Protests open cracks in government

By Fred Goldstein

Feb. 13 — Donald Trump has suffered a series of setbacks in his foreign policy promises while escalating attacks on the workers and oppressed at home.

Trump campaigned against China all throughout his candidacy. He made aggressive charges that China was “raping our country” through currency manipulation and unfair trade. Trump threatened trade retaliation and questioned the One China policy by taking a phone call from the president of Taiwan, which is rightfully part of China.

Reality set in last week. After a phone call with the president of the People’s Republic of China, Xi Jinping, who represents 1.3 billion people and the second-largest economy in the world, Trump announced he would follow the One China policy and not recognize Taiwan.

During his campaign, he curried favor with the most right-wing, pro-Israeli forces, like billionaire casino owner Sheldon Adelson, by vowing to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. No other imperialist country has an embassy in Jerusalem.

But when he sought Saudi and Egyptian help in the Middle East, he was told to drop the idea of moving the embassy to Jerusalem. He has not mentioned it since.

Trump vowed to restore torture as official policy and to reopen secret torture sites that the Bush administration had established in other countries but later outlawed. In the face of potential antagonism from the hundreds of millions of people in the Middle East, Trump has had to quietly back away from both these pledges.

Of course, his ban of Muslim immigrants and refugees has blown up in his face. It provoked widespread demonstrations throughout the U.S. and other continents, which are still going on.

Escalating attacks on undocumented

While the capitalist media were focused on the courts and the travel ban, Trump introduced sweeping new rules for deportation. President Barack Obama was rightfully known as “deporter in chief” for the millions of deportations under his regime.

In his last years, however, Obama relaxed the rules governing deportations to exclude all but the most serious crimes.

Trump issued an executive order on Jan. 25 changing the rules. His new rules call for deporting anyone with a chargeable offense, whether or not they have been convicted of a crime.

Chargeable offenses include crossing the border without documents, using a false Social Security card (without which no one can work) and any misdemeanor. The new rules give local immigration authorities complete discretion in deportations.

There were nationwide protests in México against Trump on Feb. 12.

How to win a strike

Standing Rock strong

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‘Alt-right’ unmasked

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Oscar: Home in Puerto Rico

Eyewitness: Cuba

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GLOBAL MAY DAY STRIKE

WWP on why the time has come

The May Day general strike should raise all the demands of the movements of the workers and oppressed against all the mounting attacks of capitalism. These include, for example, demands against union busting and hate speech at work; the struggle of low-wage workers, including the demand for a global minimum wage.

However, the May Day global strike’s sharpest focus must be against all that Trump has come to represent — racism, white supremacy, neofascism, Islamophobia, attacks on immigrants, attacks on women and LGBTQ people, and a drive toward imperialist war. What’s more, the May Day global strike must be against the whole system of capitalism and imperialism and for socialism. Forging a united front among the most militant and revolutionary forces can help this happen.

Can it be done?

Whether or not the masses are willing to join such a global general strike at this moment is a question that can only be answered if there exist, on the part of enough forces, the will and commitment to fight for it. What is beyond question is the objective political necessity of a global mobilization of the masses on a new level of militancy and higher political level.

The global general strike, more than an end in itself, should mark the beginning of a wider, escalating struggle of the workers and the oppressed across the planet, whose ultimate goal must be nothing less than socialist revolution.

Why a global general strike?

While many struggles tend to have a local character, it is no longer possible for the workers and the oppressed to conduct the struggle against neofascism, capitalism and imperialism on a solely local basis. The changes in global capitalism have made it both necessary and far more possible for the struggle to be waged on a globally coordinated scale.

The masses can ‘shut it down’

Militants have wisely expanded the conception of the general strike. The capacity of organized workers to leave work, wherever they can, remains a critical part of a strike. Today, however, more advanced conceptions of the general strike allow for the wider participation of the masses no matter if they are in unions, have a job or, like so many workers, are forced to take low-wage, part-time or temporary jobs. Students and youths all over the world are walking out of schools. Women are now planning a March 8 global strike, reportedly in 30 countries. The masses have discovered that by their numbers and militancy, they can bring much of society and the economy to a halt or “Shut It Down!”

Organize people’s assemblies to build for a May Day global general strike

We believe that convening local people’s assemblies around the world to help prepare for a May Day global general strike is an organizing tactic that should be used widely.

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GLOBAL MAY DAY STRIKE

Athletes boycott bigotry

Reconstruction revolution

‘Keep on marching’

Student anti-racist victory

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

‘Defend Black History & Black lives matter!’

Athletes boycott bigotry

Reconstruction revolution

‘Keep on marching’

Student anti-racist victory

Continued on page 10
Community members from throughout southwest Virginia packed a meeting room at the Gainsboro Library in Roanoke Feb. 11 to hear Lamont Lilly discuss the history of Black Liberation and building people’s power today. Lilly was the 2016 Workers World Party Presidential candidate. The Black History Month event was sponsored by Now Roanoke and WWP.

Lilly, a resident of Durham, N.C., gave a sweeping view of Black histo- ry from Ida B. Wells and Carter G. Woodson to Ella Baker, the Black Panthers and Black Lives Matter. Lilly said, “[We] are in a library right now surrounded by books and information, but very often this information is not being taught in the public school system. It’s not being taught in our classrooms.”

He added, “Black History Month is not just for Black folk. It’s really people’s history, and our accomplishments have contributed a great deal to the development of this country and the fabric of this society.”

Lilly concluded his remarks in the tradition of such Black socialists as Paul Robeson, Dr. W.E.B. Du Bois, Claudia Jones and Ayiabini Azikive by denouncing the capitalist system and calling for a socialist revolution to truly free people of African descent and all working-class and oppressed peoples internationally from the horrors of capitalism and imperialism.

Before Lilly spoke, artist Corissa Morrison opened the event with a fightback song. Then community activist, artist, mother and educator Bernadette Brown, along with Charles “Doc” Bell, gave presentations on the historical and present struggles of the Black Community in Roanoke.

The Gainsboro Library is situated in an area that was once known as “Black Wall Street” before it was largely destroyed, but not completely, destroyed by the building of Interstate 581. The presenters shared the rich history of struggle of people of African descent in the Roanoke area, including ongoing and protracted resistance during slavery, “legal” segregation, sharecropping, domestic work and the railroads to the present day where most African Americans are unemployed, work one or several low-wage jobs for non-union pay.

After the presentations, the standing-room-only crowed of all ages, nationalities, sexual orientations, students and majority women joined in lively discussion about how to move the people’s struggle forward in this era of the Trump administration. Black workers informed white workers how they could assist oppressed peoples liberation and how all workers’ liberation depended on this. Other participants saluted the resistance against Trump’s Muslim ban and other attacks on the people.

A variety of community members testified to the atrocities being inflicted on them by the police. They told how they are being robbed by capitalists and their political servants and suggested methods of how to fight back.

Carl Spencer, Kionate Spencer’s brother, attended the meeting, and more support was gathered to demand justice for Kionate, who was murdered by Roanoke cops Feb. 26, 2015.

