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\$1

YOUTH OF COLOR RESIST RACISM

Dream Defenders sit-in for 'Trayvon's Law'

By Imani Henry and Scott Williams
Tallahassee, Fla.

July 28 — They came from all over: Florida, California, New Orleans, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., the Bronx, N.Y., and elsewhere. People of color as young as 8 years old came to support the call put out by the Dream Defenders to rally and sit-in during the weekend of July 26-28 in Florida's State Capitol in Tallahassee.

EMMETT TILL, TRAYVON

Civil Rights then & now 6

They were angry at the "not guilty" verdict for George Zimmerman and wanted justice for Trayvon

Martin and new laws from the Florida Legislature.

Representing the national Alliance for Educational Justice, including such grassroots groups as Youth United for Change, Sistas and Brothas United, the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, the Baltimore Algebra Project, and the Black Youth Project, these modern-day freedom riders traveled as many as 30 hours by bus to Florida.

"The brave leadership of the Dream Defenders put their bodies on the line, and our people were glad to join them and will continue to support them throughout the year," Mustafa Sullivan, AEJ campaign organizer, told Workers World. "I believe that we will win' ... is not just a [protest] chant but a promise that the Dream Defenders and the Alliance for Educational Justice plan to show America when it works to end the school-to-prison pipeline, replace racist laws like Stand Your Ground, and fight for justice for all people."

In response to the "not guilty" verdict for George Zimmerman, the killer of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, the student of color organization — Dream Defenders — has been sitting in and sleeping over in the Capitol building in Tallahassee since July 16. The group is calling on Florida Gov. Rick Scott to convene a special legislative session "to repeal the 'stand your ground' law, ban racial profiling and end the school-to-prison pipeline." (dreamdefenders.org)

A statewide organization with six chapters in Florida, Dream Defenders is directed by Black and Brown youth who self-identify as "the sons and daughters of slaves and farm workers" who "confront systemic inequality by building collective power."

One of the first actions of Dream Defenders, which formed in response to the murder of Trayvon Martin in 2012, was to create a human blockade and surround the Sanford Police Department, refusing to leave until

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Freedom Riders from Bronx, N.Y., at Florida State Capitol support sit-in.

WW PHOTO

POSTAL WORKERS

On the move

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DETROIT BANKRUPTCY

Community fights back

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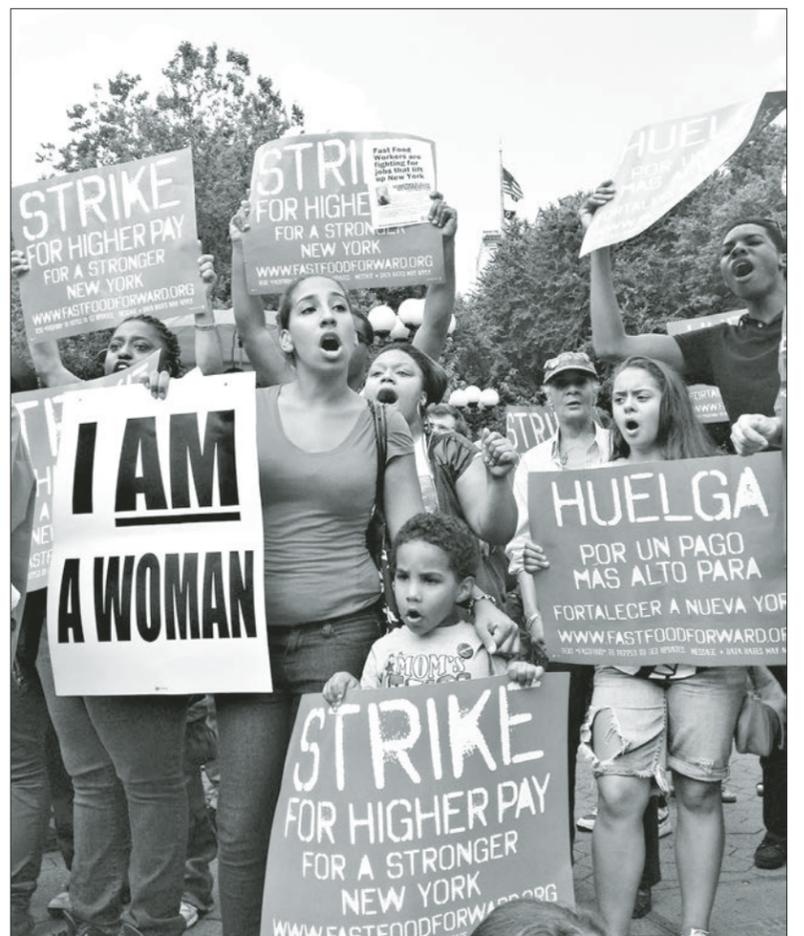
Fast-food workers demand LIVING WAGE

By Kathy Durkin
New York

July 29 — "We can't survive on \$7.25!" and "What's outrageous? Poverty wages!" chanted hundreds of striking fast-food workers and their supporters outside a McDonald's restaurant in New York City's Union Square. Similar job actions were held at other NYC locations, including in midtown Manhattan and downtown Brooklyn, and in five other U.S. cities.

These brave workers, mostly African American and Latino/a, insisted: "We deserve a living wage!" While demanding the right to organize into a union, they stressed, "New York is a union town!" Their militant spirit was expressed in their chant: "The workers have a right! Fight! Fight! Fight!"

Fast Food Forward, New York



New York City's Union Square, July 29.

WW PHOTO: TERESA GUTIERREZ

Communities for Change and the Services Employees union are helping on the NYC campaign. Among strike supporters in Union Square today were members of various labor unions, Laundry Workers Center, Occupy Wall Street, Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs

and Services, immigrant rights organizations and other pro-working class groups.

