



Solidarity with Indigenous sovereignty

STANDING ROCK

By Kathy Durkin

As we go to print, on Nov. 20 the N.D. police, backed by Blackwater mercenaries, fired water cannons at freezing temperatures, rubber bullets, mace and tear gas at unarmed water protectors at Standing Rock, injuring hundreds. Go to workers.org for updates.

Nov. 19—The heroic, months-long, bold and brave resistance by the Oceti Sakowin, the Lakota, Dakota, Nakota Great Sioux Nation, against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline through sacred lands in North Dakota has won the hearts and minds of people across the United States and around the world.

The Standing Rock Sioux are leading the struggle to safeguard the Missouri River from pollution, which could harm upwards of 18 million people. Their slogan, “Water is life, No DAPL!” is being echoed across the country on campuses, in communities and on the streets during demonstrations of solidarity which have grown in number and size since the struggle of these stalwart resisters began.

Indigenous peoples from near and far have gone to Standing Rock, joined by Black Lives Matter activists, Palestinian students, a delegation from the Filipino organization BAYAN USA, environmentalists, labor unionists, many left and progressive forces, and even international delegations. Thousands of supporters have traveled to North Dakota to join the encampment and show solidarity with Native activists standing up to brutal corporate mercenaries, militarized state police and the National Guard.

They are resisting the DAPL and the vicious assaults by government and private “security” forces carried out on behalf of oil profiteer Energy Transfer Partners, a Fortune 500 corporation. In building the 1,200-mile, \$3.8 billion pipeline intended to carry fracked crude oil, this capitalist monolith is driven only by its goal of reaping superprofits. In the process, ETP is flouting the federal treaty rights and sovereignty of the Standing Rock Sioux Nation and callously disregarding the vital need for a safe water supply, essential to human and all life.

“The militarized response to water protectors’ efforts to stop construction of the [DAPL] through sacred burial grounds and underneath a key water source” has drawn

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Mahtowin Munro of United American Indians of New England (UAINE) speaking at Boston rally for Standing Rock.

WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING:

WORKERS WORLD EDITORIAL

From Plymouth Rock to Standing Rock

This year’s commemoration of the 47th National Day of Mourning on Nov. 24 in Plymouth, Mass., is dedicated to the heroic #NoDAPL Water Protectors at Standing Rock, N.D., and to the struggle for recognition of Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

The day’s events will once again honor Native political prisoner Leonard Peltier, a fighter for the rights of Indigenous and other oppressed peoples. The ailing 72-year-old hero has been unjustly imprisoned for 40 years, and is now in Florida far from his nation, the Turtle Mountain

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WW PHOTO: MINNIE BRUCE PRATT
Andrea, fighting wage theft with the Workers’ Center-CNY.

Wage theft 4

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WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER: Organizing for the struggle

Workers World newspaper plays a central role in our political work and organization. For many of us, being handed a copy of WW at a demonstration or community meeting was our first introduction to the party.

We have a lot to be proud of in our paper. It's been in print since 1959, and it's been a continuous weekly paper since the early seventies. It is one of the last, if not the actual last printed socialist weekly in the U.S.

The paper's archives are being digitized. Flip through the back issues catalog of WW and you will see the whole glorious history of people's struggles around the world since 1959. I want to give a big, no, a huge round of applause to everyone who contributes to WW.

Some of you who are newer to communism might be thinking, what is it with socialists and newspapers? Major corporate papers are collapsing all over the country from lack of circulation and advertising as the physical newspaper is overshadowed by the internet.

Yet, you go to an anti-war demonstration and you can pick up seven different leftist periodicals. Part of it is because [Vladimir] Lenin, the leader of the Russian Revolution, raised the necessity of having a centralized, nationwide newspaper to coordinate and centralize the theory and practice of revolutionary socialists in that country. Another part is that for most of the past century, newspapers were the only way to talk to our class, the working class.

This is the fundamental purpose for our paper: to reach our class, to offer our socialist politics, to counteract the corporate imperialist media that bombard us from every angle 24/7.

We want WW to be a paper that anyone can pick up, see what isn't seen in the corporate media, see that there is resistance, see that people are in the streets and see that there is another way, another viewpoint.

But the paper is not the only way that we accomplish this. The only way you get a URL like workers.org is by joining the internet early in the game. We've been propa-



ANDY KATZ
At Workers World Party
National Conference Nov. 11-13

gandizing on the internet since 1994.

Something that comrades might not know is just how much traffic workers.org gets, which is in the thousands.

My generation and those younger have grown up in an era of constant revolutionizing of technology, media and communication: the unfolding revolution of social media. We have also made great strides in this area, but we can certainly improve in terms of utilizing social media to its full potential.

And yet, while we push to reach as many as we can — which has really got to be taken up in a serious way by the party youth — we can't risk underestimating the necessity of a physical, printed paper.

It's how we reach the incarcerated members of our class who recently engaged in a historic strike, the migrant workers, the most poor and oppressed who may not have easy access to the internet.

It's an organizing tool, since handing someone a paper can spark a face-to-face conversation that can build relations more deeply than a thousand "likes" [on Facebook]. On an internal level, the constant activity of filling a paper every week makes us disciplined. Our editorial staff has a deeply political call every Saturday morning to discuss the world situation.

Lamont Lilly talked about the paper in a way that really stuck with me. He likened the paper to an amazing, talented, intelligent, brilliant, romantic partner whom we have grown used to, with the honeymoon phase long past. But while the paper might not be as shiny, new and exciting to us, for someone who's never seen it before, it can be quite alluring.

So much work, love, time and money go into the paper. If you're looking for a way to get plugged in to Workers World Party, consider getting involved with the writing, editing and production of the paper. The paper is such a powerful organizing tool, please make the best use of it. Get it out to the community! Get it out to our class! □



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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Oaxaca teachers speak in Philly on Indigenous struggle, labor

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

The struggle for the right of Indigenous peoples and their teachers to an educational system free from corporate control was the main topic of a Philadelphia meeting with two teacher activists from Oaxaca, Mexico, on Nov. 16.

As part of a three-city tour in the U.S. by Section 22 of the SNTE/CNTE union, Fernando Soberanes Bojórquez, a 40-year veteran of the Coalition of Indigenous Teachers and Promoters of Oaxaca, and Mayem Arellanes Cano, Zapotec lawyer in the Legal Affairs Department of the union in Oaxaca, presented a slideshow and commentary at Temple University.

El SNTE is el Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación (National Union of Education Workers), the largest union in Central America, with 1.5 million members in Mexico. It supports government reforms. With 83,000 members in Oaxaca, Section 22 of el SNTE is the most important political force in the state. In addition, the Oaxacan Indigenous movement is the most organized in Mexico, along with the Zapatistas in Chiapas.

La CNTE is the Coordinadora Nacional de Trabajadores de la Educación (National Coordinator of Education Workers), a dissident movement within el SNTE fighting since 1979 for both union democracy and social demands. One of the slides explained: “The struggle is not only in the streets, but continues in the classroom, where teachers fight against colonized education and for an education that fortifies Indigenous Peoples.”

Indigenous struggle paramount

Bojórquez and Cano highlighted how large the Indigenous population is in Mexico. Out of 2,428 municipalities, over 70 percent of the residents in 313 of them speak an Indigenous language. In Oaxaca, one of the poorest states in Mexico, 1.5 million people, out of a population of 4 million, speak an Indigenous language: Zapotec, Mixtec, Mazatec, Mixe or Chinantec. At least 418 municipalities in Mexico elect their authorities in communal assemblies.

The history of Indigenous struggles in Oaxaca has centered on defending their communal way of life against state attempts to destroy their communities. Education is an integral part of the struggle.

Bojórquez and Cano described how the Coalition of Indigenous Teachers and Promoters of Oaxaca (Plan Piloto-CMPO) employs innovative community-based education in the face of state standardized neoliberal education. Decades of experience have produced an educational structure which includes communal participation, use of traditional knowledge and Indigenous language, communal philosophy and creative teacher preparation, all based on a relevant curriculum. (See more detailed information at tinyurl.com/gwlh6yu.)

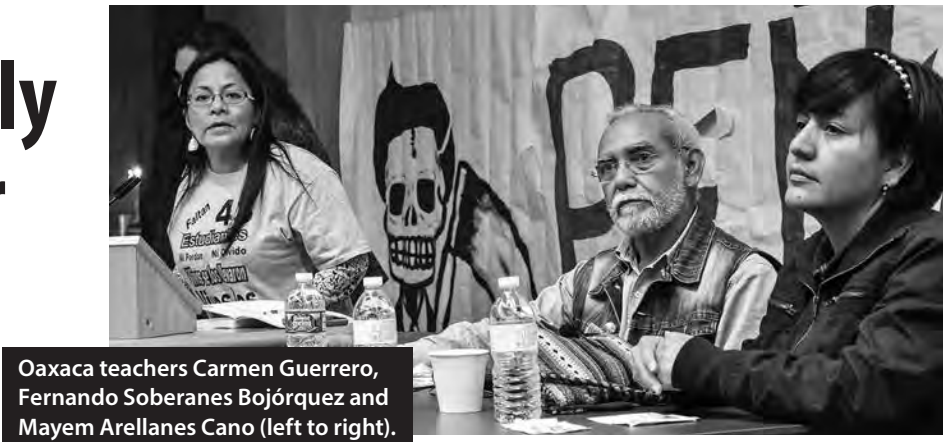
The Representative Council is the governing authority of the communal middle schools, made up of community leaders, interested community members, parents, teachers and students. This system of education helps to preserve, strengthen and enrich the original culture and promotes the human development of community members while enabling new generations to complete their education.

Proposed state reforms introduced in 2013 would destroy the communal education system. Under the new law, anyone with a college degree could pass the teachers’ test with or without teacher education preparation introduced by Plan Piloto-CMPO. New hires would receive only temporary contracts, without medical coverage, pensions, salary scale rights and other benefits. Massive firing of experienced teachers would be inevitable.

Effects on communities would include elimination of entire school levels (such as early Indigenous education), reduced teacher staffing levels, whole elimination of rural and Indigenous schools, and privatization of public education. Parents would even have to pay for water, electricity and other services at schools.

Massive resistance, state repression

Years of resistance have included legal challenges, public forums, mass meet-



Oaxaca teachers Carmen Guerrero, Fernando Soberanes Bojórquez and Mayem Arellanes Cano (left to right).

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

ings, marches and occupations. The Mexican government’s response has been to criminalize protests, conduct psychological warfare, militarize states where La CNTE is active, enact forced disappearance of teachers and pursue the violent destruction of protest encampments.

On June 19, a federal police eviction of an aplantón or encampment in Nochistlan, Oaxaca, turned violent, resulting in nine dead, “over 100 people wounded and between 22 and 25 disappeared after a confrontation that lasted 15 hours — during which police used tear gas and automatic machine guns to repress the fierce protesters. Hospital workers on the scene were also attacked with tear gas.” (commondreams.org, June 27)

State repression against La CNTE also includes freezing of bank accounts and arbitrary detentions. Teachers have been unjustly arrested and held in maximum security prisons far from their homes in Oaxaca.

Black Panther Party 50 years later: ‘All Power to the People’

By Anne Pruden
Harlem, New York

A “Legacy Weekend” celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Black Panther Party was held here on Nov. 12. The conference was sponsored by the National Alumni Association of the BPP, which held a similar conference in Oakland, Calif., in October. The gatherings show how the Panthers’ hard work and examples of leadership are still vital. Many earlier supporters attended, and youth came to learn from the experience and wisdom of these revolutionaries whose legacy lives on.

The Harlem celebration was a special “intergenerational convening of the past, present and future of the Black freedom struggle” and opened at the the Kennedy Center for Seniors. The relevance of the Panthers to today’s Black Lives Matter movement is recorded in point seven of the BPP Ten-Point Program, written half a century ago: “We want an immediate end to police brutality and murder of Black people and other people of color, and all oppressed people inside the U.S.”

