



#noDAPL: Stop Dakota pipeline!

Defend Standing Rock

The following statement was released by Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Candidate Monica Moorehead and Vice Presidential Candidate Lamont Lilly on Sept. 3.

Representatives of some 300 Indigenous nations and their supporters have since Aug. 18 blocked the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, meant to be built under the Missouri, Mississippi and Big Sioux rivers in violation of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's federally protected rights. Despite violent police-orchestrated terror, including the use of dogs, the heroic resistance led by Indigenous people has only grown stronger, sparking national and international support.

A series of solidarity events under the banner of “#NoDAPL Global Weeks of Action” began on Sept. 3 and will continue through Sept. 17. See [nodaplsolidarity.org](#).

We are in full solidarity with the magnificent struggle of thousands of Indigenous and non-Native people who are at Standing Rock, in what is now known as North Dakota, protecting the land and water against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. They are protecting the Missouri River and the drinking water of millions against the brazen efforts of corporations and corrupt politicians to push through an unnecessary pipeline on the Standing Rock Sioux Nation's treaty land and despite Standing Rock's lack of consent.

Indigenous Nations throughout the Americas have been on the frontlines of environmental devastation for decades. It is long past time for everyone to respect Indigenous leadership, listen to Indigenous voices and stand with Indigenous peoples in their many struggles.

We respect and honor the sovereignty and right to self-determination of Standing Rock and all Native Nations. We fully recognize the necessity of their right to refuse consent for any development or exploitation of land and water in their territories, from Oak Flat, Ariz., to Mauna Kea, Hawaii. We are painfully conscious of the ongoing poverty and genocide experienced by Indigenous people both on and off reservations.

Protecting the water and insisting that water is a human right are issues key to our future. While many people now know about the drinking water crisis in Flint, Mich., we also note that more than a tenth of Native homes in the the U.S. do not have clean drinking water. In addition to the water crisis in some colonies like Puerto Rico, we are aware that it also exists in Black and farming communities, while thousands of poor people live in cities that are aggressively shutting off water due to exorbitant fees.

We acknowledge that all people in the U.S. today are living on Indigenous land. #NoDAPL and hundreds of other ongoing Indigenous struggles are as close to our hearts as the monumental struggles of Black people to defend their lives. Our solidarity with Native struggles is not newly born. Members of Workers World Party have supported freedom for Leonard Peltier, Wounded Knee in 1973, The Longest Walk, Big Mountain, the 1990

Continued on page 3



Civil Rights struggle, Birmingham, Ala., 1963.



Flint, Mich., 2016.



Standing Rock, N.D., 2016.

DUMP TRUMP

Converge on borders



October 7-10, 2016

Converge on the U.S./Mexico Border

3



PIGS v. WORKERS

5

KAEPERNICK

Impact grows

7

VENEZUELA

Tale of two demonstrations

8



PHOTO: PSU.V.ORG.VE
Great red sea fills Caracas' Bolivar Avenue, supporting President Nicolás Maduro and for peace in Venezuela, Sept. 1.

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After conflicting ruling Mumia supporters regroup

By Henry Hagins

The field of legal and political battle has taken on even more sophisticated dimensions in the last few days, as Mumia Abu Jamal’s defenders devise and carry out new strategies that will help “keep open” a breach found in a recent decision by Judge Robert D. Mariani.

On Sept. 1, the judge dismissed on a technicality part of Mumia’s lawsuit to receive medication from the Philadelphia Department of Corrections to treat his hepatitis C. At the same time, Mariani cited the DOC for having violated Mumia’s constitutional rights, the Eighth Amendment in particular, under the department’s own hepatitis C treatment protocol. The protocol applies to Mumia and the 6,000-plus prisoners held captive inside the clutches of the state who are infected with hepatitis C.

While disappointing, Mumia’s advocates see new routes to securing not only the highly recommended antiviral treatment from the DOC, but in Mumia’s ultimate release from prison, too. Attorney Rachel Wolkenstein lays out a withering critique of the decades-long rail-roading that Mumia has been subjected to under false pretense:

“A new legal action filed by Mumia Abu-Jamal in the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas on August 7, 2016, provides a path in the courts to overturn Mumia’s conviction and win his freedom. The legal underpinning is the recent precedent-setting U.S. Supreme Court decision *Williams v. Pennsylvania*, 136 S.Ct. 1989 (2016), which holds it is a violation of the due process right to an impartial tribunal free of judicial bias if a judge participating in a criminal appeal had ‘a significant personal involvement as a prosecutor in a critical decision’ in a defendant’s case.

“Ronald D. Castille was a senior Assistant District Attorney during Mumia’s 1982 trial and the Philadelphia District Attorney during Mumia’s direct appeal of conviction and death sentence. Ronald D. Castille was a Justice of the Pennsylvania

Supreme Court during the entire period of Mumia’s appeals of his post-conviction proceedings from 1995-2008.

“Castille’s role as both prosecutor and judge in Mumia’s case, in light of the Williams decision, opens the door to a court decision vacating (overturning and dismissing) all Pennsylvania Supreme Court denials of Mumia’s post-conviction petitions. If this new legal action succeeds, Mumia would get ‘do-overs’ to the legal challenges he made to the racist frame-up conviction, for which he has now spent close to 35 years in prison, almost thirty in solitary confinement on death row.” (rachelwolkenstein.net)

Upon reflecting on the judge’s decision, both Mumia and lawyer Bob Boyle were optimistic. Mumia saw it as “a good beginning that a federal judge recognizes that what the commonwealth is doing, and has been doing for years, is not only unjust, but not right, unconstitutional.” (Democracy Now, Sept. 2)

Bob Boyle, one of Mumia’s attorneys in this lawsuit, saw that an opening had been created in the decision and that, while the technicality issue didn’t sit well with himself and attorney Bret Grote, the situation provided room for rebuttal, which they will pursue.

On the political front the following actions are planned: On Wednesday, Sept. 7, actions led by Pam Africa, Suzanne Ross, Johanna Fernandez, and other organizations and groups are planned in Philadelphia.

On Monday, Sept. 12, Pam Africa, Mireille Fanon, Suzanne Ross and others will update activists at the Solidarity Center in New York City about the road ahead and the findings of a special United Nations commission that carefully examined the social and political conditions of people of African descent in the U.S.

While the forces supporting Mumia continue along the victorious path of struggle, it helps to remember the observations by comrade Amílcar Cabral:

“Tell no lies, claim no easy victories. A luta continua.” □

NO EXECUTION
by
Medical Neglect
FREE MUMIA
ABU-JAMAL!



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MUNDO OBRERO
WORKERS WORLD ★

Who we are & 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 outmoded capitalist system is dragging 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 its unplanned, profit-driven stranglehold over the means of production.

Workers built it all — it belongs to society, not to a handful of billionaires! But we need a revolution to make that change. That’s why for 57 years WWP has been building a revolutionary party of the working class inside the belly of the beast.

We fight every kind of oppression. Racism, sexism,

degrading 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. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-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 imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions 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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WORKERS WORLD ★ this week

★ In the U.S.

Mumia supporters regroup	2
Trump goes to Mexico, returns deriding immigrants	3
West Virginia: State-sponsored white supremacy	3
Portland riders fight unfair bus fare	4
Workers’ Alliance protests homeless evictions	4
Film Review: ‘Accidental Activists’	4
On the Picket Line	4
Police vs. workers and oppressed	5
Atlanta cop indicted for murder	6
Police re-victimize teenager in cop sexual abuse scandal ..	6
The political rebellion of Colin Kaepernick	7
UCSF medical staff support Kaepernick	7
Jersey activists: ‘Free Chelsea Manning!’	10
Detroit: Hungry for knowledge? The library is open!	10
Baltimore: Rev. C.D. Witherspoon opens campaign	10

★ Around the world

The other Venezuelan demonstration	8
Brazil’s Rousseff ousted by coup	8
Puerto Rico: Protest disrupts PROMESA conference	9
Zika spreads in U.S., is prevented in Cuba	9
Racist Israel takes more Palestinian land	11
U.S.-NATO find pretext in Crimea for anti-Russian actions ..	11

★ Editorial

Who are ‘the workers?’	10
------------------------------	----

★ WWP Presidential Campaign

Defend Standing Rock	1
Solidarity with Sept. 9 prisoner strike	6

★ Noticias en Español

Manifestantes impiden éxito conferencia PROMESA	12
‘Juegos’ de guerra EUA empeora crisis de Corea	12

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Vol. 58, No. 36 • Sept. 15, 2016
Closing date: Sept. 6, 2016

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly
except the first week of January by WW Publishers,
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone:
212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$30; institu-
tions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and
edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to
Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY
10011. Back issues and individual articles are available
on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing,
Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A
searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription.
Subscription information is at workers.org/email.php.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011.



Trump goes to Mexico, returns deriding immigrants

By Teresa Gutierrez

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump traveled to Mexico City on Aug. 31 at the invitation of Mexico’s President Enrique Peña Nieto. Both Trump and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton had been invited. Only Trump accepted and at the last minute.

The purpose of Trump’s trip was not clear, but most pundits agreed that it was an attempt by the Trump campaign to try to position the nominee as “presidential” and “stately” as possible. In reality, the meeting became nothing more than a photo op.

But upon Trump’s return to the U.S., where was his first stop? None other than Phoenix, where he spoke the same night on immigration policy.

Arizona has become ground zero for the anti-immigrant campaign that has swept the U.S. since 2006. It was in Arizona where racist, Nazi-like rhetoric and actions against migrants began.

And prevailed.

Not only were immigrants and other prisoners treated viciously and dehumanized by infamous Sheriff Joe Arpaio, but a horrible anti-Latinx climate exists in Arizona that includes the shutdown of Mexican-American studies in universities and even banning books written by Latinxs.

Arpaio is a right-wing law enforcement official in the mold of racist, brutal sheriffs like Bull Connor, who bashed Civil Rights demonstrators in Alabama in the mid-1960s.

Arpaio not only endorsed Trump for president, he was a featured speaker at the

Republican National Convention.

During the mid-to-late-2000s, right-wing militias like the Minutemen invaded the U.S.-Mexico border, militarizing it even further. They created a dangerous, hateful, racist presence with the approval of Arpaio and other law enforcement agencies.

In fact, Arizona was one of the last states to recognize the Martin Luther King Holiday. First, it rescinded Martin Luther King Day, setting off a massive boycott in 1987, and then, only voted to revive the holiday in 1992 because plans to hold the Super Bowl in Phoenix were jeopardized.

So it was no coincidence that racist, fascist demagogue Donald Trump chose Phoenix for his first stop after Mexico City.

There he gave a major immigration policy speech. Press accounts called it “the most hard-lined speech on immigration from any candidate in modern times.” (MSNBC)

Journalist Dan Rather on the Rachel Maddow Show on Sept. 1 said Trump’s speech was “a hellish mix of vituperative venom.”

And that it was. Halting immigration, along with a racist vilification of Mexicans, has been a cornerstone of Trump’s campaign. On day one he succeeded in getting the attention of every racist individual who resents immigrants when he called all Mexicans coming into the U.S. “rapists” and “criminals.”

Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric was so violent last week that some of his “Hispanic” supporters abandoned him right afterwards. Yes, Trump has support from conservative and colonized Mexicans,



many who are owners of businesses or are from the conservative evangelical community.

Part of Trump’s plan was his chilling announcement that he would deport 2 million workers in the first hour of his presidency. Immigrant activists immediately issued an alert against this dangerous rhetoric.

Trump still demands a wall be built on the Mexico-U.S. border. He continues to shout out at his rallies “WHO WILL PAY FOR IT,” with the audience screaming in response, “Mexico, Mexico!”

Trump galvanizes racists

All indications are that despite the unpopularity of Hillary Clinton, the powers that be from Washington and Wall Street prefer her as the best candidate to carry out their wars abroad and repression and exploitation at home. Despite posturing to the Left at times in order to court the Sanders supporters, Clinton is totally aligned with the capitalist agenda of war, racism and repression.