People's Power Assembly organizers came in solidarity with the workers and distributed a leaflet linking the struggle for low-wage

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Domesticating the hunters

– Knight's hypothesis

By Bob McCubbin

British anthropologist Chris Knight has joined a host of militant workers in capitalist society who have lost their jobs for standing up to "the boss." We touched on his acts of political defiance against the imperialist ruling class — which cost him his livelihood as a professor— in Part 9 of this series. In this installment, we'll summarize his radical view of the transformation of hominins into modern humans.

Knight distinguishes himself as an exceptionally capable anthropological theoretician in several ways. Very importantly, he has a good understanding of Marxism and of the historic discoveries of Lewis Henry Morgan, Frederick Engels and Karl Marx in the study of human evolution. In addition, he is an exceptionally well-informed and fair-minded combatant in the ideological class struggle that has unfolded during the last century and a half over the course that anthropological work should follow. Third, his familiarity with the work and writings of other anthropologists is formidable.

At the center of Knight's hypothesis is the development of solidarity uniting the female members of the matrilineal band. In "Blood Relations," he captures in a single paragraph what follows from this concept: "In principle, it would only have needed two females — perhaps sisters, perhaps mother and daughter — to have set in train the movement towards culture as an unstoppable force. If these two always backed each other up, always acted in concert, synchronised their menstrual cycles and were able to motivate two or more males to hunt for them by making sex dependent on it, then they might have been so much more successful in securing meat than other females in the population for their strategy to act as an attractive model, and for any genetic characteristics facilitating such solidarity to spread through the population." (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991, pp. 294-95)

'Menstrual synchrony' as a vehicle for female solidarity

First of all, it is important to note Knight's emphasis on "menstrual synchrony": "Since the 1970s, medical science has begun to acknowledge what countless women must already have known for generations — that when women who are friends associate closely with one another, their cycles begin to synchronise." (pp. 212-13) Knight's use of this phenomenon is superficially similar to that of sociobiologist Paul Turke and his collaborators, who view menstrual synchrony, along with "concealed ovulation" and "continuous but discriminating sexual receptivity" as key to their theory of how human males came to distinguish themselves from their male primate relatives as much better providers. ("Effects of ovulatory concealment and synchrony on protohominid mating systems and parental roles," *Ethology and Sociobiology* 5, 1984, pp. 33-44)

Knight is able to distinguish his hypothesis from that of Turke et al. on several grounds: "Turke's theory rests on no palaeontological or other direct evidence for reproductive synchrony in hominid evolution. The hypothesis is not buttressed with findings from archaeology or from the study of contemporary hunter-gatherers." (p. 219) It is impossible here even to summarize the mountain of "direct evidence" and "findings" that Knight draws on

in "Blood Relations" to make demonstrably credible his theory. To offer just one example, though, his use of both region specific and global climatological data to contextualize and date the process leading to the "human cultural revolution" that he envisions is impressively precise.

Innovation based on climatic stress

Knight writes: "We will see that everywhere, the decisive events [producing his hypothesized cultural revolution] were associated with periods of combined dryness and cold." (pp. 277-78) He presents evidence that the preference of the pre-revolutionary hominins, both in Africa and as they spread out into Eurasia and Australia, was for shoreline areas bordering rivers, lakes and oceans. But dramatic climatic changes, both in Africa and elsewhere, that forced them away from shorelines and into what Knight calls "the hinterlands" were the basis for cultural leaps: "[A] sophisticated blade-making technology ... dated to about 70,000 BP [years before the present] ... coincides with the onset of a glacial period and worldwide regression of sea levels. ... It was evidently this deterioration which triggered the cultural advance. ... Then at about 40,000 BP came the next major technological advance. ... Again, cold weather had something to do with it." (p. 278)

For Knight, the most important of these climatic shifts was the Last Glacial Maximum, a period of intense global cold between about 26,000 and 19,000 years ago. He writes: "Despite their tropical origins, modern humans with their warm clothes, semi-permanent dwellings and well-controlled domestic fires embraced the snowswept plains and tundra of ice age Eurasia as if such spaces had been made for them. We must conclude that females in these regions were guaranteeing their subsistence requirements by relating to males in a wholly new way." (p. 279)

The 'sex strike'

And what was that "wholly new way"? To get the male hunters to consistently supply meat to the band or clan, the women established what Knight terms "the sex strike," a menstrually coordinated, periodic refusal by women to have sex with the hunters until the hunters brought back meat to be shared by all. Again, it's not possible to detail here Knight's multifaceted support for this hypothesis. But before we turn to his comments on the institution of "marriage," one crucial byproduct of the sex strike begs for mention.

"A central argument of this book is that ... such collective control over sex lies at the root of all sexual 'morality.' ... The 'moral' hunter-gatherer woman is the one who keeps in step with her sisters, her kin and/or her gender group, on occasion refusing sex unless or until the male(s) in her life can be induced to behave acceptably, for example by providing meat. ... Only one logical thread, carried through to its conclusion, leads us towards central-place foraging, a home base, sexual morality and a genuinely human lifestyle [i.e., the solidarity of women!]. The other thread is a competitive, primate-style 'prostitution' pathway [meat for sex on an individual, strikebreaking basis], leading social life in wholly noncultural directions." (pp. 188-89)

Based on Knight's hypothesis, the solidarity of the women's sex strike would have made male competition

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Workers World
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: 212.627.2994
E-mail: ww@workers.org

Web: www.workers.org
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Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell,
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Carlos Vargas

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National Office
147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl.
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
P.O. Box 5565
Atlanta, GA 30307
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443.221.3775
baltimore@workers.org

Bay Area
1305 Franklin St. #411
Oakland, CA 94612
510.600.5800
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.286.6574
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
367 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
chicago@workers.org
312.229.0161

