Class struggle is the only way

Trump tariffs won’t save jobs

By Chris Fry

Donald Trump on March 8 signed proclamations that impose a 25 percent tariff on imported steel as well as a 10 percent tariff on imported aluminum. He tweeted, “Trade wars are good and easy to win.” He claims the tariffs will protect jobs in those industries.

It would have been appropriate to have his buddy and “advisor,” tycoon Carl Icahn, standing behind him. Icahn raked in a cool $30 million by selling some of his stock in steel-hungry Manitowoc, a construction crane maker, a week before Trump’s tariffs were announced. The stock’s new owners might lose from the higher steel costs to Manitowoc. It’s doubtful that the Trump regime will investigate this as a clear case of insider trading.

But demagogue that he is, Trump knew that having a fellow billionaire present would have signaled that his tariffs are aimed at helping only the owners. U.S. workers have lost more than 60,000 steel jobs since 2010 from changes in technology that increase productivity, not from competition with foreign workers.

So instead of Icahn, Trump lined up a dozen or so steelworkers, decked out in jeans and hard hats, to witness the signing. Both AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka and United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard applauded Trump’s move. Gerard said, “Trump was able to see the steelworkers’ agenda.”

Trumka told the press: “We need to protect our industry from cheating. That is what these tariffs can do. We’re excited about it and we think it is good for the country but we think it is good for the industry.” (cns-news.com, March 9)

The two union leaders both attacked China, accusing that country of “overproducing” steel and aluminum. China ranks only ninth in steel imports to the U.S. and fourth in aluminum.

Most of Wall Street opposes Trump’s new tariffs. Many of their economists predict that far more other jobs will be lost than steel jobs saved. Of course, these wizards of high finance don’t care about workers any more than Trump does, but they are concerned that Trump’s tariffs may disrupt their carefully crafted global network designed to force subsidiaries to pay the lowest wages to their workers to win supplier contracts. If Trump’s measures touch off a trade war, that might lower their profit margins.

Thus, the Council on Foreign Relations estimates that 40,000 jobs will be lost due to the price hike for steel. The Associated General Contractors of America states that 30,000 construction jobs could be lost because of Trump’s tariffs. The Trade Partnership think tank esti-

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Workers World Weekly Newspaper
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl, NY, NY 10011
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Marching for Dreamers in L.A., ‘fighting to stay home’

By John Parker

Over 100 people participated Feb. 28 in a Fighting to Stay Home march from McArthur Park in downtown Los Angeles to the Metropolitan Detention Center. They were marching in solidarity with the Dreamers who are marching 250 miles from New York to Washington, D.C., demanding an end to deportations and terror against migrants living in the U.S. One of the demands is for a Clean Dream Act, so their lives are not used to further Trump’s repressive demand for increased Mexican border security and a racist wall. Claudia Temrinio of Movimiento Consecha said: “We are demanding a Clean Dream Act to provide undocumented youth permanent protection, without pushing the cost of the immigrant community further into the shadows. We will be taking over the streets to show other immigrants that it is important to make sure our voices are heard, to organize and show up. Especially at this moment in which our communities have been terrorized by ICE” [Immigration and Customs Enforcement].

Movimiento Consecha initiated and led the action made up primarily of undocumented youth. Other participating organizations included American Indian Movement, Union del Barrio, California for Progress and Workers World Party, which helped provide signage.

Fight for women’s liberation with Workers World

Marxists strive not just to honor history, but to help make it — to promote major changes needed to put the workers and the oppressed first instead of last. Workers World always commemorates the socialist holiday of International Working Women’s Day, March 8, with a round up of women’s protests for freedom, justice and equality throughout the world.

While all issues are women’s issues, WW focuses in 2018 on U.S. women who bear the brunt of Trump’s racist, sexist, bigoted, nasty agenda — working class immigrant women who are being detained and deported for the “crime” of crossing borders to find work so they can provide for their families, and the “Dreamers,” whose Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals status is still in limbo as both parties in Congress ignore their demands.

Struggle is the only way to bring about change. The Black Lives Matter movement, started by women and women-led organizations included American Indian Movement, Mundo Obrero: Redactora Berta Joubert-Ceci; Andrea Banuelos, Alberto Garcia, Teresa Gutierrez, Milt Neidenberg, John Parker, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsy Piette, Gloria Rubac.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way to end the suffering of women.

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits. Capitalism means war and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they can even make it to college. Black and brown youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis. WWF fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen from the bulk of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1939, Workers World Party has been in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you.

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West Virginia teachers and school service workers triumphed in a major victory on March 6. After striking for nine working days, 20,000 teachers and 13,000 school service employees won substantial concessions out of a right-wing billionaire governor and reactionary state legislature. The strike began on Feb. 22.

