctrine attempted to prohibit European nations from re-colonizing the newly free countries in Latin America.

It became a weapon of U.S. corporate expansion. And by the end of World War I, it became the screen behind which U.S. finance capitalists exerted their hegemonic power and controlled the Americas.

Part and parcel of the Monroe Doctrine was its gunboat diplomacy. General Smedley Butler, who had commanded U.S. Marines in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean, described it clearly: "I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism."

UNIONIZING EFFORT AT HYATT HOTELS

By Barry Saks

LONG BEACH, CA — About 80 people, including local hotel workers and community supporters, on March 9, in celebration of International Women's Day, protested Hyatt's treatment of its women workers, as part of a national boycott of Hyatt.

Outside the hotel, many picketers wore red union teeshirts from UNITE HERE Local 11. Among those picketing were Occupy Long Beach, housekeepers from the Maya Hotel, members from the First Congregational Church and people from the Long Beach Area Peace Network. Many carried signs, which read, "Boycott Hyatt Long Beach." The picketers chanted slogans in Spanish and English. A recurrent chant was "If we get no justice, you'll get no peace." A second chant was "Don't check in, check out."

The picketing started at the street level and the picketers then marched toward the Hyatt and picketed in front of the hotel.

Inside the hotel, about ten Occupy Long Beach supporters began a mic check. Daniel Alan, with his eldest daughter, tried to present

management a bill for \$76 million, representing the subsidy from the city of Long Beach. When management would not accept the bill and it was apparent hotel security was on its way, the community supporters inside left the hotel with no arrests. When picketers on the second level saw their community supporters exiting below, cheers rang out. The picketing continued and then the picketers marched back the way they came. The picketers found a makeshift clothesline with four pieces of cloth hanging with slogans. One slogan in Spanish read, "No more abuse." On the ground were about 10 other pieces of cloth with slogans on them.

Back at where the picketing began, Debbie Pacheco, who works at the Hyatt front desk, emceed a rally. Pacheco introduced the speakers: Amy Bertolone, Erin Foley and Marshall Blesofsky. Bertolone, who also works the front desk and has worked for the community for its support.

Erin Foley, representing Occupy Long Beach, told the crowd that Occupy was there in "solidarity to highlight Hyatt's abuse of workers, especially women."

Foley said, "We are here to support you and women workers everywhere. Together, we can fight to put an end to Hyatt's abuse of women in our city and across the country." Erin also pointed out that the City of Long Beach had given tax breaks to Hyatt.

Blesofsky, representing Long Beach Area Peace Network, said if the presidential choices were "between the immigrant, workers, and alternative gender hating Republicans or the more reasonable Democrat, we would have to choose Obama." "But as a peace and human rights activist, I want to point out that Pres. Obama has escalated the war in Afghanistan, and has extended war to parts of the Middle East; Pakistan, Libya, Yemen, and Somalia. Human rights and the constitutional guarantees of due process have been trampled on by justifying the murder of any US citizen if they are labeled a terrorist. Also, under President Obama more undocumented workers have been deported in three years than under George W. Bush in eight years."

Ben Leonen who worked as a cook for almost 10 years at the Long Beach Hyatt, said he has been injured twice while work-



Picket at Boycott Hyatt Long Beach. PHOTO/BARRY SAKS

ing, because of extreme differences in temperature in his work environment.

The rally ended with the First Congregational Church Choir singing "Bread and Roses."

In West Hollywood at the Hyatt Andaz, the day before the Long Beach Hyatt picket, about

U.S. imperialism meant exploitation and poverty for workers in its direct colonies and in its dependent semi-colonies. Imperialist profits enabled U.S. capitalists and their companies to provide U.S. workers with a higher standard of living—a kind of bribery that bought their support.

Though rooted in the imperialist era, the current immigration crisis is emerging under new conditions.