And the anti-immigrant policies that are being carried out today are being done under a Democratic President. President Barack Obama has deported more immigrants than any other U.S. president to date.

Even if Donald Trump loses the election, he has succeeded in opening up divisions in the working class and has gal-

vanized racists and white supremacists. He has tasted the power of a demagogue and has been correctly compared to Hitler and Mussolini.

Someone like that, as well as his incited supporters, are not likely to just disappear on Nov. 9. Trump and his ilk are likely to continue with their vitriolic and racist propaganda that will be directed again against migrants. They will be free to target the Black community, which during the election season Trump has tried to use against the undocumented.

From Oct. 7 to 10, the School of the Americas Watch has called for a convergence on the U.S.-Mexico border. SOAW has held demonstrations annually for decades at the school that trains Latin American military officers, now at Fort Benning, Ga., to protest the U.S. military role in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This year, in a very progressive act, SOAW is calling for this convergence at the U.S.-Mexico border as a protest of the militarization of the border and in solidarity with migrants.

The Border Convergence will take place in Nogales, Ariz., and will hold an action on the Mexico side in Sonora. (soaw.org)

The Moorehead/Lilly Presidential Campaign plans to attend the convergence and send representatives. It urges the progressive and working-class movement to support this important action as it is a concrete way in this election year to counter Trump’s anti-immigrant rhetoric.

West Virginia

State-sponsored white supremacy

By Benji Pyles

A spokeswoman and assistant communications director for right-wing West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey was revealed on Aug. 25 to have been featured in white supremacist propaganda, a “Stop White Genocide” video.

In the video, Carrie Bowe, previously employed by the conservative Family Policy Council, recites numerous racist talking points. Many of the slogans are common in the white supremacist and neo-Nazi movement, such as “Anti-racist is a codeword for anti-white.” Bowe also states there is “a program of genocide against my race, the white race.” The video features four white women dressed all in white against a white background,

with each spouting that white people are victimized and oppressed by “race mixing” and immigration.

The video was originally uploaded to YouTube in 2012. An hour after the Charleston Gazette-Mail exposed the video, Morrisey fired Bowe. Morrisey, a conservative white man tasked as the state attorney general with defending civil rights, says he was “unaware” of Bowe’s views.

Delegate Sean Hornbuckle, one of only three Black lawmakers in the 134-member West Virginia Legislature, told the Gazette-Mail that the firing was only because of the upcoming election: “[Morrisey] fired somebody because he wants to win an election. It’s terrible that you have people in your office secretly, behind closed doors, doing things like this.

Defend Standing Rock

Continued from page 1

Mohawk blockade, the 1975 Menominee takeover, Indigenous Peoples’ Day struggles in many cities and much more. Our members also have a long and proud history of supporting anti-pipeline and anti-fracking struggles.

As Black people whose Elders were attacked by dogs during the times of slavery and the Civil Rights struggles, we condemn the despicable actions of private security companies hired by the corporations behind the Dakota Access Pipeline that unleashed dogs and pepper spray on peaceful Water Protectors, including children. We share outrage at the injustice of peaceful Water Protectors having their road access blockaded by police and cell

phone service cut off, while being subject to police surveillance and arrest.

Finally, we call on all people who oppose corporate greed and destruction to take immediate action — locally and nationally — in support of the #NoDAPL Water Protectors and to follow Indigenous leadership to stop fracking and pipelines wherever they live. The rapacious corporate greed of capitalism can only be overturned by millions of people united in revolutionary struggle.

Mni Wiconi. Water Is Life.
Monica Moorehead (writing from Lenape Territory) and
Lamont Lilly (writing from Occoneechi Territory)
September 3, 2016

If your [assistant] communications director feels like that, it shows a lot.”

Though trying to distance himself from the overt “white nationalist” he employed, Morrisey has his own reactionary and racist positions. Bowe officially represented his office this year at an event in support of a Religious Freedom Restoration Act (HB 4012). This bill and ones like it across the U.S. are notorious for attempting to provide a legal pretext for business owners to discriminate against LGBTQ individuals, Arabs, Muslims or anyone else they deem contrary to Christian “religious beliefs.” (The bill passed in the state House of Delegates, but was killed in the state Senate.)

Morrisey also went out of his way to

DONATE! DONATE! DONATE!

The Moorehead/Lilly presidential campaign needs your donation now



Workers World Party candidates — Monica Moorehead for president and Lamont Lilly for vice president — have marched against the Republicans in Cleveland and the Democratic Party machine in Philadelphia. They have gone coast-to-coast speaking to workers and people of color about

REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM.
In the remaining weeks before the Nov. 8 election, we have a chance to reach millions more with ads, online voting, ballot access work and additional travel around the country.
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Here’s the schedule for Monica’s Midwest tour:
Sept. 9 in Lansing, Mich.;
Sept. 10 in Detroit;
Sept. 12 in Dearborn, Mich.;
Sept. 15 in Chicago;
Sept. 16 in Milwaukee;
Sept. 17 in Madison, Wis.

All events are free and open to the public. For weekly updates, visit workers.org/www/campaign-news/.

Contributions are urgently needed, no matter how small or large. Please make a generous donation today at workers.org/www/donate/.
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Portland riders fight unfair bus fare

By Sage Antonia Collins
Portland, Ore.

Bus Riders Unite of Portland, Ore., is fighting for Low Income Fare Equity, demanding an equitable bus fare for low-income riders. On Aug. 31, workers gathered in front of TriMet’s administrative office. TriMet is the public agency responsible for mass transit in the Portland area.

The demonstrators presented a 32-page report detailing how TriMet can meet the LIFE demand. They delivered the report directly into the hands of the TriMet board of directors with chants of “Bus Riders Unite! Transit is a human right!”

Several speakers from BRU — people of color, people with disabilities, women — lined up to convey their mission and relate their struggles. They stressed that the bus fare is too high for low-income Portland households.

BRU is “a grassroots initiative that collectively organizes low-income people and people of color for public transit justice in the Portland metropolitan area.” It is a part of OPAL [Organizing People/Activating Leaders] Environmental Justice Oregon, whose



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

mission is “building power for Environmental Justice and Civil Rights in our communities.”

The same day as the rally, OPAL echoed the voices of the demonstration in its website post, saying, “People who depend on TriMet are being priced out of the service area by rising housing costs, stagnant wages and record-high eviction rates. We must keep our region economically diverse and inclusive, or we risk making segregation worse.”

BRU’s militant, multinational activism has won several victories, including the right to testify at TriMet board meetings and implementation of a community-elected Transit Equity Advisory Committee. □

On the picket line

By Sue Davis

Long Island U. faculty locked out

Even before their contract expired on Aug. 31 and before classes start on Sept. 7, 400 members of the faculty and adjunct teaching staff at the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University received notice that they were being locked out as of Sept. 3. The university said that it was taking this measure to pre-empt a strike vote to be taken on Aug. 31, and that replacement faculty would be teaching classes.

The bargaining committee of the Long Island University Faculty Federation had been in negotiations since April, but a number of major sticking points have remained: a longstanding imbalance in salaries at the Brooklyn campus compared to those at the Post campus on Long Island, and changes to post-tenure review, adjunct teaching hours, and faculty input in class size and online curriculum.

In a LIUFF statement released Sept. 1, the union denounced the proposed parity clause between the two campuses as “inadequate” and called the changes the university wants “onerous” and “harsh.” LIUFF President Dr. Jessica Rosenberg said the union “will not be intimidated by a lock-out that is unprecedented in LIU history, and will continue to bargain in good faith.” (Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Sept. 5) In fact, The Nation noted on Sept. 4 that this is the first time in U.S. union history that faculty have been locked out at a university.

The LIUFF announced that on Sept. 7, students will be met by a picket line at the Brooklyn campus at Flatbush and DeKalb avenues. A union meeting is called for Sept. 6. (liuff.net) To show solidarity with this struggle, sign the American Federation of Teachers letter at tinyurl.com/hj39lgm.

Struggle for union continues at Trump Hotel Las Vegas

On Aug. 26, the largest picket line yet marched on the Trump Hotel Las Vegas, demanding a union contract for 500 housekeepers, porters, cooks and other mostly immigrant workers — 55 percent women and 56 percent Latinx. Joining them were members of the Ironworkers union, in Las Vegas for their annual convention, other unionists, and faith-based and community supporters. Although the National Labor Relations Board certified the workers’ election to join the Culinary and Bartenders unions (both affiliated with UNITE HERE) last December, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump continues to show anti-worker, anti-union hostility by refusing to recognize the unions and negotiate a contract.

The NLRB General Counsel has issued four separate unfair labor practice complaints against Trump Hotel Las Vegas for alleged offenses since 2014. This July an NLRB administrative law judge issued a new decision that the hotel committed six unfair labor practices, including illegally threatening and interrogating employees. Of course, Trump Las Vegas appealed it. On Aug. 17, the NLRB General Counsel issued a new complaint alleging that Trump Las Vegas is illegally refusing to comply with the NLRB order upholding union certification.

Meanwhile, on Aug. 16, Culinary Union Local 226 launched www.VegasTravelAlert.org/Trump, a website to educate and inform the travel industry about the ongoing, escalating labor dispute at the Trump Hotel. Workers there are paid wages and benefits worth approximately \$3 less an hour in comparison with the thousands of union workers on the Las Vegas Strip. (culinaryunion226.org, Aug. 16 and 25)

Illinois domestic workers win bill of rights

Domestic workers in Illinois are celebrating a new bill of rights that Gov. Bruce Rauner signed into law Aug. 12. As of Jan. 1, nannies, housecleaners, homecare workers and other domestic workers — mostly older women, immigrants and/or women of color — will receive the minimum wage, protection from discrimination and sexual harassment, and one day of rest every seven days for workers employed by one employer for at least 20 hours a week. The bill of rights was needed to amend four Illinois state laws, capping a 5-year campaign to make Illinois the seventh state to adopt such protection — following California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York and Oregon. (In These Times, Aug. 16)

The National Domestic Workers Alliance seeks to eliminate the exclusion of domestic workers under the 1938 federal so-called Fair Labor Standards Act — an exclusion made under pressure from segregated Southern states, and adopted by most states. □

Workers’ Alliance protests homeless evictions

By Mike Kühlenbeck
Des Moines, Iowa

The Des Moines Workers’ Alliance protested the city’s eviction of homeless camps by “evicting” the city officials responsible on Aug. 29.

Community Development Director Phil Delafield and Deputy Zoning Enforcement Officer SuAnn Donovan are “responsible for the evictions” in several locations around the city, according to a DMWA public statement.

DMWA members posted an “eviction notice” on the door of Delafield’s home on the day the camps were to be cleared. The group says there is a “strong correlation between the location of evictions and the City’s development deals with wealthy private interests.”

DMWA was founded by Sofia Mattson, Conor Murphy, Jack Petsche and Patrick Stall earlier this year to build “working class power to defend against bosses, landlords and political elites.” Since then DMWA has expanded to general members and dozens of others

engaged in their organizing.

According to the official aims of the DMWA, “We demand an end to the division of common people based on race, gender, sexuality or other categories. Common people have common interests, which can and should be worked on collectively.”

DMWA Communications Officer Conor Murphy told WW, “At the moment, we plan on continuing to put pressure on the city to end homeless evictions and create a real solution to Des Moines’ housing crisis.”

Promoting one such demonstration at the Parks and Recreations building at 1551 E. Martin Luther King Parkway on Aug. 22, DMWA said, “There are more than enough vacant houses in Des Moines — abandoned, foreclosed on, or forgotten — than people without homes. We refuse to live in a city that brutalizes its homeless citizens while buildings sit empty.”

The DMWA is also “building prison networks inside and outside and hopes to find ways to put pressure on the prison system through direct means.”

For more information, visit www.dsmworkers.org. □

Film Review: ‘Accidental Activists’ fight for same-sex marriage, adoption rights

By Martha Grevatt

During their long struggle for justice — which culminated in the 2015 Supreme Court decision giving same-sex couples the right to marry — Michigan nurses Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer described themselves as “accidental activists.” That phrase became the title of a film released earlier this year chronicling their four-year legal battle.