Their win included a 5 percent, single-year wage increase, not just for themselves, but for all state employees potentially. West Virginia teachers rank 48th in the U.S. in wages — just two steps above rock bottom. Education worker militancy also succeeded in forcing the billionaire governor, Jim Justice, to pull anti-education, anti-worker bills out of the legislative agenda. These included a charter schools bill, a “payroll deduction” bill to stop deductions for union dues and a bill to eliminate seniority protection for teachers.

The education workers were also fighting for longer insurance premiums and proper funding of the state Public Education Insurance Agency (PEIA). This issue remains unresolved.

The strike won creation of a taskforce to study how to adequately fund PEIA to reduce wait for treatment, and it forced the governor recently announced, only five represent the workers’ interests, including the heads of the striking unions: the American Federation of Teachers-West Virginia, the West Virginia Education Association and the West Virginia School Service Personnel Association.

The preponderance of the taskforce are CEOs of insurance companies, heads of hospital conglomerates, and West Virginia legislators who fought tooth and nail against the workers’ demands. There is even a representative of the state police, historically used as deadly strikebreakers in the same, the same as police are everywhere.

The anti-worker composition of the taskforce makes it likely workers may once again have to mobilize and act to get their basic demands met.

Breakthrough tactics

In West Virginia, all teacher wages and working conditions are determined by the state legislature. The teachers and school service personnel were striking against state legislature. The teachers and school service workers triumphed in a major victory on March 6. After striking for nine working days, 20,000 teachers and 13,000 school service employees won substantial concessions out of a right-wing billionaire governor and reactionary state legislature. The strike began on Feb. 22.

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National conference in Detroit, March 24
Developing a program to defeat austerity

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

March 24 will be an important date for the Moratorium NOW! Coalition and more than 50 other organizations and individuals who have endorsed the National Conference to Defeat Austerity in Detroit. The gathering is being held at the historic St. Matthew's A.M.E. Church in Detroit.

This event has its origins in several developments in the city. Hundreds of thousands of residents have seen their standards of living drop precipitously amid massive layoffs in the retail and service sectors, along with the ongoing property tax foreclosures and rising rents. The corporate media narrative promotes the city as making significant progress after emerging from what was in actuality an illegal municipal bankruptcy during 2013-14, while simultaneously overlooking the plight of the majority African American population, many of whom are mired in poverty.

The NCDA concept arose after the Moratorium NOW! Coalition mobilized people for the World Conference of Mayors meeting held last Oct. 23-27 at the MGM Grand Casino Hotel. The billionaire ruling class, headed by Quicken Loans and Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert and the Ilitch Companies, sought to use the World Conference of Mayors to spread blatant misrepresentation of the social and economic situation in Detroit.

A citywide town hall meeting titled “Real Detroiters Speak Out!” was convened last week to 2,700 people, including an intervention at the World Conference of Mayors itself. At subsequent meetings in November and December, organizers decided to build a broader event that would thoroughly analyze the present crisis and develop a program to change the U.S. foreign policies devastating cities and whole countries around the world.

Why the people struggle

The recently enacted first phase of federal tax legislation will result in enormous cuts to social programs and environmental safeguards under the guise of providing incentives for corporations and already wealthy consumers. However, subsidizing financial institutions through a formal 14 percent corporate tax reduction means that the masses of working and poor people will be denied desperately needed housing, health care and food assistance while the Pentagen budget continues to grow.

Relating to Detroit, Moratorium NOW! has stressed over the last three years that more than $750 million has been redirected from the federal Hardest Hit Fund, initially designed to assist homeowners negatively impacted by foreclosures and evictions, to questionable projects related to so-called “blight removal.” A significant portion of these funds has been turned over to the Detroit Land Bank Authority, described as a quasi-public entity, although it is run in the interests of the banks, corporations and real estate investors. The DLBA has been under federal investigation over allegations of kickbacks and deliberate cost overruns.

Business-friendly Mayor Mike Duggan has opposed the use of federal funds earmarked for homeowners to stabilize neighborhoods. Working on behalf of the billionaires based downtown, both Duggan and the compliant City Council have repeatedly voted in favor of the transfer of public assets such as tax, land and infrastructure to an array of prestige projects which provide no tangible benefits to the majority of people.

From Detroit to Puerto Rico

Highlighting the NCDA program will be activists from Puerto Rico, the devastated island nation which has long been a colonial outpost of U.S. imperialism. Ricardo Santos Ramos, the former president of the Electrical Industry and Irrigation Workers Union (UTIER), will attend and address the conference. Like Detroit, Puerto Rico was placed into an unprecedented bankruptcy, which claimed that the people would lose $72 billion to the banks. Compounding this financial crisis, hurricanes Irma and Maria caused extensive physical damage, destroying homes, electrical grids and production centers.

The delay in reconfiguring power, rebuilding homes and facilitating the general restoration of normalcy for the people is clearly related to the dominance of the U.S. government, which has stifled the economic growth and development of Puerto Rico in order to further facilitate its exploitation of the people.

