

# PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

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Highland Park, Michigan - Union members rally near a closed auto plant to urge the reopening of Detroit's factories.

PHOTO/JIMWESTPHOTO.COM

## INSIDE:

- Future belongs to the young 2
- Ban hydraulic fracturing 4
- Assault on democracy 5
- Courts of Women on Poverty 6
- Teachers are "fed up" 7
- Battles in Wisconsin 8
- Immigration strategy 9

## GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS HITS NEW STAGE

[Read story on page 3](#)





New Yorkers march with the October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation, protesting the killing of New Yorks young people by police. PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK. OLAFIMAGES.COM

# THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE YOUNG

## EDITORIAL

Francis Duggan ends his poem with “The future belongs to the young.” Nothing could be more obvious and less understood. Who are the young, and what is the future?

Last year, the New York Times referred to the youth of today as “Generation Limbo” i.e. neglected and left in oblivion. Society dare not ignore the future just because it is difficult to understand. Understanding the youth of today and their future requires more than simply looking at statistics. It requires an examination of the forces shaping our world and its youth. For instance, to understand the youth of the 1930’s, the starting point was understanding the Great De-

pression, the rise of international fascism and the inevitability of world war.

Understanding the problems and future of today’s youth begins with understanding the great, ongoing economic revolution that is tearing apart the old world and creating the possibilities of the new. The old world is based on the concept of producers consuming and consumers producing. Money—the instrument of exchange—holds them together. The rapid expansion of robotics, that is, production without labor is changing all this. The new producer does not consume and the former producer, now without jobs or money, cannot consume. As the electronic revolution opens the doorway to a new world free from toil, ignorance and want, the old world of private

property is pulling mankind into starvation, fascism and war.

This is the fork in the road facing the young generation. What is their situation? Without quoting the mass of available statistics, we point out that over half of the youth are unemployed and jobs are disappearing rather than being created. All their social and economic problems stem from this. The situation is nearing a breaking point. How do revolutionaries approach the youth?

Since the youth are not firmly tied into property or exploitation of others, they tend to be the most moral section of society. To win the youth to the revolutionary movement, we must start at this point. Ninety percent of Black youth in Chicago did not work last summer. There is no way for the ruling class to win

them over politically with tales of the glory of capitalism. Talk to them and they will say, “This isn’t right.” Since they know this is not right—we have the opportunity to talk about what is right and why.

The “Left” in this country has been restricted to telling people what they already know, since no alternatives actually existed. Today there is an alternative. Electronics has the potential of creating a new world free from stultifying toil, privation and want. A world where socially necessary means of production are owned by society, where production is for use rather than profit. We must have a clear vision of this future and the courage to carry it to the youth. They are the ones who create reality from the vision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Why the Movement Needs a Press

### From the Editors

We are sometimes asked “Why does the movement to build a new America 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.

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# GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS HITS NEW STAGE

## COVER STORY

The global economic crisis is escalating. The economies and fates of countries around the world are bound together by globalization. Europe's deepening financial crisis is approaching economic collapse. It threatens to expand into a global economic depression.

Last month, Eurozone countries agreed to lend up to \$125 billion to Spain's banks. They hope to provide enough capital to avoid a financial meltdown from occurring and spreading across Europe and the world, because Spain's banks hold more than \$220 billion in bad commercial real estate loans. This bailout follows the hundreds of billions loaned to Greece, Portugal and Ireland over the last two years.

This is how the global crisis is playing itself out. We are told the problem is too much debt, too many bad loans. But what is actually destroying the global economy is the irresolvable conflict between electronic and robotic production and capitalism.

Robotic production is shattering the system of buying and selling labor power that is the foundation of capitalism. Under capitalism, capitalists buy the labor power of the workers to produce things. Those things then have to be sold to the workers for the capitalists to make their profits. The workers use their wages to buy what they need and want. This cycle of buying and selling keeps the system going.

More and more things are being produced with robots and computers instead of human labor. This creates growing permanent unemployment. People without jobs can't buy anything, and of course robots can't buy



Occupy protesters, holding pink slips, form a mock unemployment line in lower Manhattan.

PHOTO/MIKE FLESHMAN

anything either. This disrupts the cycle of buying and selling. This antagonism between robotic production and capitalism is destroying capitalism and the society it has produced.

For decades, the global capitalist class has kept its system afloat by extending credit and loans to business, governments and consumers. That came to an abrupt end in 2008, when the real estate credit bubble burst in the United States. Since then, in an effort to deal with the crisis, gov-

ernments around the world have demanded cutbacks for the mass of the people, while using public money to bail out the financial industry. The capitalist system is on its last legs, but the capitalist class is doing everything it can to maintain its property, power and privilege, even if it means starvation for the rest of us.

Capitalism is the problem, not technology. Laborless robotic production gives us unlimited abundance, yet capitalism prevents us from enjoying it. The

obvious solution is to get capitalism and its tiny ruling class of billionaires out of the way. We have a right to live. If the people own and control the technology of production, we can make what we need and distribute it to everyone. The people are in a fight for the political and economic power to determine the future. Every struggle we wage today should be seen as part of a broader fight for a new world of peace and abundance.

### Sister/Brother, can you spare \$20?

The People's Tribune brings clarity to the growing movement. It unites the movement around a vision of a better world and a strategy to achieve it. It has no paid staff and gets no corporate grants. The paper is financed solely by our readers. We need your support to continue telling the truth.

One-time donations are welcome. If you can spare \$20 a month or more, you'll be a hero. Please make donations payable to People's Tribune and send to P.O. Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654. You can also donate via Paypal at [www.peopletribune.org](http://www.peopletribune.org).

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# Southern Illinoisans want ban on hydraulic fracturing

By Cathy Talbott

What began as one woman with a website is now a grassroots effort to ban hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of natural gas in Illinois. NEXT Energy Corporation has leased 80,000 acres and intends to begin in downstate counties of Wayne and Saline in June. Exposed in the documentary “Gasland,” ‘fracking’ uses a slew of chemicals, sand and water to fracture shale in order to extract natural gas, with dire consequences for the land, water, humans, and animals, while the corporations make obscene profits. The following is an interview with Liz Patula, concerned resident and grassroots organizer against ‘fracking.’

*People’s Tribune: Why the interest in fracking?*

**Liz:** I knew about fracking in other states for about 1 ½ years. I was interested in the human perspective. I use well water. I’m concerned about contamination.