“Accidental Activists,” which premiered at the Detroit Free Press Film Festival in April and screened again in Detroit on Aug. 30, opens with a re-enactment of a near collision involving a semitrailer truck and Rowse and DeBoer’s vehicle. The narrowly averted accident forced the couple to consider the consequences of one of them dying.

While they were co-raising three adopted children, under Michigan law only married couples could adopt children jointly. Rowse and DeBoer could not marry in Michigan, which had one of the most restrictive same-sex marriage bans in the U.S. If the adoptive parent were to die, the children she had adopted would be “legal strangers” to the other parent, who would have no custodial rights.

Determined not to let this scenario occur, in 2011,



PHOTO: ECLECTA BLOG/ANNE SAVAGE

Nurses April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse at home in Michigan with three of their five adopted children.

DeBoer and Rowse took a bold step — suing for joint adoption rights.

Filmmaker Mandi Wright, who covered the case for the Free Press from start to finish, takes us into the Rowse/DeBoer family home. We become part of an emotional roller coaster ride, with each legal advance bringing tears of joy and each setback or delay bringing tears of pain.

Less than a year into the battle, the two and their legal team were unexpectedly faced with a monumental decision. Federal Judge Bernard Friedman ruled that because the denial of joint adoption was based on

Continued on page 11

Police vs. workers and oppressed

By Sam Marcy

This article is slightly edited and updated from its first appearance in the Jan. 29, 1971, issue of Workers World newspaper. The writer was a founding member and chairperson of Workers World Party.

[Some say] that there are good cops and bad cops, just like there are good capitalists and bad ones. ... The truth, however, is that there is objectively speaking not a shred of class identity between workers and the police. The fundamental interests of the workers are diametrically opposed to those of the police and are absolutely irreconcilable with them.

Producers or parasites?

A worker is, above all, a producer. The police officer is a parasite who lives off what the worker produces. No truer words could be said! All the material wealth which is now in the possession of the capitalist class was produced by the workers. When a worker goes out on strike she [or he] is merely trying to retrieve a portion of the wealth which her [or his] labor power produced.

The worker gets back in the form of wages only a portion of what he [or she] produces. The rest is what the capitalist class retains in the form of profit (really the unpaid labor of the workers).

The gross national income of the U.S. last year reached [an] astronomical sum. ... It was all produced by workers: Black, Brown, white, men and women and even children. The struggles of all the workers, insofar as their immediate demands are concerned, are merely to retrieve a larger portion of this wealth which they produced for the bosses and which the bosses keep for themselves.

Cops contribute nothing to social wealth

What have the cops contributed to the production of this unprecedented amount of wealth? Nothing at all. In fact, their principal function is to guard the wealth for the capitalists, protect their monopolist profits from the demands of the workers. ... That's the very essence of a cop: to crack the heads of strikers and practice the most inhuman brutality against the Black, Puerto Rican and Chican[x] communities.

A cop is a mercenary hired by the capitalist class through their agent (the city government) to keep the mass of the workers and the oppressed in complete subjection. They utilize all the forces and violence at their disposal whenever the masses rise up in rebellion against the unendurable conditions imposed by the master class.

The police are the most parasitic social grouping in society. When they work — if that's what it can possibly be called — their labor is directed against the workers and oppressed. Graft, corruption, intimate collaboration with all sorts of underworld figures and enterprises such as gambling, narcotics and a thousand other shady businesses — that's what cops are really engaged in.

They are utterly inseparable from crime and corruption itself. One could not exist without the other. Both are nourished and supported by the nature of the capitalist system itself. To put the police on a par with the workers is to erase the difference between the persecutors and their victims.

Such incidental operations of the police as traffic control and other related useful functions for society are deliberately tacked on by the government to police control when they in reality should

be separate and independent activities of workers apart from the parasitic regular police functions.

What about ... 'Social Democrat' cops?

The police in every capitalist country are trained in the spirit of civil war against the workers and the popular masses in general. This is so even in the rare cases, like pre-war Austria and Germany, where substantial sections of the police considered themselves "socialists" or "social democrats" because a large section of the populations of these countries were either socialists or communists.

However, at the critical moment when the fascists in Austria made ready to seize power by a coup, the police unanimously and cheerfully lined up with them and opened up a civil war against the workers. In Germany proper, they joined the storm troopers. They played a prime role in Hitler's attempt to ferret out every militant worker and every progressive person and haul them off to the concentration camps. These same police systematically carried out the torture of hundreds of thousands of socialists and communists, not to speak of the unbelievable atrocities against Jews.

In this country, who does not know that the Klan and the John Birch Society are the most intimate collaborators with the police and in some cities actually control the police?

Who does not know that almost all the strike-breaking agencies in the country work hand in glove with the police? Both are in the service of the industrialists as soon as the workers make an independent move of their own.

Army of occupation in oppressed communities

In the Black and Brown communities, the police play the role of a foreign occupation army and practice a form of cruelty and brutality which differs only in degree from the U.S. occupation army in Vietnam and Cambodia. As a token of the high esteem and affection in which these communities hold the police, they have coined the word "pig" as synonym for cop and this word has passed into the universal language of the oppressed. ...

Every cent paid to the police comes out of the hides of the workers. Every cent they get is at the expense of welfare, housing, schools, and other facilities and services that are needed by the people. ...

Unlike workers, when police go out on strike [or engage in job negotiations], they are not trying to retrieve money withheld from them for useful work done on behalf of society. Their services are solely and exclusively in the interests of one class of society only: the ruling class. Clarity on this point is absolutely indispensable. If the police find themselves in a controversy with the ruling class over the amount of money they should get as mercenaries, the workers should treat this as an internal struggle in the camp

of the enemy and not confuse it with a struggle of their own class.

Of course, there are exceptional cases where police strikers, in a struggle with the capitalist state, have no alternative but to turn for support to the workers. These cases are rare indeed, such as the Boston police strike of 1919, which Calvin Coolidge, then governor of Massachusetts, broke. In such cases it is the duty of the workers' leaders to adroitly intervene in the struggle.

In doing so, they must make clear that their intervention is not motivated by any class solidarity with the police (who on the morrow of their victory will again proceed to club the heads of striking workers) but out of motives of working-class expedience — that is, to help the police undermine the capitalist state structure. The longer a police strike lasts, the more it undermines capitalist law and order. In that task, a revolutionary worker should help, while helping even more to build workers' self-defense groups.

The various parasitic elements which constitute the capitalist state are always in conflict with each other on how to divide among themselves the juiciest portions of the city, state and federal treasures. Like thieves, they are invariably at each other's throats, each seeking a greater share of the loot. These parasitic elements comprise the police, detectives, prison officials, executioners, various state and local anti-subversive squads, and the judicial bureaucracies. These are not to be compared to firefighters, sanitation workers or other workers who have been co-opted by the government into the capitalist state apparatus so as to keep their wages in check. These workers perform useful tasks and will continue to do so even in the highest form of socialist society. ...

Will there be cops when classes are gone?

One way for a Marxist to judge whether a specific social group in the present capitalist state setup is parasitic or really performs socially necessary and useful work is to ask whether such groupings would be needed in a socialist system after the abolition of all class rule. Clearly police will not be needed. With the abolition and disappearance of all vestiges of class privilege, the need for a coercive special force, even a workers' militia, becomes superfluous.

However, men and women who work to make a more sanitary social environment and make it free from all sorts of hazards, such as fire, will of course be needed. If even in a socialist society the need for a coercive force such as police continually diminishes as the socialist system develops to a higher and higher form, then all the less do we need police in a capitalist society. Here its fundamental function is to suppress the working

class and in particular use the most brutal violence against the Black, Chican[x] and Puerto Rican people.

It is to be noted that the current wave of police insurgency comes after a considerable period when they have been engaged in actual civil war against the Black and Brown communities. The ruling class has felt itself more and more indebted to the police precisely because of this. Having been highly flattered for their brutal role in the recent period, the police are now demanding extra privileges and remuneration for their stormtrooper role in those communities and on the college campuses as well as in the recent strike struggles throughout the whole country.

The police have also become more vociferous in denouncing the so-called lenient judges and demanding that the government "take the handcuffs off the police." This cry is nothing but a fascist demand for the right to unrestricted use of force and violence against the civil population. It is in this context that we must view the police strikes [and job negotiations] as well as the general historical role that they play in the class struggle.

Paris Commune dispelled cops — and crime

That the working class needs no capitalist police to secure and defend them was never more clearly demonstrated than in the first great proletarian revolution more than a hundred years ago — during the Paris Commune. Scarcely had the Paris Commune been established (the first truly working class government had just begun to survey the tasks ahead of it) when the world had its first vision since the dawn of class society of what would happen to the entire capitalist police establishment on the day of the proletarian revolution.

"No more corpses at the morgue, no nocturnal burglaries, scarcely any robberies," says Karl Marx about the Paris Commune in his celebrated book, "The Civil War in France."

"In fact, for the first time since the days of February 1848," he remarks, "the streets of Paris were safe and without police of any kind."

Is there a capitalist government anywhere in the world that can make such a boast even for one day? Is there any large city anywhere in the capitalist world which is free even for a single day of any crime and could do without any police of any kind as was the case with the Paris Commune? Merely to ask the question is to answer it. To put an end to crime it is first of all necessary to put an end to the thoroughly criminal rule of the bourgeoisie. It is their very existence which breeds not only crime and corruption but virulent racism, imperialist war and genocide.

To infuse the working class with a revolutionary attitude toward the police is at the same time ideological preparation for the overthrow of the capitalist class. □

MARXISM, REPARATIONS & the Black Freedom Struggle

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper. Edited by Monica Moorehead.

Racism, National Oppression & Self-Determination Larry Holmes

Black Labor from Chattel Slavery to Wage Slavery Sam Marcy

Black Youth: Repression & Resistance LeiLani Dowell

The Struggle for Socialism Is Key Monica Moorehead

Domestic Workers United Demand Passage of a Bill of Rights

Imani Henry

Black & Brown Unity: A Pillar of Struggle for Human Rights

& Global Justice! Saladin Muhammad

Harriet Tubman, Woman Warrior Mumia Abu-Jamal

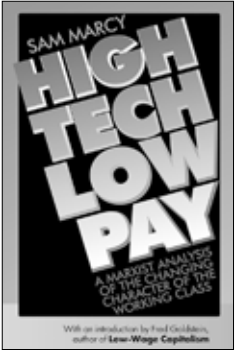
Racism & Poverty in the Delta Larry Hales

Haiti Needs Reparations, Not Sanctions Pat Chin

Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of Slavery, Sharecropping & Segregation Consuela Lee

Are Conditions Ripe Again Today? Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion John Parker

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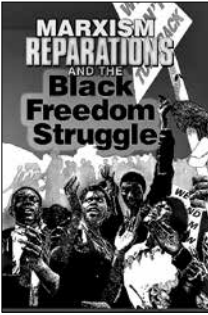


High Tech, Low Pay

A Marxist Analysis of the Changing Character of the Working Class

By Sam Marcy with an updated introduction by Fred Goldstein author of *Low Wage Capitalism*.

Books are available at all major online booksellers.



In the spirit of Attica uprising

Solidarity with Sept. 9 prisoner strike

On September 9, prisoners from coast to coast will rise up against the unimaginable cruelty of the U.S. prison-industrial complex in the first ever nationally coordinated prisoner general strike. Led by prisoners deep inside the belly of the imperialist beast, the strike will seek to end once and for all this new form of chattel slavery and legalized human trafficking in U.S. prisons.

According to the inmate organizers themselves, “We are not making demands or requests of our captors, we are calling ourselves to action. To every prisoner in every state and federal institution across this land, we call on you to stop being a slave, to let the crops rot in the plantation fields, to go on strike and cease reproducing the institutions of your confinement.” Read the prisoners’ full statement here: tinyurl.com/zwbagg4.

