Stop bankers’ rule in Greece
Mass resistance must say NO!

By Fred Goldstein

July 14 — With a gun to their heads, the leaders of Syriza, headed by Alexis Tsipras, have capitulated to the financial powers of Europe, headed by the German bankers. The terms of the agreement spell even graver hardship for the Greek masses and outright international bankers’ rule over Greece.

This agreement overrides the resounding “No” vote to austerity by the Greek masses in the referendum of July 5. The 61 percent vote against giving in to the bankers showed there is widespread basis for mass resistance.

The latest deal has not yet been accepted by the Greek Parliament.

But before the Brussels capitulation, Tsipras had arranged to ram a blanket acceptance of whatever agreement was signed through Parliament. He did this in collaboration with the other Greek bourgeois and social democratic parties — the very ones who campaigned for a “Yes” vote in the referendum. He did this knowing that part of his own party would rebel.

The terms of the agreement signed by the 19 countries in the eurozone require Greece to sign on to tax increases, pension reductions and other onerous conditions by July 18.

German imperialism has gotten the endorsement of a strong bloc of countries and the collaboration of the French capitalist government to crush Greece under its heel and make an example out of the Syriza leadership. The European Central Bank forced the Greek banks to close by cutting off the flow of funds, threatening financial chaos and economic strangulation.

The masses in Greece had initiated an electoral rebellion against austerity, under the leadership of Syriza and the Tsipras grouping. This rebellion interfered with the European Union’s project of holding the weaker countries of Europe in the iron grip of the financial powers in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam and others. This project has been underway since the collapse of the USSR and Eastern Europe.

The Tsipras social democratic leadership was not up to the task of carrying through on the rebellion. Now the goal of the financial powers is to humiliate and bring down...
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 outmoded capitalist system is dragging workers’ living standards while throwing millions out of jobs. It’s clear that we’ve got to create a future. And capitalism is threatening the entire planet with its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold on the means of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a class. We’re fighting for a world that’s owned and run by all workers.

Contact a Workers World Party branch near you:

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Militant's Weekly

July 17, 2015

工人世界

Workers World Party: Celebrate the Cuban Revolution and support Workers World!

On July 26, 1953, revolutionary storms at the Moncada Barracks in Santiago, Cuba. Less than six years later, Fidel and his guerrillas ousted the U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, marching into Havana during the first days of January 1959.

That same year, Workers World newspaper began to publish. After years of anti-communist reaction, the Cuban Revolution helped revitalize interest in revolutionary socialism in the U.S. and founded an eager supporter to this newspaper. The more outrageous the anti-Cuba propaganda of the big business press, the harder Workers World fought to tell the truth about this great victory over U.S. imperialism.

When, on Jan. 3, 1961, the U.S. announced to the United Nations that Washington was breaking diplomatic relations with Cuba, Workers World’s first editor, Vince Copeland, led a protest inside the U.N. chamber. His booming voice could be heard on WNYC radio shouting that Ambassador James Wadsworth “speaks for the bankers, not the people.” Anti-Cuba propaganda turned into sabotage and an outright CIA-directed invasion that April. Workers World closely covered the efforts of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee to defend Fidel Malina and other organizations in solidarity with the Cuban people. And when the Kennedy administration threatened a nuclear attack in 1962, Workers World front page demanded “Hands off Cuba!”

Cuban troops helped liberate Angola from fascist colonial rule. Tens of thousands of Cuban medical workers have gone to Africa, Latin America and Haiti to fight disease. Cuba even offered to send doctors to U.S. regions shattered by Hurricane Katrina. But Washington said “no.”

In the early 1990s, Cuba endured great economic hardship after the USSR fell and the U.S. tightened its blockade of the socialist island. Workers World helped build the peace for Cuba International Appeal, which brought thousands to New York City’s Javits Center in January 1992, calling for an end to the blockade, the travel ban and all intervention against Cuba.

The brutal blockade has failed to overturn the Cuban Revolution. Now Washington is discussing normalizing diplomatic relations with Havana. Workers World supports Cuba’s precondition that the U.S. close its illegal base there and remove the torture prison there and return Guantanamo to the Cuban people.

Assata Shakur, an African-American freedom fighter, has lived in exile in Cuba for 31 years. Washington wants her sent back to the racist hellholes of mass incarceration here. We support Cuba’s insistence that its sovereignty be respected, including the right to give shelter to those fleeing repression.

Our readers are familiar with Workers World’s support for the FPC/Pastors for Peace caravans that carry medical and other essential supplies to the island and the yearly Venceremos Brigades. You know our role in the campaign to free the Cuban 5 heroes.

We hope you will help us keep up this tradition of standing firmly with Cuba and its people. Donations from our supporters have been a big factor in getting our pro-Cuba writings in print, distributed and posted online at workers.org.

We invite you to donate to the Workers World Fund Drive, our biannual fundraising campaign. Send checks to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10011, with your name and address. Indicate for “Fund Drive.”

Also, please join the 38-year-old WW Supporter Program and make a regular donation, no matter how modest; Go to workers.org/donate/ or send checks to the above address; write For “WWPS.”

We appreciate your help in growing the revolutionary media in the U.S.

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By Teresa Gutierrez

Immigrants and their advocates have waited for years for Washington to create a humane pro-worker policy that would provide some relief for the more than 12 million undocumented workers in this country. After years of bitter disappointment and continuing denial of relief, conditions for migrants continue to deteriorate — not only on the U.S.-side of the border, but as workers make their way into this country as well.

No talk on Capitol Hill about immigration reform has dealt with the root causes of migration, which is decisive for real change. None of the thousands of pieces of paper on immigration policy addressed unfair trade policies, such as NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement), or the U.S.-created violence that sweeps Mexico and Central America.

President Barack Obama announced in November the creation of a program that would allow undocumented parents of children born in the U.S. to obtain legal status. None of the thousands of pieces of migration, which is decisive for real change.

But instead of relief, conditions for migrants worsen, solidarity is key.

New Orleans protest: ‘Not one more deportation!’

By Minnecie Pratt

Chanting “Sin papeles, sin miedo/ Without papers, without fear,” 8,000 people rallied behind calls to “End detention” and “Libertad!” Racial Justice. by the New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice protest was sparked by continuing systemic abuse at the Berks” Liberation Concert.

People came from organizations nationwide, especially from the South, including busloads from Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas. Also participating were worker contingents from other states, including California, Illinois and Washington state.

One rally theme was “Stop tearing families apart.” The crowd, reflecting that, was markedly multicultural, with very young children, many family groupings and older workers.

A multinationl contingent organized by NOWCRJ blocked traffic in front of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Regional Center. Fourteen people were arrested, some with chained hands and wearing blue T-shirts with the slogan “We are reconstruction workers.”