Another prominent speaker will be the Rev. Edward Pinkney, a former political prisoner who was targeted, framed, pros- ecuted and imprisoned on two occasions since 2006 for opposing the imposition of so-called emergency management in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Yvonne Jones, co-founder of the Detroit Active and Retired Employees Association, will discuss the character of austerity in the city. Tens of thousands of municipal retirees were subjected to cuts in their pensions and annuities during the bankruptcy in 2014. Guaranteed lifetime health care coverage was completely eliminated.

Other invited speakers include Dior Gabrielle, organizer for the event; Dan-te Stribono of the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union; United Electrical Workers Local 150; representatives of the Southern Workers Assembly; Maurice B.P. Drew of the Refund America Project; ACRED; Yessenia Venegas, Detroit organizer for the Poor People’s Campaign; Elena Herrada of the Detroit School Board in exile; Jonathan Roberts of the Restaurant Opportunities Center of Michigan; Julia Kassem of the U.S. Pal- estine Community Network in Detroit; Jesus Rodriguez Epinosa, former Coun- sel General in Chicago for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Jerry King of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute in Detroit; Kristy O’Connor of the Library Defense Network; S. Baxter Jones, a disabilities rights advocate and former member of the Homrich 9; and the Rev. W.J. Rideout, an organizer for the Fight for $15 Campaign and Defenders for Truth and Justice.

A packed agenda

There will be workshops on housing, water shutoffs, the Poor People’s Campa- ign, education and public transit. A na- tional town hall panel will give voice to people across the country, while another session on the international struggle against austerity will illustrate the global aspects of the crisis.

The conference will close with a community meal and cultural program in the evening. Organizers will live-stream portions of the proceedings to reach broader audiences.

This event will be both educational as well as activist. Several resolutions will be introduced calling for actions around pressing issues in Detroit and nation- wide. Over the next several months vari- ous struggles against poverty and racism and for labor rights and environmental justice will intensify.

Conference organizers will seek sup- port for demonstrations to demand a moratorium on 36,000 scheduled prop- erty tax foreclosures in Wayne County. The delegates will be asked to support anti-war demonstrations slated for April 14-15 in several cities.

Organizers hope the NCDA will serve as a partial springboard for broader par- ticipation in Michigan and around the country for the Poor People’s Campaign. Plans will also be discussed for unified actions on May 1, Internation- al Workers’ Day. Additional resolutions and action proposals will be accepted.

To attend or support this important conference, visit the event’s Facebook page at tinyurl.com/ycx68v2s. Although conference registration is free, donations for printed materials and food will be accepted.

Continued from page 4

whom the activist was among those arrested or detained.

Massive protest in Lansing

A huge protest occurred the next day at Spencer’s planned speech at Michigan State University in East Lansing. Student activists had attempted to get his speech canceled, but the “university” “compro- mised” by allowing him to hold a meeting at the agricultural school, away from the main campus.

Ante Johnson began gathering at the nearest parking lot — a mile from the speech venue — on the morning of March 5, around 7:30 a.m., and 200 people had gathered. The police had already set up roadblocks around the agricultural center and had a heavy police presence around the school area and on a bank across the street. Pa- trols were stationed in and around the parking lot.

The crowd marched toward the agri- cultural center, where they set up close to the entrance where the fascists would later be led into the event by riot police. Rich- ard Spencer was already inside the school where he sent out tweets for many hours.

There were police on the roofs, possi-的可能性，暗示了未来的进展。
Celebrating liberation and revolution

By Workers World bureau

International Working Women’s Day is celebrated on March 8 in countries around the globe. Here in the United States, Workers World members helped organize and participated in activities in a number of cities, including those mentioned here.

Workers World Party in Detroit hosted an International Working Women’s Day speakout for justice and revolution on March 10, Harriet Tubman Day. The heroic freedom fighter and abolitionist, born into slavery in Maryland on an unknown date, died on March 10, 1913. An engaging and political talk on Tubman was given by Wanda, an activist walker and poet. The audience also heard about the revolutionary origins and history of International Women’s Day in a talk by WWP youth organizer Jamie, with comments from other speakout panelists.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of Warrior Woman awards by WWP Leader Debbie Johnson to three African-American workers, retirees and organizers. Lula Millender, Margaret Harris and Yvonne Jones were honored for their tireless commitment to the struggles of Detroiters and the oppressed worldwide. Their dedication includes passing out thousands of flyers, picketing the banks and eviction courts countless times, and raising money to help continue the ongoing struggle against austerity and racism led by their organization, the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs.