There are 2.3 million people in U.S. concentration camps as prisoners of the racist U.S. war on Black, Latinx and poor people. Millions of dollars of sophisticated U.S. weaponry are being produced by inmate



Monica Moorehead and Lamont Lilly, the presidential and vice presidential candidates for Workers World Party, released the following statement on Aug. 30.

slave labor.

The federal prison system forces tens of thousands of inmates to work in intolerable conditions for 23 cents an hour, and

often no pay at all in state facilities. This creates tremendous downward pressure on all workers’ wages, which include low-wage and part-time workers.

Poor women, especially Black women, are the fastest growing section of the U.S. prison population, and queer and trans people are particularly at risk for arrest and incarceration due to institutionalized sexism and bigotry.

Since the founding of Workers World Party in 1959, our consistent message has been to emphasize the importance of centering on the struggles of the most oppressed. This is the truest path to work-



Attica prisoners raise fists in support of demands made during prison uprising.

ing-class unity, and it is our strongest weapon in the fight against all injustices under capitalism. It is why during the heroic Attica prison uprising, the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, a Workers World Party’s mass unit, was specifically requested by the inmates to join Black Panther Party Chair Bobby Seale and attorney William Kunstler, who were mediators at the prison. Tom Soto was an observer for the PSC.

Our steadfast belief in the power of unity under the leadership of the most oppressed is also why the Moorehead-Lilly campaign, as well as our entire party,



Attica prison inmates negotiate with Commissioner Russell Oswald, lower left.

stands in complete solidarity with all prisoners who fight for freedom and liberation. We urge our friends and allies, as well as all people of conscience, to join us by attending a support demonstration outside a prison on Sept. 9.

Inmates, former felons, youth, undocumented workers and all others who are denied even the most elementary right to vote in the capitalist elections are invited to make their voices heard by voting for our candidates at Vote4Socialism.org.

The rage that burns within each of us in the presence of injustice will be the light by which we build a better world. To echo the sentiment of the martyred Attica brothers: “This is the sound before the fury.”

In steadfast solidarity and undying commitment to liberation,

Workers World Party and the Moorehead/Lilly 2016 campaign

Atlanta cop indicted for murder

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

A 23-member Fulton County grand jury unanimously voted on Aug. 3 to indict Atlanta police officer James R. Burns on multiple charges including felony murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and violation of oath of office in the shooting death of 22-year-old Deravis Caine Rogers.

On the night of June 22, Burns responded to a call for backup at a northeast Atlanta apartment complex from an officer involved in the foot chase of a suspect in a car break-in. According to witnesses, Rogers had calmly gotten into his car and was beginning to drive away when Burns jumped out of his patrol car, gun drawn, and fired a single shot into the passing vehicle. Rogers, a warehouse worker who had just started his own clothing line, was hit in the head and died at the scene.

Burns, a 34-year-old expert marksman and former high-risk security coordinator for nongovernmental organizations in Pa-

kistan, Haiti and Somalia, claimed Rogers was trying to kill him with his car.

In media interviews, a grand jury member declared that the police dash camera video and two eyewitnesses proved that “he clearly lied.” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

Burns was fired July 1 by Atlanta police Chief George Turner, following an internal investigation. Announcing his decision, Turner wrote that Burns’ use of deadly force was “unnecessary and unreasonable.” Saying that Burns had no information about any alleged suspect, Turner stated in the termination letter, “The driver of the vehicle posed no threat to you.”

A follow-up police investigation determined that no car had been broken into at the Buckhead complex.

Rogers’ parents and family members participated in a 24-hour vigil outside the Fulton County Courthouse on Aug. 2, along with hundreds of activists from numerous organizations, including Atlanta Black Lives Matter, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, the NAACP and

the National Action Network. The protest included a live radio broadcast by station WAOK personality Derrick Bozeman; disc jockeys and musical performances; marches around the courthouse; food distribution to the participants and the many homeless men and women that congregate in the area; and street visibility with banners, signs and leafletting on a major Atlanta thoroughfare. Dozens of people participated for the entire 24 hours. Security was provided by members of the Nation of Islam, and people’s attorney Mawuli Davis emceed the proceedings.

Among the many speakers who called for justice and an end to police terrorism were the mothers of Nick Thomas, Ariston Waiters and Jamarion Robinson, all young Black men from the metro Atlanta area shot by law enforcement agencies.

Robinson was killed on Aug. 5 by U.S. marshals who were serving him with an arrest warrant. After breaking down his apartment door with a battering ram, they fired off some 90-plus rounds, with 67 of them hitting the 26-year-old. Ac-

cording to investigators working for his family, there is evidence that three bullets were fired from a position standing over him before the body was dragged down the stairs, leaving a bloody trail.

An extensive study by reporters from the Atlanta Journal Constitution and Channel 2 exposed that between the years 2010 to 2015, although some 200 police officers had shot and killed a civilian in the state, not one was ever charged. However, Robert Olsen, a DeKalb County police officer, became the first in July when he was charged with felony murder in the death of Anthony Hill, a young veteran who was experiencing a mental breakdown and walking naked in the parking lot of his apartment complex. Olsen claimed he feared for his life and shot the young man dead.

While the crowd outside the Fulton County Courthouse celebrated the indictment of Burns, all understood what Caine Rogers’ father said to the media: “This is a first step in getting justice for our son, justice for Caine.” □

Police re-victimize teenager in cop sexual abuse s



By Terri Kay
Oakland, Calif.

A teenage victim, raped and sexually abused by Bay Area police officers from Oakland and several other police forces since she was a minor, has been victimized by police agencies once more. Celeste Guap is the key witness in as yet unchanged cases against at least eight Bay Area officers.

Despite that fact, the Richmond Police Department arranged to send Guap to a rehabilitation center in Florida. This department has officers involved in the wide-scale predatory policing scandal. Suspiciously, after being at the center for only three days, the victim has been charged with assault and battery and is in the Martin County jail, held under \$300,000 bail.

Attorney Pamela Price slammed the fact that law enforcement agencies sent Guap to Florida before a single charge against a police officer had been filed: “From a legal perspective, it looks like witness tampering.” Price pointed out that there are plenty of rehab programs in the Bay Area. Her organization, the Coalition to Restore Public Trust, held a press conference on Sept. 1 to demand that Kamala Harris, attorney general

for California, take over the investigation into the case.

The East Bay Express, which broke the rape and sexual abuse story in May, ran a Sept. 2 editorial calling on authorities to extradite Celeste Guap to California. The editorial concluded: “Meanwhile, we need to find out who sent her into darkness in the Sunshine State, because that decision endangered her life. Whoever made it needs to be held accountable.”

The editorial attacked local mainstream media for revealing the teenager’s real name, stating: “When it comes to disclosing the names of sex-crime victims, reporters and editors typically abide by the standards established by the Society of Professional Journalists.” Apparently, Florida law enforcement released not only her identity but her medical history to press. (The name used in this article is not the teenager’s name, but a pseudonym in place in media coverage since May.)

In an East Bay Express Sept. 1 article on Guap’s Florida arrest, Guap’s mother questioned “why a drug treatment center

Growing impact

The political rebellion of Colin Kaepernick

By Monica Moorehead

Much has happened since Colin Kaepernick, the 28-year-old San Francisco 49ers quarterback, made national and international news when he was spotted sitting during the playing of the U.S. national anthem at a National Football League pre-season game on Aug. 26. Although he took the tactic of quietly sitting in protest of police brutality and the general oppression of Black and other people of color, the result created a loud firestorm of both support and criticism.

What Kaepernick has done since Aug. 10, when he sat during the anthem in the first pre-season game, is nothing short of a heroic political act of rebellion. His stance has tarnished even more the façade of the U.S. being the “greatest democracy” on the face of the Earth. He boldly stated on Aug. 27 that “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses Black people and people of color. ... There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder.” (See Aug. 30 WW article, tinyurl.com/zgdyrt3) Some of the police getting paid leave were those recently acquitted for the murder of Freddie Gray in Baltimore.

On Aug. 28, a Black GI started #VeteransForKaepernick on Twitter to answer critics who said that Kaepernick’s protest disrespected veterans and active duty soldiers. Thousands of military personnel came to Kaepernick’s defense, stating that they defended his constitutional right to protest. Many GIs were angry that right-wing critics were speaking on their behalf. They wanted to thank Kaepernick for helping to give them a voice for their issues as well. The tweets were posted by Black GIs, men and women, speaking on the police brutality that they face at home, along with their family members. Others raised the general plight of veterans, who fight imperialist wars abroad but return home traumatized with mental, emotional and physical trauma. They spoke of facing no hospital care, homelessness and no jobs, resulting in an average of 22 vets committing suicide every day.

#VeteransForKaepernick became the No. 1 trend worldwide on Twitter for almost two days.

Police, NFL hierarchy attack Kaepernick

As to be expected, police organizations, especially in the Bay Area, have condemned Kaepernick’s views on police bru-



Jeremy Lane

ality. The San Francisco Police Officers Association issued a letter to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and 49ers CEO Jed York, demanding that Kaepernick be strongly reprimanded and apologize for his “foolish” statements. Some members of the Santa Clara police “union,” who “work” the 49ers games, have threatened to boycott those games, particularly in response to Kaepernick’s wearing of socks during practice sessions that depict the police as pigs.

High-profile athletes can help expose the myth that the police as a force are protectors and servers, rather than the deadly occupiers they really are — whether it’s Kaepernick or even members of the Women’s National Basketball Association’s Minnesota Lynx, who wore Black Lives Matter T-shirts following the police murders of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile in July. Police also threatened to boycott the Lynx’s games.

Seven anonymous NFL executives launched vile attacks on Kaepernick, including labeling him as a “traitor.” Interviewed by Mike Freeman of Bleacher Report, an online sports publication, one executive stated, “He has no respect for our country. F--k that guy.” Another executive told Freeman that he would rather resign than sign Kaepernick to a team. A NFL general manager told Freeman that he had never seen a player more hated by NFL executives than Kaepernick. (theguardian.com, Aug. 31)

Groundswell of solidarity

On Sept. 2, before the start of the last pre-season game for the 49ers versus the Chargers in San Diego, a heavily militarized city, Kaepernick was joined by another Black teammate, Eric Reid, in kneeling down while the national anthem was played. “I just wanted to show my support for him and the cause that he is trying to bring awareness to,” Reid stat-



Eric Reid and Colin Kaepernick.

ed. (49ers.com, Sept. 2) On the same day, Jeremy Lane, a Seattle Seahawks player, sat during the anthem in a game against the Oakland Raiders. Lane told the Seattle Times: “I wasn’t trying to say anything, just standing behind Kaepernick. I just liked what he’s doing and I like standing behind him.” (Yahoo.com, Sept. 2)

And then there is Megan Rapinoe, a professional soccer player with the Seattle Reign, who bent on one knee during the playing of the anthem before a game in Chicago on Sept. 4. Rapinoe, who is white and a lesbian, is the first known non-NFL player to openly take “a nod from Kaepernick.” In an interview with *espnW*, she stated: “I am disgusted with the way he has been treated and the fans and hatred he has received in all of this. It is overtly racist. ... We need a more substantive conversation around race relations and the way people of color are treated.” (*espn.com*, Sept. 5) She has pledged to keep kneeling before every game this season.



Megan Rapinoe kneeling

Support for Kaepernick’s stand has come from the legendary singer Harry Belafonte and actors Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins and Rosie O’Donnell. The number of supporters will continue to grow.

Kaepernick: Actions ‘bigger than football’

Kaepernick’s protest has even helped to expose the racism behind the words of “The Star Spangled Banner,” written during the War of 1812 by Francis Scott Key, an aristocrat and slaveowner. The third stanza of the anthem celebrates the massacre of the Colonial Marines, Black men who escaped slavery and joined the British Royal Army to win their freedom outright. There is a growing debate on whether the anthem should be played at any sports events.

Kaepernick, as an individual, reflects the Black Lives Matter struggle ever since he stated on Twitter that the police murder of Alton Sterling was a “lynching.”