The Feb. 11 event was collectively organized by many in southwest Virginia. It was part of a series of people’s events in the area over the past weeks. Thousands in many cities have come out to protest Trump, support women and LGBTQ people, denounce the Muslim ban and deportations, and much more. A variety of people’s protest events, organizing workshops and network building are in the planning stages.

For photos and videos of Feb. 11 event and more information on upcoming people’s events in southwest Virginia: Facebook.com/52NowRoanoke.

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a world where the distribution of resources is regulated to keep workers from being exploited. We’re building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

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Vol. 59, No. 7 • Feb 16 2017
Closing date: Feb. 14, 2017

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: $30; institutions: $45. Employees of workers.org are automatically enrolled. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: $30; institutions: $65. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc., P.O. Box 3429, Sandusky, OH 44870. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

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Professional athletes speak out, oppose bigotry

By Monica Moorehead

The ongoing uprising in the streets against the Trump presidency continues to galvanize various sectors of U.S. society, including sports and mass culture, not always known for social activism. For instance, National Basketball Association coaches Gregg Popovich, Steve Kerr and Stan Van Gundy, all white, have been the most outspoken critics among their peers of Trump's racist, anti-immigrant, misogynistic views, even more since Trump's win on Nov. 8. All three of their teams — the San Antonio Spurs, Golden State Warriors and Detroit Pistons, respectively — have majority African-American and non-U.S.-born players.

When Kevin Plank, the CEO of the multimillion-dollar sports company Under Armour, attended a Feb. 7 business meeting at the White House with Trump and then commented that Trump was an "asset" to the country, Stephen Curry, the NBA's reigning most valuable player, who has one of USA's biggest sponsorship deals, took issue with Plank's statement. When asked by the San Jose Mercury News to respond to Plank's "asset" view of Trump, Curry, who is African-American, answered, "I agree with that description, if you remove the 't.'" (Feb. 8)

Michael Bennett and Colin Kaepernick talk together after a game between their opposing teams, the Seattle Seahawks and the San Francisco 49ers.

Soon afterwards, Misty Copeland, the first African-American principal dancer with America's top ballet company, responded to Plank's statement. Copeland also has a UA line of workout clothing.

Plank's connection with Trump and the rebuffals from Curry and Copeland helped to spark a firestorm on Twitter with #boycottUnderArmour. Plank's statement. Copeland also has a UA line of workout clothing.

Neither Curry nor Copeland backed down from their stance. Curry, who is under contract with UA until 2024, went on to say, "There is no amount of money, there is no platform I wouldn't jump off, if it wasn't in line with who I am." (New York Times, Feb. 8)

Becoming the White House

Since the 1990s, sports teams that have won national championships, whether amateur or professional, have visited the White House for a photo-op with the current president. Rarely has there been a time when groups of players from championship teams boycotted these visits based on openly opposing political views.

Boycotting the White House

"Meech" Davis was killed by Buffalo police. He died while they were arresting him, apparently for trying to leave while they were stopping him for "looking suspicious." This accusation is commonly and widely used by racist profiling cops throughout the country. The cops involved were put on paid leave.

The next night, a crowd gathered at the street corner where Davis was killed, anti-racist activists and neighbors alike, who were called together at the urging of his friends and family.

The following night, Feb. 9, a huge crowd of people, including activists representing many organizations, shut down the high-traffic intersection on Main Street outside a Buffalo Police Department precinct station.

The crowd blocked the intersection for over an hour, led by loved ones of Meech calling for an end to racist police murders.

On Feb. 10, for a third night, a rally assembled downtown targeting a hotel where the mayor of Buffalo was having a party. The crowd marched and chanted for an hour, demanding answers from the mayor — when guests arrived — and then marched back to the police precinct.
Lessons of the victorious Harvard dining hall strike

Class-struggle unionism in action

By Ed Childs

We had no illusions that we could beat this country’s oldest corporation — Harvard Corporation, which follows the Wall Street Street — just going through the motions of picket- ing each worksite. Our tactics were all militant, class-struggle tactics: constant pickets, marches and rallies with raucous chanting and constant drum- ming on plastic buckets. You could hear us all over the campus and in classrooms.

Picketing lasted from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the dining halls, with marches to the law school, the business school, etc., ev- ery afternoon. We marched to football games and Alumni Week events. We had the support of athletic teams, includ- ing the football team. Over 400 work- ers marches through Harvard Yard and Harvard Square, where there were lots of people and traffic. Greater Boston labor came out in strength for mass protests that drew more than 1,000 people.

Over 100 workers went by bus from the main campus in Cambridge to Harvard Medical School in Boston. Workers greet- ed the medical students as they walked out of class. Together, they held a loud, two-hour rally. We targeted Harvard Corporation managers’ homes and busi- nesses. Supporters in other parts of the country picketed board members in their area. On Oct. 14, the paper of UNITE HERE Local 26 and a group of women in the local’s leadership sat down in the middle of the street and were arrested.

'Support from all over the world'

We were getting support from all over the world because we took on Harvard — Wall Street in the world’s eyes — and be- cause health care is a universally recog- nized human right. At first, workers felt they were just fighting for themselves. By the end of the first week, we felt we were fighting for the whole country, and by the second week’s end we knew we were fighting for health care worldwide.

Even before the strike, our first inter- national support came from a labor fed- eration in occupied Palestine. When the strike happened, letters and articles of support poured in from students, workers and faculty in South Africa, Japan, Bra- zil, Ireland, Russia and other European countries, as well as all over the U.S. The World Federation of Trade Unions sup- ported us, and while they were meeting in South Africa, we composed a message to the Congress of South African Trade Unions supporting their general strike.

The moneymen elite were getting wor- ried about our escalation plans and the expansion of our unity. We had met with local Black Lives Matter activists and BLM organizers who had led high school walkouts. They came to our picket line, where they proposed, as a possibility, that high school students would walk out in solidarity with us. It was good for us that these other struggles and ours were happening simultaneously.

Harvard management started to break down by the third week. Students bom- barded them with complaints about closed dining halls. Morale on campus was low; the only high morale was in sup- port of us. Events were falling apart with- out food service. At the Kennedy School, where the world bourgeoisie meet all the time, and at the School of Business, meet- ings were collapsing.

Out of 750 members, only 24 crossed the picket line and four of those came back out. But we had to take into account the time element. HUDS workers had just come off a 2-3 month layoff with no un- employment compensation — thanks to a Reagan-era federal law that denies bene- fits to food service and custodian work- ers during “seasonal layoffs.” We would have had difficulty sustaining a protract- ed strike.

‘Ratcheting up our tactics’

Both sides were cracking. It was the last cost for them and for us, so we knew we had to employ drastic actions. By the third week, our conversations were all about ratcheting up our tactics.

The determination of high school students of class struggle came on the evening of Oct. 24. After a student walkout from a class where former Harvard President Larry Summers was the guest lecturer, the stu- dents joined the strikers who were rally- ing in the Yard. They marched over to the building where negotiations were taking place. Then 500 students marched into the building, chanting, ‘If we don’t get it, shut it down!’ and took over the lob- by while the strikers continued to negoti- ate in the board room.

1,500 workers marched in support from the picket line outside. The students stayed late into the night, chanting and drumming. Negotia- tions went on, and at 1:30 a.m. the next day, Harvard caved in.