*PT: How did you learn that it’s coming to Southern Illinois?*

**Liz:** Through Illinois Food and Water Watch. It became very personal, very quickly. I did a lot of research and built a website: [www.dontfractureillinois.org](http://www.dontfractureillinois.org). Now multiple people are working on it.

*PT: Has interest grown since your first meeting in March?*

**Liz:** Yes. After two informational meetings in Southern Illinois, enough people became interested to coalesce into a grassroots base. We rely on community members to educate others.

*PT: You hosted two Pennsylvania farmers that testified to their experiences. What was the audience response?*

**Liz:** Good. It was very powerful to hear first hand what real people are going through. It is so sad that one of the farmers, Terry Greenwood, still has to provide drinking water for his family and his cattle. Shortly after gas wells were fracked on his property, his well water turned brown and unusable and the pond his cattle drink from became contaminated. We are now asking Illinois residents to contact Governor Quinn to ask for a ban on permits for fracking. Our group has written a formal letter explaining this, and it is on the home page of our website. We want a ban on fracking in Illinois. The question is: how do you use the land? A procedure that carries so much risk doesn’t make sense. Fracking has wide scale consequences. An oil and gas well a mile away can affect my house and well. Our legal committee is working on language that will allow counties to impose a ban.

*PT: Is there a precedent for such action?*

**Liz:** Yes. Rockingham County, VA; the entire state of Vermont and over 100 municipalities in New York have banned it.

*PT: What are your next steps?*

**Liz:** Community education. We’re arranging showings of “Split Estate” which examines land owners’ surface rights versus mineral rights. And we’re putting together our own DVD to use at local level, plus our letter writing campaign to Gov. Quinn. The outreach committee is planning our next wave of events.

*PT: President Obama has stated his support for natural gas drilling claiming it will create 600,000 jobs, which is an issue here.*

**Liz:** It’s complicated. It should not be jobs versus land and wa-



**Fine silica dust released almost constantly into the air during the fracking of a Chesapeake well in Wetzel County. It can cause silicosis.** PHOTO/BILL HUGHES, WETZEL COUNTY ACTION GROUP

ter; it’s jobs via land and water. Our kids and grandkids will be trying to figure out what to do with the devastation we left for

them, and their options will be limited. We need to be more responsible than this, as a region, for future generations.

## HEALTHCARE, NOT WARFARE!



**Protesting the closure of half of Chicago’s mental health clinics.** PHOTO/BRETT JELINEK, OLAFIMAGES.COM

By Lew Rosenbaum

CHICAGO, IL — In May the People’s Tribune reported on the occupation of Woodlawn Mental Health Clinic, because Chicago planned to close 6 of 12 public mental health clinics. Chicago police arrested the 23 patients and activists barricaded in the clinic. Since then, members of the Mental Health Movement (MHM), activists in the Occupy movement and others have kept a 24-hour vigil at those clinics and continue to fight to reopen all clinics. As the NATO summit meeting approached in May, the MHM announced a rally May 19, the day before the summit began.

A statement from the MHM called on “our family from the global 99%” to “join us in the fight for healthcare not warfare.”

Hundreds marched from the northwest clinic to the Mayor’s home not far away. Here they leafleted the neighborhood, telling residents that Mayor Rahm Emanuel had closed the clinics because of a “budget shortfall” of \$3 million, a small fraction of the \$65 million estimated cost of hosting NATO. The problem is not money—it’s priorities.

On June 12, the two-month anniversary of the occupation of the Woodlawn Clinic, protesters took their message to the office of the Department of Public Health. The MHM has documented increases in hospitalizations and emergency room overload due to the closure of clinics. Meanwhile, Public Health Commissioner Choucair continues to insist that less clinics mean better service! Six demonstrators sat down in

front of Choucair’s office demanding to meet with him and were arrested for trespassing.

The trial of the protesters arrested at the Woodlawn clinic was scheduled to begin June 18. “Five protesters will use the ‘necessity defense’ according to their attorney James Fennerty, who spoke at a press conference outside the courthouse. Defendants invoke the necessity defense when they claim to have committed a crime so as to benefit the public good.” (*Progress Illinois*, June 12). Fennerty further pointed out that they were “trespassing” in order to prevent a greater evil: the closing of the clinics and hospitalizations, incarcerations, and deaths that would ensue.

The defense plans to call on therapists, mental health patients and even Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart to show that Rahm Emanuel and his “Public health” Commissioner Bechara Choucair are the real criminals, responsible for much worse than trespassing.

The intransigence of the Emanuel regime is a harbinger of the future response of the city to the challenge that the dispossessed are putting to its “representatives.” From the Spanish indignados to MHM protesters in Chicago, the most at risk populations are pressing demands on their political leaders and the capitalist system they represent. The MHM is demanding that the government take care of the people’s health care needs. When the government refuses, it calls into question the right of the class it represents to continue to rule.

### *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 percenter’s head  
they took the money and stole the gold  
while robbing the poor and starving the old  
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*



# PIZZA IS A VEGETABLE

By Sister Occupy

FRESNO, CA — Oh, Red, White and Blue, how many ways have you failed us? Let me recount the links on the chain of contempt:

Let's start with the fact that you, as a group, have made costly mistakes in judgment and have worked together, Dems and Republicans, hand-in-hand, to pass the cost of those mistakes on to the taxpayer and ensure that no one in office is punished. Let's add that you allowed Wall Street to purposefully and systematically target the poor in pushing mortgages on people who you knew could not afford them over the long run.

Let's add, also, the fact that the best, most succinct books outlining exactly what happened and who is responsible, are not being released in this country. You, our officials, have committed huge crimes against the people and then keep making it worse and worse and worse.

You have robbed our school systems and the agencies that protect our air and water, in order to fund wars that the American people do not support.