Calling Kaepernick “a noble and courageous man,” Belafonte told TV One’s Roland Martin in an interview: “To mute the slave is always been to the best interests of the slave owner. ... When a Black voice is raised in protest to oppression, those who are comfortable with our oppression are the first to criticize us for daring to speak out against it.” (newsone.com, Sept. 1) □

UCSF medical staff support Kaepernick



UCSF doctors and medical personnel in support of the Frisco 5 hunger strikers in May.

By Terri Kay
San Francisco

A group of more than 300 doctors, nurses, staff and medical students at the University of California San Francisco issued a statement in support of Colin Kaepernick on Aug. 31.

Calling themselves the Do No Harm Coalition, “who are organizing to address racism and police violence as the critical public health emergencies they are,” they declared: “Everyone needs to find the courage to get involved. Every single person in every layer of society. And when each person finds their voice and engages with the discomfort, grasping it with their own lived experience, they become a healer of the ailing social body.”

The open letter to Kaepernick, penned by Do No Harm member Rupa Marya, M.D., stated: “You are doing your part. And for this, we thank you and express our deepest respect. We welcome an opportunity to meet with you at UCSF in our coalition. We would like to welcome you into our ranks as a healer with a mission to end police violence and racism.”

Many of these same people were involved in White Coats for Black Lives last May to “ensure the people who went on hunger strike in SF to protest police killings — the Frisco5 — were safe and cared for during their peaceful manifestation of outrage and grief.”

The entire statement is available at tinyurl.com/DoNoHarmKaepernick. □

scandal

would call the police on someone going through withdrawal from a highly addictive substance such as heroin.” The mother added: “I don’t want to believe it’s a setup.”

The Take Back Oakland Coalition has been pushing demands related to Bay Area police officers involved in seemingly criminal actions. The TBOC made a simultaneous Aug. 9 visit to the offices of Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O’Malley, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon and Contra Costa District Attorney Mark Peterson, demanding investigation and prosecution of the officers involved.

In a press release, the TBOC commented, in part: “In the three months since the public learned of the Bay Area-wide sexual exploitation and misconduct by law enforcement, no charges have been brought against any officers or staff involved in the commission or cover-up of crimes and departmental policy violations. Why aren’t our District Attorneys dedicating the same resources toward this gang activity as they would if it were conducted by civilians?”

Heavy press presence with the TBOC

delegation pressured O’Malley into coming out of her office to talk. Despite the scandal blowing wide open in May, O’Malley claimed she was still investigating and would have an announcement — “in the next couple of weeks.”

Demanding a response, the TBOC had four key demands:

1. Prosecute all sworn officers who committed or had peripheral involvement in crimes or the conspiracy to cover up those crimes.
2. Investigate with the intent of pressing charges and jailing criminal cops and enumerate the reasons.
3. Announce a full investigation by an outside agency that will examine how many people have been wrongfully incarcerated due to cases touched by these officers, as well as the depth and breadth of corruption within each department.
4. Acknowledge the imbalance of power that always exists between police officers and the general public and state that the coercion and enticement of a minor is never the fault of the child.” □

What the media left out

The other Venezuelan demonstration

By Cheryl LaBash

The international corporate media reported on a large demonstration in Caracas, Venezuela, on Sept. 1. But there were two demonstrations that day. The one not covered in the U.S. was huge and in support of the progressive government of President Nicolás Maduro.

Red-clad supporters packed Avenida Bolívar in the heart of the capital for as far as the eye could see. They were responding to the call for a “Great Occupation” issued by Maduro and the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) to defend peace in Venezuela.

A New York Times article on Sept. 2 did not even mention #LaCalleEsChavista, meaning “the street supports the Chávez program.”

Instead, the media widely reported on the action built for weeks by the anti-Chavista electoral coalition called Mesa de la Unidad Democrática (MUD), which was limited to the more affluent suburb of Miranda. MUD had projected that a million people would come to the capital on Sept. 1 to “take Caracas” and overthrow the Bolivarian Revolution.

On Aug. 31, Jeanette Charles reported that “opposition legislator Freddy Guevara admitted that the opposition had used an ‘economic boycott’ to force the government out. Moreover, he vowed that the opposition would reach Miraflores Palace on September 1st, just as they did in 2002.” She was referring to the short-lived coup on April 11 of that year. (venezuelanalysis.com)

In the days before Sept. 1, Venezuelan intelligence and state security arrested

several opposition figures armed with explosives and found 92 Colombian paramilitaries with several caches of weapons, explosives and military uniforms near the Miraflores presidential palace. (Venezuelan Television, VTV)

While MUD marchers posed for photo ops in T-shirts proclaiming peace, their organization unleashed violent gangs to attack Venezuelan security forces with firebombs and rocks. It was an attempt to renew the 2014 “Guarimba” strategy that killed 43 innocent people when the right wing set up barricades, strung wires across roads to decapitate riders and fire-bombed government buildings. This time security lines prevented any provocations from reaching the Caracas center or government buildings.

Since the death of President Hugo Chávez on March 5, 2013, the opposition has used violence as well as destabilization tactics against the Maduro government, which has faced a steep drop in world oil prices. Capitalist owners have restricted production, and needed goods are hoarded by illicit distribution networks that divert a staggering 37 percent to 40 percent of retail goods to street sales and even sales in other countries. (Statistics from a webinar with Venezuelan Consul General Jesus Rodriguez, based in Chicago.)

The government has offset some of the inflation-fueled price hikes by decreeing a 50 percent pay increase for workers and issuing debit cards with cash assistance to the poorest Venezuelans. But the inflation also negatively impacts better-off Venezuelans, who drive the opposition.

In July the Venezuelan government took over a factory producing diapers and

other personal hygiene products at the request of 971 workers who had occupied the plant after transnational corporation Kimberly-Clark shut it down. More than 1,200 farms, companies and other private businesses have been taken over by the Bolivarian government. (Wall Street Journal, July 11)

MUD won a parliamentary majority in the December 2015 election. This parliamentary attack mirrors the campaign against Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, who was ousted on Aug. 31, a day before the mobilizations in Caracas. MUD has now collected enough valid signatures to trigger a vote to recall President Maduro, but its campaign was held too late to force a new presidential election. Instead, if Maduro were to be recalled, the PSUV vice president would become president until the next election in 2018.

At stake is the distribution of the profits from Venezuela’s enormous oil reserves. Elected governments that prioritize anti-poverty measures, education, health care and well-being for the working masses are seen as impediments by profiteering corporations. In the 17 years since the Bolivarian Revolution began, the government has transformed the lives of the previously marginalized majority of Venezuelans, including the Indigenous, those of African descent, LGBTQ communities, women, people with disabilities and elders. Their rights have been codified in the Bolivarian Constitution.

U.S. vs. Bolivarian Venezuela

On Dec. 18, 2014, the day after President Barack Obama announced his government’s willingness to resume

diplomatic relations with revolutionary Cuba, he deepened the U.S. attack on the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela by signing the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act. The bill was authored by New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, a virulent opponent of the Cuban Revolution.

The act was implemented on March 9, 2015, when Obama declared “a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Venezuela.” (whitehouse.gov) This “national emergency” was renewed for a year this March 3.

Secretary-General Luis Almagro Lemes of the Organization of American States directly intervened in the 2015 Venezuelan parliamentary elections. The OAS, headquartered in Washington, D.C., has campaigned openly on the side of pro-capitalist MUD, hiding its counterrevolutionary intent behind the figleaf of “democracy.”

MUD coalition members have long been funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development and the National Endowment for Democracy. Marina Corina Machado headed the nongovernmental organization called Súmate, which received NED funding. Machado, a former opposition lawmaker, signed the decree to dissolve all state institutions during the failed 2002 coup against Chávez.

It is clear that the opposition wants to dissolve all the social programs that have elevated the poorest Venezuelans, whether by parliamentary means or violence. □

Brazil’s Rousseff ousted by coup

By John Catalinotto

Sept. 4 — Completing, without surprises, a parliamentary coup that began last December, the Brazilian Senate, composed of a majority of corrupt officials subservient to the Brazilian oligarchy and to imperialism, voted 61-20 on Aug. 31 to remove Workers Party President Dilma Rousseff from office.

The vote ended 13 years of Workers Party (PT) governments that began with the election of worker-leader President Lula da Silva in 2002. It took place during Brazil’s economic depression, which is part of the worldwide capitalist downturn and not a result of government policies.

Rousseff’s ouster re-enforces the domination of Brazil by the 71,000 multimillionaires who rule Brazil’s 210 million people by controlling the judiciary, the corporate media and most Brazilian politicians.

In 1964 this class imposed its rule through an open military coup by the army, part of the state apparatus that serves the capitalist ruling class. Under that brutal military government, the young Dilma Rousseff was a heroic revolutionary who aided the underground struggle and was later captured and tortured as a prisoner.

The parliamentary coup also strengthens U.S. imperialism in Brazil and all Latin America, where Brazil’s role is so important. This maneuver was carried out with Washington’s support and has already won the blessing of U.S. politicians and Wall Street — as can be seen by the many articles the pro-capitalist Forbes magazine published this year attacking Rousseff.

U.S. imperialism aims to overthrow the popular governments of Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador using similar and other tactics. It has already aided a mixture of “parliamentary coups” and naked force to overturn elected governments in Honduras and Paraguay.

Illegal impeachment

The charges brought against Rousseff were for manipulating some budget items in order to spend in one area instead of another, which is often done by governments. No funds wound up in Rousseff’s pockets.

According to Latin American analysts, no one in Brazil, even those who oppose the PT, believes Rousseff is really guilty of the rampant corruption in which the rightist parties (and some PT elements) have participated.

On the other hand, most of those in the Senate who voted against Rousseff are themselves suspected of serious corruption in the so-called Lava Jato scandal.

After eight months of media attacks and scrutiny, when Rousseff was at a low point of popularity, her approval ratings were still higher than those for the new president. Current President Michel Temer, of the conservative Brazilian Democratic Movement Party and instigator of the impeachment against Rousseff, together with former Congress President Eduardo Cunha, were implicated in Lava Jato. Cunha was suspended from his post.

Cunha, a right-wing evangelical politician who opened the impeachment process, is under investigation by the Supreme Court for corruption and money laundering. He is accused of receiving \$5

million in bribes from a construction company related to Petrobras, the semi-public Brazilian petroleum company.

As some of the anti-Rousseff politicians themselves admitted in recordings, they pushed the impeachment to stop the investigations. “We have to solve that sh-t [investigations into the Petrobras scandal]. We must change the government to stop this bleeding,” said former Minister of Planning Romero Juca, who had to resign after his remarks were made public. (telesur.net, Aug. 30)

Pro-impeachment Senator Antonio Anastasia, who was in charge of preparing the final evidentiary report to the Senate, rejected Rousseff’s request to include the recordings, calling the facts “outside the scope of the trial.”

As if to admit the trial was a farce, the Senate subsequently voted 42-36 to allow Rousseff to keep her political rights, instead of preventing her from holding any political office for eight years.

Limits of social democracy

Through the early PT governments, Brazil’s economic boom allowed the government to aid the poor without confronting capitalism. Tens of millions of people living in poverty, especially in Brazil’s northern and northeastern states, received a guaranteed minimal income.

The capitalist downturn hit with a vengeance, and in the past few years, unemployment doubled to more than 10 percent. The Brazilian rich took steps to make sure they got whatever wealth they could get their hands on.



PHOTO: BRASIL DE FATO

100,000 demonstrate in Sao Paulo on Sept. 4, demanding ‘Temer out!’

While enough of the poor voted PT for Rousseff to win a second term — she received 54 million votes — the PT never mobilized their supporters into popular organizations outside the electoral process. Confronted with a united bourgeois class determined to ignore democracy and bring down Rousseff’s government, the PT was comparatively weak.

Rousseff tried to buttress her government by making concessions to the ruling class and the rightist parties. Every concession was met with greater demands for austerity. The concessions just deflated the popular enthusiasm that put PT in office in 2002.