We got a total victory, everything we de-manded and more. We won wage increases amounting to $5 to $7 an hour over the five-year contract (retractive to the June 20 con- tract expiration date); a substantial, first- time-ever stipend during summer layoffs; better, less expensive health insurance, including for retirees; increased uniform and shoe allowances; and strengthened gender identity nondiscrimination terms.

The new contract established a task force through which union members have the power to stop discrimination and promote diversity in the workplace — a demand the corporation insisted it would never accept.

The university’s recognition of “Columbus Day” was replaced by Indigenous Peoples Day.

Most importantly, all the health care takeaways that Harvard Corporation was demanding were off the table.

Continued on the next page

Standing Rock defense stays strong

By Chris Fry

For a year, thousands of Indigenous people and activists have stood in the way of the construction of the Dakota Access Pipe- line across Native land and bodies of water. These water protectors assert Indigenous sovereignty and the human right to clean water, not only for themselves, but also for up to 18 million people who depend on the water that flows through their land.

As the Trump regime moves forward to allow Big Oil to restart construction of the DAPL beneath the Missouri Riv- er, military veterans are returning to Standing Rock. They pledge to shield Indi- genous people from the heavily armed police force, and inevitably more veterans are being arrayed against them in North Dakota.

“We are prepared to put our bodies between Native elders and a privatized military force,” said Elizabeth Williams, a 34-year-old Air Force veteran, who ar- rived at Standing Rock with other veter- ans on Feb. 20. “We stood in the face of fire and tear gas. We were going to stand and use the skills we have,” (Guardian, Feb. 12).

LaDonna Tamakawastewin Allard, a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Na- tion and a founder of the Sacred Stone camp, told the Guardian reporter, “The veterans are going to make sure every- thing is safe and sound. … The people on the ground have no protection.”

Standing Rock activists have been at- tacked with water cannons, mace, rubber bullets, teargas, pepper spray and conces- sion grenades; more than 700 have been arrested. Agents from the FBI’s Joint Ter- rorism Task Force have harassed Stand- ing Rock supporters around the country.

“The idea that the government would attempt to construe this Indigenous-led non-violent movement into some kind of domestic terrorism investigation is un- fathomable to me,” said Lauren Regan, a civil rights attorney who has provided legal support to demonstrators “contact- ed by FBI agents. “It’s outrageous, it’s un- warranted … and it’s unconstitutional.” (Guardian, Feb. 10)

Over 1,000 veterans arrived at the camps to support and defend the strug- gle against the DAPL in December. The determination of Indigenous people, sup- ported by a worldwide campaign, forced the Obama administration last year to di- rect the Army Corps of Engineers not to grant an easement for the final construc- tion of the pipeline under the Missouri River until a full environmental impact study could be completed.

However, the extreme right wing and the Big Oil-friendly Trump regime have given the green light to this reckless proj- ect. On Feb. 7, the Army Corps granted the easement allowing Energy Transfer Partners to resume construction of the DAPL. Army officials claim they were pressured by the Trump administration. The dangers of this pipeline are demon- strated by the fact that thousands of gal- lons of oil have recently leaked from oil pipelines both in Canada and the U.S. In December 176,000 gallons leaked from an oil pipeline into a tributary of the Little Missouri River, just 150 miles away from Standing Rock (Washington Post, Dec. 12).

Native people and their supporters have renewed their determined cam- paign to stop the DAPL. Around the country, thousands of activists have stepped up the support campaign for the heroic Standing Rock water protectors. Here are two highlights.

Denver

Over 300 people traveled to the Colora- do State Capitol Building in Denver to test the DAPL and other pipelines carry- ing fossil fuels crossing Indigenous lands and breaking treaties. They marched with delegates from Native nations to Wells Fargo Bank, which has heavily invested in the DAPL. An effort is being waged to get the city of Denver to divest from invest- ments in or banks financing the pipeline.

Continued on the next page
The bosses had been testing the ground to see how they could destroy us. In the middle of negotiations, they fired their lead negotiator, Harvard’s general counsel, and hired Paul Curran, well-known in Boston as a professional union buster. He tried to bust city unions, including the school bus drivers’ union.

Then they fired their press secretary and hired a reporter recently fired by the Miami Herald. She lost her job there for deliberately lying, faking stories against Black residents and covering up a racist charter school movement; she was a personal friend of a pro-charter school congressman. The Black community had picked the Miami Herald to protest her racist lies. Harvard immediately hired her, and she set up a media campaign attacking us, putting lie after lie in local and campus press.

The press, which wouldn’t talk to us, tried to keep us from speaking. It was like two armies fighting, both sides supported by the university. There was mass student support at every one of the 20 schools; even the Republican party’s student group endorsed us.

Students were planning to seize another building and get arrested. We planned for student and worker hunger strikes. With the escalation of class-struggle tactics, and publicized plans to take the struggle even further, Harvard caved. The takeover was the powerful move that broke the Corporation’s back. We were under a huge amount of pressure, but when the occupation happened, it was like two armies fighting, both exhausted, but then one gets fresh troops and just crushes the other side.

The political position of Wall Street was to defeat us. Now, we have been proven right over the world for protecting health care against the bourgeoisie who were trying to beat us down.

Phoebe Eckfeldt, Steve Gillis, Mar- tha Grevatt, Steve Kirschbaum, Milt Neidenberg and Minnie Bruce Pratt contributed to this series of articles.
Black History Month brings back to life long-barred struggles of African-American people for liberation and justice. One of the most stirring such actions took place during Reconstruction, for a period of a little more than a decade after the Civil War. The Reconstruction era was the first time in history that a mass movement of Black people won the right to vote and hold political power throughout the U.S. South.

The victory of the Reconstruction movement was the result of a widespread uprising of the Black people, who enrolled in the Union army and helped to break the back of Confederate resistance. The Southern slaveholders, fearing an end to slavery, had hung Black people and gone on the offensive. Reconstruction was a kind of all-out fightback that's needed to smash the oppression and exploitation.

The achievements of Reconstruction and Reconstruction governments aimed legislation at comparable problems, including education. During Reconstruction, Black people organized conventions and elected a delegate to represent the interests of Black people in the U.S. government. In the South Carolina, they won roughly two-thirds of legislative seats, leading Du Bois to hail “the South Carolinians.” Throughout the South, some 2,000 Black people won state and federal positions. Likewise, an expanded franchise for the Paris Commune elections heightened the impact of the more population-dense, working-class districts.

Social reforms won

The Reconstruction and Commune governments aimed legislation at comparable problems, including education. During Reconstruction, Black people formed conventions and elected a delegate to represent the interests of Black people in the U.S. government. In the South Carolina, they won roughly two-thirds of legislative seats, leading Du Bois to hail “the South Carolinians.” Throughout the South, some 2,000 Black people won state and federal positions. Likewise, an expanded franchise for the Paris Commune elections heightened the impact of the more population-dense, working-class districts.

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Civil Rights leader John Lewis says: ‘Keep marching!’

By Dolores Cox
New York

Congressperson John Lewis was the keynote speaker at the standing-room-only Black History Month celebration in New York City on Feb. 3. The event was held at the headquarters of District Council 37, the city's largest civil service employees' union. Local labor leaders and elected officials attended.

