Chicago strike!

25,000 unite in march vs austerity

By Jill White
Chicago

A one-day strike, initiated April 1 by the 30,000-member Chicago Teachers Union and Fight for $15, was joined by over 50 organizations, including Black Lives Matter, and thousands of angry students, parents and residents. The target was Gov. Bruce Rauner, who is holding the Illinois state budget hostage in an attempt to destroy all the unions in this state.

The budget’s victims are children, students, government and education workers, and social service recipients like the disabled and elderly. State university budgets have been cut by 30 percent; all Illinois college students and even private universities have lost state financial aid.

The strikers connected the financial troubles of the Chicago Public Schools with the broader impact of the statewide budget impasse on low-income families, particularly with regard to higher education. Throughout the day, marchers criticized racism and the police murders of youth of color.

Strike actions began at 6:30 a.m. at every Chicago public school. The CTU helped build coalitions in many communities to raise related local issues.

The youth support group “Project NIA” [in Swahili, “nia” means “with purpose’] led a march from the Illinois Youth (Detention) Center on the Near West Side to Suder Elementary School. Protesters chanted, “We are gonna give you hell! Our city is not yours to sell!” and called for an end to the school-to-prison pipeline. Chicago spends about $112,000 a year per youth in prison but only $15,000 per student.

Union says strike is legal

CPS officials filed a charge with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board against the CTU, claiming the strike was illegal. “We disagree,” said CTU spokeswoman Stephanie Gadlin. “The Supreme Court 60 years ago authorized unfair labor practice strikes under the National Labor Relations Act and we believe teachers have those rights.” (ctunet.com)

When CPS cancelled school a week early so it could furlough workers and save money, the officials showed they didn’t care about parents’ childcare needs or children’s education.

Gov. Rauner is lobbying for a state takeover of CPS and the option to declare bankruptcy.

Teachers rallied at Northeastern Illinois State University against cuts and in solidarity with Chicago State University, which is scheduled to be shuttered after an early graduation in April. All workers at CSU have already been issued layoff notices and asked to turn in their keys. Chicago State serves predominantly African-American students.

After a rousing action on campus resembling a New

Continued on page 5
By Workers World Staff

During the week of March 20, hundreds of faculty, students, staff and community members held a variety of protests at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Va., against white supremacist author Charles Murray.

Murray, author of “Losing Ground” and co-author with Richard Hernuten of “The Bell Curve,” among other books and articles, was given space to speak March 25 by the Virginia Tech administration as part of BB&T bank’s “Capitalism and Freedom” lecture series. BB&T appears to support practices and departments currently at over 60 universities, and the bank is known for distributing free pro-capitalist materials such as Ayn Rand books, writing curriculum and more.

According to a report entitled “The Feeding Trough” issued by a Job Is A Right Campaign, the Milwaukee-based Bradley Foundation, responsible for giving the right-wing foundation in the United States, supported the writing of the notoriously racist book, “The Bell Curve,” to the tune of $1 million. The book was co-funded by the Pioneer Foundation, a keyplayer in the white-supremacist eugenics movement of the 1920s and 30s.

The book argued that poverty is the result of the existence of a permanent class of genetically inferior people — who just happen to be disproportionately people of African descent. The book ignored the legacy of slavery, the impact of economic conditions, personal dislocations or racial, sexual, gender or other discrimination.

We reject Murray!

Murray is an integral part of Wall Street’s right-wing foundation network that has as its goal to eviscerate the possibility of a permanent class of genetically inferior people — all of which are being disproportionately people of African descent. The book ignored the legacy of slavery, the impact of economic conditions, personal dislocations or racial, sexual, gender or other discrimination.

We reject Murray!

On March 25, at The Inn at Virginia Tech, the site where Murray spoke for $30,000, a diverse, multiracial, multi-ethnic crowd of all ages participated in a strong “Protest Against Human Infamy.” Anti-racist banners, signs and chants began an hour before Murray’s arrival. Just before Murray’s speech, the crowd of protesters moved inside the building and set up a two-sided, picket-line gauntlet that all those attending Murray’s speech had to walk through. Dozens honored the “Boycott (Racist) Charles Murray” call by the Coalition for Justice and Still Concerned by refusing to go to the speech and joining the picket line. The protests against Charles Murray are part of a series of anti-racist, pro-worker actions in central and southwest Virginia in recent weeks. Since Kienne Spen- cer, an 18-year-old African-American student, was killed by Roanoke County cops Feb. 26, a variety of protests and support activities have taken place.

On Feb. 29 at Radford University in Radford, hun- dreds came out to disrupt and protest Donald Trump. On March 21, hundreds took part in a “Rally Against Racism” in Lexington to protest the distribution of KKK material there in early March. And on March 26 in Martinsville, a “United We Stand, United We March: A March of Equality, A Rally Against Hate” took place.

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Mundo Obrero

Who are we & what we’re fighting for

Hate capitalism? Workers World Party fights for a socialist society — where the wealth is socially owned and production is planned to satisfy human need. This outstanding achievement in the struggle to drag down workers’ living standards while throwing millions out of their jobs. If you’re young, you know they’re stealing your future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with global warming.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism, degradation of people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WW builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a work- ing-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to im- perialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialists liberation struggles and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We’ve been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism’s wars and aggressions.

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In the U.S.

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Noticias en Español

Dos caras de la campaña Sanders ...............
Mississippi poised to enact anti-LGBT*Q law

By Kris Hamel

April 4 — On the evening of Wednesday, March 30, the Mississippi Senate voted in favor of the so-called “Protecting Freedom of Conscience From Government Discrimination Act” or “the Religious Liberty Bill.” The state House on Friday, April 1, followed, passing HB 1325. However, the bill was delayed by Mississippi Democrats and will face another vote today. The bill is expected to pass, before being sent to Gov. Phil Bryant for his signature. Bryant has said he will sign it.