Popular mobilizations

The first step of the interim Temer regime was to appoint a cabinet composed solely of European-origin men closely connected with the ruling rich. This disenfranchised the majority, consisting of women, people of African origins and Indigenous peoples. It also signaled an open attack on the working class and on all the benefits the PT had offered the poor.

Through the eight months of the undemocratic impeachment process, tens of thousands of Brazilian workers, farmers and other left forces, PT supporters and

PUERTO RICO

Protest disrupts PROMESA conference

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

The First Conference on PROMESA - the federal Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stabilization Act passed July 30 by the U.S. Congress - was not the success its organizers expected. The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce organized the Aug. 31 event at the luxurious Hotel Condado Plaza in San Juan to “educate” the business class on the consequences of the “PROMESA.”

Numerous social, youth and labor organizations called for a demonstration against the PROMESA law, its dictatorial Fiscal Control Board and the Aug. 31 conference. Such was the movement’s militancy that it made the conference fail. This triumphant outcome set a tone and sent a clear and resounding message from the Puerto Rican resistance about the attempt to impose a colonial junta.

Before describing the demonstration, it’s useful to know the expectations of the business class in Puerto Rico as well as in the U.S.

That same morning the conservative daily El Nuevo Día published an article

under the triumphal headline, “PROMESA forum filled.” It claimed that 650 entrepreneurs and executives would participate, and U.S. Congressional Republican majority leader Paul D. Ryan and Sean P. Duffy, the driving force behind PROMESA, were to address the conference by video.

According to the article, several panels would analyze Detroit’s bankruptcy process, and “various private sector executives will also discuss the various proposals submitted to the congressional bipartisan working group that analyzes the economy of the island in light of the provisions in PROMESA. Analysts, bondholders and bond fund managers of Puerto Rico will also participate in the event.”

Apart from the Chamber of Commerce, the article mentions that the event was “coordinated by Birling Capital, which was founded by ex-vice president of UBS Financial Services and former head of the Economic Development Bank, Francisco Rodriguez Castro, and by the Select Global Advisory Group and its founder Luis Jesus Aponte. The activity also has the support of almost 20 firms and companies, including MMM Holdings, Triple-S, the

accounting firms Kevane-Grant-Thornton and FPV & Galindez, Coca-Cola, Walmart, Amgen multinational, Tele-mundo, Uno Radio Group and Latin Media House.” (elnuevodia.com/negocios)

PROMESA Conference spoiled

After learning, on the eve of the protest, that police planned to prevent the demonstrators from arriving, protesters began reaching the site before dawn that day and surrounded all entrances to the hotel.

The protesters were determined to prevent the conference at any cost. Meanwhile, police Strike Force and motorized units blocked the entrances to the hotel.

At the same time, demonstrators blocked the avenue leading to the hotel. Although it was not a massive demonstration, the demonstrators did have enough presence to successfully block the way for those trying to get to the conference.

Protesters sat in the middle of the avenue and built barricades with stones. They surrounded those who tried to attend the conference and tried to discourage them. Many people turned around. Demonstrators also threw water at some people to

discourage them from participating.

Only a massive police presence — some demonstrators said it was triple their own number — allowed a few people to enter. In the videos of protesters and the transmission of television station WAPA, which covered the event live, the police could be seen surrounding those attempting to enter the hotel, shielding them from the anger of the demonstrators.

As always, the police brutally attacked the demonstrators.

However, the tactic of the activists was so successful that fewer than 200 people attended the business meeting, according to media reports. Although the organizers did not cancel the conference, they had to eliminate several panels.

Some candidates in the upcoming November elections for governor of Puerto Rico decided to cancel attendance at the conference. Earlier, the candidates of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, Maria de Lourdes Santiago, and of the Working People’s Party of Puerto Rico, Rafael Bernabe, refused invitations to attend the conference and made statements of solidarity with the demonstration. □

Zika spreads in U.S., is prevented in Cuba

By Lyn Neely

Transmission of Zika is escalating in Florida. As of Aug. 30, the number of locally contracted Zika cases jumped to 46 in Miami, Miami Beach and Tampa. Some 16,513 cases of Zika are now confirmed in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

President Barack Obama requested \$1.9 billion to control Zika in February. But Congress, back from summer recess, has still not allocated any federal funds or developed a centralized plan to stop the outbreak. Funding should have been apportioned last spring when it was clear that the virus was heading toward the Gulf states.

It is difficult to control Zika’s spread once transmission begins. Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which carry Zika, dengue and chikungunya viruses, live around and feed exclusively on humans. The rapidly reproducing mosquitoes thrive all year in the southern coastal states. Once infected after biting a Zika-infected person, they quickly spread the disease. Because only 20 percent of infected individuals show

symptoms, many of them unknowingly spread Zika when they travel.

Health care officials estimate \$2 billion is needed to control and track Zika-carrying mosquitoes and disease outbreaks, develop a vaccine and monitor pregnant women and babies.

Now Zika funding comes from some local governments and federal money diverted mostly from Ebola allocations. On Aug. 11, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced it apportioned \$81 million to develop a Zika vaccine. This money is being diverted from research projects for other diseases.

Some governors have spent state funds for mosquito control, but are asking Congress for sorely needed funds.

President Obama again appealed to Congress to allot funds to fight Zika on Aug. 27: “A fraction of the funding won’t get the job done. You can’t solve a fraction of a disease.” (whitehouse.gov)

Squabbling over Zika funding in Congress is absurd. The money is there. Funds could be taken from the bloated Pentagon budget of more than \$600 bil-

lion a year for weapons and war. Or from the \$1 trillion allocated for a 30-year “nuclear modernization” program.

Researchers detect more effects of Zika

In Brazil, Zika has been linked to over 1,800 cases of microcephaly, a type of fetal brain damage. In the U.S., 1,200 pregnant women have Zika; seven infected women have lost pregnancies. Sixteen babies have been born with Zika-related birth defects.

Recent brain scans of Zika-infected babies show that seemingly unaffected brains can develop damage even after birth. (RSNA Radiology, Aug. 23) The virus can also cause fetal blindness, abnormal joint and limb development and stillbirths.

Zika can be spread through sexual activity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises the vigilant use of condoms with pregnant partners. Recent studies report the virus can live for up to six months in semen and can also infect a fetus without infecting the pregnant woman.

The CDC reports that caring for a child with microcephaly could cost \$10 million over a lifetime. These children may never walk, talk or feed themselves; and their life expectancy is reduced.

In nine Latin American countries, requests for abortions have increased significantly since Zika warnings were issued last November, and even doubled in Brazil. Access to abortion is restricted in all these countries. (Live Science, June 22)

Fetal brain damage often shows up later in pregnancy, yet 43 U.S. states ban late abortions, some as early as 20 weeks post-fertilization. (Guttmacher Institute) Many Gulf states where Zika will hit the hardest have the strictest restrictions on abortions and often the least access to contraception. Florida bans abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy. Texas’ draconian regulations have severely reduced the number of clinics providing abortions.

How Cuba prevents a Zika outbreak

In Cuba, two new cases of locally acquired Zika were announced on Aug. 1.

But the government has prevented a viral outbreak after one case of locally acquired Zika was reported last March, and it has kept travel-related cases down to 30.

Cuba began fighting Zika before it arrived. The country’s socialist health care and community surveillance program was created in 1981 when dengue fever broke out in the region. Cuba eradicated Aedes aegypti then.

When another outbreak threatens, “it’s no problem for us to reinforce our system,” says Ileana Morales, director of science and technology at Cuba’s public health ministry. (Nature, Aug. 17)

Cuba employs a national reporting system and educational campaign to eliminate standing water everywhere mosquitoes breed. The country has a self-monitoring system of mosquito bites for all residents.

In February, Cuban airports began screening people arriving from Zika-infected countries. Medical workers regularly go door-to-door to see if anyone has symptoms.

The country’s health workers are now intensifying preventive efforts near the two recent victims’ homes. They spray pesticides, eliminate standing water and search for infected people and mosquitoes.

Cuba’s socialized medical system provides frequent prenatal exams. These provide an automatic detection system for microcephaly and other Zika-related birth defects.

The island’s researchers are working on a Zika vaccine, reported Maria Guzmán, head of virology at Havana’s Pedro Kourí Tropical Medicine Institute. She said international cooperation is important in helping Cuba and other countries address Zika: “It’s a problem of everybody. It’s a new challenge for the world.” (Nature)

Workers World wrote on May 26, “As Congress’s reaction to the threatened Zika epidemic shows, the capitalist health care model kills.” With a socialist system that puts people’s needs first, “Cuba provides a stellar example of how the Zika crisis can be handled with a slew of preventive public health measures.” □

Continued from page 8

critics alike, demonstrated against impeachment. These could be seen during the Olympics, when right outside the games thousands raised their main slogan, “Temer out!” (Fora Temer).

This slogan and opposition to the process has popular support throughout Latin America and even in the United States. Groups like the International Action Center joined expatriate Brazilians to defend Rousseff against the Brazilian oligarchy and U.S. imperialism.

But this movement was still too weak to stop the ouster. The rightists continue to reject any democratic process, including early elections this year, which most Brazilians want. While still in a difficult position, the Brazilian left has united against the Temer government.

Brazilian labor expert Ricardo Antunes wrote in Vermelho, the newspaper of the Communist Party of Brazil: “The scenario we face in the next six months is daunting, and will impel the labor and

social movements into passionate struggles.” Antunes expects Brazilians to “enter a period of social confrontation, of union and social demonstrations.” (vermelho.org.br, Sept. 4)

In his article Antunes quotes Joao Pedro Stedile, a leader of the mass Landless Movement of farm workers and landless peasants. Stedile has called for a general popular mobilization under the theme, “Temer out!”

“It’s the greatest of all the battles,” Stedile writes. “We want to struggle for changes in the political system of the country, with reforms of the political system and of the means of communication, ones that can only be carried out by a constituent national assembly. All these battles demand mass struggles and great popular mobilizations.

“We expect many struggles as we move forward,” adds Stedile. The coup-makers will receive “only the scorn they deserve as they wind up in the trash bin history has reserved for them.” □

WORKERS WORLD editorial

Who are ‘the workers’?

The National Labor Relations Board ruled on Aug. 23 that teaching and research assistants at private institutions of higher education have the right to organize unions and collectively bargain with the universities that both employ and educate them. The ruling was on a petition filed by graduate student unions affiliated with the United Auto Workers at both Columbia University and The New School demanding recognition.

In effect, the government has finally recognized these workers as workers.

This is not only a victory for the teaching assistants and research assistants who have struggled hard to win the right to organize, but a confirmation that the working class is much broader than often acknowledged. Many people still think of students and teachers at colleges as somehow elite and separate from the working class.

But on a national average, 50 percent of college instructors, including TAs and RAs, are part-time, low-wage workers. At Columbia, TAs are required to teach for some part of their graduate studies. They are paid \$1,800 per semester, per class, to prepare and teach classes and discussion sections, read and grade assignments, hold office hours, and run labs for undergraduates. Colleges depend heavily on TA and RA labor to fulfill instruction at pennies for wages.

These overworked and underpaid teacher-students, who are multinational and multigender, are exploited labor, like the rest of the working class. Their successful NLRB challenge refutes the concept that it is only white men who are the backbone of the working class in the U.S.

That notion is outmoded and just plain wrong. Yet it appears repeatedly in the media, especially when they characterize those who support Donald Trump. How many times have we heard that Trump’s base of support is “white workers”? Yet polls show that Trump supporters have an average household income of \$72,000 a year, well above the national median of \$53,657 reported by the U.S. Census Bureau for 2014.

The other factor the media invoke to claim Trump’s supporters are mainly workers is their level of education. According to this line of reasoning, being working-class is determined by whether or not you have gone to college. This also is a totally outmoded concept.

Working-class families, Black, Latinx, Asian, Native and white, immigrant or

born here, struggle hard to send their kids to college. These days, college is not mainly a choice about what job to train for. In many situations, it is a requirement for employment, including some factory work.