Lewis, a Georgia sharecropper, was born on Feb. 21, 1940, outside Troy, Ala., in Pike County. He and his nine siblings grew up on the family’s farm. Lewis’ father saved $300 to buy the land in 1944. At the age of 8 or 9, he said he was sent away by his parents to Washington, D.C., by praying to the chickens. He later stated, humorously, that the chickens listened better than do his colleagues in Congress.

In 1958 Lewis said he wanted to attend all-white, segregated Troy State College, and wrote to Martin Luther King Jr. asking for his help. King sent him a bus ticket to Montgomery, There, they first met. When he returned home, however, his parents were fearful of him attending Troy State, so he went to the American Baptist Theological Seminary in Nashville, Tenn., instead.

Lewis recalled going to the segregated movie theatre and schools in Pike County, Ala., and seeing “whites only” signs everywhere. He remembered being turned away from the public library in 1956 at age 16. He was told, “It was for whites only.” With a proud, ironic smile, he said that he returned to the same library in 1958 for a book signing for one of his books and got a library card.

When he was young, he was inspired by the activism surrounding the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and by the words of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, whom he heard on the radio. He decided to join the Civil Rights Movement. From 1960 to 1966 he served as chairperson of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which he helped form. As a student at Fisk University, he organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in Nashville. SNCC was largely responsible for organizing the movement’s student activism.

On the Freedom Rides

In 1961, Lewis participated in the Freedom Rides, which challenged segregation at interstate bus terminals across the South. He and others risked their lives many times on these buses by simply sitting in seats reserved for white riders. He was severely beaten by angry mobs, and burned with hot water and lit cigarettes. Police arrested the courageous young activist for challenging the injustices of Jim Crow/apartheid segregation in the South. In the 1960s, Lewis was arrested and jailed 40 times.

Lewis was a nationally recognized leader and was named one of the “Big Six” leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. At age 23, he was a co-creator and keynote speaker at the historic August 1963 March on Washington. He was an advocate for ethics in government and neighborhood preservation. In November 1968, he was elected to Congress and has served as U.S. representative of Georgia’s 5th Congressional District since then. He is senior chief deputy whip for the Democratic Party in the House of Representatives and is a member of several congressional committees.

‘Stand up and keep marching!’

In speaking about the first two weeks of the fascist-like reign of President Donald Trump, Rep. Lewis stated, “There are dark days ahead.” He urged everyone to “stand up and keep marching. Get in necessary trouble for what’s right and just. Don’t get weary, keep pushing and don’t go back. Have no fear. You can’t stop now, and don’t despair. Anything worth having is hard, but hang in. Forces in D.C. need to be challenged. You cannot be silent.”

Lewis ended his remarks by saying, “I will continue to fight as long as there’s breath in my body.”

Students win anti-racist victory

By Damien Angelopoulos

On Feb. 2, Eastern Michigan University’s administration handed down its decision to drop sanctions against 16 students, mostly Black, who protested racist graffiti posted on university buildings in November. Officials gave way to escalating solidarity actions by students, faculty and community members.

This outcome is a victory for the determined, anti-racist students who kept up the outcry against the EMU administration. It was due to protesters’ fearlessness and persistence that the charges were dropped. The EMU Black Student Union and the NAACP, among other groups, organized the protests.

During the two weeks prior to the decision, students staged several protests, disrupting activity at the Student Center, declaring: “United we stand! Divided we fall!” and “Shame on you, EMU!” Over three consecutive days, students marched through the Student Center and picketed President James Smith’s office. They walked out and marched through the Pray-Harrold Building, ending up at the Student Center to demand: “Drop the charges!”

The 16 students were sanctioned after occupying the Student Center past closing time in November. They he-

ristically defied this “colorblind” administration. EMU officials originally called for the students’ expulsion, but later reduced the punishment to deferred suspensions. Officials then sent out letters of reprimand to the 16 students, which would have stayed on their academic records.

Throughout the negotiations and student hearings, even in the face of massive criticism, the administration maintained that the rules must be “evenly applied” and that they must maintain the “integrity” of the “investigative process.” This prompted a student to succinctly reply, “F*ck the process!”

The students condemned the white university administration’s racist hypocrisy in pursuing sanctions against Black students protesting racist intimidation. While EMU diligently prosecuted the case against the protesters, they didn’t put as much energy into finding those who were threatening, racist messages on university buildings — including on the door of a historically Black fraternity. Students carried a huge sign at the protests stating: “Eastern Michigan University’s president is a racist.”

The irony was not lost on protest organizers when the university held its Dr. Martin Luther King Day symposi- sium, entitled, “Courageous Conversations: Writing on the Walls,” at the same time as it pursued punishment against Black students protesting racist graffiti.

There is a long tradition of anti-racist student organiz- ing in the Washtenaw County area. Many organizers at recent events in the city of Ypsilanti identified themselves with the deep abolitionist history in that city. Frederick Douglass spoke three times during three separate visits 150 years ago, and the largest number of African-American Civil War veterans in the country are interred there.

Mobilization at the University of Michigan around racial justice and sanctuary university status has likewise recently reached critical mass, especially through the efforts of Students4Justice, a students of color-led social justice and sanctuary university group. The organization staged a walkout last year on Nov. 16 that attracted well over 1,000 students, faculty and community members.

The protests follow years of organizing in the Washtenaw area by groups such as the Ann Arbor Alliance for Black Lives and Radical Washtenaw, who have fought to win justice for Aura Rain Rosser, a Black woman killed by Ann Arbor police officer David Reid on Nov. 9, 2014. Ann Arbor, dubbed “Klan Arbor” by some organizers, has shown its commitment to white supremacy and racism in its adamant refusal to significantly change its policing policies and hold accountable any officers or of- ficials for Ross er’s death. Armed and in uniform, Reid still roams Ann Arbor, a known threat to all Black and Brown lives.

The victory at EMU vindicates the 16 courageous, determined students and those who have stood in solidarity with them.
The ‘Alt-right’: A new mask for white supremacy

By Ava Lapati

Feb. 13 — “Alt-right” has become a buzzword in the mainstream media to describe the extreme right-wing politics pushed by far-right bigots like Milo Yiannopoulos, Richard Spencer and Steve Bannon. What do the term and its mouthpieces really represent?

“Alt-right” mouthpieces

Milo Yiannopoulos, an openly racist gay man who is known for harassing women and people of color on Twitter (from which he was eventually banned), is frequently identified as a major spokesperson for the “alt-right.” Milo is known for espousing bigoted, anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant and anti-trans views as a prominent journalist for Breitbart News, a pro-Trump, right-wing news organization that was launched in 2007 by conservative writer Andrew Breitbart as a pro-capitalist, pro-Israeli aparthied news outlet.

In December 2016, a week before Yiannopoulos had conducted a speaking tour across U.S. universities to campaign against the Sanctuary Campus movement. However, his white-supremacist, anti-immigrant events were met with resistance when protesters shut them down at the University of California–Los Angeles and Stanford University.

Richard Spencer, a more obscure right-wing demagogue, coined the term alt-right in 2010. Spencer leads the National Policy Institute, a white-supremacist think tank. He was in the spotlight after the most recent NFIP national conference shortly after the election, when he proclaimed, “Hail Trump! Hail the new white America!” Spencer has been linked to neo-Nazis, “men’s rights” activists, anarcho-capitalists and right-wing libertarians who go beyond mainstream conservatism.