This fast track to bigotry against the LGBTQ community is being cloaked under the lofty pretense of “freedom of religion.” The heinous law would allow businesses to pass on the so-called “free marketplace” flaw by simply firing you for being who you love. And the amendment’s dangerous consequences demand the same reaction as the protests that have ripped up the South. It’s up to the people’s struggle to defeat racist and bigoted laws and all reactionary moves. Solidarity and unity, under the leadership of the most oppressed, will be key in these struggles.

Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health and Justice 4 Jamar Clark will hold an emergency rally at 5 p.m. at James and Plymouth Avenues North, in Minneapolis. A memorial has been maintained for Jamar Clark at the 7th Precinct Police Station. A rally is planned for today.

Alabama community fights environmental racism

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Alabama community fights environmental racism

A new civil rights movement is strong in the county — against the Arrowhead Landfill, where almost 4 million tons of coal ash were dumped in the 1980s. The residents have fought back or that anyone would listen to us.”

Coal ash carries toxic substances including mercury, selenium, lead, manganese, chromium, cobalt, magnesium and arsenic. People exposed to the ash have increased health risks, including cancer. Doctors and environmental justice advocates hold breaths who sincerely held beliefs include that sexual relations are properly reserved to a marriage between a man and a woman, and that gender is determined at birth. The Clarion Ledger in Jackson, Miss., further laid out the provisions of the sweeping law in a story headlined, “Prohibit the government from taking any action against religious organizations that decline to provide adoption or foster services to married same-sex couples.”

“Allow physicians and other medical professionals to decline services related to sex reassignment or psychological, counseling or fertility services” based on their religious beliefs.

“Concerned Citizens of Perry County in an environmental justice group, grew from its air, dirt and water by a local for-profit plant in Tennessee. The landfill in the Perry County city of Uniontown is across the street from homes and yards where children play, (mammothstrong.org).

From Alabama to Michigan comes this solidarity message: Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health and Justice “stand in support of Flint residents and all peoples living in oppressive conditions as a result of racial discrimination.”

As the people of the city of Flint, Mich., fight catastrophic corporate-government collaboration in the poisoning of their water supply, folks in tiny Perry County, Ala., are battling coal-ash contamination of its air, dirt and water by a local for-profit landfill. The smell, the pollution and the fear affect all aspects of our lives. We don’t know whether it’s safe to eat food from our gardens, or swim in our ponds or flowerbeds.

Coal ash is the second largest source of industrial waste in the country, after mining. Runoff from coal ash into ground water spreads the risk of pollution. But the people of Perry County have another resistance: “No one thought that the members of this poor community would fight back or that anyone would listen to us.”

She also condemns the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for not stopping toxic dumping in a predominantly Black and poor community. “This is a human right that is not as much as an environmental and health one.”

Saunders, a 2014 graduate, says of the landfill: “We’re concerned about the health, safety and environmental and health of others.”

Black Belt Citizens Fighting for Health and Justice gather to strategize near Uniontown, Ala., March 31.


Black Belt Citizens from Uniontown and demand freedom from environmental violence #WeCantBreathe. #Ftunited

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No charges filed against killers cops who murdered Jamar Clark

By Jess Sundin

Fight Back News

The following article was published by Fight Back News on March 30, (fightbacknews.org)

No charges filed against killers cops who murdered Jamar Clark

Minneapolis — All eyes were on Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman today, March 30, as he announced “criminal charges are not warranted” against police officers Mark Ringgenberg and Dustin Schwarze for the shooting death of Jamar Clark.

The room and the hallway outside were packed with Clark’s family members and their supporters, who immediately denounced his decision and called for the community to take to the streets and keep up the fight for justice.

After Freeman spent some time praising himself for transparency and reevaluating legal statutes related to his decision, most of his presentation outlined a one-sided police version. He claimed that Clark was acting aggressively, resisting arrest and trying to take an officer’s gun.

According to Freeman, when Ringgenberg told him that Clark had a gun, and urged Schwarze to shoot Clark, Freeman narrated the video clips he showed, but Jamar Clark’s supporters didn’t buy his story.

Patty Davis, of the NAACP said: “We’re not running. We can’t have this. We have to get justice.”

Later today, the Twin Cities Coalition for Justice 4 Jamar Clark will hold an emergency rally at 5 p.m. at James and Plymouth Avenues North, in Minneapolis. A memorial has been maintained for Jamar Clark at the 7th Precinct Police Station. A rally is planned for today.

By Kris Hamel

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Women’s Fightback Network celebrates IWD

By Maureen Skehan
Boston

Under the banner, “Uphold the Legacy of Women’s Resistance,” the Women’s Fightback Network held a powerful International Women’s Day celebration on March 26, uniting the anti-imperialist struggles of women globally, from Puerto Rico and India toistan and Honduras, with the Black Lives Matter, immigrant rights and LGBTQ people of color movements confronting racist police violence, state repression and anti-trans bigotry in the U.S.

The voices of Sonia Sotomayor and the Rock singing “We are the ones” reverberated through the room as co-chairs Myia X and mango introduced the event, inviting the multinational, intergenerational crowd to share the resistance writings of Lolita Lebrón, Assata Shakur and the Dalit women of India.

Martha Morgan Guevara, a Socialist Alternative member with Centro Presente in East Boston, spoke passionately about her work supporting immunity for mainstream women and children, who have been forced under the U.S. to their homelands and are living with severe trauma and the daily threat of deportation.

Sandra McIntosh, teacher and co-chair of the Coalition for Quality Education, paid homage to the women who influenced her life by saying their names, including Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells, Shirley Chisholm (the first woman to run for president), activist Emma Goldberg and Berta Cáceres, the Indigenous Honduran activist tragically murdered by the workers and oppressed to defend our interests.