*You have poisoned our food supply.*

*You have profited off of the torture, confinement, and cruel treatment of countless animals.*

*You have continuously sought to strip employees of the right to negotiate.*

*You have consistently outsourced labor and used that outsourcing as leverage to cut workers' healthcare and pay.*

*You have influenced the courts to allow corporations to have the same rights as people, with none of the culpability or responsibility.*

*You have used the military and police force to prevent free-*

*dom of the press.*

*You continue to determine economic policy, despite the catastrophic failures your policies have produced and continue to produce.*

*You have accepted donations for your campaigns from private interests, for whom you blatantly exchange favors.*

*You continue to order weapons of mass destruction in order to spread that government money around to your friends.*

*You have purposely covered up oil spills, accidents, faulty bookkeeping, and inactive ingredients in pursuit of profit.*

*You purposefully keep people misinformed and fearful through control of the media.*

*You perpetuate colonialism at home and abroad. You have sanctioned the torture and murder of innocent civilians overseas.*

Once you realize that every system in America has been corrupted, you have no choice but to join the Occupy movement. Occupy Wall Street came into my life like a breath of fresh air. The items on my list above, the ones in italics, were borrowed from the notes of the Occupy NYC General Assembly meeting in September of 2011.

The day congress declared pizza a vegetable, I declared myself a nun. I donned the habit, and I haven't taken it off. When people ask me, "Are you a real nun?", I say, "Yes, my dear, just as Corporations are real people and pizza is a real vegetable, I am, a real nun."

Sister Occupy lives in Merced, CA and is active in the Merced Occupy movement. She would like to answer questions that come up in the Occupy movement. Questions can be sent to [anonymun99@gmail.com](mailto:anonymun99@gmail.com)



Occupy Wall Street, New York.

PHOTO/JOEL SOSINKSY



Benton Harbor, MI protest against the PGA, Emergency Managers and corporate takeover of the town and lakefront property. PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

## Michigan Court of Appeals to citizens: 'LET THEM EAT FONTS!'

By Claire McClinton

FLINT, MI — In another assault on democracy, the Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled that the 225,000 signatures gathered to repeal P.A. 4 **should be certified** despite the phony font size challenge. But they further ruled that they would poll the entire 28-member Appeals Court to determine if a 7-member panel should be named to make the final decision. The three-member panel who came to this convoluted decision has given new meaning to justice delayed, justice denied, and seemed clearly emboldened by the Wisconsin setback where Governor Walker retained his seat.

Public Act 4 (aka Corporate Act 4) is the draconian, fascist law passed last year that allows the governor to dispatch "Managers" to city, township, and school districts to manage financially distressed areas. The "Manager" is empowered to set aside local elected officials and become the dictator in chief. Furthermore, Emergency Managers can set aside union contracts, dismantle charters, sell public assets and even dissolve cities and townships. On February 29, petitions were delivered to Lansing, MI, with the intent of placing a referendum on the No-

member ballot and there has been obstruction every since, with this being the latest.

Even the pro Governor pro Public Act 4 Detroit Free Press wrote in an editorial: "...when ostensibly nonpartisan judges postpone justice for the sole purpose of advancing their own party's political interests, their actions invite contempt for the entire judicial process."

Attempts to crush the democratic process from the courts and Governor Rick Snyder's office, as well as the local Emergency Managers offices are driving new forces and awakening ever more citizens to this pro-

found threat to any semblance of democracy. The citizens of Michigan face a defining moment about what a post-industrial Michigan will look like.

As more and more wake up to these dangerous attacks on our democracy and corporate takeovers of our municipalities, we can carve out a path to survive and thrive.

*NEWS FLASH: In a new development, the 28-member Court refused to set up a 7-member panel and the referendum is on it's way to the ballot (unless the "font police" come up with more delays).*

### PRISONER DONATES TO THE PEOPLES TRIBUNE!

"I sent you a \$5 donation. It takes 30 days for the prison to clear the money off my account. Everyone here enjoys your paper. Thank you." — A prisoner in California

*Editors note: We all know that prisoners have little or no money. That this prisoner, and others, are scraping up some money to donate to the People's Tribune, sets the pace in donations for all of us. Please send your donation today to PT, PO Box 3524, Chicago, IL 60654-3524 or donate via PayPal at [www.peoplestribune.org](http://www.peoplestribune.org)*



# U.S. COURT OF WOMEN ON POVERTY, WESTERN REGION

## The Contours of a New Political Imaginary

By Janny Castillo  
Juror on the U.S. Court of Women on Poverty, BOSS community organizer and videographer

OAKLAND, CA — For those who participated and attended, WELL DONE!

For those who did not make it out to the U.S. Courts of Women on Poverty, Western Region, held in May, you missed a special gathering of minds and a discourse on viable grassroots solutions to alleviate the effects of poverty in our communities. One of the consensus reached, ***“The system is broken. The people are not.”***

The event was in Oakland, California, a city of extreme contrasts, from million dollar homes to a parking lot where a homeless mother sleeps in her car with three small children. Oakland, where the Black Panther Party began, was mother to people’s revolutions way before Occupy tents set up in her town square. It was righteous that WEAP, the Women’s Economic Agenda Project, chose Oakland for the first of four U.S. Courts of Women on Poverty.

*“The courts of women... are finding new ways of speaking truth to power... recognizing that the concepts and categories enshrined in the ideas and institutions of human rights are insufficient to grasp the violence*

*(of poverty). The courts are creating another civic authority.”* (Excerpt from the opening day speech by Corinne Kumar, founder of the World Courts of Women on Poverty.)

The truthsayers and heart of the event were the personal and video testimonies of those affected by poverty, unemployment, homelessness and inadequate health care. There were roundtable discussions on the core issues: Poverty, Jobs and Immigration, Foreclosures, Homelessness and Poverty Rights, Environment and the Justice System, Healthcare for the 99% and Organizing for a Quality Public Education.

Ashley Proctor, a panelist on “Healthcare for the 99%” shared how her deteriorating throat went undiagnosed for 12 years. Beginning at age 10 she saw 34 doctors who told her, *without looking down her throat*, that there was nothing wrong with her. By age 22 she was sharing baby food with her son, because that was all she could eat. By that time *“I weighed 97 pounds. My glands were permanently swollen and the inside of my throat no longer existed.”*

Community organizer Vanessa Nguyen told the same panel, *“Folks in poverty are living in neighborhoods with tons of violence, walking home is stressful, scary, dangerous. Stress causes a*



(Above) Corinne Kumar and Jurors.

PHOTO/JON-MYCHAL COX

(Below) Participants at the World Courts of Women held in Oakland, CA.