The BPP was founded in Oakland in 1966 by Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton in response to police brutality and other racist attacks on Black people. The Black Panther Party for Self Defense was respected for its Ten-Point Program dealing with the biased judicial system, unemployment and the need for health care and decent housing. The party’s community programs exemplified for the whole working class what it could be like to live in communities with free breakfast programs, lead testing, free groceries and free medical clinics, and that such social advances were, in fact, possible.

And the Panthers carried all this out while defending armed struggle, if needed, especially against police brutality.



WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

A new generation of freedom fighters at the Black Panther 50th anniversary celebration in Harlem.

These well-organized cadre insisted on the right of self-determination for oppressed people. Other groups, like the Young Lords Party, aligned their organizations with the Panthers, though the BPP was under constant surveillance, physical attack and a death sentence by the police and the state.

The Harlem conference continued this tradition of struggle with an appeal to free Mumia Abu-Jamal, a former leader of the Black Panther Party in Philadelphia and supporter of that city’s MOVE organization, now a political prisoner serving a life sentence. An international movement saved Mumia, a renowned independent journalist and author, from the death sentence. Now, the fight is on to save him and countless others jailed in U.S. prisons from the “cruel and unusual punishment” of slow death from untreated hepatitis C.

Sister Pam Africa and others from the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal and the New York Free Mumia Coalition announced a Dec. 9 Philadelphia demonstration to demand Hep C treatment for Mumia and all prisoners.

The legacy of the Panthers is a living-struggle legacy, still “Ona move” and still ready to “Seize the time!”

For information about Dec. 9, contact mobilization4mumia@gmail.com or call 215-724-1618. Facebook page: Mobilization4Mumia.

Defiant thousands against Trump

By Workers World Staff
New York City

Hours before the final vote tally on Nov. 8, tens of thousands began to march here against Trump. They have continued day and night through midtown Manhattan, rejecting the white supremacy, misogyny, Islamophobia and immigrant bashing he represents.

Trump’s election has inspired many people to protest for the first time in their lives. Many marchers are looking for political answers beyond the two-party system, and members of the People’s Power Assembly NYC, Workers World Party and allied groups have been in the streets to provide those answers.

Members of those organizations have also acted decisively to remove pro-Trump agitators from the crowd and challenge police attempts to control the protests.

On Nov. 8, New York responded to the election of Donald Trump with 30,000 to 50,000 people in the streets. The large crowd assembled downtown at Union Square and marched north two miles on Fifth Avenue to Trump Tower, chanting all the way. Participants were mostly people



PHOTO: THE TAB

new to the struggle. They were overwhelmingly young, with many of high school age.

The mood of the crowd became increasingly militant and chants more angry as the huge throng approached Trump Tower, barricaded with garbage trucks. A line of cops and metal barricades confronted the demonstrators. But police had to construct a second row of barricades as the crowd shoved to get through the first fence. A few dozen demonstrators were arrested over the course of the night.

The enormous anti-Trump marches show no signs of slowing, threatening the holiday shopping season along Fifth Avenue, playground of the ultra-rich.

— *People’s Power Assemblies (PPA), NYC members contributed to this article.*



Honeywell UAW Local 9 workers on the picket line in South Bend, Ind.

PHOTO: UAW

Locked-out Honeywell workers reject concessionary contract

By Martha Grevatt

For over six months, members of two United Auto Workers locals have been locked out by Honeywell. The lockout began May 9 when Local 9 in South Bend, Ind., and Local 1508 in Green Island, N.Y., rejected a concessionary contract proposal. Now, six months later, and with state unemployment benefits about to run out, Honeywell workers nevertheless turned down a modified version of the deal they rejected in May.

The main issues of contention include health benefits and pensions. When the workers voted down the company's proposal in May, Honeywell was demanding the right to make unilateral changes in health care coverage. The increase in the workers' share of insurance premium costs would have, in effect, brought their pay down from \$22 an hour to less than \$15 an hour. The offer just rejected would still have imposed enormous increases in health care costs for Honeywell workers and their families.

"We've been out here for too long to cave for something like this," said worker Tom Simpson. The Nov. 11 vote was 192-110 against the offer. (South Bend Tri-

bune, Nov. 13)

Locked-out workers are aware that Honeywell, 75th in Fortune magazine's 500 biggest world companies, made almost \$5 billion in profits last year. In the past five years profits have risen 150 percent, and the Indiana plant, which makes aerospace components, is one of Honeywell's most profitable. In the same period, Honeywell locked workers out four times prior to this, but workers' determination defeated company efforts to starve them into submission. Last year Steelworkers Local 7-669 survived a 13-month lockout by Honeywell, pushing back concessions and winning a decent contract at an Illinois uranium plant.

The Indiana plant was the site of the first UAW sit-down strike in 1936. The owner, then Bendix, was forced to recognize the union. That and subsequent victories at auto parts suppliers in Detroit gave the UAW the confidence to take on the giant — General Motors — and finally win recognition after a 44-day sit-down occupation of key plants.

Now the grandchildren of Local 9's founders are walking the picket line, and they won't give up without contract justice. □

Post election

Philly area protests proliferate

In the second week since the election of Donald Trump, protests have continued in Philadelphia and surrounding counties. On Nov. 16, over 200 demonstrators disrupted rush-hour traffic as they marched through Center City streets, often going against the flow.

The action started at central police headquarters with a rally denouncing the Fraternal Order of Police for endorsing Trump. A key demand was to abolish the police. Speakers condemned Trump's racism and bigotry and the ongoing epidemic of police brutality that both major party candidates failed to address. The protest ended at Rittenhouse Square, surrounded by multimillionaire condominiums. Four arrests resulted when police tried to block demonstrators from leaving the area.

During the week, walkouts took place at several area colleges. Dozens of students from Haverford and Bryn Mawr marched on police headquarters in Ardmore, Pa., where they were confronted by police officers and other Trump supporters. Students called for an end to racist profiling and for the local police to

withdraw from the FOP.

Hundreds of students at Swarthmore College walked out of classes on Nov. 16, joining students at campuses around the U.S. calling for their schools to become sanctuaries for undocumented students, who are in danger of arrest and deportation.

Swarthmore President Valerie Smith joined the students and issued a statement that read in part, "By initiating this petition, our community members are exercising their rights and power to raise their voices for social justice — a time-honored goal and tradition at Swarthmore."

— Betsey Piette

WW PHOTOS: BELOW BETSEY PIETTE; RIGHT, BERTA JOUBERT-CECI



Anti-cop, anti-Trump protesters flood streets of Philadelphia, Nov. 16.

Top right, Town hall meeting for J20 counter-inaugural and more.

Syracuse, N.Y.

Workers expose wage theft

By Minnie Bruce Pratt
Syracuse, N.Y.

Every year U.S. bosses steal outright more than \$50 billion in wages from workers. This is part of the wage theft committed by the capitalists in their rip-off of the value every worker creates — appropriating it as profit for the top 1%.

The Workers' Center of Central New York held a demonstration against this capitalist thievery on Nov. 18 in Syracuse, N.Y., on the National Day of Action Against Wage Theft. About 30 people gathered in downtown Columbus Circle. There, one speaker pointed to the statue of colonizer Christopher Columbus and condemned his role in "one of the biggest thefts of all time" — the stealing of Indigenous lands.

WCCNY organizers described how outright wage theft ranges from refusing to pay workers, not paying them overtime, forcing workers to work off the clock, misclassifying them as "independent contractors," stealing tips, paying below the minimum wage and holding back final paychecks.

Speakers included Andrea, a Latina who testified how she and her wife, Lourdes, worked for hours doing hard physical labor for a subcontractor at the national restaurant chain, Cheesecake Factory. Then he disappeared without paying

them. But a militant confrontation by the WCCNY workers and their allies made the company cough up their checks overnight.

Rebecca Fuentes and Nikita Slade, WCCNY organizers, stressed that the organization is preparing for Trump's assault on immigrant workers and called for solidarity. Howie Hawkins, a Teamster and former Green Party candidate for New York governor, exposed systematic wage theft at his United Postal Service workplace. He motivated the need for collective action, especially unionization. A local Walmart worker announced a "Black Friday" action linked to the Fight-for-\$15 campaign. An occupational therapist spoke about the terrible consequences of wage theft on the health of workers and their families.

Protesters chanted, sang and staged political theater while passing cars honked in support and lunchtime workers reached for fliers. When a UPS truck pulled up at a stoplight, one person grabbed a flier and jumped to hand it to the driver — to stress the unity of the rally's precarious workers with union struggles.

Fuentes ended with "Si se puede!" ("Yes! We can!") and a call for stepped-up organizing of workers. She stressed the need for a New York statewide campaign to make drivers' licenses available to all people, regardless of their documentation. □

States pass pro-worker initiatives

By Sue Davis

The lowest-paid hourly workers in four states — Arizona, Colorado, Maine and Washington, who total about 21.6 million — have won a gradual boost in the minimum wage to at least \$12 an hour by 2020. The pay rate will then be adjusted annually based on the state's cost of living or the rate of inflation. Voters in South Dakota vetoed a referendum that would have lowered the minimum wage for non-tipped workers under 18 from \$8.55 to \$7.50.

Low-wage workers in Arizona will see their wages rise from \$8.05 an hour to \$10 in 2017. Those in Colorado, who presently make \$8.31, will see a raise to \$9.39 in 2017 and an increase of 90 cents a year thereafter. In Maine, the \$7.50 minimum will rise to \$9 next year, followed by \$1 a year thereafter.

Washington voters approved the largest increase. The state's current \$9.47 will rise to \$13.50 by 2020, with a jump to \$11 next year. The initiative also approved paid sick leave for more than 1 million of the lowest-wage workers.

Meanwhile, workers in 21 states are still paid the \$7.50-an-hour federal minimum wage, outrageously below the poverty rate.

Virginians voted down an initiative that would have made the state's long-standing right-to-work (for less) status permanent in the state constitution.

Seattle voters approved health and safety rules for women hotel workers, mostly Latina and African-American. Hotels must now provide housekeepers with panic buttons, track guests accused of harassment, limit housekeeper workloads, help workers pay for health care and retain workers during ownership transfers. □

Activists plan to resist Trump

Activists and concerned community members gathered in Philadelphia Nov. 17 for a town hall meeting to plan the resistance to racist sexual predator President-elect Donald Trump.

Participants highlighted the urgent need for unity in the face of the racist onslaught provoked by Trump's election. Others pointed out that the U.S. has always been ruled by racists and sexists

who needed to be fought.

A consensus was reached on organizing caravans to Washington, D.C., for the Jan. 20 counter-inauguration protests.

María Serna, a Colombian immigrant activist, spoke about the heightened importance of being in solidarity with undocumented workers, who have been targeted by Trump's hateful rhetoric. Serna urged participation in the ongoing campaign to keep immigration officials out of nearby Norristown, Pa., by preserving that municipality's status as a sanctuary city.

Erica Mines, representing the Philly Coalition for R.E.A.L. (Racial, Economic And Legal) Justice, raised the need for white workers to fight racism in their own communities where they have more access.

Ava Lipatti, representing University of Pennsylvania Students for a Democratic Society, reported on a recent anti-racist protest in response to a threatening text message sent anonymously to hundreds of Black students.

— Mattie Stardust

Trump, anti-Semitism and solidarity in struggle

By Shelley Ettinger

Late in the election campaign, as Donald Trump hammered home his vile attacks on people of color, immigrants, Muslims, women; as he beefed up support among the worst racist elements including the Ku Klux Klan, white militias and the so-called alt-right, he also openly appealed to anti-Jewish forces.

The immediate aftermath of Trump's election saw white supremacists carry out hundreds of horrific racist incidents across the country. Latinx schoolchildren were confronted by white classmates chanting, "Build the wall, build the wall." Black university students received disgusting racist text messages. Muslims were physically attacked.

Nothing is now more urgent than beating back these racist attacks. All must unite in solidarity with the most oppressed — Black, Latinx and other people of color, Muslims, undocumented immigrants.

What solidarity means for white people, including Jews, is following the leadership of oppressed people, standing and marching and fighting with them. It means political and physical anti-racist defense, on the streets, in the schools and workplaces and, if necessary, on the highways and railroad tracks to block deportations.

Unity vs. bigoted tactics

The massive outpouring of anti-Trump outrage and resistance since election night shows that an epochal struggle has begun.