Fernando Lopez, an organizer with NOWCRJ’s Congresso de Jornaleiros/ Congress of Day Laborers, said: “ICE has used New Orleans as a testing ground for some of its most brutal and unconstituiional immigration enforcement tactics, and continues to target reconstruction workers who helped rebuild the city af-

Farmworkers union on the march

By Jim McManah

Farmworkers and labor supporters picket Sakuma. Workers and also Pineros y Campesi- nos Unidos del Noroeste from Oregon. Community and religious groups also marched.

The rally was held in front of Sakuma’s farm and nearby giant processor house, across from farmworkers’ housing.

Speaking at the rally were Familias Unidas President Ramon Torres and Vice Chair, representing 400,000 workers, also spoke, as did President Ramon Rodri- guez of PCUN, representing 6,500 mostly Indigenous farmworkers in Oregon. A PCUN woman worker addressed the crowd. Community and religious groups also marched.

The protest continued in front of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, where hearings were underway on an an ti-immigrant lawsuit that had been filed to block deportation relief measures or- dered by the Obama administration. The lawsuit, upheld by a Texas judge, is now

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Right-wing backlash to marriage equality victory

By Martha Grevatt

As poll after poll demonstrates, public opinion is on the side of marriage equality. That seismic shift in political consciousness was a factor in the June 26 Supreme Court ruling striking down state marriage bans. Now, however, powerful and well-funded political forces have launched a coordinated campaign to limit the impact of that historic ruling. Hiding behind the mask of “religious freedom,” right-wing bigots are throwing up obstacles to obtaining a marriage license and advancing bills to encourage discrimination against the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities.

The backlash began even before June 26, when in all but 13 states lower court judges overturned archaic laws defining marriage as between “one man and one woman.” Utah and North Carolina passed bills allowing county officials to deny a couple a marriage license on the basis of “sincerely held religious objection.”

Given that the high court found a constitutional basis for marriage equality, these officials have been granted legal cover to violate their oath of office to uphold the Constitution. In other states, county clerks are openly defying governors to obey federal law. A judge in Toledo, Ohio, is refusing to perform same-sex marriages.

Trans victory in West Virginia


In the wake of the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling favoring marriage equality, another triumph was won for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. The West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles has been pressured to update its bigoted photo identification policy that permitted the state’s Department of Motor Vehicles to openly deny driver’s licenses to transgender people.

The struggle started when five trans women from the state united and threatened to sue the discriminatory DMV through the Transgender Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The suit that ignited struggle happened a year ago when Trudy Kitzmiller, a transgender woman, went to the Martinsburg, W.Va., DMV and was subjected to brutal treatment. She was shamefully referred to as “it” by backward DMV officials and was told she had to remove her makeup and jewelry in order to be photographed for her driver’s license. Kitzmiller even brought medical documentation of her, but none of that mattered to the anti-trans bigots at the DMV.

Kitzmiller soon discovered she was not alone in being mistreated by the state’s DMV. She met another transgender woman, Kristen Skinner, who received similar hostility when she visited the Charles Town, W.Va., DMV. Unlike Kitzmiller, Skinner did remove her makeup in order to be photographed, which left her with a picture on her license that does not properly resemble her.

As a result of the collective efforts of the five courageous trans women, the state’s DMV license now reads, “Appli- cants will no longer be asked to remove or modify makeup, clothing, hair style or hairpiece(s).” As people celebrate the gains of the recent Supreme Court ruling on marriage equality, this is one more example of how discriminatory practices against LGBTQ people, particularly trans people of color, are still commonplace in the capitalist U.S. In a quest for a truly just system, free from discrimination and oppression, it is important to seek out more victories such as this.

LGBTQ youth discuss Marxism

Rockford, Ill. — The youth/student organization Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) sponsored a multiracial forum on “LGBTQ Oppression and Liberation” at the Rockford Public Library on July 11. LGBTQ FIST members led the discussion with a historical materialist analysis of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people up to the Stonewall Rebellion. They focused on heroic combatants like Sylvia Rivera and others, including theoretical contributor to this question like Bob McCubbin and the late Leslie Feinberg, both of Workers World Party. Group discussion followed the presentations centered on current struggles, such as marriage equality, the specific challenges facing working-class and oppressed LGBTQ people, and the Black Lives Matter movement.

The forum was part of an ongoing series of events from a Marxist-Leninist perspective, including discussion on fighting the low-wage police state, sponsored by Rockford FIST. For more information, go to facebook.com/RKFD- FIST or call 424-262-3549.

— Report and photo by Workers World Rockford Bureau
Parents to Improve School Transportation, which seeks to shorten routes and upgrade conditions on school buses, was joined by school bus drivers and attendants in the leadership of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1811. They lauded about their mutual need for job security for experienced, trained bus workers to support safety for the children, many of whom have disabilities.

Groups active on a broad range of social issues formed a coalition behind a banner reading “Support Disabled Liberation.” Members of the May 1 Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights carried signs saying “Solidarity with migrant workers forced by forced immigration.”

A People’s Power Assembly sign read: “Half of all people killed by police have a disability. End racist police terror.” A Workers World Party sign demanded: “$15 minimum wage for all, including people with disabilities.”

Many individuals came with their own signs, some looking for groups to march with. Jesica Delarosa, who commuted in a wheelchair with her dog, Myvin, said it was “important for people with disabilities to see our pride and how like everyone else we are.” Another young woman added, “Society puts us down, but this makes us more determined.”

Other signs pointed to inequities in hiring for deaf people, social stigmatization of people with disabilities, inadequate housing and discrimination in health care. Many signs pointed to the lack of access.}

By Joyce Chediac

New York

“We are proud of who we are,” and “Our struggle is not over” were the main themes here on July 12 as some 5,000 to 7,000 people with disabilities, their advocates, color, low-income and families and allies took to the streets in a lively march celebrating disability pride.

The event was called by Disability Pride NYC, the first group working with the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The ADA is the most comprehensive piece of legislation to date to protect the civil rights of people with disabilities. Similar activities have been carried out in Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia, according to media reports.

As important as the ADA has been, signs and banners pointed out that people with disabilities are still stigmatized and discriminated against.

Many trade unions have consistently fought for the rights of their members and others with disabilities. Among them were Communication Workers Local 1181, Sanitation Workers and municipal workers District Council 37 AFSCME.

By Sue Davis

A bold giant step in defense of poor women’s right to abortion and for equal opportunity for all women took place on July 8. Democratic Congresswomen Barbara Lee, Jan Schakowsky and Diana DeGette introduced the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act in the House of Representatives.

The bill would ensure that every woman who receives health care or insurance through the federal government would be covered for all pregnancy-related services, including abortion. “Regardless of how someone personally feels about abortion,” said Lee during the press conference at the Capitol, “none of us, especially federal officials, should be interfering with a woman’s right to make her own health care decision just because she is poor.”

If passed, the bill would apply to both federal and state laws and end “the terrible wrongs of the Hyde Amendment, which, for 37 years, have fallen hardest on people of color, low-income, and youth,” said Yanami Hernandez, executive director of the National Network of Abortion Funds, which for years has carried the banner to end Hyde.