Today, world-class corporations are shifting their economic model away from operating within national markets to operating across the globe. For them, national borders are rapidly evaporating.

Facing them is the growing global class of workers who are united in their common poverty and common oppressors. But workers' ability to find work is constrained by the very national boundaries that global capital has abandoned.

Migration is an outcome of globalization—the greater the globalization, the greater the migration of workers. Globalizing production necessarily globalizes the producer.

The 2006 mega-marches revealed the presence of the global worker in the US. It also revealed the necessity of a fundamental political realignment to create laws and institutions based on the reality of global production and global workers.

Any discussion on immigration laws in 2012 must take into account the new reality—that immigration is not going to stop.

CABRINI EVICTIONS: Chicago Housing Authority violates its own lease to vacate families

By Joe Peery

CHICAGO, IL — In spite of the fact that the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) has ordered all residents on the east end of the Cabrini Row Houses to be removed by the end of February, two families still remain. One of the reasons given by the CHA for emptying that part of the row houses out is safety.

“But they keep trying to force us to move to even more unsafe areas,” says Gloria Franklin, the head of one of the households still there. “Also I take care of my sister who is disabled. She can’t take climbing up too many stairs. We need an apartment that’s accessible for her.” The CHA Lease holds in Section 11(i), “Reasonable Accommodations for Residents with Disabilities” that reasonable accommodations for disabled tenants shall be provided.

The family claims that they never received, saw or signed a 180-day notice to vacate, but did receive a 90-day notice with a provision giving them the right to a grievance hearing to address these issues, as long as they requested it before 12/30/11. Miss Franklin submitted a request for such a hearing on 12/28/11.

“I didn’t hear anything from them until February 17, when I went to the office to get my lease. They told me the hearing was going to be on February 22. I went and they said they would get back to me with their decision.” No one has gotten back to her either verbally or in writing with a decision even though the Lease Section 15(b) reads, “CHA Responsibility: All notices to residents must be in writing...”

“They just started trying to force me to move again,” says Miss Franklin. “Even when I was in the hospital for a few days, they harassed me on the phone.”

According to the CHA’s own FY 2009 Grievance Procedure, this is a summary of what should have happened: 1) The property management shall provide the head of household



CARTOON/ANDY WILLIS

with a receipt for the informal hearing request. 2) Property management shall schedule and hold an informal hearing within 15 days of receiving request. 3) Within 10 business days, the property management shall provide head of household with informal hearing results, again in writing. 4) If head of household disagrees with informal hearing results, a formal hearing can be requested within 15 days of receiving results. The CHA has neglected all this and has now taken the Franklin Family to court, this time in violation of the Lease Section 17(d). “If the hearing was timely requested, tenancy shall not terminate until the grievance process has been completed and results have been forwarded to the resident, even if the Notice of Lease Termination has expired.”

“We still have a few rights and that some of us have the audacity to try and exercise them is in conflict with the CHA’s and their corporate partners.”

The CHA is obviously willing to break every rule in the book in order to remove people from Cabrini without regard for their safety or well-being. The fact that we still have a few rights and that some of us have the audacity to try and exercise them is in conflict with the CHA’s and their corporate partners’ plans for transformation. When the CHA tries to remove the families on the west end of the Cabrini Row Houses, let us keep in mind the lessons learned from this story.

GUIDELINES FOR A HEALTHY BANKING INDUSTRY

By Bruce Jenkins

With Occupy everything these days; we need to keep occupying Congress. Just as a Republican candidate expressed his discontent for the majority of lawmakers in Washington, we the people should feel the same way. All they have done so far is eliminate jobs, expand poverty, and remove the shackles that once held Wall Street and the banking industry in check. Surely, no one should be so delusional as to think that the current administration, or the next one to come, will ever bring prosperity back to America’s declining economic system.

The continued downward spiral of the housing market is the direct result of the Obama Administration’s “Good-Samaritan” approach to sinful possessions. However, no one coming into the government can fix this. It is a product of the overall system.