Revolutionary warrior poet Letta Neal explained that the capitalist system in the U.S. and inspired women socialists in Europe to call for the creation of a global day of solidarity with women garment workers in New York City before the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in 1911. Workers’ strikes shook the U.S. and inspired women elsewhere to organize for their rights. Neal stated that the Women’s Fightback Network, formerly the Legacy of Women’s Resistance (as demanded by the World

the national Aafia Foundation in demanding her freedom, helped organize a demonstration on the steps of MIT in Cambridge.

On March 8, the court handed down a case against the filmmaker and activist Rasmea Odeh, who was arrested in 2007 by the U.S. and spirited away to Israel, where she was convicted of a minor crime. She will be retried soon, and she and her supporters are fighting for her freedom.

Workers World Party presidential candidate Monica Moorehead spoke on the revolutionary history of International Women’s Day and her experience as an activist tragically murdered by the workers and oppressed to defend our interests.

Rasmea Odeh, who was arrested in 2007 by the U.S. and spirited away to Israel, where she was convicted of a minor crime, will be retried soon, and she and her supporters are fighting for her freedom.

Tragedy and resistance were highlighted in an emotional minute of silence for the following women who were murdered by the workers and oppressed to defend our interests:

- Myra Balour, a Black woman who was murdered in Chicago by a co-worker.
- Sandra Torres, a woman who was murdered in El Salvador by a co-worker.
- Asmaa El-Marzouki, a woman who was murdered in Egypt by a co-worker.
- Fatima El-Mahjoubi, a woman who was murdered in Tunisia by a co-worker.
- Laila Al-Omari, a woman who was murdered in Jordan by a co-worker.
- Zulfiya Dzhabrailova, a woman who was murdered in Russia by a co-worker.
- Fatimah Al-Moudiri, a woman who was murdered in Yemen by a co-worker.
- Fatima El-Mahjoubi, a woman who was murdered in Egypt by a co-worker.
- Zulfiya Dzhabrailova, a woman who was murdered in Russia by a co-worker.
- Fatimah Al-Moudiri, a woman who was murdered in Yemen by a co-worker.
- Laila Al-Omari, a woman who was murdered in Jordan by a co-worker.
- Asmaa El-Marzouki, a woman who was murdered in Tunisia by a co-worker.
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The case will be remanded so that oppressing us.”

On March 23, the Department of Labor issued a new rule requiring companies to report wage and overtime for most U.S. workers. However, in a last-minute concession to Southern politicians and farmers who depended on super-exploited Black labor, legislators excluded farmworkers, as well as domestic and tipped workers, from the law’s protections. All these groups, including majority Black and Latino/a farmworkers, continue to be paid lower wages and enjoy fewer benefits.

During the month, thousands of marchers will demand passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which guarantees a minimum wage and overtime for most U.S. workers. However, in a last-minute concession to Southern politicians and farmers who depended on super-exploited Black labor, legislators excluded farmworkers, as well as domestic and tipped workers, from the law’s protections. All these groups, including majority Black and Latino/a farmworkers, continue to be paid lower wages and enjoy fewer benefits.

For more information about the battle against this bill in Congress, go to ufw.org/page/s/otpledge.

Companies required to report union-busting efforts

Bosshaves ever used intimidation and anti-union propaganda to try to stop labor organizing efforts, but only recently has hiring anonymous anti-union “consultants” become common. It’s estimated that today they are hired by 75 percent of companies fighting unionization.

On March 23, the Department of Labor issued a new rule requiring companies to publicly report, as of July 1, all use of labor consulting firms and the amount of money spent on them. Federal law has required unions to publicly report the amount of money they spend on union campaigns since 1939. (New York Times, March 24)

Many of these viciously anti-worker firms go so far as to advertise their rates of success and even offer money-back guarantees. For in-depth information about them, visit uaw.org/unionbusters-101.

Tyson forced to pay Iowa workers overtime

The Supreme Court sided 6-3 on March 22 with thousands of workers at a pork processing plant in Storm Lake, Iowa, who banded together in a class-action suit to recover overtime pay from Tyson Foods. By deciding the plaintiffs could rely on statistics to prove their case, the court limited the sweep of its 2011 decision in Wal-Mart Stores v. Dukes, which threw out an employment discrimination class-action suit brought on behalf of 1.6 million women workers and made it harder for workers, investors and consumers to join together to pursue claims. The workers sued in 2007 under the Fair Labor Standards Act, arguing they should have been compensated for the time they put into and take off the safety equipment that workers are required to wear while they work. Tyson was guilty of wage theft and awarded a $5.8 million judgment in favor of roughly 3,300 workers. (New York Times, March 23)

WW hopes this ruling will help other workers whose bosses have refused to pay for the time they must spend preparing for and cleaning up after work.
**Federal workers under attack**

By Carl Lewis

Congress has unleashed a number of right-wing bills that would erode job security and benefits for federal workers, the right very to join and be represented by a union. One of the more restrictive attempts at union busting is cutting down the official time, which is what is called “official time” to both represent and negotiate for an employee on their regular pay, without taking their own leave time.

The proposed legislation also demands that agencies that have unions in place report the amount of official time taken by union officers to assist and bargain for federal workers. The purpose of this demand is to slam unions by restricting if not eliminating official time and to convince the public that it is a waste of taxpayers’ money. Without official time, unions cannot effectively defend workers against arbitrary and oppressive discipline, unjust firings and reductions in pay.

The president of an American Federation of Government Employees local told workers World of yet another attempt at union busting: “AFGE is the largest union representing federal workers (600,000); however, a recent ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals narrows the definition of who can be protected by a union, by reclassifying employees as ‘security sensitive’ the same way that the National Security Agency, the FBI, and the CIA classify those employees as ‘critically sensitive’ and thus prevent from exercising their union rights. Therefore, those employees would have no appeal rights.”

The Obama administration is also proposing legislation that would change the definition of what a “security, and/or a critically sensitive position is.”