Passed in 1976, only three years after Roe v. Wade legalized abortion, the Hyde Amendment denied insurance for abortion services to poor women insured through Medicaid. This has had a widespread, discriminatory impact on one in six women of reproductive age (15 to 44) who are enrolled in Medicaid, half of whom are women of color. In 2008 (the last year for which statistics are available), Medicaid insured nearly 12.9 million women, who accounted for 61.8 percent of adult Medicaid enrollees.

While abortion is a routine medical procedure sought by one in three women in the course of their lifetime, statistics show that, as a result of Hyde, one in four women on Medicaid have been forced to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term. Studies also show that a woman who seeks an abortion but is denied one is more likely to fall into poverty than a woman who has access to an abortion, because of the high costs of child-rearing compared with low wages.

But the injustice of the Hyde Amendment also extends to millions of women who receive health care through the federal government: a million female federal employees and their dependents, 1.1 million women of reproductive age in the military, nearly 3 million Native American women covered by the so-called “Indian Health Services,” thousands of women in federal prisons and migrants in detention centers, Peace Corps volunteers and low-income women in the District of Columbia.

Emboldened by their control of Congress, anti-choice legislators now seek to further codify and expand Hyde, apply it to all government spending and put private insurance coverage of abortion out of reach for most women through a new bill, H.R. 7, which passed in the House in January. Legislatures in 25 states have already adopted restrictions that limit abortion in private insurance, with 10 states banning coverage in all private plans, except under very limited circumstances.

Taking the offensive

“We’ve been on the defense constantly,” Lee told Democracy Now! on July 9. “Now it’s about time we take the offensive, and say, ‘Look, there’s got to be some justice and some fairness, as it relates to all women.’” It’s important to note that Lee, an African American who has taken many progressive stands over the past 17 years in Congress, voted “no” to the U.S. war on Iraq, and is advocating for an end to the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

Lee admits that passage of the EACH Woman Act is a “long-term fight.” First, “we have to educate the public, which I believe is really there.” In fact, a Gallup poll issued May 29 showed that for the first time since 2008, 50 percent of those polled said they were pro-choice, while 44 percent said they are so-called “pro-life.” A Hart research poll in June showed that 86 percent of those surveyed believe that politicians should not limit a woman’s access to full health coverage because she is poor.

“We have to let members of Congress know,” said Lee, that the public believes “there should be equity and low-income women should be treated fairly. So we have a massive educational campaign to conduct” in Congress. Not daunted by the current odds, Lee noted, “We’re going to be very assertive. ... This is a marathon. But it must start somewhere, so we’ve taken the very first step.”

Already 74 members of Congress are co-sponsors of the bill, which is also backed by 36 national and state health care, legal, women’s and reproductive justice organizations, united under a campaign initiated by All* Above All! Above All. Founded in 2013, All* Above All, led by women’s, reproductive justice and youth organizations, is a diverse national effort devoted to lifting bans that deny abortion coverage, “so that every woman, however much she makes, can get affordable, safe abortion care when she needs it.”

25 years after ADA

People with disabilities say ‘Our struggle is not over’

By Sue Davis

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In rural, south central Michigan sits Lakeland Correctional Facility. The extensive state prison is surrounded by a triple row of 12-feet-high razorwire. After passing through metal detectors, pat-downs and shoe, sock and feet inspections, we entered the visiting room to the warm embrace of the Rev. Edward Pinkney.

Rev. Pinkney, a leading African-American activist in Benton Harbor, Mich., was tried and convicted in late 2014 by an all-white jury for supposedly altering five dates on a recall petition against Benton Harbor’s mayor. Not one shred of evidence was presented that Pinkney committed those alleged acts.

Prosecutor Michael Sepic could not produce one witness to say that Pinkney was the culprit. Judge Sterling R. Schrock, who allowed Sepic to tell the jury, “You don’t need evidence to convict Mr. Pinkney.” All the prosecutor showed the jury was that Rev. Pinkney was a speaker at press conferences and chaired meetings of his organization, BANCO — Black Autonomy Network Community Organization. That was enough for this gang of racists to convict and sentence him to 2.5 to 10 years in prison.

Pinkney’s energy and optimism after six months behind bars were amazing. But Rev. Pinkney was also somber about his situation. “Lakeland has 1,400 prisoners, and I’d say 70 percent are lifers. Being here is serious business. Every day is a challenge. Many of these guys have been here 20, 30, 40 or more years. Today ‘life imprisonment’ means just that — they will never get out.”

Helping those ‘who will never get out’

In his short time among these men, Pinkney has done what he always does — organize and assist people. “I spend most mornings and afternoons in the law library helping inmates with legal research. Then a group of lifers meet me to help them better organize their group meetings, which I am doing. The Muslim prisoners invited me to speak to their Friday prayer session when they found out about my case and history of activism.”

Rev. Pinkney receives many books and periodicals from supporters. Part of the work we do in the Detroit-based Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs and the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice is fundraising for his legal appeal. We also send a monthly donation to help pay for his daily phone calls to his spouse. He often calls in to our weekly Monday evening meetings.

Rev. Pinkney is a voracious reader, so we sent him a few books a month and gave him a subscription to Workers World newspaper, which he reads avidly. To the prison authorities, he is ubiqitous. As soon as he enters the visiting room they are on high alert. “I try to avoid confrontations and de-escalate situations. But I don’t let them bully me. Several tense situations have arisen. Everyone here knows what goes on, and some of the Muslim brothers have taken to escorting me through the facility when I am done with the other inmate calls. I’d say that 90 percent of the prisoners here love me and 10 percent hate me. That 10 percent resent my getting so many visitors, when many of them never get a visit. It resent the many books and letters I get. They resent that I will get out of this prison sooner or later and maybe they won’t.”

This small group of hostile prisonners poses a problem for Rev. Pinkney and could endanger his safety. “I try to avoid confrontations and de-escalate situations. But I don’t let them bully me. Several tense situations have arisen. Everyone here knows what goes on, and some of the Muslim brothers have taken to escorting me through the facility when I am done with the other inmate calls,” said Pinkney. “Another danger is that my friends and supporters might take it upon themselves to physically confront those who might threaten me — and that would also drag me into a situation involving the prison authorities. So I have to chill my friends out.”

Don’t sweep this injustice ‘under the rug’

Rev. Pinkney was looking forward to his appeal, which is being filed soon. His hope of getting an appeal bond and going home was strong. He has high hopes that he will be released soon because there was no evidence to convict him of felony crimes. But he also knows that there is a “criminal enterprise in Berrien County” that put him in prison in the first place.

The court officials, Benton Harbor Mayor James Hightower and behind them the power of the Whirlpool Corporation headquartered there will be working overtime to try to stop him from returning home. “I am asking all my supporters to get the word out in the next 30 days after the appeal is filed. Get this out to the news media so that this injustice can’t be swept under the rug and the appeals court is forced to deliver justice,” Pinkney urged.

For information on how to help free this political prisoner, visit bhbanco.org.
Who gets credit for removing Confederate flag?