PHOTO/JON-MYCHAL COX

*slew of health issues, like stress eating, smoking, drugs... health and poverty is intertwined.”*

Organizations came from across the US. More than 60 organizations helped the Women’s Economic Agenda Project plan this history making four-day event. Ethel Long Scott, WEAP’s Executive Director, said, *“There has never been a time in this country of such tremendous opportunities and tremendous disparities. There is nothing quite like this globalization of capitalism. We at WEAP have a focus on making economic security and justice available to large numbers of people across this globe and most particularly in this country. We have this idea that POVERTY IS VIOLENCE!”*

There was entertainment consisting of song, dance and poetry that textured the testimony with color, great music and rich culture. Many times, the audience was brought to its feet in applause.

The jurors were charged to listen to the presentations and draft a resolution that will be shared with three other courts in planning stages in other parts of the U.S. Ultimately, a U.S. contingent will present a U.S. Courts of Women on Poverty Resolution at the Geneva, Switzerland United Nations Human Rights Council. The Juror Resolution said in part:

*“...We, the Jurors of the US*



*Court of Women... bear witness to the violence of battery, criminal injustice, homelessness, mental illness and physical violence, food insecurity and economical genocide indeed, the extreme violence perpetrated by poverty and the capitalist system.*

*“...We, the Jurors of the U.S. Courts of Women on Poverty, Western Region hold the United States Government. and corporations responsible and accountable for the multitude of gross human rights violations that have barred the way to basic human rights such as affordable housing, health and mental health care, quality education, right to justice and dignity, and the right to exist and thrive in a free and true*

*democracy.”*

*As for me, it was an honor to serve as juror.*

*“We ask the powerful of the world, the giant multinationals, the rich in the richest country of the world, we ask to look into the eyes of your children. What stories will you tell them? Will you tell them that once upon a time, not so long ago, when millions of people in America were living on the streets, when millions did not have health care, or food, housing or work, when millions of poor people have fallen through the holes in the safety net, that they The Powerful only looked away—will you tell them you had no answers and accepted only violent ones... what will you tell your children?”* (Corinne Kumar)

## World Courts of Women address vision of a new future

By Shamako Noble

One of the most salient and powerful impacts that emerged from the World Courts of Women on Poverty was the ability of the participants to address the underlying assumptions about capitalism. In so doing, people were able to embrace possibility and vision and engage a conversation about what it means to contemplate and apply class politics. Moving forward we continue to ask key questions that are born out of this process:

What does it mean for us to be healthy as individuals and as a society?

What are the basic things that we need not only to survive but to thrive?

Why, in a country where class division is so prevalent, is a conversation about class politics and platforms so absent from the national discussion?

Who is responsible for helping to shape a vision of new future for us all?

What else is possible?



# Families lose homes — A Peace of HOPE

By Regina Baker

SACRAMENTO, CA — There are many concerns for residents that live in the thirteen cities that have been chosen by the state of California and Congress for the program called HOPE VI. Does this program really sound good when you look at that impact on the families that have been displaced by it? I have had the unfortunate opportunity to meet several people who lost their homes as a result of new “Mixed Income Communities.” The goal of HOPE VI is supposedly to tear down properties that have been neglected beyond repair by the cities and government.

The real impact of HOPE VI on each household is not clearly defined. Housing staffers promise that families will have a choice about what happens in the community, but many of the terms are not explained at meetings that are held for tenants. Residents are often tempted with false hopes of improvement and gift cards from local fast food chains. It is wrong to tear down a complex with 218 low-income units without considering the impact on the families. People had to wait on lists for years to be accepted into these neglected dwellings, and they need

a place to keep them from a life on the streets.

Only twenty percent of the replacement units will be used by low-income families. The landscapes that are proposed are lovely for the companies that are investing in the HOPE VI Program. Eighty percent of the units will be used for families that can afford to pay more money. The lower amount of poverty is supposed to help the community, but the families that do not fit into that twenty percent will be forced back into homelessness or live from pillar to post. I have encountered many people whose lives were ripped apart when HOPE VI tore down the only home they could find. I live in a complex that HOPE VI is planning to tear down within 24 months. I was once homeless and it took me three years to find a place that I could afford.

HOPE VI promises lower crime rates, since the tenants would live in lowrise buildings and there would be fewer people living in poverty. But the targeted area in Sacramento has already seen homicides go down by 46.7% without HOPE VI. The removal of needed housing units shows how the government views its people of lower eco-



Sacramento residents rally for housing.

PHOTO/SANDY PERRY

omic status. It displaces them into substandard units. Many of the units have not been updated in more than twenty years. Many public housing residents learn how to live with the mold and

other dangers.

Millions of families need low-income housing to this day and they are worried about the contraction of housing programs. The price of these lives is not consid-

ered. The poor are truly treated like a new class of people to be thrown away like tissue. What is absurd is that this HOPE thing forgets to record the impact on the displaced families.

## TEACHERS ARE “FED UP”

By Todd Price

CHICAGO, IL — As the 2011-12 school year ends, teachers have reached the breaking point. Budget cuts, increasing class sizes and a longer school day typify the corporatist agenda against them. Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CPS CEO Jean-Claude Brizard’s anti-teacher plan is to break the union by demanding austerity and “shared” sacrifice. This means they profit while the burden of the cuts is placed on the backs of the teachers.

Last year elimination of the teacher’s raise was the first salvo in this battle. Going around the CPS/CTU contract to try to lengthen the school day was the second. Mayor Rahm’s reliance on his “Commercial Club” partners—increasing the “academies” or school partnership with the educational maintenance organizations (EMOs) is the third. These EMOs aim to replace veteran teachers with alternative certification teachers coming from Teach for America and AUSL (the Academy for Urban School Leadership).

To add insult to injury, state level cutbacks to teacher pension funds loom.

Thus on May 23, the teachers came out in droves. The Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) held a rally inside the Roosevelt University auditorium; in the park across the street an overflow rallied to voice their grievance(s). While President Karen Lewis warmed the crowd inside, I caught up with CTU staff organizer, Jackson Potter. Potter had much to say about the on-the-ground operations, and the message being delivered:

“You’ve got thousands of teachers who are fed up, and they’ve said you can’t disrespect our schools, our students, the parents we serve, and the profession we’ve dedicated our lives to... It’s an incredible force of humanity, we’re saying we care about our schools deeply and we’re not going to let you shut them down, allow for oversize classrooms, deprive them of art, music, world language, of facility expenditures that they need and deserve to have air conditioning, library, recess facilities... and if you do that



4,000 teachers protest in Chicago, May, 2012.

PHOTO/SARAH JANE RHEE, CHICAGO INDYMEDIA

there’s going to be a big fight on your hands.”