In the Aug. 21, 2013, edition of the Washington Post, the paper’s expert on federal employees,丁 Davidson, referred to the absurdity of these rulings regarding “critically-sensitive” positions, especially for civilian work at military bases. In the court ruling referenced above, a low-grade worker who managed inventory at a commissary, which is basically a supermarket, was described as working-class people are valued and whose needs are put first. We stand in total solidarity with the youth of color resisting police killings — which youth of color, immigrants, Black people, LGBTQ people and all working-class people it serves. It also fails to underinvest in CUNY and the working-class students it serves. It also fails to include any back pay for CUNY employees, who have not had a new contract for five years and so have had their wages frozen at the 2011 level.

Barbara Bowen, president of the Professional Staff Congress, which represents the faculty and some staff at CUNY, in a letter to the PSC’s members, wrote, “I do not see the economic justice in a budget that adheres to a completely artificial requirement for economic austerity and fails to invest in future of the public university that serves the working class.”

The PSC intends to keep on bargaining for a new contract with the CUNY administration and to organize a vote to authorize a strike.
Newark children exposed to lead

By Lyn Neeley

Nearly half the schools in Newark, N.J., were temporarily shut down on March 9 for lead levels of lead found were Audrey in the drinking water. Responding to a lack of funding and connections, Newark Mayor Cory Booker, a former chairman of the People’s Organization for Progress (POP), told Workers World, “We are outraged at the discovery that schools in Newark had unacceptable levels of lead in the water.” He said “it’s a call upon the state and the federal government to do what needs to be done to clean and purify public school water.”

Mayor Ras Baraka said: “A lot of our buildings are old. That speaks to infrastructure, the reason we need new schools.” (AP, April 1)

Hamm said it was “ironic” that at the same time the state put a new mandate that children in a New Jersey city be tested before lead in their blood in children in Flint, Mich. (myCentralJersey.com, Feb 9), POP was holding a demonstration condemning the lead poisoning in Flint’s water.

Newark schools tested above the Environmental Protection Agency’s safe level for lead of 15 parts per billion.

State officials took over the management of Newark schools in 1995 after the Abbott vs. Burke ruling mandated that the state fund 28 “unconstitutionally underfunded” urban school districts at the same level as the state’s wealthiest districts. Newark is among the poorest school districts in the U.S. and many buildings are over 100 years old.

Hamm said that due to lack of money, children were still being denied a thorough education. With state funding has come state supervision of the schools, taking power out of the hands of the communities. “The state was to supervise the schools for five years,” he said, “but 20 years later they are still in control. The state appointed its own superintendent with the power to fire the teachers. The schools were supposed to improve, but the reality is that conditions have gotten worse. Hamm said the situation was comparable to that in Flint, where after the city went bankrupt, the state took over and administrators, to save money, switched the water from the Detroit reservoir to the highly polluted Flint River.

In 2003, the EPA offered to help monitor lead levels in Newark public school water, but city officials rejected the EPA proposal, claiming the city already had a plan to install new faucets and lead filters. Part of the city’s plan was to have schools test twice a month, the next day. Within a few hours after children came to school. However, school staff and community organizations were reportedly not adequately informed. Many teachers said they were never told to run the water and that water filters, which need replacing every two years, still weren’t being changed in five years. (WNJN, March 7)

In 2005, when dangerously high lead levels were found in schools in Camden, N.J. — another poor, majority Black city — bottled water was provided at a cost of $75,000 a year. Fourteen years later, instead of the lead pipes being replaced, Camden students are still drinking bottled water. And now, Newark students and staff are getting bottled water for drinking and to prepare food in the cafeteria.

Schools just tip of the iceberg

Older housing units in Newark also have lead pipes or lead soldering within pipes, which leaches into the drinking water. Lead poisoning can cause irreversible brain damage and sell in old housing units and in soil along highways, even though the U.S. banned leaded gasoline in 1996.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 24 million dwellings in the U.S. have deteriorated lead paint, which contaminates house dust. Eating lead paint chips is dangerous but swallowing or breathing contaminated dust or soil causes the most insidious lead poisoning. Once these small particles get into the body, they are easily absorbed. Children living in older housing are at greatest risk. In a study of 580 children, more than 1 percent of the housing was built before 1950. Levels of lead in paint were as high as 50 percent. Lead-based oil paint was banned for use in housing in 1971. (Childhood Lead Poisoning in New Jersey Annual Report, 2010)

Monica Moorehead, Workers World 2016 presidential candidate and a Newark resident, points out that “Newark is the most populated city in New Jersey with the highest-hardiest population rates.” Those with the lowest incomes live in the oldest housing, where their health is compromised by lead paint and pipes. People living in houses that have moved to new homes in the suburbs.

Effects of lead poisoning

Children and developing fetuses are at the greatest risk of lead poisoning because their growing bodies absorb and retain lead more easily. Children with poor diets, lacking nutrients like calcium, absorb lead more easily. Each year in the United States, 300,000 children ages one to five years old test positive for unsafe levels of lead in their blood. (Kidshealth.org)

The effects of lead cause behavioral and emotional damage that may be irreversible: reduced IQ, shorter attention span and problems with social interactions. Lead poisoning also causes anemia, hypertension and problems with the renal (kidneys), immune and reproductive systems. High lead exposure can cause coma, convulsions and even death. Lead damage to red blood cells limits the amount of oxygen that can carry to the organs and tissues.

Lead is stored in the body and, as it accumulates over time and may be released back into the blood during pregnancy, where it can be absorbed by the fetus. Most lead ends up in the bones, interfering with the production of blood cells and the absorption of calcium.

Reparations and community control

Districts and teachers are often blamed for children not performing well in school when, in fact, this problem can reflect the effects of lead poisoning, economic inequality, environmental racism and the destruction of schools and neighborhoods. What is needed is money for new housing and water pipes, and community control of the agencies that affect people’s lives.