By Monica Moorehead

Finally, the profoundly offensive, pro-slavery Confederate flag no longer flies high in front of the State House grounds in Columbia, the capital of South Carolina. It was taken down on July 10, 43 years after it was first hoisted in a ceremony “officially” marking the centennial of the start of the U.S. Civil War. In July 2000, a march of more than 50,000, mostly African Americans, demanded that the flag be removed. When state elected officials voted not to remove it, civil rights groups launched a boycott of South Carolina’s tourism industry.

The decisive moment that reignited the struggle to finally remove the flag was the horrifying massacre of nine African-American Bible Study members at the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston on June 17 by Dylann Roof, a white supremacist. One of the nine victims was the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a state senator. Pinckney of the nine victims was the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a state senator. Pinckney had demanded justice for Walter Scott, a black man fatally shot eight times in the back by a white cop in North Charleston on April 4.

Roof posted a picture of himself on his website holding a Confederate flag, along with other repellent racist memorabilia. He targeted this historic, activist church due to its anti-slavery heritage, led by Denmark Vesey, who plotted a massive slave uprising in 1822.

The angry response to the Charleston massacre and the role of the Confederate flag was quite swift and overwhelming, not only in South Carolina but around the country. Confederate flags were burned everywhere in the North and South, and Confederate monuments were defaced by Black and white activists, including those involved in the Black Lives Matter movement fighting racist police terror.

Once Gov. Nikki Haley signed the bill to take down the flag, an official ceremony was held to mark the occasion. The mainstream media were there in masse. Thousands of people, mainly African American, attended the ceremony. Family members of the nine massacred by Roof were there. Many people cried tears of joy and relief, understandably so after having to endure so many decades of seeing a flag glorifying a barbaric system that forced their enslaved ancestors to suffer under whips and chains.

But many African Americans understand all too well that the removal of the Confederate flag and other related symbols does not signify the end of white supremacy. There still exists the legacies of slavery today in the form of police brutality, low wages, lack of health care, the school-to-prison pipeline, the current rash of Black churches being torched and die poor in disproportionate numbers.

Why the ceremony?

Other African Americans, including this writer, asked: Why was a flag glorifying white supremacy given such pomp and circumstance in a ceremony that showed reverence to it? Why was a military honor guard necessary, with only a 21-gun salute missing? Once the flag was meticulously folded, it was sent to the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum near the Capitol.

As an African-American CNN correspondent and New York Times op-ed writer Charles Blow commented angrily after the ceremony, they could have just taken down the flag in a low-key manner, given everything it represents. This media event turned out to be a photo-op for the governor, who bought for many years against taking down the flag, along with other white politicians.

What shouldn’t get lost is that it was the massive struggle from below, led by the Black community, that forced the removal of the flag. The most dramatic example of this struggle was a young African-American woman activist from North Carolina, Bree Newsome. With the assistance of Black and white comrades, in an act of heroic defiance, Newsome scaled the flagpole on the State House grounds on July 9 and took down the Confederate flag. She and James Tyson, who assisted her from the ground, were arrested. Newsome is facing at least three years in jail, if convicted. More than $125,000 has already been raised for her legal defense. Activists are demanding that ALL charges be dropped against her.

Bree Newsome and others who have been in the forefront of fighting white supremacy should be given the credit for bringing down the flag, not opportunist politicians like Gov. Haley and her ilk. There should have been a ceremony honoring Bree Newsome and others like her, who didn’t wait for the politicians to do what should have been done more than 40 years ago.

Moorehead was born under segregation in Alabama and refused to play the pro-slavery anthem “Dixie” in her high school band in Hampton, Va., during the late 1960s.

Muslim, Jewish help for torched Black churches

By Kris Hamel

July 13 — Muslim and Jewish groups have been raising money to help rebuild at least six Black churches in the South hit by arsonists in a racist backlash to the unity ignited by the June 17 massacre in Charleston.

This united outrage, in the footsteps of the national Black Lives Matter movement, brought about the long-overdue removal of the Confederate flag from the grounds of the state Capitol in Columbia, S.C. It also resulted in strong demands throughout the United States to destroy this profound symbol of racism, slavery and national oppression wherever it is found. Led by Black youth and community members, this response to racist terror has proven to be a setback for reactionary and racist elements in the U.S. and their sponsors in the capitalist class.

The Charleston massacre, which occurred on the first day of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, led to solidarity actions by Muslims across the country. Faatimah Knight, a 23-year-old Black Muslim student, helped organize a number of Muslim organizations, including Umumah Wided, the Muslim-Racial Justice Collaborative and the Arab American Association of New York, to start a crowdfunding campaign on LaunchGood.com.

As of this writing, LaunchGood reports that $79,583 has been collected toward a goal of $500,000 to help “rebuild Black churches” and “stand united against hate.”

Mosques have been targets of racist and right-wing hate attacks since 2001. In May an Arizona mosque had to defend itself from an attack by racist, anti-Muslim Muslims. The Islamic Center of Houston reported Huffington Post on May 28.

Jewish temples and synagogues, long a target of anti-Semitic hate acts, have also contributed to the fundraising efforts for Southern Black Christian churches that have been torched or burned.

A broad coalition of more than 150 religious institutions has also appealed to activists to link to facebook.com/BlackLivesActivityFunders to help rebuild Black churches, says Rabbi Susan Talve of the Central Reform Congregation in St. Louis. (theguardian.com, July 10)

After the police killing of unarmed Black teen Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in August 2014, organizers were able to help Black churches. After July 17, 2015, when the Muslim Community of North Carolina and the American Muslim Council in New York built the churches Fund began working together, said Talve. She stressed that all must work together to end hate — “racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia” — and stand up when it happens.
Detroit to Flint water march ends

By Abayomi Azikiwe, Editor, Pan-African News Wire

A week-long, cross-state march, organized under the theme “Clean, Affordable Water for All; Detroit to Flint Water Justice Journey,” ended in Flint, Mich., on July 19.

Organizations sponsoring the walk included the People’s Water Board, the Michigan Network for Human Rights, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization in Detroit and others. Activists from High- land Park, Pontiac and Flint joined the march for the last 12 miles.

WMRO Co-Chair Marian Kramer, who lives in Highland Park, a small municipality surrounded by Detroit, reported that residents of Highland Park have been without water for three years due to layoffs of meter readers.

The city of Detroit is now claiming huge debts are owed by Highland Park. Massive shutdowns could be imminent.

Under emergency management and bankruptcy, the banks and corporate interests are now targeting small municipalities responsible for the current crisis in access and safety. In Detroit, $357 million was taken out of the system in order to terminate interest-rate swaps issued by leading financial institutions, including Chase, Bank of America, Loop Financial and Morgan Stanley.

In Flint, where the water situation is perhaps the worst, people marched and gathered at City Hall on July 10. Although both Flint and Detroit have been removed from emergency management, the state of Michigan is still over seeing the finances of both municipalities. Water shutoffs in each city continue, but in Flint residents are also faced with the extreme deterioration of the quality of their service.