The white supremacy of alt-right propaganda commonly criticizes “establishment conservatives” of the Republican Party for not being right-wing enough. Those expressing this racist ideology are in communication and organized toward this common racist identity.

“Alt-right” ideology is essentially a white supremacist response to the deepening economic crises, like the one the U.S. economy has been in since 2008, accelerate fear and uncertainly among those in the middle class who have lost wealth, such as small business owners and small-scale farmers. This extremist-right ideology is especially effective for the U.S. ruling class. The exploitation and violence of white supremacy lay the foundation for racist ideology to mobilize the middle class against segments of the multinational working class and to divide white workers from Black workers. Oppressed nationalities and immigrants are thus blamed for the problems created by the very ruling class that is oppressing all workers, including white workers.

How we can fight

The development of the propaganda and ideology associated with the white supremacist “alt-right” is deeply intertwined with the new administration. Trump’s reactionary rhetoric emboldens these hateful, violent beliefs and actions. The fight against Trump’s agenda and the entire U.S. ruling class is, by necessity, a fight against all rising reactionary forces, including the so-called alt-right.

Those associated with this new face of white supremacy have a track record of violence. Advocates claiming “alt-right” ideology have taken to social media, especially Twitter, in search of undocumented immigrants in order to report them to Immigration, Customs and Enforcement. The gunman who killed six and injured four in a Florida Sikh temple in order to report them to Immigration, Customs and Enforcement.

However, this rise in white-supremacist violence has been met with powerful resistance from progressives and anti-fascists. Yiannopoulos was shut down by protesters at two UC campuses, Berkeley officials warned that Yiannopoulos was planning to expose undocumented students during his speech.

The wave of resistance is a sign of hope that the working class and oppressed will not stand by as right-wing terror rears its ugly head. In order to effectively oppose Trump and the entire capitalist class, these forces must prepare to resist the far right at every step and in every area of struggle.

Solidarity rally backing locked-out Honeywell workers

By Martha Grevatt

Hundreds of supporters rallied Feb. 13 in South Bend, Ind., to support United Auto Workers Local 9, whose 320 members are locked out by Honeywell. The workers in South Bend, along with 42 members of UAW Local 1508 in Green Island, N.Y., were locked out May 9, just days after they voted to authorize a strike against United Engineering, a union-busting firm brought into the plant by Honeywell to the plant, where they yelled at the scabs while they worked, in order to learn their jobs and be able to run production in the event of a strike or lockout. Union members now assume the lockout was planned in advance.

Chants included “Hey, hey, Honeywell! Take your scabs and go to hell!”

The union’s supporters rallied at UAW Local 5, which offered its space in solidarity with the locked-out workers. Local 5, one of the original locals that founded the UAW in 1935, represented Studebaker workers until the company folded in 1965. This local still represents workers at several companies.

Paul Mishler, director of Labor Studies at Indiana University-South Bend, chaired the rally and gave a presentation about the 1936 sit-down. Other speakers included Local 9 Vice President Todd Treder; UAW Local 531 Vice President Scott Houtskoollen, representing the Auto workers Caravan, which initiated the rally; St. Joseph Valley Project/Jobs with Justice Chair Joe Carbone; United Steelworkers staff organizer Robin Rich; and South Bend Common Council member Regina Williams-Preston.

Also speaking were April Lidlinsky, director of Gender Studies at Indiana University-South Bend and organizer of the Jan. 21 women’s march in South Bend; Erik Thompson, director of labor organizing for the United Steelworkers, and former presidents of UAW Locals 909 and 140 respectively; and representatives of Local 5, Detroit’s Moratorium Now! Coalition and Steelworkers locals and retiree chapters.

Honeywell workers stay strong against union-busting tactics in Indiana.
Protests open cracks in government

Continued from page 1

tion proceedings. These rules make all 11 million undocumented workers in the U.S. subject to arrest and deportation at any time. Immigration, Customs and Enforcement immediately carried out 160 arrests in Los Angeles. Undocumented workers were arrested in Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. About 500 were arrested across Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri and Wisconsin. (New York Times, Feb. 12)

Putting up a fight

Trump’s message was clear in the high-profile deportation of Guadalupe Garcia de Rayos, 35, a mother of two who came to the U.S. in the 1990s when she was 14. Garcia was arrested in an ICE workplace raid in 2008, but the agency worked out an arrangement for her to remain as long as she reported to ICE periodically. She had reported eight times since then.

In 2013 an order to deport was insti- tuted, but Garcia de Rayos was allowed to remain. But when Trump changed the rules to allow priority deportation for any illegality, she was seized on Feb. 8 when she reported to ICE and deported within 24 hours. Protesters were arrested at demonstrations to stop her deportation.

As to the raids over the last week, Trump has announced he was “carry- ing out my campaign promises.” In other words, he is stoking fear in the immi-grant community and stoking hatred in his reactionaryacist followers.

Billionaires on a rampage

One of the reasons political machines under the spoils system盛行 has been hesitant to put billionaires personally in charge of the White House, as opposed to allowing them into the cabinet and other high positions, is the fear that their greed will lead them to wreck the economy and endanger the system altogether.

But now there is a billionaire boss, who came from outside the political establish-ment, who has moved directly into the White House, and has complete domina- tion of the most powerful governmental executive position in the world. The Democratic Party administration of Bill Clinton laid the basis for the great financial crash of 2008. Financial policy was dominated by Robert Rubin, Clin- ton’s treasury secretary, and former lead- er of Goldman Sachs, along with Larry Summers and Alan Greenspan, all of whom are still the same.

This group cast aside regulations that had put a lid on bank speculation. They overturned the Glass-Steagall Act, passed after the Great Depression. The Clinton group fought against regulating a major new speculative instrument called fi-nancial derivatives. That unleashed Wall Street and the bankers do as they pleased. It took only 10 years for the massive speculation in mortgages and deriv- atives to build up a bubble. The bubble burst and the Great Recession of 2008 crashed down on the U.S. and the globe.

It made the cyclical capitalist boom-and-bust crisis immeasurably worse. Now the Trump administration is bus- ily creating new ways of removing all re- straints on the banks and financiers.

In the wake of the 2008 crash, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was passed to put some restraints on the bank- ing forward. Trump boasted to a host of bankers that he was going to get advice from Jamie Dimon of JP Morgan Chase on how to take apart Dodd-Frank, among other regulations.

The working class must get ready for a reenactment of speculative frenzies among the bankers and the bosses if Trump pushes through his financial “reform,” which includes his plan to lower corpo-rate taxes and do away with regulations on corporate crimes against the workers and against the environment.

Attacks breed resistance

The right wing mobilized anti-abor- tion forces nationally on Feb. 11 to demonstrate against Planned Parenthood. Trump has promised to defund the organization, which provides not only abortions but basic women’s health care throughout the country.