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313.459.0777
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
804 Old Fayetteville St.
Durham, NC 27701
919-322-9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
5278 W Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
la@workers.org
323.306.6240

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org
Rochester, N.Y.
585.436.6458
rochester@workers.org

Rockford, IL
rockford@workers.org

San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
619.692.0355
sandiego@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org
Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300
Washington, DC 20037
dc@workers.org



WW PHOTO: KRIS HAMEL

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

“This Is War!” was the battle cry headline on a leaflet issued by the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs calling for a noon demonstration at the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center — city hall — on July 26. “The national outrage over the acquittal of George Zimmerman for killing African-American youth Trayvon Martin is still roiling,” began the call, “when yet another racist injustice on a national scale has occurred: the undemocratic action of an appointed ‘emergency manager’ plunging Detroit into the largest city bankruptcy in U.S. history.”

Orchestrated in advance by Michigan’s Republican governor, Rick Snyder, and filed July 18 in federal bankruptcy court by his appointed henchman, Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr, the bankruptcy seeks to obliterate retired workers’ pensions in order to pay principal and debt service to banks and other creditors. (See “Detroit bankruptcy: War on Pensions” at workers.org, July 24.)

But residents, workers, youth and retired employees of the city of Detroit are beginning to fight back against this declaration of war against the people on behalf of the banks. Some 150 people came to the lunchtime picket line. Chanting, “Hands off our pensions! Make the banks pay!” and other demands, city retirees, young people and community members participated in the militant action. Many retired workers came because they had received a leaflet issued by the “Stop Theft of Our Pensions Committee” of the

Moratorium NOW! Coalition.

The protest received extensive media coverage throughout the day. Earlier in the week, the coalition’s banner, “Cancel Detroit’s Debt: Jobs, Pensions, City Services — The Banks Owe Us!” was seen in media around the U.S. and internationally as activists gathered outside the bankruptcy court in downtown Detroit.

On July 22, at the request of Orr and Snyder, federal bankruptcy Judge Steven Rhodes put a halt to all lawsuits challenging Detroit’s bankruptcy filing. He said the bankruptcy court would have exclusive jurisdiction over all issues pertaining to the city.

Rhodes removed the order of Michigan Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who had ruled earlier that the bankruptcy filing was unconstitutional insofar as it targeted city workers’ pensions, which are guaranteed under the state constitution, and stayed bankruptcy proceedings on that basis. Rhodes, however, did not issue a ruling on the constitutional issue itself.

The day after the demonstration, Republican state Attorney General Bill Schuette announced that he would intervene in the bankruptcy case and join those advocating that public pensions in Michigan are not subject to being cut in bankruptcy. While Schuette is no friend of workers and cannot be trusted to aggressively fight for this position, the fact that he took a position at odds with Snyder and Orr reflects the power of the mobilization thus far and the need for continued demonstrations.

The banks’ ‘unclean hands’

Workers World spoke to Moratorium

NOW! organizer Jerry Goldberg, who is also a people’s attorney representing homeowners against banks in foreclosure cases. “In bankruptcy, bank debts are subject to equitable considerations, meaning what’s fair and just,” said Goldberg. “If the banks are guilty of what’s called unclean hands, then their debts are subject to liquidation. For example, in the recent Jefferson County Alabama case, because JPMorgan Chase was found guilty of bribing officials in connection with municipal bonds, they were forced to write off 70 percent of the debt to the county.

“Two of the biggest Detroit bondholders are UBS and Bank of America,” continued Goldberg. “They are the primary beneficiaries of Detroit’s interest rate swaps on the city’s pension obligation certificates, which netted them hundreds of millions in profits on inflated interest payments.”

On July 24, two former UBS vice presidents, Gary Heinz and Michael Welty, as well as Peter Ghavami, former UBS global head of commodities, were sentenced to prison terms for deceiving cities and towns by rigging bids to invest municipal bond proceeds. (Reuters, July 24)

A July 12 New York Times article reported: “Phillip D. Murphy, former head of Bank of America’s municipal derivatives desk, was charged with conspiracy to defraud the United States, wire fraud and conspiracy to make false entries in bank records.” The article noted that “13 individuals from banks including Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and UBS have pleaded guilty in the Justice Department’s investigation. Bank of America, JPMorgan, UBS, Wells Fargo and Gen-

eral Electric have paid more than \$700 million in restitution and penalties.”

When asked about these reported criminal activities by the biggest banks, Goldberg said: “These are in addition to every major bank’s predatory, fraudulent, subprime mortgage lending practices, which resulted in over 100,000 mortgage foreclosures in Detroit from 2005 to the present, and which is the primary cause for the city’s financial crisis.

“Emergency Manager Orr was mandated under Public Act 436 to investigate criminal fraud that contributed to Detroit’s financial crisis. But he has refused to go after the banks. No surprise considering his law firm, Jones Day, represents most of the major banks, and is making a killing in attorney fees off Detroit’s bankruptcy, charging \$1.3 million in fees already with the bankruptcy just beginning.”

The Moratorium Now! Coalition says that because of the criminal fraud the banks have perpetrated on the people of Detroit and the city itself, Detroit should cancel its debt to the banks. The banks owe Detroit billions of dollars for the destruction they have caused. While the coalition intends to challenge the banks’ unclean hands in the bankruptcy proceedings, activists say this issue, like the looting of retired workers’ pensions, will ultimately be decided in the streets.