The Women’s Fightback Network-Maryland/D.C. gathered for a celebration of IWWD in Baltimore at People’s Park on Charles Street and then marched to an indoor dinner and rally. The keynote speaker was Takiyah Thompson, the Durham, N.C., freedom fighter charged in 2017 with taking down a Confederate statue outside the Durham County Courthouse. That action came three days after neo-fascists and KKK members assaulted anti-racist demonstrators in Charlotteville, Va., killing activist Heather Heyer. Thompson’s arrest, along with other freedom fighters in Durham, sparked months of rallies, marches and acts of solidarity. Their slogan, “Fighting racism is not a crime,” was successfully upheld when all were acquitted or had their charges dropped on Feb. 20. For International Working Women’s Day in Buffalo, N.Y., women’s rights and women’s liberation supporters from several groups defied a snowstorm to demand justice for Indigenous, Black and Brown women; full access to health care, including the choice of abortion, for all women; an end to racism and violence against women and against immigrant workers, and more. The March 8 demonstration lined a major traffic-clogged street during the evening commute and received non-stop honking, raised fists and delighted applause from car, truck and bus drivers going by.

The International Working Women’s Day Coalition held a “Women in Rebellion” march on March 10 in New York City, beginning at Penn Station, home to famed Madison Square Garden. Those marching included delegations from Women Workers for Peace, Honduran Department 19 USA, Ecuadoran Women’s Forum, Stop FBI Repression, GABRIELLA NYC, Workers World Party and others. The boisterous demonstration went downstairs to Penn Station where travelers were met by a line of marchers chanting: “No justice, no peace!” and “Workers of the world unite!”

By Ben Anderson

Baltimore

Johns Hopkins University President Ronald J. Daniels sent an email to students on March 5 detailing the school’s path to “establishing a university police department, specifically trained to meet the unique needs of a university environment.” Sen. Joan Carter Conway has proposed a bill in the Maryland Legislature — spearheaded by the Johns Hopkins administration — which would allow private universities in Baltimore to institute their own private police forces.

This news was met with enormous opposition by students, many of whom view the creation of a private university police department as a way to further entrench white supremacy on campus — and endanger Black, Brown, queer and trans students, and community members. This news follows the announcement that Melissa R. Hyatt, the former Baltimore Police Department head of Homeland Security, would be named head of security for Hopkins’ undergraduate and medical campuses. The Baltimore Police Department has a long history of racial profiling and unrestrained brutality against Black and Brown people. The creation of this private police force would only serve to increase these attacks on oppressed people.

Johns Hopkins University has also been the primary engine driving gentrification and displacement in Baltimore through the school’s “Live Near Your Work” program for faculty and staff. This has led to displacement of working-class Black and Brown Baltimoreans from their neighborhoods, such as Remington — which is directly south of the university’s Homewood undergraduate campus — and areas in East Baltimore, which are directly adjacent to Hopkins’ medical campus. The university is systematically gentrifying and evicting upon these neighborhoods.

Because this private police force would “strengthen public safety in and around our campuses,” as university President Daniel’s email states, areas of Baltimore bordering the campuses would be patrolled by police with even less accountability to them than the corrupt Baltimore Police Department.

The university has a history of not paying its workers a living wage. Cafeteria and sanitation workers, security guards and the school’s other subcontracted workers receive unjust, low salaries and are quite often forced to live in poverty because of these unfavorable wages. If the school has enough money to create, hire, train and pay an entirely new police force, then it surely has sufficient funds to pay a living wage to its subcontracted workers.

Students say: ‘More community, fewer cops!’ For these reasons and many more, university students say this decision is dangerous and irresponsible. So they formed a coalition called Students against Private Police, comprised of a variety of student groups, including the Black Student Union and leftist, environmental and LGBTQ organizations. SAPP organized its first action on March 8 — a rally on a busy spot outside the university’s main library. Speakers from many student groups, as well as community activist Rev. C.D. Witherspoon, talked about why this initiative would be disastrous for Hopkins and the Baltimore communities. Students carried homemade signs with slogans like “Not Tryna Get Shot!” “More Community, Fewer Cops!” “Who R U Here to Protect?” “Cops Don’t Make Us Safer!” and “Pepper Spray Me!”

Following the rally, students chanted while marching through Gilman Hall, one of the busiest study spaces on campus. They made their way to President Daniels’ mansion, where they expressed their anger by chancing outside his front door. Over 100 students participated, as well as some influential members of community organizations.

SAPP’s next action took place March 11, when students phoned beaker at several Hopkins’ graduate and undergraduate campuses. They called Maryland representatives, demanding they vote against this horrible bill.
Part of the crowd participating in the March 10 Mumia event.

Communities rally around Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Ted Kelly

Philadelphia

Philadelphia’s West and Southwest neighborhoods came together as a community on March 10 at the Kingsessing Free Library in solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners. Dozens of residents took part in an afternoon of hands-on learning and political discussion centered on Abu-Jamal’s latest book, “Have Black Lives Ever Mattered?”