The right-wing demonstrations were met by equal or greater pro-choice forces supporting Planned Parenthood in cities and small across the country. For example, in St. Paul, Minn., the an-ti-abortion forces numbered 500 while the pro-choice forces numbered 5,000. (Communist Dreams, Feb. 11)

A massive pushback by tens of thou-sands in the movement against Trump’s Muslim travel ban panicked the ruling class as the country faced a major setback as Ninth Circuit Court judges unanimously upheld a Seattle district court ruling that temporarily stopped the travel ban. There is no evidence that Trump has given up the ban, but he has had to say that he might have to redraft it to make it more acceptable in court. But the mass opposition is already in motion. As demonstrations against the depor-tations broke out throughout the U.S., a massive demonstration in Mexico City was part of a Mexico-wide mobilization against the wall and the persecution of immigrants. Meanwhile, in the U.S., workers have been demonstrating against anti-union, “right to work” moves in Wis-consin and Michigan state legislatures.

The temporary victory in court against the travel ban and deportations is the re- sult of both the demonstrations shown below and the harm that the ban does to the economy, the universities, hospitals, agribusiness and other capitalist institu-tions. It is a case in which the movement on behalf of the oppressed benefited from a combination of their own struggle and a split in the ruling class.

Courts no friend of workers and oppressed

The court ruling on the travel ban has been accompanied by mountains of capi-talist praise for judicial checks on the ex-ecutive, the great “separation of powers,” “checks and balances” and so on.

The Seattle and the Ninth Circuit courts issued liberal rulings. Trump will undoubtedly try again, since the judicia-ry, and especially the federal judiciary, is the most reactionary branch of the three branches of the capitalist state. Federal judges are appointed for life. They can- not be removed by any ordinary means. Therefore, no one should be inveigled into relying on the courts.

Of course, the workers and oppressed are always in favor of rulings they can take advantage of. For example, the Su-preme Court ruling in Brown v. the Board of Education overturned the racist doc-trine of “separate but equal,” which had been the legal basis for Jim Crow laws en-forcement segregation in the South.

But that 1954 ruling was in anticipa-tion of the coming massive Civil Rights Move-ment on the general. For the immi-gration struggle rising in the South. It was an anticipatory ruling.

Similarly, the 1973 Roe v. Wade deci-sion that legalized abortion was a ruling in reaction to a mass movement of wom-en. It had nothing to do with any progres-sive leaning of the court. In fact, it was a Nineteenth Amendment referendum, a Republi-can-appointed judge who were under mass pressure.

By contrast, the history of the Supreme Court is overwhelmingly reactionary. An 1866 Supreme Court ruling that a union organized by shoemakers was a “criminal conspiracy” was applied to other unions for much of the 19th century.

The Dred Scott decision of 1857 de-clared that runaway fugitive enslaved persons were property of a master and had to be returned. The Plessy v. Fergus-son ruling of 1896 upheld the pernicious “separate but equal” doctrine of racial segregation in public facilities.

This reactionary history extends all the way to this century’s Citizens United decision, which includes billions of dol-lars to further corrupt the voting system and gut the Voting Rights Act, disenfran-chising millions of African American and Latina/o people.

As for checks and balances, these are applied by currents of the ruling class to check each other when needed. These checks and balances, now being hailed by the capitalist mass media, have little bearing on the condition of the workers and the oppressed.

There are no checks and balances on the extreme capitalist exploitation and accum-ulation of wealth in the U.S. that has left the top 0.1 percent of the population with more wealth than the bottom 40 percent. There are no checks and balances on mass incarceration or racist police kill-ings. There are no checks and balances on the persecution and deportation of immi-grants or on the destruction of health care for millions of poor women. There are no checks and balances on imperialist wars of aggression or on the death machines of the military-industrial complex.

As a rule, these atrocities are either ig-nored or blessed by the courts. The only true check on the aggression of the rulers is the 11 million Workers and the oppressed is the mass struggle.

Detroit rallies for reproductive justice

Several protests in support of Planned Parenthood and against intensified at-tacks on women took place in Metro Detroit on Feb. 11. At the Cass Corridor Planned Parenthood, close to 1,000 pro-choice, pro-women demonstrators lined both sides of the street of a long block. Fewer than a dozen bigoted, anti-abor-tion protesters dared to show up at this women’s health clinic during nationwide rallies on Feb. 11 calling for the federal government to defund Planned Parent-hood. Over 200 clinics were targeted in 45 states and the nation’s capital. The belligerent forces here were surrounded and drowned out by pro-women militants.

The pro-Planned Parenthood protest-ers were predominantly youthful, and for many it was their first protest. They experienced how the numbers and power of the people could defy police orders and take the streets.

At least two breakaway marches, in-cluding one in the middle of Cass Avenue, took place, with pro-PP militant youth leading the chants and learning leader-ship skills at the same time. Activists with Workers World Party and the Michigan People’s Defense Network participated.

In an extraordinary display of uni-fied action, more than 20 grass-roots progressive and migrant-rights orga-nizations in Los Angeles endorsed and participated in a response to raids and detentions carried out by U.S. Immigra-tion, Customs and Enforcement in the Los Angeles area. Here, dozens blocked the busy freeway into the 101 Freeway just north of Los Angeles City Hall.

— Report by Scott Scheffer

Los Angeles

L.A. protests ICE raids, blocks 101 Freeway

Story and photo by Kris Hamel

workers.org

Feb. 16, 2017
Oscar López’s bittersweet freedom

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

In a surprise action on Feb. 9, Puerto Rican political prisoner Oscar López Rivera returned to his homeland, Puerto Rico, after the second Obama Administration commuted his sentence in its last days in mid-January. But what so many people longed for — to greet him with Puerto Rican flags and slogans of national freedom, to make him aware of their love and gratitude — was impeded by the cruel, vengeful orders of the U.S. Empire.

López Rivera arrived at the San Juan Airport accompanied by his daughter Clarisa López, his brother José López, his lawyer Jan Susler and elected officials: the mayor of San Juan, Carmen Yulin Cruz; the speaker of the City Council of Humacao, Melissa Marín-Vivero; and Congressperson Luis Gutierrez, Democratic Party representative from Chicago.

The people gathered to meet Oscar at the terminal where he would arrive were astonished by the speed of events and the absolute impossibility of greeting him. The officials accompanying Oscar on his trip from North Carolina, where he had been released from Terre Haute Prison in Indiana, walked around him trying to keep him hidden. They even put a cap on his head in an attempt to cover his face.

Despite those accompanying Oscar trying to cover the television lens, this writer was able to see through the camera a part of his walk through the airport halls. These glimpses of Oscar’s face aroused immense joy as well as great indignation, feelings shared by many people judging by the many comments on social media.

Interviewed by the media about Oscar’s arrival, Puerto Rican hero and former political prisoner Rafael Cancel Miranda told how important it was to him to be greeted by thousands of Puerto Ricans in that airport. That’s when he arrived there with Lolita Lebrón, Irving Flores and Andrés Collazo after being pardoned by U.S. President Jimmy Carter. He spoke of the extraordinary joy — euphoria even — he felt to see thousands of people gathered, carrying Puerto Rican flags, when he reached Puerto Rico after 26 years in Yankee dungeons.