For more information, contact the Moratorium NOW! Coalition at 313-680-5508 and visit its websites at Moratorium-Mi.org and Detroitdebtmoratorium.org. The coalition meets every Monday at 7 p.m. at 5920 Second Ave., Detroit, MI 48202. The Stop Theft of Our Pensions Committee meets at 6 p.m. at the same location. □

Domesticating the hunters – Knight’s hypothesis

Continued from page 2

for women a waste of time and would have created the human level of sociality among primordial foragers, fishers and hunters that was envisioned by Frederick Engels in “The Origin of the Family”: “Mutual toleration among the adult males, freedom from jealousy, was the first condition for the formation of those larger, permanent groups in which alone animals could become men.” (New York: International Publishers, 1972, p. 100)

Knight counterpoises his view of social/sexual relations between the females and males of early human social groups to that of French anthropologist and ethnologist Claude Lévi-Strauss (1908-2009). Knight’s view is developed carefully and in great detail, so we’ll need to quote him at some length: “Lévi-Strauss’ ‘exchange of women’ model, resting as it does on the absolute primacy of marriage, produces some serious theoretical problems. It precludes female solidarity and fails to explain the patterns actually found in traditionally organized — particularly hunter — gatherer — cultures.

“Culture’s ‘initial situation’ cannot be dogmatically asserted, but we can be fairly certain that it bore little relation to Lévi-Strauss’ picture of women as ever-available, passive pawns in the political schemes of men. It would seem more likely that women, in the course of cultural origins, could give themselves sexually because they had something to give — their bodies were not completely owned or spoken for by the other sex in advance.

“Viewing the same feature in the context of the development of hunting and gathering, we may take it that although women did not usually hunt, they could use a measure of control over their own sexual availability to induce men to hunt for them. An implication is that women (supported by their kin) had the capacity to withdraw themselves sexually. In effect — like some female primates but in much more conscious and organized ways — they could go ‘on strike.’”

The origin of sexual morality

Knight continues, “Naturally, this did not imply that women did not enjoy sex or that sex seldom happened. It simply

means that when sex occurred, it took place as a release from the basic cultural constraints — not in obedience to them. In this sense, no matter how joyfully celebrated and woven into the meanings and symbols of all cultural life, sexual gratification from culture’s very beginnings has been delayed, sublimated and harnessed to economic and other ends, its actual consummation always taking place beyond, behind and in a sense, “in spite of” culture. The bonding involved in love-making, as something tending to undermine wider forms of solidarity, has always been for the public cultural domain something of an embarrassment. ...

“Of course, there is all the difference in the world between sexually relaxed cultures and more repressive ones in these respects, but in no human social context are people simply uninhibited or unembarrassed in public in the manner of monkeys and apes. In any event, the prioritising of sex has never been allowed to last for long or to threaten society’s fundamental economic goals.” (pp 151-52)

So we can see, from Evelyn Reed’s perspective, which was summarized in

Part 10 of this series, as well as in Chris Knight’s analysis here in Part 11, that from the very beginning of human culture and essential to the first new organizational form of Homo sapiens, economic relations between the sexes played a decisive role. In fact, none of the material that has been reviewed up to this point in the series gives any reason to believe that the “traditional marriage” form described by anti-evolutionary anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski in the first installment of this series existed in the millennia previous to what has come to be called “the agricultural revolution.”

Up to now, our focus has been on the earliest forms of heterosexual relations among hominins and early humans. The ideas presented are of necessity speculative, but are bolstered by a wealth of zoological, archeological, climatological, anthropological, ethnological and other scientific data and, above all, a consistent materialist and evolutionary viewpoint. In the next installment, we’ll investigate the possibility of same-sex marriage among primordial humans. □

Capitalism: Why is it at a dead end?

The following is a slightly edited version of a talk Fred Goldstein, author of "Capitalism at a Dead End" and "Low Wage Capitalism," gave at a June 26 "Political Tertulia" organized by supporters of the newspaper Tiro al Blanco in New York's Dominican community.

Perhaps the best place to start a discussion of "Capitalism at a Dead End" is by asking three questions: What do we mean by capitalism at a dead end? Why is it at a dead end? And what does this mean for the multinational working class and the oppressed?

There are short answers to these questions. I will expand upon them, and we can discuss these and other questions later on.

First, being at a dead end means that capitalism cannot grow the way it has grown over the last 70 years. It is at a new stage of low growth, stagnation and long-term downward crisis.

Second, this has come about because the capitalists have introduced job-killing technology for decades. This technology has displaced workers at record levels. It has reduced skills and reduced wages. It has brought the system itself to a permanent crisis of overproduction and growing mass unemployment, which it cannot get out of.

Third, we are at the early stages of this crisis and the developing crisis of capitalism will open up a great potential and the prospect of the revolutionary destruction of capitalism itself, provided the working class, its parties and its mass organizations prepare for the future while they carry on their day-to-day struggles in the spirit of Lenin and the struggle for socialism.

No more capitalist boom

Let's come back to the first point about the dead end. There have been 10 previous economic crises in the last 70 years. In each recession there have been mass layoffs and mass unemployment, but after each crisis, capitalism revived, workers were rehired, and employment eventually reached levels higher than before the crisis began.

Capitalist overproduction always caused these recessions. Production under capitalism expands very rapidly so long as there are markets. This is because of the laws of

capitalist competition. The capitalists are in a permanent race to out-produce each other, to outsell each other and to capture the markets from each other as each wants to gain the most profit. This competition drives the system.

But they fight each other by racing to lower wages, increase production and use technology to get rid of workers. So while production expands at a rapid pace under capitalism during a boom period, the income of the masses grows at a snail's pace, very, very gradually, or actually declines.

Soon, the bosses find that they cannot sell their goods at a profit. So they shut down businesses and cut back workers' hours; the crisis of unemployment begins. This is the law of capitalism. It cannot operate in any other way. This is the profit system at work. This is called the boom-and-bust cycle.