City Council member Eddie Osborne said Newark should act fast and hire an environmental consultant to perform the lead and water testing, then “wait for a state or federal agency to return our phone calls for answers.” He added, “We need our own consultants, our own agenda, our own solutions and, this week, we need it now!” (NJ.com, March 21)
Baltimore tribunal says

Decent housing is a human right!

By Carl Lewis

In response to the deplorable and inhumane conditions of this city’s housing projects, several groups came together on April 2 for the first-ever citywide Tribunal on Housing. The Baltimore People’s Power Assembly, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Ujima People’s Progress Party sponsored the event at the St. Vincent DePaul Church in the heart of downtown Baltimore.

For months, the People’s Power Assembly, a unitarian-garment organization, photos and petitions from residents who have been lodging complaints against the Baltimore City Housing Authority and its commissioner, Paul Graziano. They gathered data at McCullough Homes, Poe Homes, Latrobe Homes, Bridgeton Homes and Latonia. They had the support of a Latina tenant activist, who is an executive board member of the People’s Power Assembly, Ariane McBride of the People’s Power Assembly.

Baltimore Tangential on Housing, April 2.

March 30 — “Luxury high-rises are being built in our neighborhoods; rents and property taxes keep going up and up; and long-term residents are being displaced! This is why the Brooklyn Anti-Gentrification Network is fighting to change the city’s housing code to make community boards elect, not appointed, and to give them veto power!” said organizer Alicia Boyd.

March 14 — “We want our housing to be home, not a place to sleep!” said a community organizer who attended the hearing at the Brooklyn City’s Hall. Boyd was among activists throughout the city who see their community boards powerless to stop development that gentrification of the city has a racist character, which was protested at the rally and covered by local news outlets.

New York City’s Mayor Bill de Blasio recently said that most community boards don’t approve of his deal with developers to rezone. Developers claim that affordable housing is offered in 20 percent of the high-rise apartments now displacing housing for working-class families. Speakers today explained that alleged affordability is fixed on the income of wealthy neighborhoods. De Blasi- sio’s term “affordable” sounds good, but it’s not applicable for most Brooklyn neighborhoods where every year, the city has waged many battles to obtain housing in recent decades.

BAN is using street rally tactics, including going door to door and holding town hall meetings. The protestors’ deter- mination was heard in the chant “Whose city? Our city!”

A few days later, more than 100 East New Yorkers met at a community church on a bitterly cold April 3 to ride the long distance to Baltimore City Hall. There, they appealed to a mayor who boosts an affordable housing plan that is really a plan of, by and for real estate developers — not for the working class and people of color. Speakers explained their plight in different ways as the large crowd of East New Yorkers covered the wide steps leading to the City Hall entrance.

They had the support of a Latina tenant leader from the southwest Bronx who spoke about demanding a “No vote” to rezoning their East New York neighbor- hood that would require only 3 percent of 6,000 new units to be affordable. The mostly Black and Brown tenants in the area are mostly low income.
By John Catalinotto

At a briefing with U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on March 23, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Joseph Dunford told the press that the “secretary and I both believe that there will be an increase to the U.S. forces in Iraq in the coming weeks.” (CNN, March 23)

This statement from the top military officials indicates that the Pentagon is planning a new escalation of military intervention in Iraq 13 years after the U.S.-British invasion in March 2003 and five years after the incomplete pull-out of U.S. troops.

CNN reported that a U.S. defense official said the new deployment is not currently planned.

The new deployment is currently not being made public, according to an interview with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Abadi.

Dr. Al Azzawi Naij said the bombers “used bunker-busting weapons. This destroyed the main building of the university, the Science College, the Women’s College, the students’ dormitories” and other civilian buildings. “So far from what we know, 90 people were killed and another 153 injured.”

This year the anniversary of the 2003 U.S.-British invasion—which was based on imperialist lies about non-existent “weapons of mass destruction”—fell just as the U.S. was bombing Mosul and two days before the bombing in Brussels.

The U.S. recently carried out one of its most brutal strikes in Iraq, taking out the home of a 12-year-old boy in Mosul in a case of mistaken identity, according to an article in TruthPublica.org commemorating the 2003 invasion, anti-war British journalist Felicity Arbuthnot pointed out it was the anniversary of “the biggest terrorist attack in modern history ... the illegal invasion and destruction — ongoing — of Iraq.” (tinyurl.com/3jmg64x)

“March 20,” the journalist continued, “marked the thirteenth anniversary of an action resulting in the equivalent of a Paris, Brussels, London on July 7, 2005, often multiple times daily in Iraq ever since. As for September 11, 2001, there has frequently been that death toll and heartbreak every several weeks, also ongoing.”

Reliable states that 1.5 million Iraqis died during the invasion, the ongoing occupation and the internal fighting provided by the U.S., British and other occupying powers. Another 5 million were driven into internal and foreign exile. The Islamic State group has frequently been that death toll and heartbreak every several weeks, also ongoing.

If the Pentagon and the administration of Barack Obama are planning an escalation of U.S. forces in Iraq to conquer Mosul and other cities in the north, anti-war forces in the U.S. will need to confront this challenge — to bring it to the streets and to all the meetings involving the upcoming national elections.

By Abayomi Azikiwe

Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Five years after the U.S.-led destabilization and bombing of Libya began, imperialist attempts to establish a stable neo-colonial-dominated regime have not materialized in its place.

On March 19, 2011, the Pentagon and other NATO forces began the aerial bombings of a supposed “terrorist organization.” This followed the ousting of a genuine and democratic national liberation movement.

March 23 in Libya will note the 5th anniversary of the overthrow of the Gadhafi regime. This year marks the 13th anniversary of the 2003 U.S. war against Iraq. The 2003 U.S.-British invasion of Iraq was the thirteenth anniversary of “the biggest terrorist attack in modern history ... the illegal invasion and destruction — ongoing — of Iraq.” (tinyurl.com/3jmg64x)

The plan for a coalition junta is designed to pave the way for a 6,000-person Pentagon/NATO-led intervention force under the U.N. rubric, brokered by Koglé. Having lost faith in local militias and political surrogates to provide stability in Libya, the U.S. and other NATO states plan to send in a military force to impose a neo-colonial-dominated regime that would ensure compliance with Washington, London, Paris and Brussels’ foreign policy imperatives.