The Flint water system was connected to Detroit’s massive infrastructure until, under emergency management, it was broken off in 2014 as a “cost-cutting measure.”

Water flowing into residential homes is coming directly from the Flint River. Testing by outside experts indicates that the use of high levels of chloride and ferric chloride could be causing corrosion in the lead pipe systems. At least half of the homes in Flint were constructed more than 50 years ago when the use of lead pipe was common.

New regulations based on the U.S. Safe Drinking Water Act of 1968 are not being enforced in the city. Michigan’s Department of Environmental Quality recently criticized for not exercising its authority in response to complaints from Flint residents.

Many families in Flint are suffering from a number of health issues. Water from the local system has been described as not only undrinkable but also unfit for washing and cooking.

Residents discussed the health problems they are facing due to contaminated water in Flint. Flint, who chaired the July 10 rally, said that she and her children were diagnosed with copper poisoning in March. The family is now in a detention process under medical supervision.

A Michigan American Civil Liberties Union report says that the department’s testing methods are designed to conceal the level of lead exposure of residents. Before samples are taken, residents are told to run the water in an effort to flush out the toxic build-up near the faucets.

Curt Guyette, of the ACLU’s Michigan chapter, said that “workers” includes both women and men: “Todxs Somos Jornalerxs.”

Justice Worker Center held signs with a unique Spanish spelling to emphasize safety. In Detroit, $537 million was taken under review by the most conservative federal appeals court in the U.S. during the review, the banks and corporate interests are seeking to remove the toxic scale built-up on the inside of pipes over the past decades to be released into water flowing into people’s homes.

LeeAnne Walters requested two city tests of the water. It revealed dangerously high levels of lead, charting 130 parts per billion and 397 ppb. Yet Virginia Tech researchers found lead levels in Walters’ water had reached 13,200 ppb — more than twice the amount at which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency outlines water as hazardous waste. (deadnededetroit, July 9.

An extremely angry Flint resident outside City Hall brought her with a container of brown water run from her tap. She also held a fistfull of her hair, which she said fell out after washing with this water. She blamed the local and state authorities.

Capitallist disinvestment at root of crisis

Flint has been hit over the decades by plant closings and financial ruin caused by the banks and corporations. The birthplace of the United Auto Workers is now a haven for redevelopment and corporatist political opposition.

Much like Detroit, the city’s landscape is covered with abandoned factories and industrial structures. The foreclosed rates were extremely high at the height of the Great Recession several years ago. Local officials are hampered by the constraints placed on politicians under state supervision.

Michigan’s right-wing, multimillion-dollar Resident holds hair and contaminated water.

Detroiters demand: ‘Turn on the lights!’

By Martha Grevatt

For six weeks in a row, community activists in Detroit have held “light walks” every Thursday night. Radio talk show host Cynthia Johnson, who initiated the walks, pointed out that there is a number of major thoroughfares around the city that are pitch dark when night falls. Busy bus stops are unlit. Residents of the poorer neighborhoods, where the lights have been upheld, describe hair-raising situations such as being in a wheelchair and almost being hit by a car or smashing the brakes to avoid hitting a child.

“Mayor [Mike] Duggan promised a year ago the lights would be turned on,” said Errol Jennings, president of Russell Woods-Sullivan Historic Neighborhood Association.

This having situation was prevented when contract employees failed to check new bas and mass layoff of union workers in the city-owned Public Lighting Department left many neighborhoods in the dark. Public buildings on PLD’s power grid experienced regular outages. This became the excuse for emergency Manager Kevyn Orr used to dismantle PLD and make private utili ty DTE Energy the power supplier.

The state created the Public Lighting Authority as an independent entity, incurring a debt of $185 million to the banks. Emergency managers are appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder over cities he deems to be in financial distress; almost every Michigan city with an EM has a majority white population. Under Public Act 436 — popularly known as the “dictator law” — the EM has the power to break union contracts, sell city assets and make all kinds of decisions without the approval of the elected mayor and city council.

Payment to the banks, by law, takes precedence over city services. Detroit water bill has only 35,000 of 88,000 existing lights working as of 2014, but the PLA brags that “the lights are coming back on.” This seems to only be true in the downtown and midtown areas that are targeted for gentrification, but the spin doctors of the capitalist state did not deliver promises to convince the country there is a “comeback” in Detroit. In fact, the PLA plans to reduce the total number of street lights by 20,000, leaving many areas of the city in darkness. Neighborhood residents, stuck in their homes on a nice summer night because of unsafe, unlit streets, aren’t seeing a comeback but are wanting a fightsight.

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle


New Orleans protest: ‘Not one more deportation!’

Continued from page 3

under review by the most conservative federal appellate court in the U.S. The Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Attorney General’s office and the Texas State Board of Criminal Justice have been held to be in financial distress.

The federal measures are known as DACA and DAPA, standing for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parental Accountability. DACA would limit the deportation of undocumented migrant workers. DAPA would prevent U.S. parents of children born in the U.S. or the U.S. as children. DAPA would prevent deportation to the U.S. for six months in a row, community activists in Detroit have held “light walks” every Thursday night. Radio talk show host Cynthia Johnson, who initiated the walks, pointed out that there is a number of major thoroughfares around the city that are pitch dark when night falls. Busy bus stops are unlit. Residents of the poorer neighborhoods, where the lights have been upheld, describe hair-raising situations such as being in a wheelchair and almost being hit by a car or smashing the brakes to avoid hitting a child.

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MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

Mass resistance must say NO!

The government and destroy Tsipras in front of his own people as an object lesson to all others who would rebel against the iron austerity demanded by the European powers — and by the International Monetary Fund, headed by the U.S.

Terms of further austerity

The “Troika” — the IMF, European Central Bank and European Commission — and the Greek government, together with the other Greek bourgeois parties, have now signed terms that will deepen the Greek debt enslavement. Following are highlights of the agreement signed in Brussels by all 19 eurozone countries.

The Greek government has agreed to submit to the oversight of the IMF; to allow supervised spending cuts if budget surpluses fall short; to “ambiguous pension reform,” meaning cuts to pensioners; to “modernization of collective bargaining,” meaning the curtailing union rights; and to “industrial action” reform, that is, cracking down on the right to strike.

The agreement requires the government to carry out “product market reforms” that remove any price protection on prescription drugs, milk and bread, among other things; and to proceed with the privatization of the national electric network (ADMEI).

There will be a reduction in the principal amount, the hundreds of billions of euros owed to the banks — no “haircut” — only a possible lowering of interest rates and a possible stretching out of the repayment period. But there has been no commitment at all to any debt relief.

The government must submit economic legislation to the Troika before it is submitted to Parliament or the public. These commitments are required by treaty negotiations for a future bailout itself.

Mass resistance needed

Whether or not the government fails, there needs to be a new leadership of resistance in Greece to mobilize mass struggle, both in the country and by winning solidarity throughout Europe, to rebuild this agreement before it can be fully implemented. An immediate, unitary and regrouping of the masses to prepare for the future bailout.