We say that capitalism is at a dead end because the traditional boom-and-bust cycle is over. There is no boom. It was the boom, or greatly increased production, that put workers back to work during past recoveries. But once the system loses the ability to bounce back and move forward and upward in production and services, a permanent crisis sets in for the workers and the oppressed. This is what happened during the Great Depression of the 1930s. And this is where we are now.

Jobless 'recovery'

What proof do we have that we have entered the stage of capitalism at a dead end?

The latest collapse lasted from the end of 2007 to June of 2009. The so-called "recovery" has lasted four years now. But this is clearly a recovery for the bosses and the bankers. Profits and executive pay have gone steadily up. There has been a slight rise in production. But there are still close to 30 million workers who are unemployed, underemployed, forced to work part time, or who have dropped out of the work force altogether. This is four years after the capitalists announced the so-called recovery.

We are now in the greatest jobless recovery since the Great Depression. A jobless recovery is when the production and profits go up but millions of workers are

still without jobs.

In previous crises, most layoffs were temporary. Workers got their jobs back when the economy picked up. Over 7 million workers were laid off in the 2008-2009 period. The vast majority of those layoffs were permanent layoffs. The jobs were gone, destroyed by technology or by sending jobs abroad to low-wage countries to increase the bosses' rate of exploitation.

Furthermore, close to 5 million youths have entered the workforce since the crisis began, which means that capitalism has to create 12 million new jobs just to get back to where it was in 2007. And these youth face unemployment or low wages.

The capitalist economists keep predicting a big recovery. But it never comes. More and more workers drop out of the workforce and try to live through odd jobs off the books — painting houses, fixing cars, doing part time maintenance for a landlord, walking dogs and caring for children. They move in with their families to save rent.

Traditional means to overcome crisis don't work

How else is this crisis different from the 10 previous crises? These crises were overcome by a variety of means. In recent times, the system began to lose the ability to automatically recover from economic downturns. What did the capitalists do to get the economy going again?

They pumped money into the military; they carried out imperialist wars and expansion to increase their exploitation of the Third World; they pumped money into bailouts for the banks and the corporations; they restructured industry and lowered wages.

In this crisis, the bankers, the bosses and the capitalist government have used all these methods to try to build a strong recovery and none has worked.

They have spent over \$2 trillion on wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, and now Syria. The Pentagon is expanding in Africa, the Pacific and the Middle East.

But most money goes into high-tech weapons that don't generate jobs.

The Federal Reserve has pumped well over \$20 trillion into saving the banks, buying up bad mortgage loans, and is now pumping in \$85 billion a month.

Unemployment, cutbacks in services and layoffs continue to increase. The bailouts are at record levels never seen before in the history of capitalism in the U.S., Europe and now Japan. But they have failed.

The bosses have created a restructured, globalized, low-wage system of capitalism on every continent. Every capitalist country has brought in millions of immigrant workers to be superexploited by unscrupulous bosses. This has only sharpened the crisis.

All traditional methods of getting out of the "jobless recovery" have failed. And capitalism is truly at a dead end.

Only Marxism can really explain these developments. Marx showed that the laws of capitalism drive the bosses to fight each other by getting rid of workers and making the remaining workers produce more and more in less and less time at lower and lower wages.

But this can only be done by technology, by improving the means of production and distribution and services. I'll give some examples from my book.

"Ann Taylor Stores, which had 959 stores when the article was written, installed a program that displayed 'performance metrics.' Each day when a salesperson punches their code number into the cash register, the program displays average sales per hour, units sold and dollars per transaction. The system sched-

ules the most productive sellers to work the busiest hours.

"The company studied the workers for a year and established precise standards for different tasks: three seconds to greet a shopper; two minutes to help someone try on clothing; 32 seconds to fold a sweater; and five minutes to clinch a sale.

"Based on these numbers and the customer traffic in any given store, the company would hire precisely the number of workers needed to make sales according to these time standards. The goal was to shed workers in as many stores as possible and, if possible, to increase sales at the same time. ...

"Consider Kiva Systems, founded in 2003 and based on the introduction of robots that 'bring shelves of clothing, parts, electronics, car parts — whatever a retailer sells — to specialized work spaces called packing stations,' according to a November 2010 article in Bloomberg Businessweek Logistics. 'Humans then pick out products, pack them into boxes and push them onto trucks. The systems cost somewhere between \$4 million and \$6 million. The cheapest, for \$1 million, comes with 30 robots and two packing stations.'"

The capitalist system has now reached a tipping point.

They have created a technological machine that is so productive and a low-wage work force that is so impoverished, that as soon as they increase production at a rapid rate, the system fails. People cannot buy the commodities produced. Inventories back up and no hiring goes on at all or else layoffs take place. Capitalist productivity is strangling capitalist production.

Crisis and austerity

Another important feature of capitalism at a dead end is austerity. When unemployment is high, tax revenues fall, governments have to borrow from the bankers, but the bankers want to make sure that they get their hands on the public treasury to get their interest payments. That is what is behind the austerity in Europe and that is what is behind austerity in the U.S.

When NYC Mayor Mike Bloomberg shuts down health care centers, elder care centers and drug rehabilitation centers, and sells off public parks and projects, it is to protect the bankers' interest payments in the face of the economic crisis.

To conclude, the economic system is not going to recover. There is only greater crisis in the future. The automatic processes of capitalist recovery and the traditional methods of forcing it back to life have all failed.

The workers and the oppressed in the U.S. and around the world will have future opportunities to launch struggles. That is why we must build militant unity among all revolutionary organizations to prepare for the coming struggle. We do not know when or how it will come, but it is inevitable and we must be ready.

To quote from the book:

"As the ruling class runs out of options and moves in the direction of military adventure and political reaction, its traditional measures of recovery can no longer reverse the crisis. Thus, the situation is historically favorable to the intervention of the working class and the oppressed to resolve the crisis on a revolutionary basis.