Hosted by community activist and radio host Gabi Bryant, the event was organized by a coalition of groups, including the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Workers World Party, Socialist Action, Friends of Kingsessing Library, Mobilization 4Mumia, Sankofa Community Empowerment, and Food Not Bombs Solidarity. The multimedia presentation included several video clips and documentary footage related to the Black Lives Matter movement and Abu-Jamal’s own arrest and struggle for freedom.

Those in attendance also heard an audio recording of Abu-Jamal reading a section of the introduction to his new book. It ended with his thanking attendees and expressing his love for each and every one engaged in the struggle.

Participants in the event formed breakout groups to discuss various subjects covered in the book, including the meaning of the uprising in Ferguson, Mo., the murder of Trayvon Martin and police violence in schools. Each group reported back to the assembly and joined in a spirited discussion on the book’s themes and the future of the movement.

Workers World member Deandra Patrice Jefferson discussed the connection between Abu-Jamal’s case and that of Philadelphia rapper Meek Mill, who recently returned to prison on false pretenses. She noted that many youth in Philadelphia are familiar with the campaign to Free Meek and emphasized bringing this new generation of energy and interest to the movement for Mumia.

Anthony Smith, with Philadelphia REAL Justice, also discussed the generational divide and stressed the importance of creating space for younger organizers and activists who are so disproportionate to the target of state violence. Smith also encouraged people to be involved in the fight to stop gentrification, including Temple University’s push for a sports stadium in North Philadelphia’s predominantly Black community around the campus.

Betsy Piette, with the Mobilization 4Mumia, gave updates on the state of Abu-Jamal’s health and his legal battle. Pressure has mounted on District Attorney Larry Krasner’s office to release files related to Abu-Jamal’s case that should expose former Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Ronald Castille’s duplicity concerning Abu-Jamal’s appeals. A status hearing is scheduled for March 27, where supporters will continue to voice their basic demand: Free Mumia Now!

While a victory was achieved in 2011 when Mumia was taken off death row, the need to free him from prison is as urgent as ever. The state of his health is dire after nearly 40 years in prison with horrendous neglect by prison medical staff.

The Friends of Kingsessing Library was formed over a decade ago and won a successful fight to keep open their branch of the Philadelphia Public Library. Food Not Bombs Solidarity provided delicious meals to all those in attendance. With the support of his friends, family and community, both in Philadelphia and internationally, Mumia Abu-Jamal will one day soon walk out of prison a free man.

Global actions call for Mumia’s freedom

By Joe Piette

A call for freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners is picking up steam, with solidarity actions planned for the end of March.

Abu-Jamal has a status hearing on March 27 in Philadelphia, plus a court hearing on April 30, which could eventually lead to his freedom. After years of global community meetings, protests, petitions and legal challenges, the people’s movement succeeded in taking Abu-Jamal off death row in 2011. The reinvigoration of that mobilization is necessary in order to pressure Philadelphia District Attorney Larry Krasner and Common Pleas Court Judge Leo Tock to do the right thing.

Toward that end a coalition of Mumia support organizations has created a petition calling for the District Attorney to release all DA and police files on Mumia to the public and to release Mumia because he’s factually innocent. (mobilization4mumia.com/actions/)

A coalition for an “International Offensive to Free Mumia and All Political Prisoners” on the weekend of March 24-27 is gaining momentum.

In Houston, the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement will do a banner drop for Mumia over Houston’s busiest freeway, on Dunlavy Bridge over Highway 59, on March 26, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

In Detroit, at the National Conference to Defeat Austerity, March 24, organizers will play recordings from Mumia on prison labor and express solidarity with the movement to Free Mumia. The event is at the West Side Missionary Church, 4852 Woodward Ave.

In Oakland, Calif., after a March 26 forum organized by the Bay Area Mumia Coalition, a rally and march will take place on April 28 at Oscar Grant Plaza. For information, email jackleyman@msn.com, phone 510-901-7080, or call Terrri Kay at 510-600-5800.

Also in California, a March 24 forum is being held at the Vallejo JFK Library from 1 to 4 p.m. For information contact the New Jim Crow Movement (Vallejo), 700-652-8367.

A number of events will take place in New York City:

March 23: Break Down Walls & Prison Plantation: Mumia, Migrants & Movement for Liberation, 6 to 9 p.m., Holyrood Episcopal Church, 715 179th St. (bringmumiahome.com).

March 24: Jericho Amnesty Movement 20th Anniversary, 5 to 9 p.m., Holyrood Episcopal Church, 715 W. 199th St.

March 25: Gather at noon at U.S. Mission to the U.N. (799 UN Plaza, 1st Ave. and 44th Street), march at 5 p.m., to Times Square for 2 p.m. rally. This event has been endorsed by Bronx Community Greens, Universal Zulu Nation, Morales-Shakur Community & Student Center, Safiya Bukhari-Albert Nuh Foundation and many other groups.

Rallies are also being organized in France, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, Mexico and other countries.