Stratfor Enterprises, a global intelligence firm, said on its website on March 21, “Western forces may soon intervene in Libya. ... Two governments have been created ... [though] neither recognized by the United Nations. The situation for Western intervention is peculiarly problematic since Western intervention is contingent on a viable, singular Libyan government.”

The publication stresses that the punitive success of the U.N.-engineered GNA could depend on the Misrata militia, which helps prop up the General National Congress regime that has taken over Tripoli. This militia gained a reputation during the 2011 war of regime change as extremely violent and racist in the campaign to overthrow Gadhafi’s Jamahiriya system.

Stratfor emphasized: Recently, “several members of the Misratan militia have publicly supported the unity government, calling on the head of Libya’s Tripoli-based government to resign and cede power to the GNA’s proposed prime minister, Faiz Sarraj.” This militia has ramped up its cooperation with the West, and is being trained by U.S. and British special operations forces. Stratfor converting global support for the new government will play an important role in the GNA’s success.

Other militias in western Libya have joined the Misratan militia in backing the unity government.

Jordan’s ‘special forces’ to embed with British

The British Guardian newspaper reported on March 25 that Jordanian King Abdullah attended a U.S. Senate briefing in January. He confirmed that Britain’s Special Air Services had been operating in Libya since the beginning of 2016. He revealed that Jordan’s “special forces” will be embedded alongside the British. Abdullah said, “Jordan is looking at al-Shabaab” and “we need to look at all the threats we face.”

Okinawa is an island group 400 miles south of the main Japanese islands, with a non-Japanese population and the lion’s share of U.S. military bases. It is a target for anti-military activity directed against both the Japanese and the U.S. military machines.
Thousands protest on 40th Land Day

By Joe Catron

Thousands demonstrated in occupied Palestine and throughout the world on March 30, marking the 40th Land Day. The annual event commemorates the killing of six Palestinian citizens of Israel, who were protesting the Zionist state’s expropriation of more than 5,000 acres of land in 1976.

Repressing a general strike — the first mobilization by Palestinians on land seized by Israel in 1948 — the Zionist forces also wounded 100 people and de- tained hundreds more.

The al-Awamida NOTE: This note was not transcribed. It is a reference to a map on the Twitter page.

Israel has plans to confiscate 800,000 dunums (about 4,900 acres) of land, while today Israel has plans to confiscate 800,000 dunums (about 4,900 acres) of land, while today the number of migrants who entered the rest of the world, from both the private and the public sectors, also took part in the protests, along with 200,000 university and high school stu- dents and youths.

The General Confederation of Workers estimated that 1 million workers, from both the private and the public sectors, also took part in the protests, along with 200,000 university and high school stu- dents and youths.

“More steady jobs” and “No reward for all the studies we’ve done!” were some of the key criticisms according to some videos posted on Twitter. The cops evacuated them around 5 a.m., but, as organizers, they reacted by putting out a call on social media for a gathering the evening of April 1.

A few thousand people showed up, ac- cording to some videos that吐槽ed using the tag #NuitsDebouts. The gather- ings spread throughout France. As of April 3, there were 18 such gatherings, according to a map on the Twitter page. These Nuits Debouts, or Up All Night, like Occupy sites in the U.S. in 2011, have set up canopies, plus tables and tents to protect the books and leaflets being dis- tributed. Participants are consciously trying to build a mass movement.

Another signal that a mass movement is building is that the left-of-center news- paper Liberation is putting out a child- ren’s book for ages 8 to 12 on the issues involved in the struggle against the revi- sion of the labor law.

Of course, one thing to keep on protesting until the bill for a new labor law is with- drawn. The Socialist Party, which man- ages the government of capitalist France, is split by the attempt to impose the new law, with many rank-and-file members opposing it. Prime Minister François Hollande has insisted he will impose the anti-worker law. Whether he can will de- pend on the level of mass resistance.

Adding to the complexities and confu- sion around the migrant issue, Turkey’s government indicated it would cancel the deal if its citizens do not get the right to travel to the EU without visas by the end of 2016, an arrangement which was part of its deal with the EU.

The Greek Communist Party (KKE) is- sued a statement on March 8 that point- ed to the causes of this crisis: “the wars and interventions unleashed by the USA, NATO and the EU in the wider region of the Middle East, the Eastern Mediterrane- an, North Africa. The KKE says “The Greek government is once again under- standing regimes have the right to seek a safer life in other countries.” (inter.kke. gr) The anti-imperialist statement says that the only permanent solution to these

Continued on page 10

Note: This is a continuation of the previous page. The full text is not provided here.
On April 1, 25,000 members of the Chicago Teachers Union alongside over 50 community and union organizations will launch a massive strike against the Vietnamese people. Following a supposed confrontation between North Vietnamese and U.S. troops in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964 that was later exposed as faked by the Pentagon, Johnson gained Congress’s authority to escalate U.S. involvement in the war. Johnson planned to increase the number of U.S. troops there to 380,000 by year’s end and finalize an invasion plan.

Toward the end of March 1966, there were peace marches in New York, Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and San Francisco, numbering at most in the tens of thousands. Their dominant slogans were pacifist: “End the war,” “Negotiate Now.” The young people at the Stock Exchange had a clearer view of the war, shaped by the gut revulsion they felt when seeing photos of Vietnamese peasants burned to death by napalm bombs that Dow Chemical manufactured. They knew the Vietnamese were determined to fight until they won. They were also sympathetic to the rank-and-file U.S. troops who were drafted or induced to enlist and then sent to die so that the stockholders of companies like Dow Chemical would grow richer.