Oscar was deprived of this welcome. His lawyer Jan Susler said, “He is under strict supervision. He is in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons. If he wants to be in Puerto Rico, he has to be confined to his home. He has to meet the conditions the most important, apart from complying with the law, is that he maintain a very low profile.” (elnuevodia.com, Feb. 9)

“Low profile” includes house arrest at the home of his daughter, Clarisa, which he can leave only for medical appointments and to go to the Bureau of Prisons. He cannot talk to people with a prison record, be in any public hearing or be interviewed by the media. In addition, he must wear an electronic shackle until March when he will finally finish his sentence after being a prisoner for 36 years.

Political context

Within the parameters of the U.S. “legal justice” system, there is no reason why his commutation could not have included Oscar’s immediate release. Not only is Trumpism a desperate political move to cover his dependen-

ty, it is a highly political act, preventing Oscar from being an active and cohesive element in his struggle for Puerto Rican independence.

The struggle for Oscar’s freedom has been endorsed by the most diverse Puerto Rican forces, from the correct pro-statehood Governor Ricardo Roselló to pro-independence and socialist tendencies, together with religious communities of all beliefs and all social movements in between. Oscar is the symbol of the united will of a people to fight for what it considers just. That was also the way it was with the victorious struggle to remove the U.S. Navy from the Puerto Rican island of Vieques.

Now is a critical time for the Borinquen independence movement. It is a highly political act, preventing Oscar from being a part of the working class to pay Wall Street’s vultures.

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Now is a critical time for the Borinquen independence movement. It is a highly political act, preventing Oscar from being a part of the working class to pay Wall Street’s vultures.
Eyewitness:

‘Indomitable strength’ of Cuba’s Revolution

By Nathaniel Peters

On Jan. 1, 1959, the Cuban people, with the leadership of Fidel Castro, threw off the U.S.-backed regime of Fulgencio Batista and established a socialist state 90 miles off the coast of Florida.

The accomplishments of the Cuban Revolution are many, including free education and health care for all Cubans, a long record of support for anti-imperialist struggles around the world, and enormous relief efforts in response to humanitarian crises, such as the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak.

The Revolution has also overcome enormous obstacles, including the U.S.-orchestrated invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961, the U.S. blockade (in place since 1960), numerous terrorist attacks by Cuban exile militias based in Florida, and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

In spite of this extraordinary endurance, U.S. journalists and politicians constantly declare impending collapse of the Revolution. After 58 years of incorrect predictions, they’re still at it. These voices have only grown louder since the death of Fidel Castro last year.

So are the daydreamers right this time? How strong is the Cuban Revolution? Will it endure?

The people are the revolution

Last month, this writer had the opportunity to visit Cuba and witness the indomitable strength of the Revolution firsthand. On Jan. 27, thousands of students marched through the streets of Havana in the annual “March of the Torchbearers” to commemorate Jose Marti, the Cuban national hero. The march was first organized at the University of Havana in 1953 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Marti’s birth. This year’s march was the first since the passing of Fidel Castro and was dedicated to him.

When asked about the recent developments in Cuba, Alejandro, an electrical engineering student at the José Antonio Echeverría Higher Polytechnic Institute who attended the march, put it this way: “A lot of people think that when Fidel died the Revolution was going to fall apart, but that is not going to happen. The young Cubans are going to strengthen the Revolution and carry it forward. A big change is the change in U.S.-Cuba relations, which should benefit both countries … but that doesn’t mean we will give up any of the principles we have struggled for, or that we will let ourselves be defeated.”

Richard, who is studying biochemistry and Chinese at the University of Havana, made it clear what those principles are: “Fidel took [Marti] ideas and values, the ideas of anti-imperialism, patriotism and Latin-Americanism and put them into practice … Some things are never going to change: free health care and education.”

Given Fidel’s enormous significance to the Cuban people, one might expect to find his face painted on every surface since his passing. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth: Fidel’s image is almost nowhere to be seen.

Raúl Castro announced at a tribute to Fidel before his burial, “Faithful to Martí’s philosophy that ‘all the glory in the world fits into a kernel of corn,’ the leader of the Revolution rejected any manifestation of a cult of personality, and remained true to this position until the last hours of his life, insisting that, after his death, his name and likeness never be used to designate institutions, plazas, parks, avenues, streets or other public spaces, nor monuments, busts, statues and other such tributes he erected.”

Alejandro explained this decision, “Fidel wanted to make it clear that the Revolution, that the people were the Revolution. Don’t think the Revolution is over because Fidel has died. We are strong and will continue with his ideas.”

Fidel honored at Harlem, N.Y., meeting

By Stephen Millies

New York


Gallagher noted the event was being held on “hallowed ground,” the site of Malcolm X’s assassination on Feb. 21, 1965. Sacks called Fidel “a real example of a revolutionary leader.”

The podium displayed a photograph of Malcolm X and Fidel laughing during their meeting at Harlem’s Hotel Theresa in 1960. A beautiful banner painted by Carlito Rivera featured Fidel’s portrait.

The Afro-Boricua Drumming and Dance Ensemble set the tribute in motion. Zaidy Muhammad, revolutionary poet, gave a libation that evoked Caribbe an revolucionesaries Marcus Garvey, Pedro Albizu Campos and José Martí.

Scenes of critical events in the Revolution’s history were shown on video: the Gramsci’s landing, direct ing U.S. imperialism’s defeat at the Bay of Pigs, and in the Sierra Maestra mountains with comrades Che Guevara, Celia Sánchez and Juan Almeida. Footage showed Fidel with Nelson Mandela and Hugo Chávez, and also speaking at Harlem’s Abyssinian Baptist Church in 1995 and at Riverside Church in 2000.

Cuban Ambassador to the United Na tions Anayansi Rodríguez told the audi ence: “You are sisters and brothers.” She cited Fidel’s trips to New York and after the Cuban Revolution’s triumph. She spoke of Fidel’s love for the late Rev. Lucius Walker, as depicted in footage of Fidel embracing him. Rev. Walker, Gall Gallagher’s father, founded Pastors for Peace.

Fidel: “a great friend and ally”

Video statements were played from South Africa, Angola and Namibia. Jerry Matthews Matlala, South Africa’s ambassador to the United Nations, told Fidel “a great friend and ally.”


Dr. Joaquín Morante, a physician prac ticing in East Harlem, said he was one of 145 doctors from the U.S. who were pro vided a free medical education at Cuba’s Latin America School of Medicine, which has trained 20,000 physicians from over 100 countries.

“Long live the Haitian and Cuban rev olutions!” declared Ninaj Raoul, director of Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees. Cultural presentations included Saida Cyril reading a poem saluting Fidel by Zé nielle Khusain from South Africa. Puerto Rican revolutionary Frank Velgara, event co-organizer, also read a poem honoring Fidel. World-renowned jazz pianist Dayramir González and violinist Taitiana Ferrier per formed.

Jaime Mendia, president of Casa de las Améri cas, spoke of Fidel’s trip to New York in 1955, when he addressed 800 people to gain support for the July 26th Movement fighting dictator Fulgencio Batista. Casa de las Americas members aided that struggle and later defended the Cuban Revolution.