The aim must be to obstruct the implementation of the extreme austerity measures dictated by European finance capital, with Wall Street in the background. We are to be agreed by “Tsipras” haunted, battered government. The widest possible unity of resistance must be achieved in the coming weeks.

Last spring the Syriza-led Greek Parliament authorized a study by the Committee Opposed to Debt. (See Workers World, “Greek Debt Committee.” July 6.) Though presented within a capitalist framework, the argument forms the legal foundation for rejecting the extortive debt to the Eurozone and the IMF.

The report concludes: “The Commit- tee considers that Greece has been and still is the victim of an attack prepared and organized by the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank, and the European Commission, aimed exclusively at shifting private debt onto the public sector.”

Break with the euro vs. long-term debt slavery

As we recently wrote in these pages, a commitment made in advance by the Syriza leaders to remain in the eurozone was a clear signal to the bankers that the financial sector had the upper hand and would resort to financial strangulation, which is exactly what they have done.

Whatever the difficulties of breaking with the euro to free Greece from the absolute financial control of Frankfurt, the ECB, and German, European and U.S. finance capital, these difficulties must be faced. The technical preparations and the education effort to explain it to the masses should have been carried out long ago. As many left forces have pointed out, it is better to go through temporary hardship than to submit to permanent debt slavery and financial plunder.

Left forces in Syriza called for a break long ago. Even the bourgeois-austerity Keynesian economists Paul Krugman and Joseph Stiglitz have suggested that Greece would be better off if it left the euro.

Stathis Kourvelakis, a member of the Syriza Finance Committee who teaches in London, quoted Thanassis Petroukas, one of the three speakers of Syriza’s parliamentary group and a prominent member of the Left Platform, who declared: “The ‘no’ of the referendum was a radical and a class ‘no.’ Some high-ranked comrades insist on the ‘there is no other solution.’ We have to prepart our exit strategy with the eurozone and say that clearly to the people. The Left has a future when it opens its wings to the unknown, not to nothingness. Those who insist on the choice of staying in the euro whatever the cost might know that it is a disaster. We need a prepared exit to open up a new path.”

The first steps are the public control of the banks and of the Greek central bank and a crackdown on oligarhies.” (Jacobin magazine, July 10)

Only the left and revolutionary forces can prepare the path forward — the struggle to overturn the agreement and to break with the euro. Under new left leadership there could be a mass campaign to overcome the fear of a rupture. The possibilities of surviving a bailout with the euro could be illustrated concretely. For example, plans to form local committees everywhere to ensure the food supply and to carry out distribution, especially to the poor, could be drawn up. These committees could also be empowered to suppress hoarding, to monitor the capitalists against profit gouging and hoarding, to ensure medical services, etc. This should be pointed out that a new sovereign currency could be employed to put the masses of unemployment, especially the youth, back to work; vastly increase production; and overcome the depression that Greece is now in.

Of course, the nationalization of the banks and of strategic sectors of the economy would be fundamental steps to regain sovereignty over the economy. Such steps could be accompanied by international negotiations to set up alternate trade patterns where necessary, both import and export. This would be in anticipation of commercial obstruction by the EU. It should be possible to open up discussions with every government that praised the “No” vote. The ALBA (the Bolivian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America) countries in Latin America come to mind.

This past April, the Greek ambassador to the United States was received by President Hassan Rouhani. “In the meeting (the pres- ident) said that Greece has many capacities in various fields and the economies of Iran and Greece can complement each other.” The Greek ambassador, in turn, said: “Greece seeks strategic ties with Iran and is against the policy of imposition of sanctions to isolate countries.” (Iran News Agency, April 20)

Tsipras recently made a trip to Russia to discuss a gas pipeline, which also opens the possibility of maintaining trade outside the euro. If necessary, temporary barter relationships could be established. This tactic was used successfully by Iran to get around U.S. sanctions.

In any case, the logic of remaining in the euro at all costs has transformed the Syriza government from an opponent of the current order of austerity. This cycle must be broken.

Capitalist parasites cheering

Right now the stock markets around the world are on the rise as news spreads of the signing of the austerity agreement by the Greek government. The millionaires and billionaires who speculate on stocks are drooling as they sense that the banks are going to squeeze even more blood from Greece.

An obscure celebration is going on in financial circles over the intended attack by the banks on the Greek people — the workers, the poor, the pensioners, the youth. The global financial oligarchy is looking forward to the Troika shoring up the Greek banks so that Greece can shell out money to the creditors.

There are those on the left who regard Tsipras’ capitulation as inevitable and used this as a rationale to abstain from the struggle. In particular the Greek Communist Party held back its broad frontal attack on the militant, class-conscious sectors of the organized working class from joining with the broader anti-austerity forces loyal to Syriza in a common struggle against the Troika.

Thus, they gave up the chance to steer the wider movement in a left and revolutionary direction, which could have helped to change the capitulation or to prepare for it when it came.

We are confident that the Greek popular organizations will find solutions to overcome present developments and that all the forces on the left will rethink and regroup for the broadest possible united struggle to overturn this latest capitulation to the austerity demands of the financial powers.

The smiles can still be wiped from the faces of the financial parasites and the stock exchange of the capitalist world if the powerful mass movement mounts a counterattack. It is time to overcome differences and launch a fightback that will rock the Mergels, Hollandes and all the bankers of Europe and the U.S. back on their heels.

Goldstein is the author of two books, “Capitalism at a Dead End” and “Low-Wage Capitalism.” More of his writing is online at www.workers.org and on his Facebook page.
Migrants find solidarity as well as repression

By John Catalinoto

Jobless in a depression-era society, targeted by fascists like those in the Golden Dawn party and seeing benefits cut even for workers who are citi- zens, immigrant workers and their families find only the toughest jobs needing the least skills that pay little. Nearly all are excluded from Greek electoral life. All workers in Greece need soli darity in their struggle against the big bankers of Europe and the Unit ed States. Greece’s migrant workers need an extra dose.

Because Greek workers also emigrate and the birthrate is low, im migrants help keep the population steady at nearly 11 million. Migrants make up about 8 percent of the total population and more than 10 percent of the workforce. Most come from neighboring Albania, with overall more than 80 percent from the Bal kan states and the former USSR. The newest refugee surge is mainly from Syria and Afghanistan.

While all migrants face govern ment repression and fascist xenopho bia, a singularly savage assault took place in April 2013 against undocu mented mostly Bangladeshi agricultural workers who were hired to pick strawberries during the growing and harvesting season. This class attack aimed at robbing the workers’ wages.

The entire legal case exposed xenophobia directed at South Asian workers.
The strawberry pickers were supposed to receive 22 euros per day, but only six euros for room and board. But after five months’ work, they hadn’t been paid anything, so they refused to keep migrant workers out at sea.

Before this January’s elections, a rightist government was in power. It built a fence blocking the Greek-Turk ish border and ordered its Coast Guard to stop migrant ships out at sea. But this year, some 77,000 migrants have already landed in Greece by sea.