The slogan, “Big Firms Get Rich, GIs Die,” reflected an ideology. The ideology condemned the U.S. war against Vietnam as a bosses’ war. It was fought for their profits. These were the profits of the military-industrial complex, but also the profits of all the bankers and super rich who wanted to keep exploiting workers all over the world.

30 years before, working-class youth used as cannon fodder; that is, they were sent to die so that the stockholders of companies like Dow Chemical would grow richer.

The slogan was popular among youth of any age, not just those enrolled in or毕业于 high school or university. In the U.S. Army, the phrase was used in army songs: “Big business get rich, GIs die.”

By John Catalinotto
April 12, 1966. Fifteen young women and men slipped into the New York Stock Exchange. They didn’t belong there. They had no money to invest in stocks, nor did they care if the market was down or up that day.

They had another purpose. They had informed a few reporters that they were planning something dramatic, asking the reporters to keep the action secret. The young people hoped to make their move before police or courts could stop them. Although a war was on and both Vietnamese and U.S. troops were dying, the only weapons these youth carried were leaflets and banners. They were sending a message.

On the trading floor, hundreds of brokers were staring up at the Big Board that showed up-to-date information on all the important stocks. The 15 young people moved to the edge of the balcony that overlooked the arena of frantic trading. On a signal, some threw leaflets 30 feet down to the floor while three others unfurled a banner right across the Big Board.

“Big Firms Get Rich, GIs Die”

A sudden silence was followed by a collective howl from below as the brokers read “Stop the War in Vietnam” and, in bigger letters, “Big Firms Get Rich, GIs Die.”

“GI” was the popular term for a lower-ranking enlisted or corporal person in the U.S. Armed Forces. Its use began in the 1950s, apparently from the military jargon referring to all sorts of equipment: “General Issue.” By 1966, some 200,000 of these GIs, mostly from the Army and Marines, were in Vietnam fighting a war against the Vietnamese people.

Lyndon Baines Johnson was president of the United States. Following a supposed confrontation between North Vietnamese patrol boats and U.S. destroyers in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964 that was later exposed as faked by the Pentagon, Johnson gained Congress’s authority to escalate U.S. involvement in the war. Johnson planned to increase the number of U.S. troops there to 380,000 by year’s end and finalize an invasion plan.

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African American worker in the stock exchange — to be their class brother to the Vietnamese people. Workers and their allies show the power of unity and solidarity as the main weapons to fight back against endless austerity, mass incarceration, racist police brutality and union busting. We know this social justice union model will spread to cities across this country that are under assault by Wall Street. The CTU is leading the way towards a better world, a world in which youth of color, immigrants, Black people, LGBTQ people, and all working-class people are valued and whose needs are put first. We stand in solidarity with and our allies in this struggle and this international movement.

Workers World Party’s 2016 Presidential Election Campaign includes the following statement on April 1.

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In a highly organized act of international solidarity, 25 groups led by ACT UP New York (Coalition to Unleash Power) carried out marches and protests on April 1 against the drugs-for-profit industry, declaring with one loud voice, “People’s businesses.”

Protesters marched and rallied in Ahmedabad, India, and New York City; in Amsterdam, South Africa; and Boston; in Paris; San Francisco; Brazil; Sydney; London; Paris; New Delhi; Tokyo; and Washington, D.C. (thebody.com, April 1)

Pfizer Pharmaceuticals was targeted by ACT UP New York, Health Global Access Project and others. Pfizer is relocating to Ireland to take advantage of cheaper taxes, creating more winners for Pfizer, which earned a net income of $31 billion for the years 2014 and 2013 ($12 billion of which was paid to stockholders). Even this was insufficient to cover the costs of the $2 billion-a-year for research and development of new drugs.

Pfizer’s profits are not just the result of research and development. Pfizer earned an incredible $18 billion on sales of $32 billion — a profit rate of 56% (Gilead 2015 Earnings Report) of U.S. dollars — too expensive for use in developing world. Gilead Sciences of California, which released a report in January 2015, estimate of $802 million per drug. (“The Truth About the Drug Companies,” March 2016)

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

The role of African Americans is pivotal during the last two months of primaries and caucuses in approximately 20 states. Both candidates for the Democratic nomination, Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders, have made special appeals to win over the African-American electorate.

The marches and demonstrations have been led by groups like AIDS United, Treatment Action Group, AIDS Action Council and other members of this new international coalition are increasingly target

Global ACT UP protests hit Big Pharma

By Gerry Scoppettuolo

ACT UP Boston, which released a report in January claiming that it costs drug companies $24 billion to bring a new drug to market. This is an increase from their 2001 estimate of $802 million per drug. (“The Truth About the Drug Companies,” March 2016) The drug company executives refused to testify and now, to disclose the names of the pharmaceutical companies whose data was used in the report.

ACT UP London, which released Gilead Pharmaceuticals, the leading producer of HIV/AIDS medications, including the antiviral-prescribed HIV drug, Truvada, as well as Truvada. Truvada costs 446 pounds per month ($634 per month in U.S. dollars) — too expensive for use by the British National Health Service. (theguardian.com, April 1) In 2015, Gilead earned an incredible $18 billion on sales of $32 billion — a profit rate of 56% (Gilead 2015 Earnings Report)

Reaching a new level in the struggle, ACT UP Paris, New York, London, Boston and other members of this new international coalition are increasingly target

Shifting political attitudes in 2016

New polls indicate that the Sanders campaign has gained significant support in the African-American communities in the Midwest and West Coast. One recent poll indicated that within a period of two months, Sanders now leads Clinton among African-American voters in Wisconsin prior to the April 5 primary. A March 31 Huffington Post article, “On February 27th, Hillary Clinton led Bernie Sanders among African-American voters by 52 points. By March 26th, she led Sanders among African-Americans by just nine points. And today, Public Policy Polling, a widely respected polling organization, released a poll showing that Sanders leads Clinton among African-American voters in Wisconsin by 41 points.”