According to some, the declining housing market is putting a strain on the health of the banking industry. However, after stuffing their pockets with taxpayer’s bailout money, this industry suddenly feels a need to put more needles into their consumer voodoo dolls. Today, reform is a word that has no meaning.

Consider the valuing and mon-

itoring systems setup by corporate banks. To them, reform is just another way of downgrading your property loan, or re-evaluating your collateral. Never mind the years of blood, sweat, and tears it took for you to build your successful small business. After several years of playing by the rules, developing a healthy business relationship with your Lender/Banker, you discover (via a form letter) that your business holdings are on their reform chopping block. Yet, their best offer to you is a simple apology for any inconvenience this causes.

An example of corporate bank greed is an account given by an executive Black businesswoman living in Los Angeles, who has had a successful real estate business for over fifteen years. While most minority-owned businesses struggled fiercely during the housing slump, her business has been able to survive. However, as this recession drags on, faced with a declining customer base, she needed more working capital to support her business interest. She appealed to a lender, Zion Bank. Part of a collection of so-called “Great Banks,” this Zion Bank prides itself as powerful in the banking industry. In the beginning years, their business relationship was professional. After sending

several bank representatives to Southern California to perform spy duties on her real estate operation, their behavior changed. Instead of professionalism, it became “master and slave.” The bank representatives began harassing her about payments. Later it became a demand for full-payment, or else foreclosure is the only option. Today, she’s still fighting ... suspecting that their activities are fraudulent, egregious and illegal. Her fight is to expose the excessive privileges and power wielded by corporate banking, especially the Zions Bancorporation.

Look. Unscrupulous, discriminating business practices orchestrated by corporate bankers don’t need new guidelines for their lack of moral behavior. They need to be prosecuted for the crimes against unsuspecting consumers, who are being held hostage in debt. The laws that are already on the books are simply ignored by lawmakers your vote supports in Washington. This is yet another reason why the growing demand for economic change is fuel for the Occupy everything (including Congress) movement. The Occupy movement makes it clear than ‘we are watching you’ and that ‘you need to take our needs into account.’

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Whirlpool Corporation “buys” the NAACP

By Rev. Edward Pinkney



BENTON HARBOR, MI — The Whirlpool Corporation has declared a takeover of the NAACP-Benton Harbor/Twin City. It is stunning, shameless and unreal. Marcus Robinson, president of Consortium for Community Development, a component of Cornerstone Alliance with ties to the Whirlpool Corporation, is working on Whirlpool's behalf against the residents of Benton Harbor. Robinson is circulating an e-mail that screams of his desire to rid the NAACP/Twin City Branch of its' President. I, Rev. Edward Pinkney, am the current president of the local Twin City Branch, elected by a wide margin. The email states:

“The State Commission of the NAACP and their National Office has decided to undertake the reorganization of this chapter with specific intention of revitalizing the leadership and membership body. Contact Marcus Robinson by cell at 269-277-7711 or by inbox at www.facebook.com/4marcusrobinson.” We urge all readers to contact Marcus Robinson with your views on Whirlpool's hostile takeover attempt of the Benton Harbor NAACP.

The Michigan State NAACP is coming to town to help Whirlpool takeover the Twin City Branch on April 14, 2012. We suspect they will hold a special election to try to vote me out. Marcus Robinson is giving free memberships to those who promise to vote against Rev Pinkney. Are you sitting down?

They want me out because I have been involved in organizing a five-day protest from May 23-27, when the PGA tournament will be held in Benton Harbor on land stolen from the town's residents. It doesn't take an

IQ of 200 to understand why there is an effort by Whirlpool and the State NAACP to oust me. I am helping residents of Benton Harbor and those across the country fight the giant corporations. In addition, Jeff Fittig, the CEO of Whirlpool Corporation, said the NAACP/Twin city has strongly criticized not only Whirlpool, but also Joseph Harris, (the dictator of the city of Benton Harbor.) In fact, the city is worse now than it was when he arrived.