Potter further indicated that the teachers had been bulldozed by the current regime, and made no bones about the urgency of this moment:

“We’re not playing with them anymore. They came in... thought they were going to steamroll the people who have dedicated their lives to a noble profession... who

are in classes every day... solving social problems. And so we are the human shields that delve into the lives of our students and help them cope with these situations. You’re going to disrespect that group of people?!”

To echo his point, the teachers did indeed stand up, and by June 10th authorized the CTU leadership to be able to call for a strike.

Fall of 2012 is looming to be a

confrontation between the teachers and the Commercial Club bosses, only this time around the union appears prepared with parents, students, and school personnel lining up to support not only their teachers... but to reclaim the Board of Education, and in turn, stop the closing down and chartering of their schools. The only question that remains is, are the powers that be listening?



# THE TRIANGLE FIRE ECHOES TODAY

By Andi Sosin and Joel Sosinsky, *Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition*

NEW YORK, NY — Even after 101 years, New York City's Triangle shirtwaist factory fire still blazes as a watershed event in the lives of American workers. Public outcry after the horrific tragedy provided direct impetus for class consciousness and worker solidarity that pressed for laws protecting worker safety and health, legalization of collective bargaining, and ultimately resulted in the social safety net we Americans take for granted today. In 2011, as the Arab Spring advanced across the Middle East, and Wisconsin's public services workers vociferously protested against the Tea Party's attempt to restrict collective bargaining, the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition led a nationwide remembrance of the needless and preventable 1911 fire that killed 146 mostly young immigrant women garment workers, commemorating a century of labor progress and protective legislation made in the fire's aftermath, and calling for contemporary labor fairness and safety protections worldwide.

Whereas in 1911, almost all Americans wore clothing made in the United States, today man-

ufacturing has moved to countries where labor is cheapest and factory owners can successfully oppose any regulations that restrict their ability to conduct business, even fighting against laws that protect worker safety. As in 1911, when capitalism's excesses made the Triangle fire tragedy inevitable, many countries that manufacture products for American consumers today have deficient labor laws, safety standards, and high injury rates. China's Foxconn factory, where Apple's iPhones and iPads are made, is infamous for suicides caused by overwork (<http://www.fairlabor.org/blog/entry/fair-labor-association-secures-commitment-limit-workers-hours-protect-pay-apples-largest>). From Central America to Bangladesh, labor leaders are targeted for assassination and they struggle against their governments' threats of imprisonment and torture for crimes like "incitement." A 2010 Bangladesh garment factory fire where workers jumped from the building to their deaths because the doors were locked was strikingly reminiscent of the Triangle fire. It has pricked the conscience of designer Tommy Hilfiger enough to make Hilfiger's parent company agree to establish factory safety standards, inspections and audits. But this agreement is



The Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition with Workers United (successor to the International Ladies Garment Workers Union) rally in New York to support Occupy Wall Street.

PHOTO/ROY CAMPOLONGO

just a start. The International Labor Rights Organization is currently circulating an online petition ([http://action.laborrights.org/p/dia/action/public/?action\\_KEY=4007](http://action.laborrights.org/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=4007)) to extend these safety measures throughout Bangladesh and other low wage manufacturing countries. It is vital to gather signatures now because only pressure from US consumer and labor activists can push the multinational corpora-

tions toward global recognition of workers' rights.

Over the past 101 years, the Triangle fire has become a powerful symbol of capitalism's disdain for human life, as well as of progressive achievements in human rights, made through worker solidarity. Therefore, the Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition is conducting an international competition to design a "destination" public art memo-

rial to be placed on the building where the Triangle fire occurred in New York City. The Triangle Fire Memorial will honor the fire's victims and those who struggled for justice then, and inspire present day workers, women, labor unionists, health and safety advocates, and immigrants from all nations to further social justice worldwide.

For more information, visit <http://rememberthetrianglefire.org>

## The Wisconsin recall debacle – *The new grows out of the old*



### From the Editors

In the early days of February 2011, protesters rallied against Governor Scott Walker's infamous "Budget Repair Bill" that gutted public employee unions and their union contracts across the state. Protesters caught the imagination of millions when they occupied the state capitol rotunda in Madison.

The capitol soon saw protests in support of the occupiers grow to the tens of thousands. There was political independence in the air. As the weeks went on, these protests grew to crowds of more than 100,000. These protesters were public workers, students and everyday people—members of other unions and others not members of any union at all.

This outpouring was a spontaneous response—a popular uprising—against not only the content of the legislation, but also against the anti-democratic – in

the dark of night, without public notice—way in which the legislation passed the state legislature. The movement sustained itself for months, gathering support from around the world.

During the summer of 2011, the unions and the Democratic Party decided to channel the energy of this uprising into the electoral arena with an effort to recall six Republican legislators to regain a Democratic majority and control of the state senate. That effort failed as did the recall of Walker last month. These uninspiring contests between candidates representing two similar political parties divided and sapped the energy of a movement in its infancy.

The twin parties of capitalism no longer offer any tangible or identifiable differences to a working class that is daily growing more impoverished. Globalization and robotics have forced the unions to a defensive fight for their organizational ex-

istence. As this occurred, less attention was paid to the needs of the unorganized sector of the working class. This resulted in a weakening of the mass support the unions once enjoyed.

A new day is dawning. A struggle is emerging between the new which is struggling to be born, and the old which is dying. The new is seen in the political independence of those who occupied the Wisconsin state capitol rotunda and the spontaneous outpouring of support they received. This new motion stands opposed to the dying of the old, as expressed by those who want the working class movement to simply be a union movement.

Eventually the new wins—it always does. New political alternatives are bound to emerge and new political parties will certainly be founded. We cast our lot with what is new and arising. In doing so, we struggle to create a new world out of the ashes of the old.

(Left) Protests in Madison, Wisconsin in 2011. PHOTO/ANTHONY PRINCE



# Strategy behind new immigration policy

## From the Editors

On June 15, President Obama announced he would use his discretionary power to stop the deportation of undocumented youth who were brought to the U.S. as children.

This is only a temporary exemption. It could be revoked at any time, and these youth will be forced to register with Homeland Security every two years, at which time their residency could be denied.

But it did bring a sigh of relief among many Latinos, particularly the youth.

For the last few years, the Latino youth, the Dreamers, have been waging a brave battle for immigration reform. Under the banner, “Undocumented and Unafraid,” they have engaged in civil disobedience, participated in hunger strikes, and led marches.