Led by Black, Brown and other oppressed people, it will draw more and more into the battle. Unity must and will be this struggle's central characteristic.

With anti-Jewish acts also taking place after the election, understanding the history of anti-Semitism and taking it on will help build this united struggle. In Philadelphia, windows of Jewish-owned shops were smashed and spray-painted swastikas were superimposed over Stars of David. Jewish students at several colleges reported waking up to find swastikas painted on their dorm room doors.

Trump gave the green light for such acts in the closing days of his campaign, railing against "the international banking conspiracy," a classic anti-Semitic code phrase.

His final TV ad was a brazen appeal to anti-Semitism. In voiceover, Trump called out an enemy that has "stripped our country of its wealth." Images of piles of money were interspersed with photos of George Soros, Janet Yellen and Lloyd



PHOTO: TWITTER VIA IAN GAVIGAN
If Not Now, an anti-occupation Jewish group, marches on Trump transition headquarters in Washington, D.C., to protest anti-Semitism.

Blankfein. Each is Jewish.

Soros is a billionaire investor. Yellen is the head of the Federal Reserve System. Blankfein is CEO of Goldman Sachs. They are indeed the working class's enemy — but as bourgeois figures, not because they're Jewish.

The ad was a message to the vilest elements who had risen to the surface in Trump's campaign. Rally round Trump, the ad said. He's with you, against Black people, Latinx, Muslims — and, just so it's clear, he's also with you against "the Jews."

Then, days after the election, Trump announced that his campaign chair Steve Bannon would serve as "chief strategist" in the White House. Bannon has a documented record of overt racism, misogyny and anti-Semitism, both personally and at the ultrareactionary Breitbart News.

Media Matters, which monitors right-wing misinformation online, calls Bannon "a white nationalist who hates Jews." He can be expected to serve Trump in the way Joseph Goebbels, minister of propaganda in Nazi Germany, served Hitler.

Facts and history

Facts will help arm the movement against attempts at division.

Jewish people do not control worldwide banking and finance capital. Jews do not make up anywhere near the majority of owners, shareholders or top officers of most banks. Yes, there are Jewish bankers, just as there are Jewish people in many other spheres. But they do not run the capitalist show.

There are not many Jewish people, period. In the U.S., Jews make up 2.5 percent to 3 percent of the population. The proportion of the world's people who are Jewish is only 0.2 percent.

For so few to hold as much power as Trump and the anti-Semites claim, Jews would have to have superpowers. They don't. The caricature of a hook-nosed, sneering Jewish puppeteer manipulating businesses and governments is classic anti-Semitic propaganda.

In reality, for much of history, most Jewish people were impoverished, persecuted and oppressed.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, a series of horrific pogroms — murderous riots against Jewish communities — swept through the czarist empire of Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and neighboring countries. Sponsored by those governments and the ruling class as part of the effort to tamp down growing unrest by the starving masses, the pogroms killed thousands of people. In the first two decades of the 20th century, waves of European Jews fled to the United States.

A hundred years later, in the small Jewish population in the U.S. there certainly remain Jewish workers — bus drivers, teachers, nurses and retail, factory, office and other workers. But others are comfortably middle class. Some are part of the bourgeois ruling class.

Many Jews have taken part in struggles for social change. Some gave their all, like Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, who were murdered alongside African-American James Chaney by the Klan in Mississippi in 1964 for registering Black people to vote. But among U.S. Jews there have also been errors, offenses and failures of solidarity.

The U.S. Jewish population is mostly white and comes to the struggle of the workers and oppressed with all the racism, backwardness, ignorance, privilege and insensitivity of white people in this country. Additionally and tragically for the goal of solidarity, Zionist ideology has maintained a decades-long stranglehold on the consciousness of most U.S. Jews.

The good news is that this is finally changing, at least among the younger generation. The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, and related organizing in solidarity with Palestine, is winning more and more Jewish millennials. As they break with their parents' support for the racist settler state of Israel, they also become more open to radical ideas in general. They begin to better understand

the meaning of and necessity for solidarity with oppressed peoples.

Jewish youth who turn away from Zionism are taking to the streets as activists in solidarity with the struggles of people of color, marching with Black Lives Matter against racist police killings, demonstrating with undocumented immigrants against raids and deportations, and joining with anti-apartheid protesters for the liberation of Palestine.

Some will take it further and join the struggle to overturn capitalism, following the long tradition of Jewish revolutionaries who started with Karl Marx himself.

Unite to fight

The Trump campaign's lie that Jews are responsible for workers' troubles is a tactic to disrupt unity among the workers, oppressed peoples and progressives at a moment when such unity is vital to build resistance.

Trump himself is a multimillionaire. He and his class — made up overwhelmingly of white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASPs) — are responsible for disappearing jobs, falling wages and impossibly high housing, education and health care costs.

He and his class are responsible for racist killer cops murdering Black people with impunity. He and his class are responsible for sending the U.S. military around the world to invade, occupy and destroy countries.

This capitalist class wants to shift the blame. They want to divide the opposition. It's no surprise that they reach for that trusty old tool — blaming "the Jews."

Jewish people are not now an oppressed group in the U.S. They do not face institutionalized, systemic or widespread discrimination, violence, bias and worse, as people of color do.

Still, anti-Semitism exists. It never went away. Now it must be directly combatted.

The movement as a whole must build unity. It is vital to have unity against racism, sexism, Islamophobia, immigrant bashing, LGBTQ oppression and also anti-Semitism.

As for Jewish people in this country, many are suddenly terrified, fearing a return to the worst old days of anti-Semitic horrors. For them, the road forward is solidarity with the most oppressed. Defend Muslims, politically and physically. Stand and march and battle shoulder-to-shoulder with Black Lives Matter. Organize immigrant defense squads.

That is the way to fight and win.
The writer is a long-time anti-Zionist, pro-Palestine Jewish communist.

Penn students protest racist death threats

By Ava Lipatti
Philadelphia

On the morning of Nov. 11, dozens of Black freshmen students at the University of Pennsylvania were added to text message chats in which they were threatened with racist violence. The messages contained anti-Black slurs, graphic pictures of racist terror and threats of lynching. Penn police and the administration have determined that the racist death threats came from a University of Oklahoma student. The student in question has been suspended, but no charges have been filed.

Later that night, students quickly mobilized in response to the death threats. Over 200 Black students and their allies, led by Students Organizing for Unity and

Liberation (SOUL), took to the streets in protest. After marching across campus chanting "Black Lives Matter!" and "No Justice! No Peace!" the students attempted to carry their message forward by gaining entrance to the Penn vs. Harvard football game.

When the large crowd of primarily Black students approached the stadium gates, security guards were quick to deny them entrance and temporarily shut down all entrances. However, the students had every right to be there just like everyone else. So, after nearly an hour, they were able to use their student IDs to get into the stadium.

Once the protesters gained entry, they took over the student section, disrupting the football game to have their message

Students Organizing for Unity and Liberation (SOUL) protest racist threats at University of Pennsylvania, Nov. 11.

heard. Filling the stadium with various "Black Lives Matter!" chants, the students voiced that they will not back down because of white supremacists' threats. Also, they made clear that they will ensure their own safety, rather than rely on the elitist school administration and racist police force.

Actions such as these death threats are proof that Donald J. Trump's election victory has emboldened white supremacists and the far-right. The Trump movement, with Ku Klux Klan members and neo-Nazis in its ranks, marks a right-wing mobi-



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

lization of primarily white middle-class and upper-class forces. Despite Trump's victory, Black and Brown youth continue to fight for liberation in the struggle against white supremacist terror.

Black Lives Matter! All Power to the People! □

Trump’s election and imperialist war

Excerpt from a Nov. 14 interview of WW managing editor John Catalinotto by Alex Anfruns of the Brussels-based web magazine Investig’Action (investigaction.net). Because Donald Trump sounded less aggressive than Hillary Clinton during campaign debates, especially regarding Russia and Syria, there is some confusion among anti-war forces in Europe regarding a Trump administration and the nature of the anti-Trump movement. Catalinotto addressed this question.

Alex Anfruns: What can we expect from Trump’s foreign policy?

John Catalinotto: The decline of U.S. imperialism pushes the government toward adventurous wars no matter who the president is. Obama campaigned to end wars, but has intervened in at least seven countries with military forces and many more through subversion. Hillary Clinton is a pro-Pentagon warmonger.

Trump is more erratic, a loose cannon, even though he claims to be ready to negotiate with Russia. He also says he wants to break the deal with Iran and with Cuba. And impose tariffs on China. We must be ready to oppose all new wars.

AA: So you believe he will just follow the same course?

JC: Both Trump and Clinton, both the establishment Republicans and the establishment Democrats, and even the Bernie Sanders wing, serve the interests of U.S. imperialism. Imperialism is not a policy of a group of politicians. It is an economic system that means the domination of finance capital. The current failure of this system to generate profits by relatively peaceful measures means that whoever is at the helm of U.S. imperialism has enormous pressures driving them toward war.

Everyone who is aware of the events of the last decade knows that Hillary Clinton supported all the wars: against Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, the subversion against Venezuela and other progressive nationalist governments in Latin America.

If they follow closely, they know that even though Obama came into office with plans to end the U.S. interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq, the Pentagon pushed him to increase troops in Afghanistan, and that the U.S. has now begun to reintroduce troops into Iraq. In Syria, a temporary agreement between the U.S. and Russia was almost immediately sabotaged by a military attack that had the support of elements of the U.S. state apparatus, certainly of the Pentagon.

Trump has never been involved in

U.S. foreign policy decisions so he has no track record. What he said during the election campaign was aimed at what he believed would help his chances for election. It may have little or no relation to what he actually does in office. Sometimes what he says in the beginning of one sentence is contradicted by what he says at the end of the sentence.

Trump said the U.S. will recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, that he will break the deal with Iran and with Cuba. He also said he would follow a more open policy of negotiations with Russia. I doubt any serious government has confidence in his words of peace. We in the pro-communist movement here certainly have no confidence he will wage a less aggressive policy. We need to build a movement here that can fight both U.S. imperialism abroad and his reactionary policies at home.

AA: And how should this movement emerge?

JC: There is a certain amount of confusion in the anti-imperialist movement in Europe about Trump’s role. One can understand that they feel satisfaction about Clinton’s defeat. They all know how aggressive Clinton is. They may have giv-

INTERVIEW

en up on the U.S. working class.

But we in the United States need to develop a movement against U.S. wars. We can only do it if the most oppressed sectors of the U.S. working class not only join in, but lead this struggle. Those abroad who gloat over Trump’s victory alienate the immigrants, the Black population, the activist women, the LGBTQ people, the Muslims, all who fear a Trump presidency, or better, who are moved to rage against a president who is “not their president.”

The only positive thing that came out of this disgusting 18-month bourgeois election is that thousands of people have been demonstrating day after day since the election against the new president. Some may be for Hillary Clinton for misguided reasons, but mainly those in the streets are against Trump and all he stands for. They are not in the streets because he says he’ll negotiate with Russia.

Those here who want to fight imperialist war have to be in the streets with all these people. They are frightened, they are angry, they are reexamining all their ideas. We have to be with them to try to win them to fight, not only Trump’s racism, sexism and xenophobia, but all imperialist war. □

Mass student walkouts against Trump and hate

By Lyn Neeley and Sage Antonia Collins
Portland, Ore.

With no voice in this election, middle- and high-school students across the country are spilling out of classrooms by the hundreds and thousands, shouting their outrage in the streets and protesting the Trump-inspired atmosphere of hate actions, racism, misogyny and bigotry.

In fact, K-12 schools have become battlegrounds of resistance.

This parallels the attacks and vandalism aimed against people of color and the undocumented that have been reported across the country. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, incidents reported of intimidation and harassment doubled in a single week to 437 after the presidential election. Of those, 99, or nearly one-quarter, took place at K-12 schools against immigrants, African Americans, Muslims, LGBTQ people and other groups. (SPLC Hatewatch, Nov. 15)

Students are walking out because Trump threatens a future that is just beginning for them, and they feel it’s the only way to be heard. One Portland teacher told Workers World that students feel the Trump election in their gut. With Trump, they see a future of joblessness, crippling student debt, deportation and a declining economy that benefits only a handful of billionaires.