"The profit system is entering a stage at which it can only drag humanity backward. The masses of people will come to a point where they cannot go on in the old way because capitalism is blocking all roads to survival. This is the point at which humanity can only move forward by clearing the road to survival, which means nothing less than the destruction of capitalism itself." □

MUNDO OBRERO

Detrás del llamado de Xi Jinping para un retorno al marxismo

Continua de Página 12

Li Keqiang. Li pide la reducción del papel del gobierno central en la economía, incluyendo la reducción del papel de las empresas estatales, el fin del uso de estímulos económicos para ayudar la economía, el aumento del papel de las empresas privadas pequeñas y medianas en la economía china, y la apertura amplia de la inversión extranjera en las finanzas y en otras aéreas cruciales.

De hecho, el año pasado Li fue copatrocinador, junto con el Banco Mundial, de un largo y detallado informe titulado "China 2030". Este era un plan para socavar profundamente las restantes estructuras fundamentales del socialismo chino — la planificación gubernamental, las empresas estatales y el control financiero y económico central por el Partido Comunista.

Xi mismo es un dedicado defensor del llamado "socialismo de mercado". Socialismo de mercado significa socialismo al lado del, y contaminado por, el capitalismo. La búsqueda codiciosa de ganancias y de beneficios individuales que caracteriza el capitalismo ha permeado a China y erosionado el espíritu socialista.

Los derechos y los beneficios de la clase obrera y de los/as campesinos/as a puestos de trabajo, tierra, educación, salud y vivienda que eran los cimientos de la revolución de 1949, fueron abandonados por el liderazgo de Deng y los liderazgos posteriores.

Ahora esto ha repercutido en forma de enajenación de las masas. Xi, para su crédito, ve esto como una amenaza al Partido y a la base de lo que queda del socialismo en China.

Pero el liderazgo de Xi está tratando de combatir el síntoma sin atacar la enfermedad: la penetración capitalista en la economía y en las costumbres sociales, la ideología, y el centro mismo del espíritu socialista de la Revolución China.

Tal vez el intento por revertir esta ola reaccionaria de corrupción y burocracia conducirá a mayores luchas en las cuales las masas puedan intervenir y actuar por cuenta propia y por su beneficio.

Pero una cosa es cierta: la política de lucha contra la corrupción, y las reformas anti burocráticas por un lado y la economía capitalista de mercado por el otro, están completamente opuestas. □

ON THE PICKETLINE

by Sue Davis

Raise the federal minimum wage NOW!

On July 24, during a national day of action in more than 30 cities, a broad coalition of labor, faith, civil rights and community activists demonstrated to raise the minimum wage, stuck at \$7.25 an hour since 2009. The so-called Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013, introduced in Congress on March 5, would raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 and index it thereafter to the rate of inflation. It would also raise the tipped minimum wage — which has been frozen at \$2.13 an hour for the last 22 years! — to 70 percent of the regular minimum wage. The act would increase the tipped minimum wage 95 cents a year until it reaches \$7.10.

Restaurant Opportunities Centers United states, “The restaurant industry is the largest low-wage employer in the country, resulting in servers experiencing three times the poverty rate, and using food stamps at double the rate of the rest of the U.S. workforce.” Meanwhile, the National Restaurant Association reported record-breaking sales of \$45.9 billion this April alone. (rocunited.org, May 22) No wonder ROC United is targeting Darden Restaurants, a billion-dollar corporation and the largest table service group in the world, which is blatantly lobbying against the raise. ROC of New York continued its focus on Darden’s Capital Grille on July 24.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that some 30 million minimum — and low-wage workers — 8 million of whom work in the food industry — would see a raise in pay, while the AFL-CIO estimates that the change would pull more than half of the U.S. working poor out of poverty. To sign an AFL-CIO petition raising the federal minimum wage, go to tinyurl.com/172d4m3.

More NYC ‘carwashers’ vote union

Workers at the WCA Car Wash in South Central Bronx, N.Y., voted unanimously for Department Store Union representation on July 25. They joined Spanish-speaking workers at seven other New York City carwashes who have voted to join RWDSU. The WASH New York campaign, which also includes NY Communities for Change and the Center for Popular Democracy, has already won two RWDSU contracts.

A WASH campaign study estimated that John Lage, who owns WCA and more than 20 other carwashes in the NYC area, could earn as much as \$34 million a year while paying the workers minimum wages or less. For instance, a WASH survey of workers at 29 carwashes found that 66 percent said they often are paid less than the minimum wage. More than 71 percent of the workers put in at least 60 hours a week, but few got overtime pay after 40 hours. When they did, it was often less than time and a half. Conditions at carwashes in Southern California have improved in the last year after three contracts were signed with Steelworkers Local 675. NYC organizers are hoping “the same spillover effect” will help some 5,000 mostly immigrant workers at 500 carwashes in New York state. (blog, aflcio.org, July 25) □

Berkeley Says:

Save the People’s Post Office

By Terri Kay
Berkeley, Calif.

About 200 people rallied on July 27 “in direct defense of our post office” on the steps of the threatened historic main post office building in downtown Berkeley. The rally was part of a national weekend of action to save the U.S. Postal Service, including actions at threatened post offices in the Bronx, N.Y.; Portland, Ore.; Tacoma, Wash.; and at the Southern Calif. offices of Rep. Darrell Issa, who is leading the Congressional effort to dismantle and privatize the USPS.

Rally speakers included Dave Welsh, retired letter carrier and delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council; Norman Solomon, author of “Privatizing Our Future: What’s at Stake and How to Stop It”; Hannah Appel, author of “You Are Not a Loan: Debt Resistance and the Post Office”; Kriss Worthington, Berkeley City Council member; Dr. Gray Brechin, author and historical geographer; and Dorsey Nunn, of Prisoners with Children, speaking as an ex-prisoner on the importance of mail to prisoners.