“We know folks in the NAACP that would sell their mothers for a seat at the corporate table, but this is really low,” said Simdoate Sadoq. “I met with Rev. Pinkney for some time to give him a history of NAACP's motto to steal by any means necessary and to sacrifice the many for a few.” Also, the same kind of action was taken against a New York Branch.

The NAACP is an organization that claims to fight for the rights of voters, yet disenfranchises the voting rights of NAACP Twin City Branch members to please the greedy blood sucking Whirlpool Corporation. Did Whirlpool and the PGA promise money to oust me? After many years of living in the shadow of this corporation and observing the racism and corruption, I believe the answer is yes.

We must support each other. We can not support people and organizations that don't support the people. A movement has to fundamentally change the direction and morality of the multinational corporate/government system that controls all of us.

The Twin City Branch is fighting back and protecting it's voting rights. On April 2, 2012, I will file a lawsuit against the State and National NAACP. More confusion and conspiracy are the last things we need in our community. Let's get back to fighting for fairness and justice.



Protest the corporations and bankers at the Senior PGA Championship tournament at the Benton Harbor golf tournament May 23-27, 2012. We are the 99% and the 1% will be there. Saturday, May 26 is the big day. Join us! Call Rev. Plnkney, President, BANCO at 269-925-0001 for information.

PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK

VOTING RIGHTS THREATENED IN GEORGIA TOWN:



The Quitman 10 +2

PHOTO/CLYDE BRADLEY

The case of the Quitman 10+2

By Adriane Harden

QUITMAN, GA — Not many people know about The Quitman 10 +2.

Quitman is a small town of about 5000 people, 67% African American, in rural South Georgia, not far from the Florida state line. A few years ago, a group of citizens, tired of having no voice in their community, decided to go out and encourage residents to exercise their right to vote. Going door-to-door, they were successful with voter registration and education. Hundreds became new voters and engaged in the political life of their community. Three candidates were chosen to run for two School Board positions and one County Commission seat. Relying heavily on advance voting and voting via absentee ballot, the three African Americans beat white incumbents in the Democratic primary. The losers entered as write-in candidates in the November 2010 general election but lost again.

In Georgia, there are no restrictions on who can use an absentee ballot. Advance voting provided more flexibility for casting a ballot. By employing these two alternate methods of voting, many whose work schedules or family responsibilities had hindered them from voting in the past were encouraged to express their view. The balance of power on the School Board was altered and an African American educator, Dr. Nancy Dennard, was named chair of the

Board. Upset by the outcome, the local District Attorney ordered a GBI investigation. Shortly after the newly elected members took office, on Dec. 21, 2010, 10 people, including Dr. Dennard the other successful candidates, were arrested and charged with alleged unlawful possession of ballots that favored the board members in the 2010 Brooks County school board election. Five Hundred people kept vigil at the jail until they were released.

Since their arrest, they have not been indicted and have not heard anything else from the District Attorney's office. A year later, two more people were charged with voter fraud.

On January 10, 2012, Governor Nathan Deal of Georgia suspended three of the African American Brooks County School Board members, by way of an Executive Order. These members have not been convicted of anything, much less voter fraud.

The suspension returns the Brooks County school board to a white majority, effectively dismissing the results of the election.

The Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials (GABEO) have planned a March and Rally on the courthouse to demand the charges be dropped and the suspension of their terms be lifted.

For more information, please contact Adriane.Harden@678-653-2012 or email amharden@gmail.com

Correction

The article, “People's Hearing Puts Monsanto On Trial,” on page 8 of the March, 2012 edition of the *People's Tribune* should be corrected to read: F. William Engdahl's book is “Seeds of Deception.” The two websites listed at the end of the article should be midwestradicalculturecorridor.net and carbonfarm.us/monsanto.

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