Some walk out in solidarity with undocumented parents, Muslim friends or LGBTQ peers. They fear that the hard-

fought right to same-sex marriage could be reversed under a Trump-appointed Supreme Court.

Students say:
‘We’re leading ourselves’

A social media campaign throughout the country inspired student walkouts on Nov. 14, the Monday after the election. Hundreds of middle- and high-school students walked out of a number of area schools in **Portland, Phoenix, Des Moines, New York, Detroit, Denver** and **Seattle; Beltsville and Silver Springs, Md.; Washington, D.C.; and Alameda, Calif.** They blocked traffic on major highways, staged sit-ins and protested at landmarks and city halls.

“Silence is violence,” shouted hundreds of students from at least 14 Portland schools. Some marched to City Hall in the rain to join ongoing protests that had swelled to 4,000 over the weekend. Ruth Ataliah Teston, a member of the Multicultural Student Union, said, “We are being silenced about something that affects all of our futures.” (Portland Tribune, Nov. 15)

In many cities protesters were largely people of color, undocumented or LGBTQ people. In Phoenix, students came from two schools where 90 percent of the student population is people of color, mostly Latinx, according to U.S. News & World Report. In Des Moines, students shouted, “We’re undocumented and we’re un-

afraid” and “Let’s dump Donald Trump” or “F—k Donald Trump.” They linked arms and sang and chanted in Spanish. (Des Moines Register, Nov. 9)

In Metro Detroit, two days after a group of young students at the Royal Oak Middle School chanted, “Build the



LOS ANGELES



PORTLAND, ORE.

wall,” hundreds of Wayne State University demonstrators marched to the school shouting, “No Trump, No wall.” The incident went viral on Facebook. (Detroit Free Press, Nov. 11)

In the same article, white students at nearby Dewitt Junior High reportedly blocked entrances to keep students of color out of the school. Two days later hundreds marched there with signs reading, “Not my President” and “Stop bigotry.” Demonstrator Mary Hippler said, “All of this is happening right now because he has validated it,” referring to Trump. “He has told the country: It is OK to do this. It is OK to hate, to sexually assault people.” She carried a sign reading, “No means no” and “Grabbing a woman’s genitals is sexual assault.”

In many schools, teachers and principals encouraged students to express their views by allowing the walkouts or imposing minor consequences such as unexcused absences. Racist graffiti and harassment by young, emboldened Trump supporters in Alameda, Calif., inspired hundreds of nearby **Oakland** students from a dozen high schools to walk out of classes and take to the streets.

Alameda Unified School District Superintendent Sean McPhetridge stated, “We do not tolerate hate speech, bullying, racism, sexism, homophobia, or any other forms of hatred.” He said the district is dedicated to providing “an inclusive, safe and secure environment.” (Los Angeles Times, Nov. 14)

The LA Times also reported that more than a thousand high school students in **East Los Angeles**, many Latinx, marched

out of classes with signs reading, “Latinos contra Trump” and shouting, “We reject the president elect” and “Bridges not walls.” Suzanne Rueda, 15, said, “It feels like we’re leading ourselves.” She had been protesting since Wednesday: “We can’t vote. This is all we can do.” Supporting the students and their families protesting “politics of fear, racism and misogyny,” United Teachers Los Angeles has committed itself to “educational and racial justice — both in our classrooms and in our communities.”

In larger cities, students came out by the thousands. In Seattle, 2,300 students walked out of 14 middle and high schools across the city to show support for Muslims, immigrants and other victims of Trump’s hate message.

In Washington, D.C., more than 1,000 middle school and high school students left class and protested outside the Trump International Hotel, holding signs reading, “Boycott bigotry” and “Stronger together.” They later shut down the Lincoln Memorial.

About 200 middle- and high-school students left two Denver high schools with signs reading, “Millennial voice matters,” “Make peace not war” and “Si, se puede.” During their rally at the state Capitol, 17-year-old Noelle Quintero said they represented Latinx, Muslims, women and others marginalized by Trump. “We’re not going anywhere — we’re going to continue to stand strong,” she said. “Even though we’re only 16- and 17-year-olds and we can’t vote, our voice matters. What we believe matters, and we’re not going to stop.” (AP, Nov. 15) □



WASHINGTON, D.C.

Wall Street welcomes Trump

By Stephen Millies

Did the super-racist, immigrant bashing, sexual predator Donald Trump becoming president alarm Wall Street? The day after the election the Dow Jones industrial average shot up 272 points.

Why shouldn't Wall Street welcome Trump? Speculators gambling in the world's largest casino — the New York Stock Exchange — have embraced the lewd and vulgar casino owner.

Historically, the U.S. financial center arose as the banker and broker for Southern slave masters. New York City operated a municipal slave market at Wall and Pearl streets for 51 years until 1762. (WNYC, April 14, 2015)

Wall Street's leading banker in the 1860s — August Belmont — opposed the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862 that freed slaves in areas controlled by the Confederacy.

Financiers are not bothered by Trump losing the popular vote by 1.5 million. It's profits, not democracy they're concerned about.

The Wall Street Journal sneered at complaints that Albert Gore beat George Bush by 500,000 votes in the 2000 election. The newspaper's editorial page editor Robert Bartley claimed this didn't matter since it resulted from "a surge in voter turnout" among "Blacks" and "union households." According to Bartley, the vote against Bush "by and large represents recipients of government favors." (Dec. 11, 2000)

Trump's plan to immediately deport millions of immigrants hasn't stopped a long line of capitalist dignitaries from lining up to see the pig.

Rounding up hundreds of thousands of families is reminiscent of the Nazi Gestapo or the Fugitive Slave Act in the 1850s. Deporting parents while their U.S.-born children are allowed to stay parallels Black families being broken up in slave auctions.

Every exploiter a Trump

Trump is extremely dangerous but not unique. All the slumlords, sweatshop owners and home-foreclosing banksters are wannabe Trumps. Bosses all over have sexually harassed millions of women, or worse.

There's some Trump in every trigger-happy, pepper-spraying, nightstick-swinging racist cop.

Ronald Reagan was just as grotesque as Trump 50 years ago. Calling Black people in Watts "mad dogs" didn't stop him from being elected governor of California in 1966. ("The Metropolitan Frontier" by Carl Abbott)

When hungry people lined-up for food packages provided as ransom during the 1974 kidnapping of millionaire heiress Patty Hearst, the California governor asked "whether there shouldn't be an outbreak of botulism." (Sarasota Journal, March 7, 1974)

Like Trump this year, Reagan was endorsed by the Ku Klux Klan when he ran for president in 1980. Reagan deliberately started his campaign in Philadelphia, Miss., where three civil rights workers — James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner — had been murdered by the Klan.

Reagan didn't mention these Black and Jewish martyrs in his speech that day. Instead he called for "states' rights" — the slogan of segregationists — blatantly appealing for racist votes.

In 1986 Reagan nominated U.S. Attorney Jeff Sessions for a federal judgeship in Alabama. Senators turned thumbs down after Thomas Figures, a Black assistant U.S. attorney, testified that Sessions re-

peatedly called him "boy." Figures also said that Sessions "joked" that Klan members were "OK, until he learned that they smoked marijuana." (CNN, Nov. 18)

Just this week, Donald Trump nominated Sessions, now a U.S. senator from Alabama, to be U.S. attorney general in charge of enforcing the Voting Rights Act and other civil rights laws.

Only the people will stop Trump

With the exception of Fox News, most of the big capitalist media endorsed Hillary Clinton. But don't expect these money bags to fight Trump. They're rolling out a red carpet and hoping for more tax cuts.

Among those making the pilgrimage to Trump Tower and groveling before the president-elect is former Secretary of State and Rockefeller family retainer Henry Kissinger. During the Watergate scandal in the 1970s, Kissinger moved secret State Department files to the Rockefeller fami-

ly's six-square-mile Pocantico Hills estate in Westchester County, N.Y., to protect the Richard Nixon White House gang.

Kissinger's visit is a sign that Donald Trump will be yet another Big Oil president.

The New York Times has editorialized against the rumored nomination of Rudy Giuliani as secretary of state. Giuliani is the face of police state reaction to the Black Lives Matter movement, and there is speculation he got the FBI to help swing the election.

The Times pointed out that the former NYC mayor "enraged Black New Yorkers with his shockingly insensitive response to the fatal police shooting of Patrick Dorismond, an unarmed black man" in 2000. (Nov. 15) Actually Giuliani insulted a whole series of families whose daughters and sons were killed by his cops.

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Forty-five years ago it was the "old

money" of Philadelphia that installed the openly racist Frank Rizzo as mayor. The Philadelphia area is home to some of the oldest and wealthiest capitalist families. Their mansions fill the "Main Line" suburbs and include most of the Du Pont family estates.

As the city's police commissioner, Rizzo stripped arrested members of the Black Panther Party naked. He threatened Mumia Abu-Jamal at a news conference. In a bid for a third term in 1978 Rizzo urged people to "vote white." (Wilmington, N.C., Star-News, Sept 23, 1978)

Frank Rizzo was just Donald Trump with a badge and a much smaller bankroll. Both are proof that, as Malcolm X said, "You can't have capitalism without racism."

Only the people can stop Trump. Millions must come to Washington, D.C., for the Jan. 20 counterinauguration and stay over for the Women's March the next day. □

Trump targets federal workers

By Carl Lewis

There is evidence that the incoming Trump administration plans to target federal workers, including privatizing the Department of Veteran Affairs, to reduce the size of the federal workforce and substantially cut wages.

Among the right-wing ideologues and advisors to Donald Trump on federal workers is Newt Gingrich, coauthor of the infamous "Contract with America" (more aptly called a "Contract ON 'America' ") released by the Republican Party in 1994. It outlined austerity plans to decimate the working class as a whole and to specifically target federal workers.

Gingrich was asked how this change would be managed in an interview with Lisa Rein of the Washington Post. "So there are two groups in Washington on this issue who are initially opposed," stated Gingrich. "First you have the hard-line federal employee unions. They're like the teachers union in New York. They are parallels. They are the group, that no matter how sick it is, they have a vested interest in the old order." (Oct. 19).

These cryptic comments refer to limiting collective bargaining rights, removing due process rights and cutting wages. Gingrich holds up Scott Walker, the anti-union governor of Wisconsin who devastated public employee unions and

employee pensions, as a model.

Gingrich used the example of short-staffed VA workers in Texas who were forced by management, under penalty of being charged with "insubordination," to make phony appointments for veterans and then list them as "no-shows." Instead of placing the blame where it should be — on incompetent and corrupt management officials who received bonuses for the volume of calls received and answered — he blames the workers who are the victims. This scam was finally exposed by an employee whistleblower and led to a shakeup in the agency.

Like sharks smelling blood and going into a feeding frenzy, the ruling class began to use this example to put federal workers further under the chopping block. Paul Ryan, current Speaker of the House, views federal workers as a "privileged class." When Ryan sat on the House Ways and Means Committee, which determines budgets for federal agencies, he proposed freezing workers' pay for five years; raising the bar on performance standards; increasing the workload on employees by not backfilling when workers retire, resign or are terminated; and decreasing employee leave time, among other measures.

Ryan's ideas were copied from the right-



AFGE members protest unsafe working conditions at Fort Gordon, Ga., in March.

wing Heritage Foundation's "Blueprint for Reform." Jessica Klement, the legislative director for the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association, refuted the blueprint: "The report starts with the assumption that federal pay and benefits are overly generous, and not in line with the private sector, and therefore need to be decreased. This assumption is wholly inaccurate. Most federal jobs lag behind their private sector counterparts." The Federal Salary Council says federal employees are underpaid by an average of 35 percent. (fedsmith.com, July 16)

Trump, however, plans to increase pay and benefits as well as new hires for the National Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement in order to carry out his racist and anti-immigrant plans. □

Trump is lying about jobs program

By G. Dunkel

A major source of Trump's appeal was his promise to return "good jobs" back to the United States.

During Trump's spring campaigning, a secretly recorded video received widespread attention on the internet. It showed Carrier Air Conditioner bosses announcing to workers that the Indiana plant was being moved to Mexico and the workers were losing their jobs.