At the end of the rally, the Direct Defense Action Team to Save the Berkeley Post Office announced plans to camp out on the steps of the post office, in coalition with Strike Debt Bay Area. They began to set up tents. Free food was provided by people from Occupy Oakland and other donations.

The statement on “Why We Are Here” reads in part: “We demand that the USPS reverse its decision to ‘relocate’ Berkeley’s Main Post Office and sell our Post Office



WW PHOTO

building, and instead provide Post Office services in our Post Office building. We intend to defend our Post Office building and our right to Post Office services with our physical presence until this demand is met.”

When asked about the encampment, Welsh responded about the racist nature of the campaign to demolish the post office and bust the unions. He described the USPS as “this country’s largest unionized employer. ... Today the Postal Service is the largest single source of Black employment — 20 percent of the postal workforce. For many workers of all nationalities, it is one of the few places where living-wage jobs are still available in our low-pay, ‘post-industrial’ economy.”

“The campaign to privatize and deunionize the USPS is a threat to the livelihood of every affected worker and

neighborhood,” asserted Welsh. “But it stands to hit hardest in those communities of color that are already suffering unemployment at Great Depression levels. We need a movement that puts in the forefront those most impacted by the postal crisis — Black, Brown and rural communities, elderly, people with disabilities and low-income people.”

On day two of the encampment, people were stopping by all day long in support, reading literature about the struggle, signing petitions, donating toward food, and enjoying music provided by various talented volunteers. A general assembly was held to discuss some rules for the camp and plan for Monday’s opening of business at the post office. The protesters, who are demanding that the post office be kept open, are not blocking the entrance or trying to shut it down. □

Postal bill draws protests in U.S. cities

By Joe Piette
Bronx, N.Y.

No more door-to-door mail delivery. The end of Saturday mail. Those are just two of the severe cuts approved July 24 by the Congressional committee that oversees the U.S. Postal Service. The National Postal Mail Handlers Union, the Rural Letter Carriers Union, the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers all condemned the proposed legislation. APWU president Cliff Guffey predicted it “will lead to the demise of the Postal Service.” (Postal Reporter News, July 26)

Post office supporters and workers who organized rallies in several cities on July 27, the 238th birthday of the federal mail delivery service, also pilloried the bill’s proposals.

Rep. Darrell Issa’s (R-CA) postal reform legislation, H.R. 2748, was passed by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee along party lines, 22-17. The act, if passed by both houses of Congress and signed by President Barack Obama, would make drastic changes to mail service without addressing the main problem — the unnecessary requirement to fund pension health-care costs 75 years in advance.

Issa’s bill comes on top of sweeping postal actions in the last year that have closed 30 percent of mail processing plants; reduced hours by 25 percent to 75 percent in half of all post offices; put 10 percent of post offices up for sale; subcontracted trucking and mail handling; cut thousands of mail routes; and eliminated 60,000 postal jobs. The cuts are

creating a slowed-down mail system.

The Issa bill would end mail delivery on Saturdays, except for parcels. It would also replace door-to-door delivery for 40 million homes with neighborhood cluster boxes or curb boxes by 2020. Another 100,000 postal jobs — 20 percent of the workforce — would be eliminated. It would also prohibit no-layoff clauses in future collective bargaining agreements, raise premiums for health and life insurance benefits, and establish “competition advocates” to promote contracting out.

Workers say ‘NO’ to new bill

“Cuts ... proposed would drive more mail out of the postal system and could send the Postal Service into a death spiral,” NALC President Fredric Rolando said, “and they would diminish USPS’ ability to take advantage of the obviously booming e-commerce market.” (NALC.org, July 22)

Even Mark Strong, of the National League of Postmasters, criticized the bill, saying it “eliminates the public policy provision in the law that ensures that urban and rural Americans receive parity in mail services. Under H.R. 2748, rural citizens would inevitably become second-class citizens.” (Postal Reporter News Blog, July 25)

The proposed anti-union legislation was heavily criticized at several rallies held July 26 and 27. In Portland, Ore., plans by protesters to occupy the Main Post Office on July 26 were thwarted by the heavy presence of Department of Homeland Security police, postal inspectors and postal managers.

In Vista, Calif., union and community activists picketed outside Rep. Issa’s of-

ice on July 26. Besides criticizing H.R. 2748, organizers raised opposition to USPS plans to subcontract the highway movement of mail to the private sector in approximately 162 Postal Vehicle Services sites nationwide. The spoils from privatization would be \$65 billion in USPS revenue.

In New York City, a noontime rally on July 27 was held on the steps of the historic 1935 Bronx General Post Office. USPS officials plan to vacate and sell the beautiful structure, which is home to 13 priceless murals by Depression-era artist Ben Shahn.

Several Bronx residents, the Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs and Services, Save the Post Office and others have filed an appeal to the Postal Regulatory Commission challenging the closing. They charge postal officials with neglecting to follow the historic preservation review process. (SavethePostOffice.com, July 19)

The protest featured a number of community and labor representatives, including Ramón Jiménez and Mike Eilenfeldt, two of the Bronx appeal plaintiffs. Pedro Joaquin Aquillar, of the Coalition of Cab Drivers, spoke. This group represents thousands of cab drivers in danger of losing their jobs in a new five-borough taxi plan.