No one can deny that it has been the Latino youth, with their energy and courage, that has kept the movement for immigration reform going. But why did the President choose now to stop the deportation?

The Obama administration has detained and deported the

highest number of immigrants of any other administration in U.S. history. After so many dreams deferred, Obama with a stroke of a pen is doing what he could have done in the first 100 days of his administration.

Obama’s latest action can’t help but leave a bittersweet taste in people’s mouths. It shows the blatant political corruption of American politics and its two-party system. Either party could have made this decision at any time during their administration. But they chose not to—until it was most useful for the class interests they represent—and not a moment sooner.

While the immediate reason for President Obama’s maneuver was to get the 20 million Latino votes tightly secured to the Democratic Party, that is not the main reason he moved now. Obama is in serious trouble, and his actions have to be seen within today’s economic and political context.

Hunger, poverty, and permanent unemployment are growing. The capitalists must keep the means of production (which could easily feed, clothe, house and educate everyone) in private hands. Their growing replace-

ment of workers with robots is creating social instability which threatens their control.

Obama’s new immigration policy is part of the ruling-class strategy to attempt to stabilize things politically.

Many people recognize that this new immigration policy does not go far enough. But it also sets a dangerous precedent. It lays the basis for a sector of the working class to become hostages of the government.

The young Latinos who will have to register with the Department of Homeland Security every two years will be very vulnerable. They will be at the mercy of the authorities. That could hamper their ability to engage in social struggle.

The workers of this country cannot allow this or any sector of the working class to be held hostage. It will open a flank from which the ruling class can attack the rights of all workers.

Instead, every one of us must keep organizing and pushing for the legalization of all undocumented workers—while, at the same time we wage the fight for a new society in which no human being will be labeled illegal.

# Hero of Wikileaks video tours southern California schools



Arlington West every Sunday in Santa Monica. Veterans for Peace put up crosses, stars, and crescents representing 6,400 U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

PHOTO/MARSHALL BLESOFSKY

## By Marshall Blesofsky

In May in Chicago, US veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars hand-in-hand with Afghans for Peace, made history leading a march of thousands against NATO then returning their Global War on Terror medals to NATO’s generals.

In early June, Army Specialist Ethan McCord toured southern California to bring a message to high school students about the reality of war. McCord is the Hero of Wikileaks video “Collateral Murder” and Academy Award Nominated short film “Incident in New Baghdad” The tour was sponsored by a coalition of

Peace groups including the Long Beach Recruitment Awareness Project, Military Families Speak Out, San Pedro Neighbors for Peace and Justice, three chapters of Veterans for Peace and Long Beach Area Peace Network.

One of the first soldiers on the scene after an Apache helicopter fired upon innocent civilians and Reuters photographers, Ethan McCord saved the lives of two children wounded in the helicopter attack.

During his visit here, Spc. McCord spoke at 9 different schools in 5 days speaking to over 2000 students. He said the “most common things I hear from new recruits is ‘my recruiter lied to me’”. While on tour he touched many lives and many students reported that they had thought of joining the military before his presentation and are now going to take a different path.

At Arlington West at the Santa Monica Pier, Veterans for Peace

## Letter to the Editor

Dear People’s Tribune,

Your article covering the trial of Monsanto at Southern Illinois was inspiring and motivating. I believe that trials such as these should be going on all over the world, until such evil perpetrators are made nonexistent. What’s happening in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin...more than that, what’s happening country-wide is going to cause more and more street justice. Politically, the crisis is so severe that the resolution appears to be a long catastrophic agony that can only be cut short by a better informed public. The People’s Tribune is an important ingredient in this time of human crisis. It’s time I became more effective in creating the kind of political and economic change that we all need now.

— Richard Gallagher, Washington

## SPEAKERS FOR A NEW AMERICA



## MATT SEDILLO, POET, AUTHOR, VISIONARY

Matt Sedillo is a two-time national slam poet, grand slam champion of the Damn Slam Los Angeles 2011 and author of “For What I Might Do Tomorrow.” Born in California, he writes from the vantage point of a second generation Chicano born in an era of diminishing opportunities and a crumbling economy. His writing, a fearless, challenging and at times even confrontational blend of humor, history and political theory is a reflection of those realities. The poetry of Matt Sedillo is a sobering call for the fundamental restructuring of society in the interest of people not profits. It is a clarion call for all those who know a new world is not only possible but inevitable. If you would like to bring Matt Sedillo to your city to speak, contact Speakers for a New America at 800-691-6888 or email [info@speakersforanewamerica.com](mailto:info@speakersforanewamerica.com).

and their supporters lay out a grave yard as a memorial to the more than 6500 American service people who have sacrificed their lives. From personal experience, McCord talked about the effect of war on soldiers.

“We have 18 veterans killing themselves per day. We are not killing ourselves because we are doing great things for God and country. We are killing ourselves because we are asked to commit atrocities and nobody is stopping it.”

Ethan McCord is part of a growing peace movement made up of Iraq and Afghanistan war

veterans and a growing movement of resistance within the US military.

There are reasons why this constant state of war exists and nobody is stopping it. War is necessary for the US corporations who control our government to dominate markets and resources around the world. The peace movement and the movement for economic justice need to unify and work to educate the American people that the militarization of our country is also literally killing us as well as innocent civilians in foreign lands.



# THE EVOLUTION OF THE COLLECTIVE



Children cooperating in school.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

By Robert Kurtycz

CHICAGO, IL — Be prepared to throw what many of you, including myself, have believed since

childhood straight out the window. It appears that popular belief about evolution just might be wrong. That's right, it's time to take another look at the Theory

of Evolution.

Survival of the Fittest, as popular evolutionary theory describes it, is the idea that living organisms evolve by add-

ing genes rather than discarding them. It is based in the theory that those who add the needed genes become the fittest and are the ones who will survive.

A new groundbreaking theory takes the popular conception of evolutionary theory, flips it upside down and drops it on its' head. In an opinion piece appearing in *mBio*, the online open-access journal of the American Society for Microbiology, on March 27, 2012 authors, Richard Lenski and J. Jeffrey Morris of Michigan State University, and Erik Zinser of the University of Tennessee put forth a new theory, "The Black Queen Hypothesis." The name of the hypothesis is a reference to the game Hearts, in which the best strategy is to discard the queen of spades or "The Black Queen."