Trump made news of this move a poster child of his campaign. He brought it up time and time again, saying he would call up the company and threaten them with a 35 percent tariff on any air conditioners they imported from Mexico.

But that threat to impose a tariff on Carrier is unconstitutional and impossible to enforce.

The company didn't back down. It an-



PHOTO: THE INDY CHANNEL

United Steelworkers Union Local 1999 protests outside the Carrier plant in Indianapolis, March 23.

nounced on Nov. 11 that it was moving 1,400 jobs from the Indiana plant to Monterrey, Mexico, by 2019. Carrier's empty words addressing the devastation to the workers were: "We are making every effort to ease the transition for our Carrier colleagues in Indiana." (nytimes.com, Nov. 11)

The company obviously didn't want the bad publicity that Trump poured on their heads. But a Mexican worker must work a whole shift to make what a unionized worker in Indiana makes in an hour. Since Carrier's Indiana plant is profitable, cutting labor costs by this much will mean a big increase in profits. (Indianapolis Business Journal, Feb. 10)

And boosting profits is what capitalism is all about.

But there was another consequence of this attack on workers. United Steelworkers Union Local 1999, representing the Carrier workers, did not endorse reactionary Trump during the primary elections.

Instead, the union backed Bernie Sanders, the only mainstream candidate claiming to be a socialist.

Attacks on workers may get capitalists greater profits — but can also start workers on the road to revolution. □



JOHN PARKER

At Workers World Party National Conference Nov. 11-13

We are especially sensitive to the plight of those most in fear of a Trump presidency, who are wondering if they or their loved ones will be deported today or tomorrow, or if the Klan is now emboldened to come out from under their sheets and begin lynching again, or if men who hate women feel it's OK to become more predatory.

We know that the best thing we can do about that is make our anger known in the streets so they don't feel alone. The best thing we can do is organize their defense while realizing that this is also an opportunity that can give the movement wings.

This was no landslide. Yes, part of this vote reflects the dangerous presence of deep racism and sexism. But this was also a reflection of the desperation and anger of those who don't know who or what to blame and are lashing out, trying anything, even things that don't make sense because survival has become so much harder under capitalism in global economic crisis.

Although most votes came from white men who were used to being more economically and socially privileged — and

What the votes tell us

the fact remains that Black and Latinx voters came down strong against Trump — he was still able to get some support from a noticeable number of Latinx and African Americans. All of this is partly a reflection of the gap in consciousness of those voting for Trump regarding an understanding of the importance of solidarity, especially with the most oppressed. That's what our election campaigns were all about.

But it is especially important to understand that this election was also a reflection of a higher level of consciousness from those who decided that they would not vote for a lesser evil — and in this election it was hard to figure out who was more evil when you consider one candidate who spoke racism and sexism and another who had already practiced it with the lives of the people of Honduras, Libya, Syria and, of course, who had her hand in vilifying those so-called “super-predators” incarcerated for profit.

OK, here's the data backing up my opinions: In the first place, Clinton actually won the popular vote. And if you look at the most significant states that voted for Trump, you'll find that the determining states with more than 10 electors — with a switch of 1 percent of the votes in Wisconsin, Florida, Pennsylvania and Michigan — Clinton would have won with a shift of 75 electoral votes.

This is just one part of the rigged factor of these elections under capitalism. Not only do they not allow third parties a chance at getting close. But, in addition, they've set up an electoral college that guarantees them an escape hatch.

Reactionary vote deal in 1877

For example, the manipulation of electors back in March 1877 allowed for the destruction of Reconstruction and an end

to the radical and revolutionary governing of the Black former slaves who temporarily were able to seize political power after the Civil War. Just days before the scheduled inauguration, Samuel Tilden, the Democratic winner of both the electoral and popular votes, was denied the presidency by a section of the ruling class through the disqualification of electors, a concession made to the party of the slaveholders, the Democrats.

Troops protecting the former slaves would be removed from the South, allowing the former slaveholders, through the murderous terror of the Ku Klux Klan, to resume power.

Actually, since the late 1800s, the money of the rich, beginning with the Vanderbilts, Rockefellers, Morgans and others enriched from slave labor production of cotton, determined every branch of government. Sometimes there's a fluke, and Clinton probably had the majority of ruling-class support, but the result has to be acceptable to the ruling class or they will wipe it out by the many means at their disposal.

A Forbes magazine article analyzing the elections said: “Trump either won, or closely contested all the traditional manufacturing states — Ohio, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and even Michigan, where union voters did not support Clinton as they had Obama and where trade was also a big issue.”

And this from a Nov. 11 analysis of the election from the Telegraph News out of the U.K., “A key part in Clinton's failure to claim certain states was the fact that ethnic minorities and women didn't back her in the numbers initially expected.”

Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin had voted for Obama in 2012 but switched to Trump

in 2016. But Republicans gained only 3 percent more votes from 2012 in those states. The Democrats, on the other hand, lost twice as many, with a 6 percent decrease from 2012.

This was a vote against Clinton, who represented not only her and her spouse's racism and thievery of Haiti and use of mass incarceration, but the Obama administration's eight years of record deportations, regime change and attempted regime change, plus continuing austerity and increased poverty and desperation of working people.

And, one other thing, three times more people — about 6 million people — decided to vote for an alternative candidate.

In the swing states, manufacturing jobs are down from 2008 to now and food insecurity is up.

The Forbes analysis I mentioned earlier ends by encouraging Trump to get closer to our class by increasing austerity, income inequality, global warming and military spending. Yeah, that's what we workers want — right? Wrong.

What really needs to be done: Further expose bankrupt and rigged elections and push the building of our People's Power Assemblies with our allies to chart an independent course of our own making.

Hell, we might even want to elect our own candidates. The hell with the mayor, city council and president. We can choose our own official leaders of our communities and barrios and dare them to defy our authority, fortified with the masses of people, like the ones who are marching in the streets right now demanding a new day, quick, fast and in a hurry!

Black Lives Matter! Brown Lives Matter! Solidarity is the glue that makes our struggle matter!

Onward to building a Workers World! ☐

From Black Reconstruction to Black Lives Matter

I am currently a Ph.D. student at the City University of New York Graduate Center. In a class this semester called “Racial Capitalism,” I was given the opportunity to read W.E.B. Du Bois' masterpiece, “Black Reconstruction in America.”

My reading of that text couldn't have come at a better time because it really provides a detailed exposition of the U.S. state's role and its tactics aimed at preserving the capitalist economic system. It's always been important to have such an understanding, but it's so important now in the aftermath of the election of Donald Trump.

Every single social interaction I have had since Tuesday [Nov. 8] with faculty members, fellow graduate students, the undergraduates I mentor, and my partner has involved trying to sort out the anger, fear, pain and confusion regarding Trump's election. It's imperative that we mobilize, organize and remain vigilant. But it's also imperative that we help provide an understanding of the current situation that will at least get people through their days — and at best encourage people to fight.

I want to talk about just one lesson we can glean from Du Bois. We can look at what happened in the current elections and, thanks to Du Bois, have a greater understanding of the two-party system and of our rightful role in relation to it. During the Civil War, it was the Democrats, and not the Republicans, who were the “conservatives” in U.S. politics. Yet President Abraham Lincoln, a Republi-

can, and Vice President Andrew Johnson, a Democrat, ran for office and won the election on a unity ticket.

Today Lincoln is celebrated. He is unfortunately misunderstood here and internationally as the president who “freed the slaves.” But the truth of the matter is that Lincoln had no interest in Black lives at all, and was, in fact, at the beginning of the war, intent on making clear that the war was not one of liberation for the millions of enslaved people in the South. Lincoln even ordered Union troops to return escaped enslaved people back to their “owners” at the beginning of the war.

‘General strike’ pressured Lincoln

What changed Lincoln's mind? In what Du Bois calls a “general strike,” drove upon droves of enslaved Black people began escaping from the plantations and arriving at Union encampments. The South, it was believed, had the advantage in the war because its white laborers were “freed up” to serve in the military. They were freed up because enslaved laborers would continue supplying food and supplies to the troops.

So it truly was a strike when these enslaved people withheld their labor from the white slave owners. Moreover, once the Union generals got over their racist outlooks and attitudes toward these enslaved people — or, at least, put them aside in the interest of the war — they discovered that the enslaved, who had spent years of their lives, if not all their lives, in the same areas where the war was being waged, made ex-

cellent spies and saboteurs.

Once the enslaved people came to the realization that they had turned the war into a war of liberation, they fought valiantly until the very end, even while facing Northern troops' racism and discrimination. It wasn't until enslaved people forced upon Lincoln the consciousness that this was, in fact, a war against slavery — and that the Union could not win it unless the Union emancipated them — that Lincoln changed his mind and delivered the Emancipation Proclamation.

I raise this because it has some incisive lessons for us today. Looking at Lincoln helps us understand the opportunism under which U.S. capitalist politics are waged. Like then, the politicians of the two-party system have one goal in mind: the preservation of the capitalist system. Lincoln's motivation in preserving the Union was to support burgeoning Northern industrial capitalism, which needed a large geographical market and did not want to compete with seceded Southern states for international markets, particularly the market for cotton in England.

Similar to Lincoln, the “moderate” capitalist politicians of today — from Bernie Sanders to — and I'm not saying she's this, but in relation to Trump — Hillary Clinton, will ignore the needs, desires and the very lives of Black people unless forced to recognize them. It should always be remembered that any support offered to Black communities and any pithy words uttered against police brutality — which were few and far between in this election



LEILANI DOWELL

At Workers World Party National Conference Nov. 11-13

— are done in the service of maintaining the capitalist system in the U.S. and worldwide.

Black struggle central to all struggles

Concurrently, any words said or actions taken by these politicians should be understood as a reflection of the movement — and not of “democracy” in “America.” But Du Bois' analysis of the Civil War reminds us also that the Black struggle has always been central — and will always be central — to any struggle in the U.S.

There's also a lesson about working-class unity. The mainstream media were quick to imply that it was white workers who voted for Trump — a vote which was, essentially, a referendum in support of racism, sexism and reaction. However, later statistics have shown that it was majority white voters with high incomes who voted for Trump. So we should

Continued on the next page

'Let's build toward the socialist revolution'

Following one of the most horrendous bourgeois election seasons we've witnessed, we need a revolutionary, socialist, Marxist-Leninist organization. But what exactly does this mean?

The key word is "revolutionary." Building an organization requires us to be oriented toward abolishing capitalism and the state altogether, not to fight for a softer or kinder capitalism. We are demanding an organization that allows us to confront the fundamental contradictions of this system and get rid of them entirely.

Different organizations have different functions. If an organization's purpose is to reform U.S. domestic policy around policing, the way it operates will be different from how an organization whose purpose is to abolish police altogether operates.

Because of this orientation, there are key elements that make a revolutionary socialist organization what it is. First, it is the vanguard of the movement. It is comprised of professional revolutionaries who have a heightened and advanced understanding of the conditions our class is facing when it comes to the crisis of capitalism.

Revolutionary socialist organizations are also capable of responding to the ever-changing conditions facing our class. Without adaptability we are unable to provide the kind of intervention that keeps people in the streets and builds consciousness toward socialist revolution.

The organization must be able to build the consciousness of the masses while also actively engaged in struggle: the Black Lives Matter movement, the Fight for \$15, the struggle against LGBTQ and women's oppression, Palestine solidarity, migrant justice and much more.

categorically reject any analyses that say, "Oh, all the white workers are racist."

Nonetheless, Du Bois notes that it was precisely the failure of Black-white unity that led to the overthrow of Reconstruction. According to Du Bois, class unity "failed to work, because the theory of race was supplemented by a carefully planned and slowly evolved method, which drove ... a wedge between the black and white workers."

Du Bois recognized that working-class unity could have resulted in a real dictatorship of labor in the U.S. He said that serious revolutionary potential was thwarted then by both the machinations of the Southern planters, seething from the destruction of their entire way of life, and the Northern industrialists, for whom a dictatorship of labor was precisely the last thing they wanted.