A protest will take place in Toronto on 1 p.m. on March 24 at the U.S. Consulate, 360 University Ave. In Johannesburg or-ganizers are staging a March 25 at Freedom Park RDD with poetry, hip hop, Kwaito music and drama.

In Philadelphia, local supporters are asked to help pack the court at 8 a.m. on March 27 at 1301 Filbert and again on April 30, when supporters from outside Philly are expected to converge on the court to demand freedom for Mumia. A number of other local activities are taking place, for details contact mobilization4mumia@gmail.com or 215-774-1648.

Other cities are still in the process of organizing actions. To add your local Mumia event to the growing list, fill out the form at freemumia.com/march-24-27-events
Unions, students, faculty tell Harvard: Act to save TPS

By Phebe Eckfeldt
Cambridge, Mass.

Sixty workers marched on Harvard University President Drew Faust’s office Jan. 31 demanding she take action on behalf of those who hold temporary protected status.

The newly formed Harvard TPS Coalition consists of members of UNITE HERE Local 26, representing dining hall workers; Service Employees 32BJ, representing custodians; Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3650; the Harvard Graduate Student Union; plus faculty and student supporters.

Two Latinx lead organizers, Martha from UNITE HERE and Doris from SEIU 32BJ, both of whom are from El Salvador, led the group to the door of Faust’s office to deliver a letter. The letter read in part:

“As you know, the Department of Homeland Security announced, between Nov. 6, 2017 and Jan. 8, 2018, that TPS would be terminated for Nicaragua, Haiti and El Salvador. These decisions affect 5,300 Nicaraguans, 59,000 Haitians and about 250,000 Salvadorans, with potentially more terminations coming in the future, such as for Hondurans and others.

“Haitians and Salvadorans, who are the majority of TPS workers at Harvard, also have, respectively, 27,000 and 195,000 children who were born in the United States. Since the devastating earthquakes in 2001 in El Salvador and 2010 in Haiti, these hardworking immigrants, many who arrived here eight to 17 or more years ago as kids, have become very connected in their local communities. Salvadorans and Haitians have been here much longer, for 20 or more years since fleeing the Civil War, and we all should remember America’s role in this conflict.

“The Boston area is a center of the Salvadoran and Haitian community, and we Harvard workers are also part of the University community. Between feeding Harvard students and cleaning Harvard offices, we are the first to greet the students at breakfast and the last to see departing researchers each evening. Like many from Haiti and El Salvador across the country, we cook, clean and provide for American children that dream of more opportunity than we had back home. We also actively contribute to the economy: we buy cars and take on mortgages, start businesses and pay into Social Security.

“However, opportunity is not our only concern. We will be targeted for violence and could even be killed if we return to what, for many of us, are unfamiliar countries. We are Americans who deserve permanent residency here in the United States.”

The letter, signed by more than 300 union members, student groups, students and faculty, asks that Faust hold a press conference supporting the transition to permanent residency for TPS workers; write a letter to the House, the Senate and the president advocating permanent residency; and encourage other college presidents to take these same steps.

By Royal Warren
Portland, Ore.

A lively group of Portland Workers World Party members and friends was joined by a contingent of new party candidates from Washington state on March 10 to demand “Hands Off Korea” and reunification of the Korean peninsula. Hundreds of Korea fact sheets were distributed while the group marched through the crowds at Saturday Market along the Willamette River.

It was evident from the responses and conversations with people along the way that, despite the extreme demonization of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea by the media, a surprising number of people were in support of self-determination for the DPRK. They also want an end to the permanent US military presence in South Korea.

A 7-year-old high school student, who said she was a Marxist-Leninist, found the event through social media; she’s interested in getting involved with the Portland branch. Another student talked about the lack of funding for her school and connected that to money spent on U.S. wars — money that should be used for education on how to stop those wars.
The goal of a “decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family” is embedded in the federal Housing Act of 1949. Yet, one single winter night in 2016, according to a federal agency count, “544,084 people experienced homelessness in the United States.” Of that total, some 200,000 lacked access to nightly shelter and instead inhabited cars, garages, doorways, or encampments. (U.S. Conference of Mayors’ Report on Hunger and Homelessness, December 2016)

The number of homeless people is actually much larger. The federal government’s count omits many people who lack a fixed home, including those doubled-up with friends or relatives, sleeping in temporary quarters like hostels, and adopting other informal and short-term strategies. Given the tensions that inevitably arise in these overcrowded conditions, in many time may run down on the streets.

Taking a more inclusive approach, housing advocates found last year that over 82,000 people were homeless in Chicago alone. Families made up half of this homelessness. LGBTQ youths, who constitute an estimated 7 percent of the total population, make up 40 percent of homeless youths. (Washington Post, March 29, 2017)

A walk through any big city will confirm the reality of these shameful statistics in the form of live human beings entrapped in inhuman suffering.