Larry Hamm, leader of New Jersey’s dynamic People’s Organization for Prog ress, concluded with a fiery speech: “U.S. imperialism has not been able to defeat the Cuban Revolution. We must end the blockade against Cuba. To make revolu tion in the United States is the greatest tribute to Fidel.” He asserted: “We know the Cuban people will protect Assata Shakur,” the Black revolutionary given asylum there.

The program ended with drumming and dancing by Dr. Drum and Bomba Ya. Audience members danced in the aisles.

In the beautiful program produced by the New York-New Jersey Cuba Sí Organizing Committee, Workers World Party declared: “Fidel will continue to inspire not only the Cuban people but the hun dreds of millions around the world who yearn for liberation.”
Nueva Central de Trabajadores de México a la ofensiva

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Si el 1ro de enero de 1994 las y los huelguistas de Chiquis de la EZLN lanzaron el grito de lucha tras la entrada en vigor del TLCAN; hoy en 2017 una considerable parte del pueblo mexi- cano se encuentra en diversas formas de resistencia. Muchas de las cuales han sido por el efecto causado por ese nefasto TLC que llevó a México ser una neoeco- nomía del capital internacional, predom- inantemente estadounidense. Habiendo perdido su soberanía económica, México se encuentra a merced de Wall Street y por consecuencia, a la crisis del gran cap- ital liderado por los EUA.

Por el deterioro económico y social resistente, lo que ha provocado -aparte de la miseria y la consecuente migración hacia el “gigante del norte”– es una in- dignación y un fuerte deseo de lucha popu- lar, de la burguesía, de la revolución en la coyuntura del inicio del 2017.

América Latina las luchas no se han de- barnar los límites que alcanzaron las rev- oluciones democráticas y antineolibera -

La venganza de la derecha de quienes no están dispuestos a formar Sindicatos o Comités de Lucha para sumarse a la Nueva Central; y el Partido Movimiento Socialista de los Trabajadores (PSMST) también han hecho acopio de fuerzas. Así se ha requerido, por lo tanto, para que se formen nuevas direcciones políticas, para decidir cursos de acción. Con este contexto, se ha propuesto una nueva etapa de construcción que incluirá a la nueva ofensiva de las masas trabajadoras y de las nuevas formas de lucha, tanto en la base, como en la del medio rural, y en el entorno capitalista, en el que se conviene en el contenido de la ofensiva de la izquierda. Sin embargo, el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión. Ello conduce a la crisis de los sistemas capitalistas, y a la crisis del sistema de masas trabajadoras, que se encuentra a merced de Wall Street y por consecuencia, a la crisis del gran capital liderado por los EUA. La NCT se describe como una central autónoma, democrática, sindical, inter- nacionalista, independiente y anticapi- talista. La componen 50 organizaciones sindicales y sindicales, entre las cuales se encuentran 10 centrales sindicales que agrupan 12 sindi- catos. Además de una Confederación de organizaciones cooperativistas, Alianza Cooperativa Nacional, con cerca de 200 cooperativas. Una Central Sindical, el SME presentó una ponencia titulada “Por una nueva etapa de lucha del campesinado y la ciudadanía, lo que luego de debates, surgir la propuesta de construcción... de una central incluyente, democrática y cristiana a disparities los diversos sectores de la clase obrera.

La propuesta del programa se basa des- paginador para la difusión de la situación en México, no sólo desde el TLCAN, sino históricamente desde la revolución del 1910-17, dentro del contexto internacion- al y de los avances del capitalismo hacia formas más depredadoras. El programa completo se puede leer en nuevacentral. org.

Es importante destacar el carácter cla- sista de esta Central y su compromiso por la unidad de las fuerzas progresistas mexicanas, el esfuerzo por la formación ideológica representado en dos escuelas de formación sindical apoyadas por la Fundación Rosa Luxemburgo, el y el trabaja- dores en contra de la imposición hasta de un paro de mujeres el 8 de marzo, realizando una gran mov- ilización en contra de los feminicidios y por los derechos de la mujer.

Además, incluye solidaridad con las lu- chas de los pueblos latinoamericanos con- tra el neoliberalismo y la ofensiva Trump. Termina el comunicado diciendo que “La NCT reconoce la excepción legal y la preparación para enfrentar las deportaciones masivas que pretende realizar la ofensiva contra la Nueva Central; por lo que deciden realizar una nueva ofensiva con sus movilizaciones y luchas populares, en el marco de la lucha de la clase trabajadora de México y el Mundo”.

· Como surgió la NCT?

En el año 2011, duran- te una Conferencia Na- cional Sindical, el SME presentó una ponencia titulada “Por una nueva central de trabajadores del cam- po y la ciudadanía”. El que se basa en el contenido de la ofensiva de la izquierda.

· Se solidariza con las principales luchas y exige la aparición con vida de los 43 normalistas de Ayotzinapa...

· Lanzar una Campaña de Aliación in- dividual y directa de los trabajadores y trabajadoras no organizados ...

· Se requiere de nuevas direcciones po- líticas, para decidir cursos de acción. Con este contexto, se ha propuesto una nueva etapa de construcción que incluirá a la nueva ofensiva de las masas trabajadoras y de las nuevas formas de lucha, tanto en la base, como en la del medio rural, y en el entorno capitalista, en el que se conviene en el contenido de la ofensiva de la izquierda. Sin embargo, el capitalismo global ha llegado finalmente a un punto de inflexión. Ello conduce a la crisis de los sistemas capitalistas, y a la crisis del sistema de masas trabajadoras, que se encuentra a merced de Wall Street y por consecuencia, a la crisis del gran capital liderado por los EUA. La NCT se describe como una central autónoma, democrática, sindical, inter- nacionalista, independiente y anticapi- talista. La componen 50 organizaciones sindicales y sindicales, entre las cuales se encuentran 10 centrales sindicales que agrupan 12 sindi- catos. Además de una Confederación de organizaciones cooperativistas, Alianza Cooperativa Nacional, con cerca de 200 cooperativas. Una Central Sindical, el SME presentó una ponencia titulada “Por una nueva etapa de lucha del campesinado y la ciudadanía, lo que luego de debates, surgir la propuesta de construcción... de una central incluyente, democrática y cristiana a disparities los diversos sectores de la clase obrera.

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III. América Latina requiere una nueva oleada revolucionaria

Hacer frente a la ofensiva del capital- ismo imperialista coaliado con las dere- chas y buenas naciones requiere un vuelco en la lucha de clases que devuelva a la acción obrera a las masas trabajado- ras. Sólo la movilización popular revolucio- naria, no la movilización clientelista, será eficaz. La ofensiva de fuerzas capitalista, se exponía la situación na- cional, terminando con la “Táctica de la NCT en la coyuntura del 2017”.

· Algunas de las resoluciones incluidas en el comunicado ilustran la esencia de esta nueva central. Entre ellas destacan: Un pronunciamiento “en contra de Donald Trump por su política antime- xicana, racista, anti inmigrante, misógina y represiva, a partir de su discurso proteccionista y neonazi.

· Rechaza tajantemente el gas- ducar apoyo para el gue- pero de Enrique Peña Nieto y se compromete a apoyar las protestas populares... propon- niendo que el Sindicato se realicen Asambleas Popu- lares en todas las plazas públicas para organizar una gran Jornada Nacional de Lucha el 1 de marzo... de protesta el 16 de febrero próximo...