In New York, it can be extremely trying to deal with the insensitive ways some white people are dealing with this election. This week has left me weary and made me want to stay inside my apartment. I have needed this conference and to be here with you all.

However, if we want to win, if we want to overthrow this f—ked-up system and end all the everyday and spectacular violences it commits against our lives, we must continue to struggle for unity. And we must realize that any divisions are custom-made to preserve capitalism and imperialism.

I want to thank you all for being here, and for all the organizing and love that has taken place since the election. Let's carry on, and let's win.

Dowell will be facilitating an extended discussion on "Black Reconstruction in America" on Dec. 18 at the Solidarity Center in New York City. □

Our duty is to make our class better at fighting, motivating and pushing our class toward seeing itself as the only force that is capable of overthrowing capitalism. Part of this motivation is building revolutionary Marxist consciousness, of wrestling politically with members of our class who have reactionary ideas.

The other part of motivating our class toward seeing itself as a revolutionary force is being combat ready and militant, being willing to risk and put our bodies on the line, especially in dire times.

We are militant also in the transfer of our skills and building new leadership, particularly that of the most oppressed.

A revolutionary socialist organization builds itself to be ready to govern, ready to plan a society and economy that allows all people to flourish, to make meaningful contributions and to receive what they deserve in exchange.

A revolutionary socialist organization is a breathing organism, composed of people whom it attracts and recruits, composed of the leadership that it desires to come even after the revolution — multinational, multigender, disabled and abled bodied, queer and straight, young and old, and so forth, because a revolutionary socialist organization unites us all as a class that creates all wealth yet is estranged from the fruits of our labor; a class that the bourgeoisie must actively work to repress; a class that faces its own contradictions and challenges, yet is oppressed by nothing greater than the superexploitation by profiteers.

The people of the U.S. and the world have been at war for centuries with a ruling order that enslaves, entraps and murders Black, Indigenous and Brown people at home and abroad.

I am honored to be a part of Workers World Party, which applies Leninist organizational principles to the changing conditions facing our class with discipline and persistence.

We cannot let the Democrats, the Klan, neo-Nazis or the liberals build their organizations in this period. Or ever again.

The time is now for us to build our



L.T. PHAM

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ranks, to fortify our leadership, to dig deeper in building with the masses. There are many people who no longer have any illusion that the system, as it is, functions to their benefit or livelihood.

Collectivism vs. individualism

Join an organization that pushes you to let go of your individualism and ego in service and recognition of the collective brilliance made possible by the people around us — who are still able to come together to consult, to collaborate, to disagree and still have a high level of ideological unity that our class so desperately needs.

Join an organization that understands that Black liberation is actually part and parcel of the class struggle. Our class cannot prevail if we don't pay attention to the ways in which Black people are uniquely and intensely impacted by capitalism.

Join an organization that knows in fighting for a new world we must center on the most oppressed in the creation of a socialist society. This means that Black and Brown people, Indigenous people, women, people with disabilities and LGBTQ folks must be at the center of leadership starting now.

Join an organization that knows there

is no such thing as a "white working class" — that knows there is only one working class and that is the global, multinational working class that we must remain rooted in. When we stray from this fundamental reality, we threaten our own ability to organize our class into solidarity, into a united front against the real enemies.

Join an organization that will stay in the streets with the masses; an organization that will always be on the side of the workers and the oppressed and defends our class unapologetically; an organization that knows our interests are diametrically opposed to that of the ruling class.

Join an organization because it will strengthen our ability to harness the energy, righteous rage and frustrations of this moment into revolutionary action. It will strengthen our ability to balance the spontaneity of a moment with a long-term program for the liberation of our class.

We cannot fight these battles alone, but there will be a lot of liberal rhetoric that will try to convince us to fight them alone. Love does not trump hate. Love does not trump racism. Love does not trump capitalism. Love does not trump the horrendous conditions we face every-day.

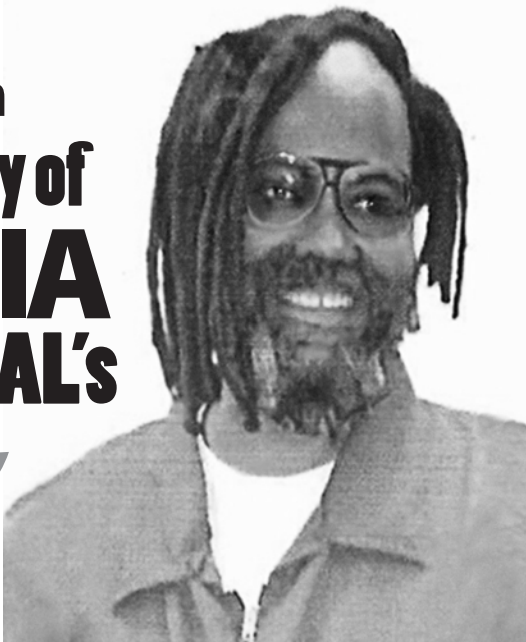
Although we now face a Trump presidency, I am not afraid for the battles to come. I do not have fear that I'm in the trenches alone because none of us are. We are organized. We recognize the state as a highly organized apparatus that must be met by the working class for whom revolutionary socialist organizations are tasked with unifying, strengthening and building.

I am not afraid because I am in an organization full of revolutionaries who fight every day against horrendous attacks, with unwavering faith in our class to defeat capitalism once and for all.

The movement to overthrow capitalism and white supremacy — our class struggle — needs you, and you need it.

Build a Workers World! Onwards to socialist revolution! □

On the 35th Anniversary of MUMIA ABU-JAMAL's FRAMEUP, ARREST, & NEAR DEATH



MUMIA'S LIFE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER

We got Mumia off death row, now demand immediate **HEP C cure** for Mumia & 7000 other PA hep-c infected prisoners!

Mumia and many others are very sick , and will die if PA keeps refusing to treat them! Federal Judge Robert D. Mariani declares this unconstitutional!

BE IN PHILADELPHIA

fri ▶ DEC 9

SCHEDULE

3pm RALLY AND MARCH

Frank Rizzo statue

15th St. and JFK Blvd.

5:30 pm INDOOR EVENT

Arch Street United Methodist Church

Corner Arch St. and Broad St.

Food will be available for donation

6 pm – 9 pm PROGRAM

To endorse or for info: 215.724.1618

Mobilization4Mumia@gmail.com

NYC-NEWARK BUS INFO 212.330.8029
\$20 round-trip
Tickets must be purchased by Dec 6
10 AM Maysles Cinema
343 Malcolm X Blvd, between 127th & 128th
11 AM 475 10th Ave between 36th & 37th
12 noon 53 Lincoln Park, NEWARK

From Plymouth Rock to Standing Rock

Continued from page 1

Band in North Dakota. His supporters worldwide are calling for President Obama to grant clemency and free Peltier now.

The so-called “Thanksgiving” holiday starkly recalls the centuries of atrocities committed against Native peoples, first by European colonizers and then by U.S. administrations. Indigenous lands stolen; cultures and languages under siege; bigotry, injustice and genocidal violence aimed at this country’s original inhabitants are the real U.S. history, not the myths.

Workers World is in solidarity with Indigenous nations in their ongoing struggles in the U.S. and throughout the Americas for political, economic and social rights. We recognize the right to self-determination of Indigenous people everywhere and support their efforts for decolonization and sovereignty. We condemn racist discrimination, oppression and corporate exploitation that continue against these communities, resulting in economic devastation and impoverishment.

The U.S. government has broken every treaty ever signed with Native nations in order to steal their lands, displace their peoples and back greedy corporations in search of oil, gas, minerals — and superprofits. We applaud Native peoples worldwide who boldly resist capitalists’ pillaging of the earth with total disregard for the planet and the life on it.

Indigenous peoples are taking leadership in the struggle to stop environmental genocide in the U.S. and across the globe. Heroic Native activists waged a victorious, militant, seven-year struggle with non-Native allies to stop the Keystone XL Pipeline. Native peoples actively oppose “climate injustice” — whereby poor countries and peoples are harmed by climate-made disasters caused by carbon emissions, fracking, hazardous pipelines and environmental racism.

Workers World stands in solidarity with Indigenous peoples worldwide who are fighting back against the capitalists’ escalating destruction of the planet. We assert that their struggles and righteous demands for reparations from corporate

polluters for ecological damage must be supported.

‘Water is life’

The courageous months-long struggle by the Standing Rock Sioux nation to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline’s construction has inspired thousands of people to join with them in solidarity and garnered international support. In addition to destroying sacred land, the DAPL would pollute the Missouri River, affecting the water supply for millions of people. This is a fight for sovereignty, land, water and the lives of future generations.

Three hundred Indigenous nations and their supporters have opposed the building of the DAPL, which is being unlawfully constructed on stolen land without the Standing Rock Sioux Nation’s permission. These brave, unarmed protesters have blocked bulldozers and faced down corporate mercenaries and militarized police who wield pepper spray, rubber bullets and tear gas. Water protectors have been beaten, bitten by attack dogs, arrested, strip-searched, numbered and kept in dog kennels.

Native nations are demanding that the U.S. government honor the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie with the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires of the Great Sioux Nation), which recognized that this land belongs to them. By law, so does the water. The North Dakota police and U.S. National Guard are violating federal treaty rights as they act to protect the interests of oil profiteer Energy Transfer Partners.

Workers World wholeheartedly supports Native water protectors and their allies at Standing Rock. We, along with hundreds of organizations, sent a delegation to their encampment to show our solidarity, and we encourage other groups and individuals to travel there and/or show support in whatever ways they can.

Workers World raises high the banner of solidarity with all Indigenous peoples on this National Day of Mourning. We join with millions of people worldwide in loudly proclaiming, “No DAPL” and “Free Leonard Peltier!” □

Solidarity with Indigenous sovereignty

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the attention of the U.N. High Commission for Human Rights. In a Nov. 15 statement, the body denounced the “excessive force” being used, which is “at odds with the right to assemble peacefully” and “should in itself stop the pipeline’s construction.” (indiancountrytodaymedianetwork, Nov. 17)

Indigenous leaders declared Nov. 15 a national day of solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Nation’s struggle against the DAPL. These protests demanded that the Obama administration and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stop the dangerous, illegal and unnecessary pipeline. Over 200 actions took place in 50 states, including major rallies in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Here is a sampling of these protests, including one that took place prior to the nationally coordinated day.

BOSTON

Over 1,000 people came out in solidarity with Standing Rock and the struggle against the DAPL on Nov. 9. The crowd gathered on Boston Common and heard speakers, including Love Richardson (Nipmuc), Tim Swallow (Lakota), Jim Peters (Wampanoag), Mahtowin Munro (Lakota), Karan Doczi, Rev. Mariama White-Hammond and United Steelwork-

ers Local 8751, Boston School Bus Drivers Union President Andre François.

While many in the crowd were somber after the Trump election victory the previous night, they were strengthened by joining together to fight back and uplifted by the words of Mahtowin Munro, “We have been fighting this war since 1492. We are not going anywhere, and we are not afraid!”

Two members of the National Lawyers Guild who had just returned from providing legal services at Standing Rock told of the arrests of hundreds of people whose “crime” was to protect the water from the nightmare pipeline that ETP is trying to ram through before the end of the year.

Rev. Mariama White-Hammond spoke movingly of her recent trip to the encampment as part of a delegation of 500 clergy members. She noted that she witnessed police officers’ repressive targeting of Indigenous people.

All the speakers emphasized their commitment to defending the rights to Native sovereignty and water. The action was sponsored by the North American Indian Center of Boston, United American Indians of New England, Boston NoDAPL Solidarity and other organizations.

The rally then took to the streets in

Which side are you on?

One of the labor movement’s most famous anthems is “Which Side Are You On?” Composer Florence Reece gave new lyrics to an old hymn in 1931 after gun-wielding gangsters working for mine owners invaded her home in Harlan County, Ky.

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka served as United Mine Workers president from 1982 to 1995. He should know that song by heart. Unfortunately, he — along with United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard, United Auto Workers President Dennis Williams and leaders of the National American Building Trades Unions — don’t seem to understand what the question means.