Causes of homelessness

Politicians and the corporate media too often blame the victims, portraying homeless persons as lazy, unmotivated and undeserving of anything better. But people do not choose to live without a home voluntarily. No one welcomes a homeless person, yet many do wind up on the streets.

The inability of capitalism to meet the need for affordable housing is longstanding. This conflict is especially harmful because it permeates this system. The high percentage of people of color who are homeless reflects the racism that permeates this system.

We should insist that government bodies allocate resources both to end the eviction of millions of people, to provide health care, clothing, food, and stable employment.

The working class by the ruling class.” The basis for its victory was the struggle of the working class to redress it, he stated — “to abolish altogether the capitalist social order” in which technological progress is “a necessary product of the bourgeois social order.”

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Trump promotes extreme right

By Mary Kaesinger

A wheelchair user in New York City

Led by the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York, several individual plaintiffs and other disability rights' organizations joined forces March 5 to sue the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York City Transit and the city of New York for elevator access to every subway station in the city.

Of the 472 stations, currently only 110 stations have elevators, making New York’s transit system least accessible in the entire nation. In addition, the rate of repair of broken elevators is abysmal, so not all 110 stations are usable at any given time. An average of 25 elevators break down each day. Not all subway lines that go through a station are accessible. For instance, a wheelchair user cannot get on the 4, 5 or 6 trains at the busy Union Square station in Manhattan, despite the fact that the station itself is accessible.

The court hearing on March 5 was preceded by a rousing 9 a.m. rally and press conference co-sponsored by RISE and Re- sist, CNDNY, the People’s MTA and Divers- ity’s outreach organizer for CIDNY, said she was “cautiously optimistic.”

“Some riders have been denied access, others have stuck, CIDNY, the People’s MTA and Diversity Action Plan allocate only 9.5% of its operating budget to signals. This was supposed to be the plan fixed the subway and stopped those frustrating delays.

“A recent New York Times expose showed that the big emergency Subway Action Plan allocates only 9.5% of its operating budget to signals. This was supposed to be the plan fixed the subway and stopped those frustrating delays.

“Another Times article, this one from December, noted that debt service to the banks amounted to $82 a second – which adds up to $7 million a day, $2.6 billion a year.”

“Two women lawyers for the disabled organizations, one in a wheelchair, coun- tered the MTA’s jurisdiction argument, saying the NYC Human Rights Law of 1995 applies. They quoted a legal decision holding that the law should be interpreted broadly and a decision on a similar case in Boston. That case, settled by a confer- ence between the two parties, specified a timeframe for all Boston subway stations to be accessible.

“Justice Shlomo Hagler interrupted fre- quently, asking the MTA lawyer to “speak from the heart” rather than read from a script. He also admonished the MTA for its failure to maintain an up-to-date accessible plan for New York City, which he called “the economic engine of the coun- try.” He also derided the bad impression the unreliable system had on tourists.

Hagler said it wasn’t fair that the sub- ways were not 100 percent accessible and told the MTA to spend its money more wisely.

The hearing concluded with the suit still in place. Judge Hagler ordered a set- tlement conference before making major decisions in the case. Monica Bartley, outreach organizer for CIDNY, said she was “cautiously optimistic.”
Workers and their allies through- out the world argue that it is possible to make climate, meaning the patterns of daily weather events, less violent, less dangerous, more comfortable, more hu- man. Their bosses argue that come what may — come high heat, high water, frig- id cold — workers have to get to work to make money for them and, in addition, bear most of the costs of violent weather.

That’s the nub of the argument over climate change: Making profits by ignor- ing risks versus making a livable envi- ronment for human life.

Climate change is one of the most sig- nificant factors in climate change. It is a major factor in events like wildfires and droughts.

But Jennifer Francis, a research profes- sor at Rutgers University, is one of the sci-entists who also feel that “rapid warming and wholesale melting of the Arctic may be playing a role in causing persistent cold spells.” (www.skepticscience.com)

The winter of 2017–18 has been marked by violent and rapid changes in the weather. According to Francis, citing four of the last five years, December and the first few weeks of 2016 in the central and eastern part of Canada and the United States were very cold. States like Louisiana, Texas and Florida, usually snow-free, re- ceived significant amounts of snow, along with record low temperatures due to the polar vortex. Though February in the U.S. North- east was one of the warmest February on record, most of Europe, from Madrid to Moscow, faced weeks of brutal cold, with temperatures unusually well below freezing. Snow and freezing rain made road and rail travel treacherous. Thou- sands of cars and trucks were trapped on highways in southern France, and snow actually coated Mediterranean beaches.

In western Europe, prosperous and highly developed, the cold was mainly dangerous for the homeless, often immi- grants and refugees. When the poor, the home- less, the elders and the very young.

Global warming and colder winters

For a couple of days at the end of Feb- ruary, Cape Morris Jesup, the weather station at the northern tip of Greenland, was warmer than Zurich, Paris or Rome. Cape Morris Jesup is about 450 miles from the North Pole. The sun sets there in December and doesn’t rise again until the end of March.