Their theory came after studying some of the most common organisms on Earth. What they found is that the organisms had discarded abilities essential to their survival. Why would a living organism do that you ask? Well the organisms thrive

and benefit from the hard work of others inside of its communities that perform those essential functions for them. This allows the organisms to focus their energy elsewhere in more important and productive areas. Richard Losick of Harvard University says "It's a sweeping hypothesis for how free-living microorganisms evolve to become dependent on each other."

Science and scientific study are now starting to prove that we got here through collective action, that evolution is collective action. It was not that we were faster, stronger or even smarter than those within our communities throughout history but rather we have all played our roles and evolved together, collectively. So remember that when you hear politicians say that a cooperative society is not natural, that is not the way the world is supposed to be, that nothing is more natural than your DNA.

## WHAT'S THIS SCHOOL TEACHING?

By Robin Yeaman

CHARLOTTE, NC — In addition to subjects like math and English, schools teach students their role in society. What's Waddell Language Academy in Charlotte N.C. teaching besides Chinese and other core subjects to fourth graders like Seth Bingham? This mixed race fourth grader is being punished for the normal exuberance of childhood. Teachers and administrators have treated him so harshly it amounts to bullying. What else can it be called when the lead school principal screams in his face and the teacher echoes her by saying, "You don't like that now, do you, Seth?" What is it when a teacher corners a child and screams at him so wildly that the child can feel her spit on his face?

An investigation has been opened into this school by the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights for alleged discrimination, harassment and education rights violations, and yet the retaliation has not stopped. Seth, like many African-American male students, has been systematically attacked by the school administration. Seeing these kids tossed out of class sitting in the hallway is usual.

Although discrimination against girls is common in U.S. schools, the school has turned the parents against one another by giving the girls preferential treatment. For example, in one fourth grade class the girls were given authority over



Seth Bingham with the winning chess trophy at Waddell Language Academy, Charlotte, NC.

PHOTO/NATALIE BINGHAM

the boys, including the power to decide if a male student would get recess. This had the predictable result of making the boys angry with the girls. Parents of girls then wrote the school, labeling the boys as bullies and troublemakers. Meanwhile, school administrators could do what they wanted while using the parents as pawns against one another. What is the purpose of this kind of behavior by a school

administrator?

The 99% and moms like Natalie Bingham say no to this future and demand equal, quality education for all children now. This means decent and democratic, respectful treatment of all students and parents. Seth has been unfairly placed on in-school suspension many times with no notice to the family, and was held in a room and coerced into writing and signing a statement, at 9 years old. The principal now demands that she receive every email to the school teachers, counselors, etc., from this concerned mother. This is a typical tactic of abusers—demand all information while keeping others in the dark. The principal even blocked the mother from having direct contact with the school counselor, which in turn stopped the counselor's ability to support or advocate for Seth. This cannot be tolerated.

With jobs disappearing and permanently being replaced by computers and robots, the economy doesn't need to educate children like Seth. The corporations—for which public schools function like filling stations—offer our young people of all nationalities prison, the military and fast food jobs with the latter rapidly being eliminated. The treatment of Seth shows that this corporatist society has nothing to offer our children. The people are going to have to take over the education system and run it in their own interests as part building a new society.

If you don't make it on the bus  
it won't be enough to save you.  
And if you make it to the ocean  
the tide may not turn  
in your favor

It's only a matter of time before  
human volcanoes erupt  
So tell me does your revolution  
end with your coffee cup?

Society got down but  
it need not fall.  
And we the forgotten ones shall  
heed the call.

And as old world crumbles  
and the air screams out  
a thousand cries  
we shall not bend or break,  
we will only rise

— Chase Cinder



## CABRINI EVICTIONS:

# Eviction attempt based on false accusations of rent owed



Annie Ricks standing in front of her apartment in Wentworth Gardens, Chicago.

PHOTO/JOSEPH PEERY

By Joseph Peery

CHICAGO, IL — Annie Ricks is the last person to move out of the last Cabrini Green high-rise building at 1230 N Burling. She angered the CHA (Chicago Housing Authority) when she insisted that the management office live up to their promises to move her into decent safe housing and resisted their efforts to force her into anything but that. The CHA received national coverage of the story in the media and not all of it was good.

Finally, Ms. Ricks was placed on the south side of the city in Wentworth Gardens on December 9, 2010. “They harassed me ever since I moved in,” says Ms. Ricks. “First, they lied and didn’t show me other apartments. They made me take this one and it’s too small.” Later she successfully defended herself against not just bullies in the new neighborhood who attacked her kids, but a housing authority eager to evict everyone in a fight whether in self defense or not.

In early 2012 Ms. Ricks lost

her income and the CHA took her to court for non-payment of rent. This was done in spite of the fact that Ms. Ricks made a request for Hardship which defers her rent or waves it altogether based on the fact that she had no income and could become homeless if evicted, depending on the circumstances. When she tried to pay rent they refused to accept it “because she’s in Legal”, they said. At the last minute she was able to get a lawyer. The CHA unwittingly issued her a new 14-day notice of eviction, which nullified the original 14-day notice and Ms. Ricks’ lawyer got that case dismissed.

Ms. Ricks requested and received an Informal Grievance Hearing on Friday, June 8, 2012. The first thing the office manager did was try to challenge Ms. Ricks’ right to be represented in the meeting by anyone of her choosing as stated in the CHA Grievance Manual. Having no success at that attempt, the manager then said, “We are here to discuss rent owed.” Ms. Ricks’ lawyer then asked to see her file

to determine the facts, but this was refused by the Manager. Once this issue was resolved it became apparent why management didn’t want anyone looking in that file. The lawyer and the Manager together found the current lease, receipts of rent paid and ledgers of rent owed. When everything was compared and tallied it showed that when Ms. Ricks was first taken to court earlier in the year, not only was her rent current, but the CHA actually owed her money. Ms. Ricks then pointed out that none of the Hardship paperwork that she filled out in January was in her file.

What on the surface appears to be a mean-spirited agency Hellbent on breaking every rule to mistreat its residents is in reality something much deeper. Not only do we face the CHA and the handful of private management corporations they use. We face a capitalist economic system that makes us unemployed and then refuses to house us if it can’t exploit us.