Now Trumka has announced: “The AFL-CIO accepts the outcome of this election, and offers our congratulations to President-elect Trump.” (aflcio.org, Nov. 9) NABTU agreed, while Gerard and Williams showed themselves eager to meet with Trump about trade agreements like NAFTA.

This willingness to pal up to Trump is shameful! Trump opposed those trade agreements to win votes from workers. Meanwhile, he hurled racist, sexist and anti-immigrant epithets like bombs onto workers. Unions are the organized expression of workers’ power and unity. Union leaders should be the first to cry foul over Trump’s campaign of vile hatred that pitted one section of the working class against another.

The union leaders’ statements conflict with the explosion of hostility to Trump’s program from oppressed workers and youth. All over the U.S. tens of thousands have been marching night after night and roaring, “Not my president!” These masses saw through and rejected Trump’s racism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, misogyny, anti-LGBTQ bigotry and contempt for people with disabilities.

AFL-CIO’s Trumka and company’s ac-

tion of cozying up to Trump put the fight against racism very low on labor’s agenda. That’s a betrayal of the working class when the fight against racism is central to the class struggle today in the United States.

Trump has been openly anti-labor. His anti-union/anti-worker program and practices are no secret. He advocates a national “right-to-work” (for less) law and wants to abolish the federal minimum wage and the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act. At Trump’s Las Vegas casino, management has been intimidating the low-wage, majority immigrant workforce and has refused to negotiate a contract with duly-elected and certified Culinary Workers Local 226.

Yes, it is standard practice after a presidential election for labor leaders to meet with the president-elect, whether Democrat or Republican. But in this election, the capitalist parties gave us two rotten candidates, Clinton and Trump, and told the working class: “Choose your poison.”

It’s time for union leaders to end their cooperation with capitalism. Their current approach is moribund class-collaborationism typical of AFL-CIO leadership since the AFL and CIO combined in 1955. This collaboration has grown worse each decade since.

Trump is not our president. Capitalism is not our system. The militant youth and others in the streets, who are part of the U.S. multinational working class, should have the muscle of organized labor behind them.

We need conscious, class-struggle unionism. To make gains for workers, instead of cozying up to capitalism, Trumka should call a general strike to block Trump’s inauguration!

Class consciousness is growing in the streets. As the old song says, “There are no neutrals.”

Which side are you on?



a powerful march dotted with dozens of beautiful signs and banners. When passing TD Bank, Citibank and other big banks, the marchers pointed out their complicity in funding the DAPL construction. Participants briefly shut down busy Storrow Drive and ended with a ceremony near the waters of the Charles River.

— WW Boston Bureau

NEW YORK CITY

About 3,000 people gathered on Nov. 15 in Foley Square, near the local offices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The diverse crowd included Black, Latinx, Indigenous and many other nationalities, although most participants were white. They were also of all ages, including babies in strollers. Without a sound system, speeches were communicated through the “mic-check” technique of crowd repetition devised by the Occupy movement. The mostly handmade signs called for an end to the pipeline, respecting Indigenous sovereignty and sacred grounds. Some read, “Mni Wiconi” (Lakota for “Water is life”).

— Report and photo A. Majumder

DETROIT

Some 300 people came out on Nov. 15 to show support for the Standing Rock water protectors, who had called this international day of solidarity with their struggle. Detroit responded by taking to the streets

and marching several blocks to the banks funding the DAPL, which is threatening the Oceti Sakowin’s sacred land and water sources. Marchers demanded that the banks withdraw their funds and revoke their support for the pipeline.

—Report and photo Kayla Pauli

SAN DIEGO

Hundreds in San Diego joined with people in cities across the country for a Nov. 15 massive Day of Action for Standing Rock. They demanded that the federal government and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reject the construction of the DAPL on the lands of the Oceti Sakowin in North Dakota.

The rally was held in a courtyard in front of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers office. Hundreds came with signs and chanted, “We stand in solidarity with Standing Rock!” and “No DAPL!” The protest was organized by People’s Climate Change Action, also known as SanDiego350. Many speakers, reporting from Standing Rock, explained what the protesters are going through there and what their immediate needs are.

Ida Cruz, a member of National Nurses United, which represents over 85,000 registered nurses in California and nearly 200,000 nationwide, said, “We all stand in solidarity with Standing Rock [water

Continued on the next page

Latin America and high tech

Now we get instant messages, images and video footage from the most distant places on the planet, even beyond. Social media instantly connect us with struggles that otherwise we wouldn't know, but we can now follow developments live.

That is the power of technology — awesome. We sit down in front of a computer or take a smartphone and have all the information we need right then and there.

But technology has also been used by capitalism to intensify exploitation. We have studied it in “High Tech, Low Pay,” the breakthrough book that our founding comrade Sam Marcy wrote. And also in the book that followed, by comrade Fred Goldstein, “Capitalism at a Dead End.”

Now, the whole world is reacting to an enormous capitalist crisis, created basically by the incredible increase of production of goods and services, due to high tech. Of oil. So much has been produced, but it is beyond the reach of the majority of people. People have become increasingly poor; millions have lost their jobs or work for very low wages.

But the capitalists don't sell unless they get a profit. And they are hungry for profits, for money, for resources. They have waged wars, occupied countries and territories. Yet, they have not really expanded the markets like in the wars of the past. This in a way shows the weakness of this stage of capitalist decay.

But capitalism is still very violent and bloody. And we cannot lose sight of the fact that although the capitalist class is international, the U.S. leads it. It's Wall Street and the Pentagon in the driver's seat!

What does this have to do with Latin America? Well, a great deal!

Latin America was tilting the world balance to the left. It was challenging U.S. imperialism and its domination. It was creating a situation that could have possibly brought a destabilization of the capitalist system.



protectors] who have for months been protesting construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. We call on the federal government to permanently block this project.”

After detailing the many dangers involved in building the pipeline, Cruz said it poses a far greater threat than conventional oil. “This dirty crude oil would threaten the health and safety of approximately 17 million people who rely upon the Missouri River,” Cruz stressed.

People were encouraged to go to North Dakota to support the Oceti Sakowin at Standing Rock. It was emphasized that we must remember we have an obligation to stand up for everyone involved in this struggle.

Postcards addressed to President Barack Obama and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in North Dakota were passed around for people to fill out. The postcards read: “We demand that you honor Indigenous Nations’ sovereignty and treaties and ask that you revoke permits and enforce a complete and immediate halt to the Dakota Access Pipeline. #NODAPL!”

After the rally, protesters took to the streets with signs. They continued chanting, “We stand with Standing Rock!” and “No to DAPL!”

— Report and photo Gloria Verdieu

And even though the progressive governments were not socialist and the states were still capitalist, the people's struggles there, if they had continued to grow in a forward direction, could have continued on the path to overturn the capitalist state. Also, many of these governments instituted policies to benefit their people. These were resources that did not go to the capitalists.

The developments in Latin America were a real threat to the existence of capitalism itself. So, the imperialists, together with the national bourgeoisie and all its allies, both in Latin America and beyond, had to act. They acted not only to preserve capitalism, but also to extract as much wealth as possible to overcome the economic downturn.

The capitalists had to move to crush the progressive movements and install right-wing governments that could carry on programs of austerity, anti-people programs of layoffs, of reduction of social benefits.

Let's remember the attempted coup against Hugo Chávez in Venezuela in 2002 and the oil sabotage in 2003, the attempts against Evo Morales in Bolivia in 2008 and Rafael Correa in Ecuador in 2010. Then the coup that ousted Manuel Zelaya in Honduras in 2009 and Fernando Lugo in Paraguay in 2012. And recently, the election of Mauricio Macri in Argentina and the illegal impeachment of Dilma Rousseff in Brazil to put right-wing Michel Temer in power.

Now, many of these right-wing governments have started to enact laws to transfer land and natural resources to private companies and to transnational corporations. In Brazil, for example, just yesterday Congress passed a law giving priority to transnational companies in the exploitation of the very rich oil field of the Presal. That is privatization of Petrobras.

They have also unleashed a violent campaign against the progressive movements in those countries. Repression, harassment, arrests and even assassination of social leaders, against the peasants and Indigenous in Colombia, in Honduras — Berta Cáceres ¡presente! — in Argentina, in Mexico. Recently there was an armed attack against a school of the Landless Movement in Brazil. Fora [Out] Temer!

Of course, we have to include the ongoing campaign to destroy the Boli-

varian Revolution in Venezuela and the ongoing criminal blockade against Cuba. ¡Viva Cuba revolucionaria! ¡Viva Venezuela!

And most recently, the imposition of a fiscal control board in Puerto Rico that will decide everything on the island just to benefit the bondholders on Wall Street. Capitalists are squeezing all they can from their colony.

Stepping up the struggle

In response, there is a new wave of mobilizations, trying to build unity, challenging the right-wing governments and their policies.

But one thing is clear, there is an understanding that the struggle has to step up. It cannot be a fight for reforms, for a change of policies here and there. The struggle is really a war. It is a class war. To survive and win, it must be a fight against the capitalist state. Easy to say, right?

But what is needed? And this applies to the struggle everywhere, including right here in the U.S.

Of course, a constant presence in the streets is crucial; the challenge has to be visible.

But the other aspect, the one that is even harder to carry out, the one that will make possible the final victory, is the increase of ideological clarity — the need for Marxist formulations, education that will hone our revolutionary tools together with “Con el pueblo, todo. Sin el pueblo, nada.” (With the people, everything. Without the people, nothing.)

That is a lesson learned from Hugo Chávez. He was popular and loved by people not only in Venezuela but worldwide. It was not only the programs to benefit the people but his relationship with the people. He talked long hours of history, of the conditions of the country and the world, and people listened for hours because he listened first to the people.

This is something that we need to do. We can have the best political program, but if we fail to listen to the people, to know their concerns, their grievances, their fears, we will never be able to win them over to carry out a truly revolutionary program. We need to win the people over, and it is possible if we first listen. We need to go door to door, be out in front of the workplaces.



BERTA JOUBERT-CECI

At Workers World Party National Conference Nov. 11-13

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Just a brief anecdote to illustrate this. In the recent elections in Puerto Rico there was a “surprising” outcome. Several candidates for governor who did not run under the banner of the major party won thousands of votes. One of them, a woman — who ran as an independent — got almost half as many votes as the elected governor got! How did this happen?

Of course, there are some circumstances in Puerto Rico, like the fiscal control board, the corruption and rejection of the current government, etc. But one of the main reasons was that she had gone to talk with the people directly.

The same thing happened with now Senator-elect Vargas Vidot. He walked all over Puerto Rico, talking with the people, about accessible health care and other issues, learning their needs. And he won overwhelmingly; his organization is an organization called Community Initiative; it is not a party.

It is time now not just to protest; it is time to really challenge the existence of capitalism. The system cannot be reformed; it has to be replaced! The movement cannot be on the defensive; it has to go on the offense! We desperately need socialism!

But to be effective, we cannot go alone. No movement can go alone: We need international solidarity and action and to be with the people, talking and listening to win them over.

And while we do that, we must defend Cuba, We must defend Venezuela!

Free Oscar López!

Free Ana Belén Montes!

¡Fuera la Junta de Control Fiscal!

¡Viva Puerto Rico Libre!

Build Workers World / Mundo Obrero!

Attacks on leftists in Turkey

The government of NATO-member Turkey, headed by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is a key U.S. ally in the war of regime change against Syria. Erdogan's government has also carried out massive repression against Kurdish people and Turkish leftists opposed to the war. The following resolution, condemning Erdogan's latest repression, was approved by acclamation at the Workers World Party National Conference on Nov. 13.

On Friday, Nov. 11, police raided the headquarters of the Progressive Lawyers Association (ÇHD) in Istanbul, Turkey, after the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan issued a new statutory decree approved by parliament requiring 370 associations and nongovernmental organizations in 40 cities to be shut down under the pretext of “relations with terrorist groups that are harmful to the national security.” Most of these are leftist and progressive organizations, including the Peace Association of Turkey, a member of the World Peace Council.

Members of the ÇHD were arrested and tortured, and then released on Saturday.



Members of the Progressive Lawyers Association in Istanbul barricaded in their office during police raid, Nov. 3.

Their files and computers were confiscated and their office was sealed by the police.