When this writer got her first real job in the late 1950s, she didn’t have a college degree and didn’t need one to find work as a lab technician in a hospital. In those days, on-the-job training was widely available. You got paid while you learned.

Not any more. Today, even though new technology has simplified many aspects of these jobs, anyone applying for a medical technician’s job needs a college degree. Nowadays, the median annual salary for a med tech’s job is \$38,970.

For most young people, to get the degree to get that job means being unavailable for full-time work for a year or two or more, spending tens, even hundreds of thousands of dollars on education, and going into debt.

So, are young people not workers because they’ve gone to college or because they are in graduate school for an advanced degree?

In fact, they reflect the U.S. working class as a whole, which has become increasingly multinational, increasingly female, with more LGBTQ people out at the workplace. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey, of the almost 149 million people employed in the U.S. at this time, nearly half — 46.8 percent — are women, while 11.7 percent are Black, 5.8 percent are Asian and 16.4 percent are Latinx.

The most active, militant section of the labor movement has been in those occupations where women and people of color are concentrated, like education, health care and food service. But a lot of white men work in these jobs too, and very few of those workers like Donald Trump.

This is the dynamic edge of the multinational, multigender working class in this country. It is moving to the left, not the right. The Trump movement, if it can be dignified as such, is a reaction to this progressive trend. It is led by a billionaire and may rope in angry, bigoted whites who are looking for a rich savior. But it offers nothing to the working class.

The rising struggle being mounted in the courts and in the streets by low-wage workers — like exploited teaching and research assistants — is what will bring working-class victory. □



The day after the historic NLRB decision, the Graduate Workers of Columbia, UAW Local 2110, sent a delegation to university President Lee Bollinger’s office to protest the administration’s opposition to their right to unionize.

Hungry for knowledge? The library is open!

The Detroit storefront office of Workers World Party, in Midtown near Wayne State University, is an anchor to the struggle against capitalism. A lot happens here, from classes, forums and shared meals on Saturday nights to the weekly meetings of the Moratorium Now! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions and Utility Shutoffs on Mondays. On another day volunteers might be stapling signs on sticks for a Black Lives Matter action, putting materials together for a booth at LGBTQ Pride, or silk-screening T-shirts demanding the freedom of political prisoner the Rev. Edward Pinkney.

Now, 5920 Second Ave. will be serving the people’s movement in another way. Workers hungry for knowledge — an essential weapon in the class struggle — have a new resource.

The Addington-Dostal-Kiya Memorial Library houses the beloved book collec-

tions of four Workers World Party comrades who are, sadly, no longer with us. Wendell Addington died in 1998, Ted Dostal in 2003, and Tashi Kiya and Frances Dostal both died in 2013. But with the library now open, Addington and Kiya of the Detroit branch and the Dostals of the Cleveland branch are still educating the next generation of revolutionaries.

These comrades gave us a rich cross section of movement literature, with a large number of titles covering African-American, labor and left history in this country; liberation movements in Asia, Latin America and Africa; the Soviet Union; and the classic works of Marxism. Many of these books and pamphlets have been out of print for decades. To touch them is to touch a piece of history.

So remember, next time you are in Detroit: The library is open!

— Martha Grevatt

Jersey activists: ‘Free Chelsea Manning!’



WW PHOTO: SUE HARRIS

Local activist organizations in New Jersey staffed an informational table focusing on the struggle to free U.S. Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning at the 2016 Jersey City, N.J., LGBT Pride Festival, which was attended by thousands on Aug. 27.

Anakbayan New Jersey, Bayan Queer Caucus Northeast, NJ Action 21, Veterans For Peace (Chapter 021/Northern New Jersey) and the Jersey City Peace Movement will continue to work together on other issues that face their communities.

For Baltimore NAACP president Rev. C.D. Witherspoon opens campaign

By Carl Lewis
Baltimore



The Rev. C.D. Witherspoon, a leader of the Baltimore People’s Power Assembly, and the president of the Baltimore Southern Christian Leadership Conference, has announced he is running for president of the Baltimore NAACP.

Now 35 years old, “C.D.” has been a social activist since attending Arbutus Middle School and Catonsville High School, when as a youth he advocated having a Black Studies program and Black History as part of the high school curriculum. He and his spouse, Sherelle Witherspoon, have been at the forefront of every protest in Baltimore, including those about Trayvon Martin, and the police killings of Anthony Anderson Sr. and Freddy Gray.

If there is no bullhorn around, don’t worry. C.D. will break the sound barrier with his booming voice and the eloquence of his message.

C.D. is active in the struggle for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage and sees that struggle as being together with the Black Lives Matter movement. In a statement on social media on the essence of his campaign, C.D. wrote: “Together we have fought for the \$15 living wage, community benefits for Port Covington, in which the city is practicing ‘gentrification’ for the big real estate developers at taxpayers’ expense, against the horrendous water [rate] increase for city residents, against the cancellation of the

Red Line.” The light rail line would ease transportation for working people.

C.D. continued: “I was advised that quality of life issues are not traditional Civil Rights issues. I promptly responded ... that quality of life issues are not traditional Civil Rights is-

suues, but rather human rights issues that affect all of us. We must fight for racial justice, social justice and economic justice to begin the process of repairing our condition.” And “that what we are doing today is for all the victims of police terrorism, the murders and abuse of women, the LGBTQ community, everyone!”

C.D. added: “Police brutality is essentially a symptom of a much larger issue that all of us are familiar with. People of color experience the crisis, but it is also poor people, the people in the low economic echelons. We are cognizant that the same people killed by the police are having recreation centers shut down in their neighborhoods, are having schools shut down in their neighborhoods, are having elected officials who are not responsive to their issues.”

Along with the socialist candidate for the Baltimore City Council president, Sharon Black, C.D. Witherspoon’s campaign for president of the Baltimore NAACP will advance the struggle of those in Baltimore who fight for the people.

For more information or to help the campaign, write to Reverend C.D. Witherspoon, 1405 North Fulton Ave., Baltimore, MD 21217. □

Racist Israel takes more Palestinian land

By Joe Catron

The Israeli government has sharply increased its illegal settlement of the occupied Palestinian West Bank, approving the construction of over 2,200 housing units since July 1.

They include more than 1,000 new settler homes in Jerusalem alone, as well as the retroactive approval of 179 existing ones in the Ofarim settlement 20 miles north of the ancient city. While nominally illegal under Israeli law, these earlier colonies were built in clear view of the Israeli occupation forces that have ruled the West Bank since conquering it in 1967.

All Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention and are regarded as such by the United Nations and every world power but Israel and the United States.

Nevertheless, Israel’s announcement of further settlement expansion caused routine statements of opposition by the U.N. and other bodies, but no steps to stem its seizure of Palestinian land.

“Let me be clear,” Nickolay Mladenov, the U.N. special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, told the Security Council on Aug. 29, “No legal acrobatics can change the fact that all outposts — whether ‘legalized’ under Israeli law or not, whether located on state land, or absentee land, or private land — just like all settlements in Area C and East Jerusalem, remain illegal under international law.” (un.org)

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest told reporters Aug. 31, “This significant expansion of the settlement activity poses a serious and growing threat.” A European Union statement on

Sept. 1 called Israel’s latest encroachment “a serious concern.”

However, Israel has yet to face its first sanction by the U.N., the EU remains its biggest trade partner, and the U.S. is negotiating an expansion of its military aid package, already valued at \$3.1 billion a year, to “compensate” it for the nuclear agreement with Iran.

The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on Sept. 4 for the Security Council to take action against “Israel’s theft ... of Palestinian land.” (english.wafa.ps)

Israel’s colonization of Palestine and racism against Palestinians have been challenged by the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement. These struggles have met increasing success, forcing Israeli enterprises such as cosmetics company Ahava and home car-

bonator manufacturer SodaStream to abandon operations in West Bank settlements. They have also driven global firms like French telecommunications giant Orange and water, waste and energy company Veolia out of the Israeli market altogether.

Other efforts continue, including campaigns to push British-Danish security conglomerate G4S to end its contracts with Israel’s prison system, occupation forces and settlement infrastructure, and to demand the world soccer federation, the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, follow its own policy by expelling Israeli settlement teams.

Catron is a member of Al-Awda New York: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition and an organizer with Samidoun: Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network.

U.S.-NATO find pretext in Crimea for anti-Russian actions

By Greg Butterfield

The U.S. and European Union have used the so-called Russian annexation of Crimea as a pretext for NATO’s military buildup in the region and for anti-Russian sanctions.

On Aug. 18, major U.S. media — which had scoffed at Russian reports of the foiled attack in Crimea — publicized Peter Poroshenko’s unsubstantiated claim that a “full-scale Russian invasion” may be in the offing. “The probability of escalation and conflict remains very significant,” the Ukrainian president said in a televised speech to military personnel in the Lvov region of western Ukraine. “We don’t rule out full-scale Russian invasion.” (Chicago Tribune, Aug. 18)

Poroshenko continued, “If the situation escalates in the east and in Crimea we don’t rule out the possibilities we will be forced to introduce martial law and

announce a [further] mobilization [military draft].” (Reuters, Aug. 18)

Coming just days after Kiev’s sabotage teams were captured in Crimea, and Ukraine’s more than two-year brutal war against the population of Donetsk and Lugansk, these charges stood reality on its head.

What really led up to the sabotage actions of Aug. 7-8?

Since the destruction of the USSR 25 years ago, the domination and breakup of an independent capitalist Russian Federation have been a primary goal of Wall Street, the Pentagon, and Republican and Democratic party leaders.

Over the past decade, Russia’s international prominence has increased as an alternative source of aid and trade for countries struggling to withstand U.S. military and economic power. Moreover, Washington has found its attempts at internal subversion in Russia stymied,

Part 2 so pressure has grown for a more direct military solution to the “Russian problem” via accelerated NATO expansion into eastern Europe and the former Soviet Republics.

In June 2016, NATO staged its largest war games since the Cold War. Dubbed Anakonda-16, this mobilization of 30,000 troops from 20 countries on Polish territory was a provocation against Moscow. (The Independent, June 6)

Anakonda-16 set the stage for the NATO conference in Warsaw July 8-9, where the imperialist military alliance pledged to increase troops and weapons throughout eastern Europe, build ballistic missile systems in Romania and Poland and provide a “complex package” of additional aid to the far-right junta in Kiev. (DONi News, July 10)

Meanwhile, Kiev was escalating the already tense situation in the military zone bordering the Donetsk and Lugansk People’s Republics, pouring in fresh troops and weaponry and accelerating daily, bloody attacks against civilian targets.

During the week of July 9-15, Ukrainian shelling in the Donetsk People’s Republic killed eight people. (DONi News, July 15)

The United Nations reported that 9,500 people have been killed in Ukraine’s war with Donbass.

corporate media. Meanwhile, Ukrainian troops have targeted homes, schools, water pumping plants and other vital civilian infrastructure.

After the NATO conference, fresh supplies of U.S. weapons and war materiel poured into Ukraine. Donetsk intelligence reported that on July 13, the “Partnership for Peace” of the U.S. military command in Europe delivered 2,500 rifles, machine guns, grenade launchers and other weapons to the International Center for Peacemaking and Safety in Starichi, western Ukraine. (DONi News, July 29)

At the end of July, the U.S. Air Force, under cover of a “humanitarian cargo” of medicines, also delivered 16 tons of ammunition. (Russia Insider, July 29)

The U.S. Embassy in Kiev announced July 28 that dozens of Ukrainian soldiers had just finished training on the use of surveillance drones at a Pentagon facility in Alabama. That day, the embassy reported the delivery of “72 hand-launched surveillance drones” to “transmit live video images and location data to ground control stations.”

U.S. Marines staged a provocative amphibious landing operation on the Black Sea coast in Ukraine’s Odessa region on July 27, timed to coincide with Sevastopol Navy Day celebrations in Crimea. The war games, with more than 220 U.S. and Ukrainian troops and 15 amphibious vehicles, were unreported in the West. (DONi News, Aug. 2)

Film Review:

‘Accidental Activists’ fight for same-sex marriage, adoption rights

Continued from page 4

the fact that the parents were unmarried, the case was really about Michigan’s law denying DeBoer and Rowse the right to marry.