Nasim Lomani, an immigrant and dissenting trade unionist told the Eu ropean Social Support for Refugees and Mi grants, has lived 15 years in Greece. He told the German daily newspaper Junge Welt of July 11 that the Syriza government had ordered the Coast Guard to stand down from expelling the migrants, and that this order has held so far.

Lomani said, however, despite the improvements since Syriza was elected, conditions are still terrible for the migrants. Near the town of Moria, on the island of Lesbos just off the Turkish coast, for example, there is a camp built to hold 10,000 refugees that is now housing 1,000. “What is gratifying,” he added, “is that un beliefably many of the islanders are tak ing care of the refugees in a way that shows their solidarity.”

Debt means having the same enemy

What do working people in Greece, Ghana, Detroit and Puerto Rico have in common? They are all exploited by imperialist finance capital, in one case or the other. For two of the four cases, targets areuset by big capital’s class war. From Wall Street to London, Paris and Frankfurt, the banks and the national states that ride shotgun for their interests in the debt crisis are squeezing every last ounce of profit out of workers’ labor power.

Workers all over the capitalist globe face severe cuts in whatever social programs still exist. At the same time, workers still feel the economic disaster of the capitalist crisis that exploded during 2008 and 2009. Order these cuts in social programs and unemployment and an increase of those living in extreme poverty.

In each of the four places named above, the workers face both class and national oppression, the latter taking the form of a lack of both national sovereignty and economic self-determination. According toghanaweb.com on July 8, the International Monetary Fund insisted that Ghana’s government reduce spending for salaried workers. Public health workers who had successfully completed two- and three-year education programs and served for a year in the national health service are now unemployed. Dictating that decision to Ghana hurts both the health workers and most of the 27 million people living there.

The United States is the major decider in the IMF — which makes up one-third of the European Union’s “Troika” that has been persecuting Greek workers.

Detroit was once the model for a working-class city in the U.S., home to the country’s automobile industry where the United Auto Workers union was born.

Both Puerto Rico and Detroit have had the burden of U.S. political domination.
The colonial laws controlling Puerto Rico force it from declaring bankruptcy. That means it can’t even do what Detroit did: to write down some of the debt — not that this helped Detroit’s workers. Those who would “manage” Puerto Rico’s debt have more or less the same recipe as those imposing “austerity” all over the globe: The lower the $7.50 minimum wage; privatize public property; cut education, health care and social services; and prioritize paying the predatory banks. Puerto Rico is tied to the dollar like Ghana and Detroit, despite its different political status. Puerto Rico now owes $72 billion to its creditors, and its colonial governor admits the country is unable to pay it.

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Greece has been the focus of attention worldwide these past few weeks. An announced deal – which hasn’t yet been ratified in either Athens or Berlin — imposes even more sacrifices and hardships on the Greek working class. As in other areas, this is done with the collab oration of the local ruling class, which is an as sociation dedicated to support the retreat of unions and the workers who got them. This helps the bosses.

These four examples in four different parts of the world clearly show that the bosses want the banks and have used the debt to wage war on the working class. The first step to ward a successful fightback is the realization that workers all over the world face the same enemy and have the same interests in defeating that enemy.
Caminata de Justicia por el agua

By Cheryl LaBash

Yellow school buses are a common sight in the U.S. Usually the rides are shorter than the 2,300 miles we just covered in 10 days on a very special bus. Ours was just one of the latest to travel through 90 cities and 38 states to take 10 tons of material aid to Cuba, including sewing machines and mobility aids in addition to the two full-size school buses, another small bus and a box truck. Fifty caravanistas will arrive in Cuba just days before the Cuban flag is raised in Washington, D.C., on July 20, signaling the renewal of formal diplomatic relations, which had been broken by the U.S. on July 3, 1961.

This summer, participants in both the Friendship Caravan and the Venceremos Brigade will once again challenge the illegal, unilateral and internationally condemned U.S. blockade of Cuba. This personal and organizational solidarity dramatizes the fact that the U.S. finanziál, commercial and economic block- ade of Cuba still exists, notwithstanding the intent to restore diplomatic relations announced seven months ago. The 2015 challenges highlight the fact that travel, trade and credit restrictions are still in place, that Guantánamo is still illegally occupied by a U.S. naval base against the will of the Cuban people and their government and even in violation of the imperialist treaty imposed on Cuba, and that regime change programs are still fully funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Endowment for Democracy, Radio Marti, TV Martí and others.

Graduates and current students at Cuba’s Latin American School of Medicine participated in many meetings. In Albuquerque, N.M., Dr. Joanna Souers, recently returned from internationalist work in Liberia, explained the origins of the scholarship program that Cuba has offered to students from underserved communities in the U.S. Ten new students will begin their medical school studies this year. Twenty-three others will graduate in July.

In Santa Fe, N.M., Kathryn Hall-Trujillo, founder director of Birthing Project USA, showed statistically that for Black babies of any nationality, Cuba is the best place to be born for survival and development. Also participating was a member of Cuba’s National Assembly, Rev. Dr. Ofelia Ortega Suarez from Matanzas.

Many organizers of caravan stops embraced the call to organize local sup- port actions during “End the Blockade of Cuba” days set for Washington, D.C. — Sept. 10 through 16, initiated by The International Committee’s Campaign for a Just Policy toward Cuba, IFCO/ Pastors for Peace and the Institute for Policy Studies. (TheInternationalCom- mittee.org)

In the U.S., some 77 percent of am- putations due to diabetic foot ulcers could be avoided using a treatment de- veloped in Cuba, but it is barred from U.S. residents by the blockade. Cuba’s infant mortality is around four per 1,000 live births, while in Detroit and other oppressed communities in the U.S. it is three times that.

Cuba has shown that free education and universal preventive health care for all can be achieved, even in a poor and blocked country. The resistance of the U.S. ruling class to normal relations has been because the right wing fears letting the people here know the truth about so- cialism, socialist ideas and solidarity. To follow reports from the caravan and find out how to donate, go to IFCONews. org, IFCO/Pastors for Peace on Facebook, CubaCaravan2015.org.

On the road with the Cuba caravan

By Cheryl LaBash

Transport workers shut down subway system

By Gene Clancy

On July 9, some 20,000 workers on the London Underground, often called “the Tube,” walked off the job, shutting down one of the largest transit systems in the world.

The Tube stretches for 190 miles under the streets of London and its environs, and carries 4 million passengers per day. All four unions representing the workers, close all the ticket offices at the stations during the strike.

The dramatic impact of the strike has already led the mayor of London, Boris Johnson, to say that he is reconsidering the date of implementation of the contro- versial “Night Tube” program, one of the main points of contention with the work- ers. (theguardian.com, July 9)

Despite other immediate issues, the underlying cause of the strike is the au- thority program of Conservative (Tory) government of Prime Minister David Cameron. Like other countries in the European Union, it has pursued a harsh government policy of cutbacks and higher costs on the poor and working classes of Britain.