Temperatures in the Arctic in the last week of February soared to about 53 de- grees Fahrenheit, 50 degrees higher than normal. Similar temperature anomalies were noted throughout the Arctic.

Francis explained that arctic warming significantly reduces the ice cover of the Arctic Ocean. That reduces the differ- ence in atmospheric pressure between the Arctic and mid-latitudes, weakening the jet stream, which normally keeps the most frigid cold in the Arctic, and causing Europe and and causing the United Kingdom cold snaps in North America and Europe.

“This is what we’ve been talking about; it couldn’t be more classic,” Francis told the Associated Press. “If you look at the whole picture, the whole jet stream around the Northern Hemi- sphere, it’s had these very large excur- sions and so that’s led to all of the wacky weather.”

“The underlying disease that’s causing this is getting worse.” Francis said, referr- ing to heating-trapping gases from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

The major European countries have not renounced the Paris Agreement, but they have not taken any significant steps to combat global warming. They don’t want to put limits on what their compa- nies can do to make profits.

Japan, the world’s second-largest econ- omy, has installed around a third of the world’s current capacity to produce wind power, according to the Global Wind En- ergy Council. China already produces over half of the world’s energy by solar potential and intends to achieve the goals set for it under the Paris Accords years ahead of schedule.

Cuba spent 10 years developing Proj- ect Life (Tarea Vida), officially adopted in the spring of 2017, to address climate change issues. The major environmental problem Cuba faces as an island nation is sea-level rise.

Tarea Vida is designed to prepare Cuba for environmental challenges for the next hundreds of years.

“It’s impressive,” marine scientist Da- vid Guggenheim, president of Ocean Doctor, told the magazine Science. (Jan. 10) “Cuba is unusual in the sense that they actually respect their scientists, and their climate change policy is science driven.” The Cuban plan stresses resil- ience and adaptation, rather than mas- sive and costly infrastructure projects.

Learn more. Available on line without charge. Find them at: www.workers.org/books

Guerra de clases en Virginia Occidental

Mundo Obrero Newspaper

Workers’ World

Guerra de clases en Virginia Occidental

Continúa de página 12

La Universidad de Harvard que apoyan a los rebeldes liberales que pierden el estatus de protección tem- poral; y Padres y Madres para un mejor transporte escolar con sede en Nueva York.

El ejemplo de VO ya está sendo se- guido. Alrededor de 1.400 miembros de Communication Workers en VO y Ash- burn, Virginia, salieron del trabajo el 4 de marzo a la medianoche y están en huelga en Frontier Communications.

Muchas/os de ellos estaban aprendiendo acerca de las huelgas mediante el piqué junta, la lista de/los maestros. Están luchando por la seguridad laboral ya que Frontier ha eliminado 500 empleos desde que ad-quirió las líneas fijas de Verizon en 2010. Desde entonces, se ha visto a la huelga de clases en Virginia Occidental. (poder)

Otis Grotewohl contribuyó a este artículo.
Guerra de clases en Virginia Occidental

Trabajadoras/es escolares ganan aumento tras huelga

Por Martha Greven y Minnie Bruce Pratt

ACTUALIZACIÓN, 6 DE MARZO:

Después de nueve días consecutivos de huelga, las/os militantes maestros de Virginia Occidental (VO) y el personal de la escuela se enfrentaron al gobernador del estado, Jim Justice, quien prefería que los maestros trabajaran porque él tampoco recibió aumentos.

La declaración conjunta de los sindicatos en huelga explicó por qué era inaceptable: "Uno no iguala el pago para diferentes grupos simplemente tomando de un grupo y pasándolo a otro. El propósito de esto es claro: dividirnos y enfrentarnos el uno contra el otro."

Los tres sindicatos son la Federación Nacional de Profesores de Maes-

tría (NTF), la Asociación de Educación de Virginia (VOA) y la Asociación de personal del sector de Servicios de Estancia de Virginia (VW)

Un error administrativo del Senado de hecho aprobó el aumento del 5 por ciento brevemente antes de que los senadores pro negocios se apresuraran a borrar el aumento. Un comentario en los medios sociales de las/os huelguistas dijo que los legisladores parecían necesitar un maestros para revisar sus figur.

El impacto de las/os huelguistas se sintió en todo el estado. El jueves 1 de marzo, las/os trabajadores desafiantemente comenzaron su segunda semana en huelga. Un miem-

bro del sindicato dijo a WW-MO que la persona más seguida por los medios de comunicación, especialmente del petróleo, paguen impuestos a una tasa más alta de los que los que trabajan en otras empresas grandes empresas, especialmente del petróleo, paguen impuestos a una tasa más alta de los que los que trabajan en otras empresas.

Algunas/os huelguistas llevan pañuelos rojos como los que los mineros usaron durante la revuelta de 1922.

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