To protect their family, the “accidental activists” could see no other option than to sue for the right to marry.

Bill Schuette, Michigan’s Tea Party attorney general, spent millions of tax dollars defending the bigoted ban. The state argued that somehow protecting “traditional marriage” was necessary because the purpose of marriage was “procreation.” Passed by the voters in 2004, the constitutional amendment not only banned same-sex marriage but also its “approximation” and was used to deny union-negotiated health insurance to state workers’ same-sex domestic partners.

After hearing both sides, Judge Friedman decided to hold a trial — another delay. During the two-week trial, supporters packed the courtroom every day to overflowing. Finally, the judge ruled to strike down the Michigan marriage ban. Immediately, over 300 couples married, but when Attorney General Schuette appealed, the federal appeals court stayed Friedman’s ruling. The appeals court ultimately reversed Friedman’s decision, ruling 2-1 to uphold bans on same-sex

marriage in Michigan and three other states.

This was a painful setback, but the plaintiffs in all four states took their fight to the Supreme Court. The rest is history: On June 26, 2015, same-sex marriage became legal in all 50 states in the U.S.

The film goes on to show the wedding and the joint adoption of the children — now five — by “Mommy and Mama.” At the end we are shown another reason why couples need the right to marry. Rowse is hospitalized after suffering a heart attack, likely induced by the stress of the past four years. Without a marriage license, DeBoer and the children could have been denied visitation rights.

“Accidental Activists,” which has yet to be screened in most major venues, reminds us of the serious harm done to countless real families by so-called defenders of “traditional marriage.” Now these bigots — like Trump’s running mate Indiana Gov. Mike Pence — think they can get away with blatant discrimination through anti-LGBTQ laws justified on the basis of hateful “sincerely held religious beliefs.”

This is the same hatred that took the lives of 49 people, mostly Latinx, at an LGBTQ club in Orlando.

The fight goes on! □

Russia, Donbass warn of Ukrainian escalation

As early as July 8 — when NATO officials gathered in Poland for their war conference — Alexander Lukashevich, Russian ambassador to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, warned of “a dangerous buildup of military activities of Ukrainian armed forces in different parts of the contact line in Donbass. There are reports about cleansings carried out by Ukrainian forces in settlements near the contact line — Maryinka and Schastye.” (Tass, July 8)

Lukashevich also pointed to reports of “deliveries of foreign military equipment, including unmanned aerial vehicles” — that is, drones which help target attacks. The Ukrainian military used them immediately. So on July 15, drones aided a daylight artillery attack outside Donetsk, the capital, which targeted Alexander Zakharchenko, head of the Donetsk People’s Republic. He was unharmed. (DONi News, July 15)

Week after week, Donbass and Russian officials’ warnings of growing Ukrainian aggression have been ignored by Western officials and gone unreported by the



Libertad para Oscar López Rivera, ¡YA!

Manifestantes impiden éxito conferencia PROMESA

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

La primera conferencia “1st PROMESA Conference” sobre la Ley PROMESA (Ley federal para la Supervisión, Gerencia y Estabilización Económica de Puerto Rico) que fue aprobada recientemente por el Congreso estadounidense, no resultó ser el éxito que sus organizadores esperaban. La Cámara de Comercio de PR había organizado el evento en el lujoso Hotel Condado Plaza en el área de San Juan para “educar” a la clase empresarial sobre los efectos de la “promesa”.

Ese miércoles 31 de agosto, un sinnúmero de organizaciones sociales, juveniles y sindicales habían convocado a una manifestación en contra de la Ley Promesa, su dictatorial Junta de Control Fiscal y su conferencia. Fue tal la militancia de la movilización que dio al traste la consumación de la conferencia. Este triunfal desenlace sienta las pautas – y envía un claro y rotundo mensaje – de la resistencia boricua en contra de la imposición de la Junta colonial.

Pero antes de describir la manifestación es útil saber las expectativas de la clase empresarial, tanto puertorriqueña como estadounidense.

El diario conservador El Nuevo Día esa

misma mañana había publicado un artículo triunfalista bajo el titular ‘Lleno el foro sobre PROMESA’ donde decía que participarían 650 empresarios y ejecutivos. Los congresistas republicanos del congreso estadounidense Paul D. Ryan, líder de la mayoría, y Sean P. Duffy, ambos generadores de la ley Promesa, se dirigirían a la audiencia por video.

Según el artículo, habrían varios paneles en los cuales también se analizaría el proceso de bancarrota de Detroit y “diversos ejecutivos del sector privado también conversarán acerca de las diversas propuestas presentadas al grupo de trabajo congresional y bipartita que analiza la economía de la Isla a la luz de lo dispuesto en PROMESA. Analistas, bonistas y gestores de fondos con bonos de Puerto Rico también participarán del evento”.

Aparte de la Cámara de Comercio, el artículo menciona que el evento fue “coordinado por Birling Capital, fundada por el exvicepresidente de UBS Financial Services y otrora jefe del Banco de Desarrollo Económico, Francisco Rodríguez Castro y por Select Global Advisory Group y su fundador Luis de Jesús Aponte. La actividad también cuenta con el respaldo de casi una veintena de firmas y empresas,

entre ellas, MMM Holdings, Triple-S, las firmas contables Kevane Grant Thornton y FPV & Galindez; las multinacionales Coca-Cola, Walmart, Amgen, Telemundo, Uno Radio Group y Latin Media House. (tinyurl.com/jlypq87)

Se aguó la “Prome-Conferencia”

Como se habían enterado la noche anterior de que se planeaba un operativo policial para impedir la llegada de la manifestación, desde casi la madrugada de ese día, las/os manifestantes comenzaron a llegar para rodear todas las entradas al hotel. Estaban decididas/os a impedir la realización de la conferencia a cualquier costo. Unidades de la Fuerza de Choque y la Motorizada bloqueaban las entradas al hotel.

Las/os manifestantes a su vez bloquearon la avenida que conduce al hotel. Aunque no era una manifestación masiva, sí tuvo una considerable participación, suficiente para cerrar el paso a quienes intentaban llegar a la conferencia. Se sentaron en el medio de la avenida, se construyeron barricadas con piedras, rodeaban a quienes trataban de asistir a la conferencia que tenían que cruzar a pie, tratando de convencerles para que no fueran. Muchas personas se regresaron.

A otras personas les echaban agua, en otro intento por disuadirles.

Las pocas personas que entraron, lo hicieron gracias a la masiva presencia policial que según algunos manifestantes, triplicaba el número de ellas/os. En los videos de manifestantes y por la transmisión de la televisora WAPA - que cubría en vivo el evento -se podía ver cómo la policía rodeaba a los que intentaban pasar al hotel, escudándose del furor de las/os manifestantes.

Como siempre, la policía arremetió brutalmente contra las y los manifestantes.

Sin embargo, la táctica de las/os activistas fue tan exitosa que según reportajes de los medios, menos de 200 personas acudieron a la cita empresarial. Los organizadores, aunque no cancelaron la conferencia tuvieron que eliminar paneles. Las/os candidatos a la gobernación de PR para las próximas elecciones de noviembre decidieron cancelar su asistencia a la conferencia. Ya anteriormente, la candidata por el Partido Independentista Puertorriqueño María de Lourdes Santiago y Rafael Bernabé, del Partido del Pueblo Trabajador, habían rehusado la invitación de asistir a la conferencia y se solidarizaron con la manifestación. □

‘Juegos’ de guerra EUA empeora crisis de Corea

Por Deirdre Griswold

El pueblo de los Estados Unidos se está cansando de pagar por las múltiples guerras en el exterior con su sangre, su esfuerzo y con los miles de millones de dólares que pagan en sus impuestos a este país. Además de la esperada oposición progresista a la guerra imperialista, ahora hay un nuevo fenómeno: Un creciente cansancio de las guerras se puede detectar incluso entre las/os abanderados de la extrema derecha que han seguido a Donald Trump.

Sin embargo, esto parece tener poco efecto en el Pentágono. Este lleva a cabo los planes para nuevas armas, nuevos “juegos” de guerra, nuevas bases en todo el mundo como si el dinero no importara, ni el estado abyecto de los veteranos que sufren una miríada de problemas físicos y psicológicos.

En este momento, el Pentágono está inmerso en otro de sus muchos ejercicios de demostración militar en contra de la República Popular Democrática de Corea. Éste, llamado eufemísticamente “Guardián de la Libertad de Ulchi”, envuelve un personal militar estadounidense de 25.000 miembros, basados no sólo en Corea del Sur, sino también en la parte continental de EUA, Hawái y Japón. Ellos están coordinando las operaciones con unos 50.000 soldados de Corea del Sur.

Es una versión moderna de cuando los gobernantes coloniales llevaban a las batallas los soldados de los países que habían conquistado. Los opresores daban las órdenes; los pueblos sometidos tenían que proporcionar la mayor parte de la carne de cañón. Excepto que hoy, con la guerra organizada por vía electrónica, los que dan las órdenes pueden estar cómodamente sentados en el otro lado del globo.

Hay dos estados coreanos: la República Democrática Popular de Corea (norte) y la República de Corea (sur). El norte se ha

comprometido a la construcción del socialismo, mientras que el sur se convirtió en la suplementación de la mano de obra barata a disposición de las empresas transnacionales del capitalismo estadounidense.

Sin embargo, sólo hay un pueblo coreano, que comparte un linaje, un lenguaje y una península. La mayoría de las/os coreanos del norte y del sur quiere la reunificación. Es la ocupación militar de Corea del Sur por Estados Unidos e impulsada por las corporaciones estadounidenses quien impide que esta herida cicatrice. Y es esta ocupación la responsable de las grandes tensiones existentes entre el norte y el sur.

Desde el comienzo de la guerra de 1950-1953 en la que EUA no logró conquistar el norte, a pesar de la invasión y la campaña de bombardeo que mató a millones, Washington ha amenazado constantemente la RPDC con armas nucleares. En los últimos años, el norte ha sido capaz de contrarrestar estas amenazas mediante la construcción de sus propias bombas nucleares y un sistema de misiles que ahora incluye la capacidad para lanzar las bombas desde submarinos.

Debería ser obvio que las guerras de agresión estadounidense en este período, que han terminado en la destrucción total de gobiernos soberanos - en Irak, Yugoslavia y Libia, por ejemplo - han aumentado la determinación de los líderes de la RPDC para reforzar sus defensas, cualquiera que sea el costo.

Desde que la Guerra de Corea terminó en un punto muerto hace 63 años, la RPDC ha hecho un llamado a un tratado de paz y al fin de la ocupación estadounidense del sur, para que las/os coreanos puedan trabajar los pasos hacia la reunificación de su país. La respuesta estadounidense ha sido una creciente militarización de la zona y una demonización del norte, que está a la par con la peor propaganda inventada por los nazis para degradar a quienes el impe-

rialismo alemán querían conquistar.

Los “juegos” de guerra estadounidense son vistos por la RPDC como práctica para una invasión de su país. Si esto ocurriera, las consecuencias serían incalculables. El

fin de esta situación crítica debe ser perseguido por los movimientos progresistas y anti-guerra: ¡EUA fuera de Corea! ¡Alto a las amenazas y al estado de guerra! ¡Firma de un tratado de paz ya! □

Abolir el capitalismo-luchar por el socialismo revolucionario

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Para ponerse en contacto con la campaña para invitar a los candidatos para que presenten un charla en su campus, sindicato, grupo comunitario, o reunión en su casa, o para más información, póngase en contacto con Teresa Gutiérrez administradora de la Campaña Moorehead / Lilly al 917.740.2628. Visita www.workers.org/wwp/ o por correo electrónico WWP2016@workers.org.

Paid for by the Workers World Party 2016 Presidential Campaign Committee Programa expedido el 17 de febrero de

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