The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Work- ers says: “Our action is in re- sponse to the impact of a 4.2 billion pounds cuts program imposed by the government and mayors of London.” (mirror. co.uk, July 8)

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Immediately before the strike, the TFL threw down a “take it or leave it” offer to the unions. In addition to an inadequate pay proposal, it failed to address the se- rious disruptions of the new Night Tube program, scheduled to begin in Septem- ber. The new schedules would lay off 850 workers, close all the ticket offices at night, and lead to enormous disruptions in the schedules of night workers.

The cutbacks would not only endanger overall safety and convenience, but lessen the services available for disabled pas- sengers. Because of past struggles, as this writer can personally attest, the London transportation system has a relatively high level of support for disabled people compared to most U.S. cities. These rights for the disabled are now under attack.

Without Victory

by Sara Flounders

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CUBA FRIENDSHIP CARAVAN

IN THE US

CDMEXICO, MEXICO CITY

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PENTAGON ARCHIVES

Mexico: a country under siege

by Sara Flounders

Mexico: a country under siege

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‘Caminata de Justicia’ por el agua

By Cheryl LaBash

Yellow school buses are a common sight in the U.S. Usually the rides are shorter than the 2,300 miles we just covered in 10 days on a very special bus. Ours was just one of the latest to travel through 90 cities and 38 states to take 10 tons of material aid to Cuba, including sewing machines and mobility aids in addition to the two full-size school buses, another small bus and a box truck. Fifty caravanistas will arrive in Cuba just days before the Cuban flag is raised in Washington, D.C., on July 20, signaling the renewal of formal diplomatic relations, which had been broken by the U.S. on July 3, 1961.

This summer, participants in both the Friendship Caravan and the Venceremos Brigade will once again challenge the illegal, unilateral and internationally condemned U.S. blockade of Cuba. This personal and organizational solidarity dramatizes the fact that the U.S. finanziál, commercial and economic block- ade of Cuba still exists, notwithstanding the intent to restore diplomatic relations announced seven months ago. The 2015 challenges highlight the fact that travel, trade and credit restrictions are still in place, that Guantánamo is still illegally occupied by a U.S. naval base against the will of the Cuban people and their government and even in violation of the imperialist treaty imposed on Cuba, and that regime change programs are still fully funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development, the National Endowment for Democracy, Radio Marti, TV Martí and others.

Graduates and current students at Cuba’s Latin American School of Medi- cine participated in many meetings. In Albuquerque, N.M., Dr. Joanna Souers, recently returned from internationalist work in Liberia, explained the origins of the scholarship program that Cuba has offered to students from underserved communities in the U.S. Ten new students will begin their medical school studies this year. Twenty-three others will graduate in July.

In Santa Fe, N.M., Kathryn Hall-Trujillo, founder director of Birthing Project USA, showed statistically that for Black babies of any nationality, Cuba is the best place to be born for survival and develop- ment. Also participating was a member of Cuba’s National Assembly, Rev. Dr. Ofelia Ortega Suarez from Matanzas.

Many organizers of caravan stops embraced the call to organize local sup- port actions during “End the Blockade of Cuba” days set for Washington, D.C. — Sept. 10 through 16, initiated by The International Committee’s Campaign for a Just Policy toward Cuba, IFCO/ Pastors for Peace and the Institute for Policy Studies. (TheInternationalCom- mittee.org)

In the U.S., some 77 percent of am- putations due to diabetic foot ulcers could be avoided using a treatment de- veloped in Cuba, but it is barred from U.S. residents by the blockade. Cuba’s infant mortality is around four per 1,000 live births, while in Detroit and other oppressed communities in the U.S. it is three times that.

Cuba has shown that free education and universal preventive health care for all can be achieved, even in a poor and blocked country. The resistance of the U.S. ruling class to normal relations has been because the right wing fears letting the people here know the truth about so- cialism, socialist ideas and solidarity. To follow reports from the caravan and find out how to donate, go to IFCONews. org, IFCO/Pastors for Peace on Facebook, CubaCaravan2015.org.

On the road with the Cuba caravan

By Cheryl LaBash

Transport workers shut down subway system

By Gene Clancy

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Recetas neoliberales para Puerto Rico

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

El gobernador de Puerto Rico Alejandro García Padilla, sorprendió cuando le declaró al pueblo en mensaje televisado, que la deuda pública de PR es “impagable” y que no se trata de política. Se trata de matemáticas”. Aceptar de pronto que la deuda pública de PR es “impagable”, no lo hace para proteger al pueblo, sino a los honis tas estadounidenses. La enorme deuda de PR, enmarca da dentro de la crisis del capitalismo en callejón sin salida a nivel global y en particular con la de Estados Unidos, ha puesto en escena una compleja trama para tratar de cobrarse el pueblo puerto rriqueño el mínimo de utilidad que estos bonos hacen con pagar. Aunque Moody’s y otras agencias han ido bajando progresiva mente las calificaciones de estos bonos en estado “chatarra”, estos bonos han sido apetecidos por las grandes firmas de tene dores de bonos para ser libres de impuestos y tener el rendimiento más alto existente. Aparte de los rendimientos, las tarifas cobradas por Wall Street son astronómi cas. Un artículo de Forbes en 2013 titula “Hacienda Pública No es Quijote”. El artículo concluye con lo que tantas veces se puede concluir ahora: “Para es te rendir cómo Puerto Rico está en tales condiciones extremas, simplemente siga el dinero a Wall Street”. (Forbes.com)

El gobierno de Puerto Rico ha declarado bancarrota, sin poder hacer el pago. Ahora, la mayoría de quienes trabajan en callejón sin salida a nivel global y en particular con la de Estados Unidos, ha puesto en escena una compleja trama para tratar de cobrarse el pueblo puerto rriqueño el mínimo de utilidad que estos bonos hacen con pagar. Aunque Moody’s y otras agencias han ido bajando progresivamente las calificaciones de estos bonos de estado “chatarra”, estos bonos han sido apetecidos por las grandes firmas de tenedores de bonos para ser libres de impuestos y tener el rendimiento más alto existente. Aparte de los rendimientos, las tarifas cobradas por Wall Street son astronómicas. Un artículo de Forbes en 2013 titula “Hacienda Pública No es Quijote”. El artículo concluye con lo que tantas veces se puede concluir ahora: “Para entender cómo Puerto Rico está en tales condiciones extremas, simplemente siga el dinero a Wall Street”. (Forbes.com)

El gobierno de Puerto Rico se encuentra en bancarrota y sin ningún crecimiento económico. A pesar de haber implantado medidas desesperadas para balancear el presupuesto desde incluso antes de la crisis económica del 2008, las medidas de imposición de impuestos en 2008, los despidos de empleados/empleadas de 2009, la reforma de pensiones en 2013 hasta el nuevo impuesto a las gasolinas no han podido hacer la economía. El gobierno ha declarado bancarrota y el gobierno no puede cobrar el dinero a Wall Street”. (Forbes.com)

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