## TAPS: Day is Done

### *In loving memory of my brother and my hero—Danny Robert Getchell*

By Mary Anne Morrow Barbour®

Taps is an unforgettable, heart wrenching melody. Its origins date back to the Civil War. Union Captain Robert Ellicombe heard a soldier moaning in the dark and he risked his life to cross enemy lines to save him.

When he returned to camp the soldier had already died. As the lantern shown upon the face of the soldier; Captain Ellicombe was horrified to see the face of his son.

Unbeknownst to Captain Ellicombe, his son had joined the Confederate Army. Captain Ellicombe requested a full Military Funeral for his son. His request was partially honored and a funeral dirge was played by a bugler (the original notes that were found in his son’s pocket).

The first stanza is “Day is done, Gone the sun, From the lakes, From the hills, From the sky, All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh”. I have heard Taps played far too many times in my life.

Dear readers, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day and possibly Independence Day

may have already come and gone before you read this (with the exception of Veterans’ Day). Each of these days are celebrated in tribute to all the valiant women and men who are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, those who have served, been wounded, missing in action and those who gave their lives for Our Country.

The few days that America’s Veterans are remembered and honored will never be enough to make up for the perilous, horrendous and extremely violent conditions of “Being in the Trenches.” In my opinion, every day should be Veterans’ Day. Every opportunity that we have, when we see a serviceman in uniform or wearing a Veterans’ Cap, we should stop and take the time to thank them for their service.

This article is written in Loving Memory of Danny Robert Getch-

ell, my family’s hero. He served two tours in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. I’ll never forget the Western Union telegram that we received in 1968 informing us of his surgery to remove his

right hand and part of his arm.

When he was shipped state-side, he was sent to an Amputee Ward in Fort Gordon, GA. The sight and moans of all the amputees, the swarms of flies, and the

intense heat of the Quonset hut are indelibly printed upon my mind and my heart.

Vietnam Soldiers didn’t return home to parades or praise, as most of our WWII Veterans did. They returned to college-student revolts and criticism of their actions by war protestors. My Danny never complained; he suffered in stoic silence.

The current wars are extremely different than past conflicts. They are heavily dependent on National Guard and Reserve Servicemen, rapid pace and duration of deployments, longer duration of deployments, the number of redeployments and the short time at home in between deployments.

Not only are our servicemen Veterans, so are their families. It is far past time to bring our soldiers home! “Day is Done...”



Mary Ann Barbour and her now deceased brother, Danny Robert Getchell.

PHOTO/MARY ANN BARBOUR



# Benton Harbor – Emergency Manager Joe Harris should be fired

By Rev. Edward Pinkney

BENTON HARBOR, MI — We must push for immediate suspension of all Emergency Managers. They symbolize the destruction of democracy by corporate power.

We hope the Michigan Supreme Court will hear the case of Benton Harbor's Manager, Joe Harris. Here is a study explaining why Emergency Manager Joe Harris is a failure and must be fired.

1. Inaccurate and deceitful communications: Mr. Harris proclaims that the City of Benton Harbor has a "Balanced Budget and a Cash Surplus." The 2011 Audit reveals that the City actually had a budget deficit of approximately \$565,000 dollars under Mr. Harris' leadership.

2. City Sued For Non-Payment: Mr. Harris executed a very poor contract with Benton Township without input from leaders or the community.

3. Gross Fiduciary Negligence: Mr. Harris failed to exercise the City's rights, under the HUD 105 Business Development Loan program contract, to collect nearly \$500,000 in loan defaults accrued by three companies. These companies liquidated and sold assets and kept 100% of the proceeds without repaying a single dollar to the City of Benton Harbor on an outstanding obligation.

4. Wasteful spending: Mr. Harris squandered limited city resources during this fiscal crisis on frivolous items including excessive raises and salary increases.

5. Negligent Management of the city's Neighborhood Stabilization Program grant (NSP): The grant of nearly \$4 million dollars was created to clean up blighted neighborhoods, stimulate small business contracting, housing development and create jobs. Mr. Harris forfeited these obligations to Harbor Shores, Cornerstone Alliance and/or Michigan Works. These three entities are among the City's wealthiest people and/or companies and were not the type of people or organizations NSP intended to help.

6. The Carl Brown Economic Development Center was closed.

7. Failure to secure Community Benefits Package (CBP) grant funding: The big losers are the youth. Once again the CHILDREN go without.



Rev. Pinkney leads a protest against the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) and Whirlpool Corporation.

PHOTO/DAYMONJHARTLEY.COM

8. Political liability and antagonism: Mr. Harris is condescending and confrontational. He refuses to participate in the Berrien County CEO monthly meetings.

9. Fiscal Failures: Mr. Harris failed to post the city tax millage on the November ballot. This error will likely create a loss for the city in excess of a million dollars.

10. Mr. Harris failed to train local elected leaders to competently manage Benton Harbor.

Mr. Harris is not the man for this position. He refuses to work with the City's elected officials. How do you profess desire to put the city back on solid fiscal ground and simultaneously refuse to work with the people tasked with sustaining the operations after your departure? Mr. Harris

has resorted to name calling, verbal chastising and a barrage of unprofessional insulting remarks to elected leaders and staff. Since Mr. Harris's arrival, city operating deficits have increased. Elected leaders, citizens and stakeholders get little information. What has been received is largely false and/or inaccurate. Several lawsuits and un-

paid vendors have surfaced. Out of respect for the people of Benton Harbor and their elected leadership, elected leaders should have the opportunity to meet and interview and/or approve in advance any manager.

The people of Michigan must demand the ouster of all Emergency Managers!

## Benton Harbor

Whirlpool, what a Wac company  
Whirlpool, it's a natural catastrophe  
Whirlpool, it drags you under the sea  
what they do to Benton Harbor they can do to you and me

What have they done to your city?  
they took your jobs but not your dignity  
your elders sent to rot in prison  
they mock his word but he is risen  
your young lay bleeding in the street  
they laugh now but the story's incomplete  
they blindly take what Lincoln restored  
we shall not rest while rights are ignored

and its all because of (repeat chorus)

While one amongst us is not free  
with no justice no peace can be  
they stole your park a golf course to make  
I WANNA SEE EVERY STUPID GOLF CART SIX FEET IN THE LAKE  
police and judges and EFM  
a conspiracy of terror it's us vs them  
they plotted in darkness but their cover is blown  
thank you Rachel Maddow, they will reap as they've sown.

— Raphael Adley, *Occupy Lansing*

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