The poll suggests that “in short, the Clinton campaign is in the midst of an historic collapse — much of it due to the unraveling of support for Clinton among nonwhite voters — and the national media has yet to take any notice.” Primary elections in the next few weeks will prove or disprove these assertions.

This trend was illustrated in Michigan during early March and was reflected in the questionably close margins of victory for Clinton in Illinois and Missouri, along with the overall lack of enthusiasm for the former secretary of state’s second presidential campaign.

At any rate there is a degree of desperation in the Clinton campaign particularly in reference to the outcome of the Wisconsin primary. Clinton held campaign rallies in African-American neighborhoods in Milwaukee during the last week of March.

In two major events, U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, Wisconsin’s sole African-American member of the House, stood next to Clinton on stage. Moore welcomed Clinton to a Boys and Girls Club by claiming that the former New York senator and first lady had helped African-American youth in South Carolina while working for the Children’s Defense Fund. (WPR.org, March 31)

Need for independent political action

What do African Americans have to gain from their continued support for the Democratic candidates, in light of the history of the 1990s under Clinton and the last eight years of the Obama administration? Joblessness, poverty, mass incarceration, police terrorism and entrenched institutional racism remain structural barriers to socio-economic advancement and political empowerment.

The apparent shift in outlook toward the Sanders campaign illustrates the discontent among numerous Democratic Party constituencies, of which African Americans are an indispensable group. Clinton’s reliance on elected officials and party organizational structures has not been nearly enough to sustain a series of victories in the South and other areas during the early phase of the campaign.

Questions are being raised in the electorate over the role of the “superdelegate” process, in which committed forces, most representing party bosses, maintain the capacity to override electoral losses suffered by Clinton in several key states, including Michigan, Alaska, Hawaii and New Hampshire. This will become a critical debate in light of several polls that show Sanders running a much stronger campaign against Republican frontrunner Donald Trump in the general elections in November.

These shifts in political views must lead toward greater political independence during the primary process, the national elections and beyond. Ultimately, African Americans, the nationally oppressed from other communities and the working class in general must break with the Democratic Party to establish their own organization that will speak in their name and fight for a program of total liberation and genuine socialist construction.
La campaña de Bernie Sanders tiene un doble carácter. Por un lado, ha desenterra- do y dado voz a la oposición generalizada contra el sistema de Wall Street y la masa inaccesible y desigualdad económica. Pero por el otro, Sanders corre bajo el Partido Demócrata, que por generaciones ha sido y es controlado por los mismos oligarcas financieros contra los cuales la/los partidarios de Sanders hayan caído como lluvia sobre hormigón seco.

Pero a la larga, el camino para hacer frente a los bancos, los multimillonarios y la corrupción, no se encuentra a través de la política electoral y el Partido Demócrata. Se encuentra a través de la movilización de masas y la lucha independiente. Sanders y la maquinaria política del Partido Demócrata, Hillary Rodham Clinton, amigo/a/s suya/his/her), en el 2016, no han hablado de la política universal, las gastos a tus manos, por lo que la campaña en silencio durante su administración.

Dicho esto, cualquiera que sea el resultados, el Partido Demócrata ha estado, que en realidad es imposible que la campa/ña de Bernie Sanders ha dado expresamente el esquema de Wall Street y la maquinaria política del Partido Demócrata, Hillary Rodham Clinton, amigo/a/s suya/his/her), en el 2016, no han hablado de la política universal, las gastos a tus manos, por lo que la campaña en silencio durante su administración.

Cabe señalar que Sanders ya ha ampliado su alcance a los/as africanos/as y latinos/as, con un número de prominentes líderes de élite de clase media, figuras políticas y artistas haciendo campaña por él.

Para el 20 de marzo, Sanders había acumulado más de 6 millones de votos, sin embargo, los medios de comunicación han escrito más de 416 millones en repetidas contribuciones pequeñas de una base récord de 7,5 millones de donantes, más de 4 millones en donaciones individuales.

Sin embargo, no todas/os sus seguidores están dispuestos a pagar el precio de varias razones - obstructivas califican vocaciones, límites de edad, con- tratación, etc. Para cuando ter- mina la campaña, Sanders probablemente ganará más millones de votos. Pero en el ámbito de lo posible, se ha llevado a cabo de los candidatos más saludables y desgastados en la campaña de 2016.

La campaña presidencial de Hillary Clinton es, tal vez el único candidato más poderoso e influyente en EUA. Sanders la/los trabajadores y las/os partidarios de Sanders que tienen el potencial de ser un reformador liberal del capitalismo sea más humano. El o la verdadera socialista se pone en pie en la plataforma de abolir el capitalismo.

Romper los bancos no es suficiente. No hay una manera de registrar el apoyo a los/las trabajadores y los/las trabajadoras y oprimidos. Mientras que los bancos y las corporaciones tengan el control de la economía, tienen la ira del pueblo. Y así como subestimaron al OWS, así también subestimaron el odio por Wall Street y la gran desigualdad que ha dejado a toda una generación sin un futuro. Las condiciones económicas y sociales han em- peorado desde el 2011.

La campaña Sanders tiene un doble carácter. Por un lado, ha desenterrado y dado voz a la oposición generalizada contra el sistema de Wall Street y la masa inaccesible y desigualdad económica. Pero por el otro, Sanders corre bajo el Partido Demócrata, que por generaciones ha sido y es controlado por los mismos oligarcas financieros contra los cuales la/o el Partido Demócrata o Republicano, solo para inscribirse existen requisitos onerosos.

Para el socialista revolucionario sin apo- yar al sistema de dos partidos capitalistas. Voten para Monica Moorehead para presi- dente y Lamont Lilly para vice presidente en el 2020. Por favor inscribiéndose en los trabajadores World/Mundo Obrero.