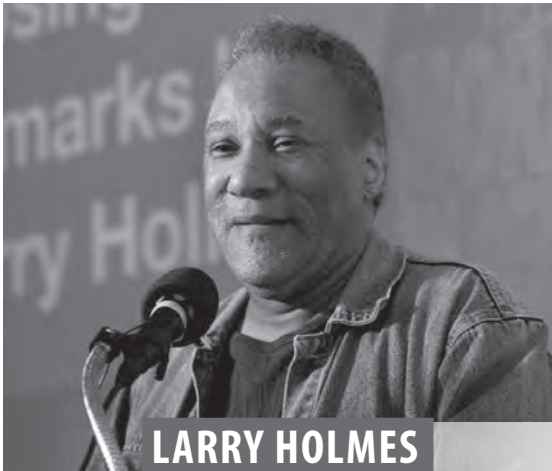
The raid came days after the Nov. 3 arrest of 12 Kurdish members of parliament from the leftist People's Democratic Party (HPD), and less than a month after a violent raid on a left-wing cultural center and headquarters of the world-famous musicians Grup Yorum.

The National Conference of Workers World Party, meeting in New York City, Nov. 11-13, 2016, condemns the ongoing repression against progressive organiza-

tions and movements by the U.S.-backed government of Turkey, a NATO member. These attacks target left-wing organizations that support the Kurdish freedom struggle and that oppose Turkish intervention to aid U.S. regime-change plans in Syria.

From the belly of the imperialist beast, we send our solidarity to the determined Turkish and Kurdish resistance and pledge our solidarity at this difficult time.

Stop the raids! Hands off the Kurdish and Turkish left! U.S-Turkey out of Syria!



LARRY HOLMES

en la Conferencia Nacional del Partido
Workers World-Mundo Obrero,
Nov. 11-13

Quiero hablar sobre el panorama general en términos de lo que sucedió el martes 8 de noviembre, con la elección de Trump. Ese evento es importante para un partido como el nuestro, un partido revolucionario comunista en el centro del imperialismo mundial. Sí, el imperialismo estadounidense se está debilitando, pero sigue siendo el centro del imperialismo mundial.

Las/os socialistas, comunistas y revolucionarios que organizan aquí tienen una responsabilidad extra-especial de entender el carácter global de los acontecimientos.

Esta elección no fue sólo un evento nacional. Fue un evento global. Trump es ahora la nueva cara global del capitalismo.

La subida de Trump es parte de la implosión del establecimiento político capitalista, incluso en los grandes países imperialistas de Europa. Ese colapso está siendo impulsado por la nueva tecnología y la globalización que destruye empleos, salud y las vidas de más y más trabajadoras/es.

El problema político es con el Partido Demócrata y sus contrapartes en otros países - los partidos que se han llamado socialdemócratas. Se suponía que estos partidos representaban a las/os trabajadoras/es, pero realmente nunca lo hicieron. Durante algún tiempo, han estado haciendo lo contrario, desechando cualquier pretensión de actuar en pro de las/os trabajadoras/es.

Se han convertido en agentes de lo que algunas personas llaman neoliberalismo, cumpliendo con lo que el capitalismo necesita: imponer austeridad, llevar puestos de trabajo de un lugar a otro buscando mano de obra más barata, reducir empleos con la tecnología, atacando más y más a la clase trabajadora. Quitando viviendas, cuidado médico, todo.

Debido a esto, sectores de la clase trabajadora están abandonando a demócratas y socialdemócratas, y se convierten en alimento para demagogos derechistas, racistas y neofascistas en todo el mundo.

Las/os trabajadoras/es están siendo literalmente entregados a neofascistas como Donald Trump. Pero no tiene por qué ser así, y tenemos pruebas de eso a principios de este año.

Durante las elecciones primarias de marzo, las/os trabajadoras/es en Michigan y Wisconsin votaron por Bernie Sanders, quien estaba tratando de salvar al Partido Demócrata. En los Estados Unidos no se suele ver a un candidato presidencial que se llame socialista. El hecho es que muchas/os de las/os trabajadoras/es que votaron por Trump hace unos días, votaron por Bernie Sanders hace unos meses.

Muchas/os trabajadoras/es, blancos y negros, no salieron para salvar al Partido Demócrata. Dijeron que las cosas están muy mal. Dijeron: “Aquí en Flint, ni siquiera tenemos agua potable. ¿Por qué debería votar por los demócratas? Obama vino aquí y tomó un vaso de agua, y le dijo a todo el mundo que estaba bien”.

Ellas/os miraron a su alrededor y dijeron: ¿Qué? ¿No hay más problemas?

¡No vamos a tener a nuestra clase dividida!

Camaradas y amigos, quiero hablarles como comunista, porque se supone que los comunistas conozcamos los problemas de la clase obrera. Se supone que tengamos una comprensión profunda - la comprensión más profunda de cualquier persona. Sólo de esta manera podemos tener algunas respuestas y proporcionar algún liderazgo.

‘La elección de Trump está radicalizando a las masas’

No debemos permitir que racistas y fascistas se lleven a ningún sector de nuestra clase. Debemos luchar contra esto y detenerlo. ¡No vamos a tener nuestra clase dividida!

Primero y ante todo, este desarrollo es un tema de clase. Para mantener a nuestra clase unida, tenemos que revisar quién está en nuestra clase. No sólo son trabajadores blancos retrógrados quienes rechazan personas que sabemos son parte de la clase obrera. Incluso sindicalistas progresistas también pueden tener ideas obsoletas sobre quién es parte de la clase obrera. Pueden no darse cuenta que la clase obrera está cambiando, creciendo, y tiene nuevos sectores.

Monica Moorhead dijo que el movimiento Las Vidas Negras Importan es un movimiento de la clase obrera. Los patronos declaran la guerra contra la gente negra y marrón de todas las edades, especialmente contra las/os jóvenes, porque en esta fase de decadencia capitalista, el capitalismo no tiene trabajos para ellas/os. Son prescindibles. Así que los patronos los mandan al complejo industrial penitenciario y a veces hasta hacen que la policía les mate.

Las Vidas Negras Importan es un tema de clase. Todas/os los que luchan por la clase obrera deben integrarse a las demostraciones contra el terror policial.

Standing Rock es un tema de clase obrera. Estas/os son hermanas y hermanos indígenas oprimidos que luchan por su tierra. Este es un asunto de la clase obrera antiimperialista. Luchar por los derechos de las/os prisioneros es un tema de clase. ¿Porque? Porque las/os prisioneros son trabajadores. Debería haber más apoyo para sus huelgas.

Nuestras hermanas y hermanos migrantes, ya sea de México o Paquistán, África o de algún lugar del Medio Oriente, no importa el idioma que hablen, son parte de nuestra clase. No son enemigos, ni competidores. No están tomando puestos de trabajo. Ya estén en París o Londres, Carolina del Norte, Texas o Nueva York, no hay fronteras en la lucha de la clase obrera.

Nuestro partido necesita explicar que las mujeres, lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transgénero, y las personas de género no conformes, son parte de la clase obrera.

Aquellos izquierdistas que descartan esto como “política de identidad” — yo los cuestiono como Marxistas y revolucionarios. La lucha LGBTQ es una lucha histórica de vida o muerte. Las filas de quienes están en la vanguardia están creciendo de manera que ninguna/o de nosotros ha visto jamás. Aquellas/os de nosotros de cierta edad estamos contentos de haber vivido tiempo suficiente para ver gente de la comunidad LGBTQ emergiendo de las sombras y avanzando.

¿En que se basa la lucha LGBTQ? Es parte de la lucha contra el patriarcado. ¿Qué es patriarcado? Un pilar de la dominación de clase. ¿De cual clase? La clase capitalista. Romper ese pilar en un acto para las/os trabajadoras/es, para la revolución.

Nuestra clase es una clase global.

Quizás más importante es que tenemos que profundizar el entendimiento de que somos una clase global. No tenemos fronteras. La elección de Trump ha envalentonado a racistas y neofascistas en toda Europa. La elección de Trump es un desarrollo global contra las/os trabajadoras/es.

Tenemos que desarrollar la comprensión de que nuestra clase es una clase global. Quizás el Partido Workers World —Mundo Obrero— con un nombre perfecto para nuestra clase global — podría lanzar una campaña “Trabajadoras/es del mundo uníos”.

Podíamos tener eventos y protestas para resaltar diferentes secciones de nuestra clase — quizás, a veces trabajadoras/es migrantes, otras para trabajadoras/es LGBTQ, o trabajadoras/es de comida rápida. Explicaríamos cómo tenemos que dejar de mirarnos sólo

como ciudadanos de este o aquel país. Diríamos: “No te quedes tan atrapada/o que olvidas que nuestra clase es una clase global”.

Tenemos que organizar en una base global, porque así es como el capitalismo enfrenta a las/os trabajadoras/es entre sí. Tan mal como ha ido hasta ahora, vamos a experimentar más de esto. Tenemos que luchar.

Tenemos que encontrar nuevas maneras de practicar el internacionalismo. Por ejemplo, en 2014 las/os trabajadoras/es de comida rápida de McDonald’s intentaron una huelga global en más de 30 países. No eran millones de trabajadoras/es, y no cerraron todos los McDonald’s. Pero fue una acción global simultánea. Ahora algunos activistas están pidiendo una huelga general el 20 de enero en los EUA, el día de la inauguración de Trump. Y algunos quieren que sea global.

Hoy en día es más práctico tener una huelga general que hace algún tiempo. Sí, la tecnología ha atomizado a la clase obrera porque los patronos necesitan menos trabajadoras/es para producir cosas. Ahora la mayoría de las/os trabajadoras/es no se queda en ningún trabajo por mucho tiempo, sino que están en lo que se llama trabajo precario.

Pero debido a las nuevas tecnologías, las/os trabajadoras/es son capaces de comunicarse entre sí de forma instantánea y global. Por lo tanto, son capaces de organizarse a nivel local, nacional, regional y mundial.

Necesitamos tener un nuevo modelo para una huelga general. No puede ser simplemente dejar el lugar de trabajo, aunque eso es importante para una huelga. Pero ¿qué pasa con más y más trabajadoras/es de nuestra clase que no tienen trabajo, no están en un sindicato o realizan un trabajo temporal? Tienen que tener una manera de participar.

Mientras tanto, miles de personas en su mayoría jóvenes, de diferentes nacionalidades, están sacudiendo las calles y ciudades de todo el país. Han hecho una gran contribución en estos pocos días después del “triunfo de Trump”. La burguesía está preocupada.

La clase capitalista tuvo una contra-demostración. ¿Sabe qué fue? Fue Obama reuniéndose con Trump, y Clinton haciendo una declaración agradable. Esa es la unión de los imperialistas. Ayer, Trump era un monstruo, un racista, un misógino. Hoy es “nuestro presidente”, y los imperialistas dicen: “Debemos darle una oportunidad”.

¡Pero nosotras/os no le daremos una oportunidad! Vamos a construir esa masiva protesta contra inaugural el 20 de enero. Vamos a encontrar una manera, con aliados, de formar comités de defensa para que nuestros hermanos y hermanas musulmanes, nuestros hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes, nuestras hermanas y hermanos LGBTQ no tengan que vivir con miedo.

La elección de Trump es un gran problema. Nuestro principal trabajo ahora es defender a los sectores de nuestra clase y nuestra comunidad que están siendo atacados. Pero a veces podemos convertir una reacción como ésta en una oportunidad para conquistar logros revolucionarios.

Que se sepa que el Partido Workers World-Mundo Obrero está dispuesto a trabajar con cualquier fuerza honesta en un frente unido contra el fascismo y por el socialismo. Estamos completamente abiertos a hacer lo que se necesita hacer. No es tiempo para el sectarismo. Este no es el momento para decir “Oh, esta es mi organización”. Lo entendemos. Estamos tratando de construir nuestra organización también.

Pero tenemos que pensar más grande y más audazmente. Estamos preparadas/os para hacer lo que sea necesario. Derrotemos esto. Trump ha comenzado algo. Nosotras/os vamos a terminarlo.

Queremos convertir este problemático desarrollo político en una revolución por el socialismo. □