Other speakers included Debbie Szeredy, president of APWU Local 3722; Milagros Cancel, Parents to Improve School Transportation; Julio Muñoz, Congreso Comunitario Del Sur Del Bronx (South Bronx Community Congress); Nieves Ayress, La Peña del Bronx; and Teresa Gutierrez, May 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights. □

From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin

Standing up for justice

WW COMMENTARY

By Monica Moorehead

Ho Chi Minh, anti-colonial leader of the Vietnamese people, states in the opening paragraph of his 1924 powerful essay, "Lynchings": "It is well known that the Black race is the most oppressed and the most exploited of the human family. It is well known that the spread of capitalism and the discovery of the New World had as an immediate result the rebirth of slavery, which was for centuries a scourge for the Negroes and a bitter disgrace for mankind."

"What everyone does not perhaps know is that after sixty-five years of so-called emancipation, American Negroes still endure atrocious moral and material sufferings, of which the most cruel and horrible is the custom of lynching." ("Ho Chi Minh on Revolution, Selected Writings, 1920-66," Bernard B. Fall ed., Santa Barbara, Calif.: Praeger, 1967, p. 51)

Thousands of African Americans were lynched, mainly in the Deep South, following the demise of Black Reconstruction in 1877 through the height of the Civil Rights Movement. The identities of the vast majority of those lynched by white supremacists were unknown. But lynchings of mainly ordinary people still take place today.

This was certainly true of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old unarmed youth, who was stalked and then fatally shot by George Zimmerman in 2012 because of the color of his skin. The circumstances leading to Zimmerman's acquittal were both a travesty of justice and a gigantic wake-up call focused on the increasing racist war in all forms against youth of color. More and more people are organizing resistance to stop these atrocities, like the Dream Defenders who are sitting-in at the Florida State Capitol in Tallahassee.

The killing of Trayvon Martin and what has happened in its aftermath are reminiscent of another lynching that happened 58 years ago — a lynching that remains a deeply painful reminder that the legacy of racism is still thriving today. That was the heinous lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till in 1955.

Just as Trayvon's death is triggering a new movement for social change, Till's murder has been attributed by many as



Willie Reed



Emmett Till



Trayvon Martin

the main spark for the launching of the modern-day Civil Rights Movement, starting with the Montgomery Bus Boycott, four months after his death.

Till had traveled from his home in Chicago to visit an uncle in Money, Miss., where he was kidnapped, tortured and killed on Aug. 28, 1955. His so-called crime was allegedly whistling at a white woman in a grocery store. The woman's spouse was KKK member, Roy Bryant, who along with his half-brother, J. W. Milam, orchestrated the murder of Till with the aid of others.

'He did what he had to do'

Bryant and Milam stood trial for Till's kidnapping and murder before a racist, all-white jury in 1955.

For anyone, especially African Americans, to speak out against the KKK, was tantamount to signing one's own death warrant, especially in Mississippi. But this real threat to his life didn't stop Willie Reed, a k a Willie Louis, from walking past a menacing phalanx of Klansmen to testify at the trial and to tell the world what he saw and heard on Aug. 28.

The then-18-year-old Reed, who was a sharecropper living in Greenville, Miss., had seen Till in the back of a truck with Bryant, Milam and others.

Reed saw them take Till into a barn and then heard him repeatedly being whipped and crying out in agony. When Milam saw Reed outside the barn, he pulled out a gun and threatened to shoot him if he told anyone what he saw. Eventually, the Klansmen shot Till in the head and tossed him into the Tallahatchie River, with a cotton gin fan wrapped around his neck with barbed wire.

More than 50,000 outraged people at-

tended Till's funeral in Chicago. At the request of his mother, Mamie Till Bradley, an open casket revealed her son's horribly disfigured face.

Willie Reed, who recently died at the age of 76, was forced to flee the state and change his last name to Louis following his testimony and the subsequent acquittal of the Klansmen. He was smuggled out of Mississippi, with the assistance of T. R. M. Howard, an African-American doctor and Civil Rights activist, to Chicago where he lived until his death in near-by Oak Lawn, Ill.

Both Bryant and Milam bragged about lynching Till in a 1956 Life magazine interview.

Filmmaker Stanley Nelson, who interviewed Reed for his 2003 PBS documentary, "The Murder of Emmett Till," stated after his death, "Willie Reed stood up, and with incredible bravery pointed out the people who had taken and murdered Emmett Till. He was from Mississippi, and somewhere in his heart of hearts he had to know that these people would not be convicted. But he did what he had to do." (New York Times, July 24)

Central Park 5:

Merry-go-round for justice



Outside the courtroom, July 23.

WW PHOTO: ANNE PRUDEN

Beyond Trayvon: When the personal ain't political

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Column written on July 21st.

The Trayvon Martin case is rightly the straw that broke the camel's back, for it shows, with unusual clarity, how Black life is so easily trivialized.

But it is not alone in this endeavor.

How the corporate media have responded to this tragedy is its own form of trivialization: a feeding frenzy of sheer spectacle, the exploitation of emotion and endless, directionless discussion, leading less to light than to commercials.

For the media explore the episodic, while they ignore the systematic.

Thus, Trayvon's case attracts the lights and videos, but the many, many others who fall, especially to police violence, draw little interest.

Absent from most discussions is the targeting of a system that cages more people than any in history. Lost from the orgy of spectacle are the hidden faces of

mass incarceration that impact millions.

For attention to the episodic elicits tears while contemplation on the systematic brings the challenge of change.

If "Stand Your Ground" gets repealed, it does not change the system that treats many, many youths as expendable.

Several months ago, by just one vote the Supreme Court condemned the practice of sending juveniles to life terms in prison without possibility of parole.

Of all the jurisdictions in America — indeed in the whole, wide world — Pennsylvania ranked first in juvenile life incarcerations. First.

But juveniles aren't only the targets of the prison industry, they face shuttered schools, rampant joblessness and the fear and loathing of their elders.

They face tomorrows of emptiness.

They face the faceless fury of a system that damns them to half-lives at their birth.

Trayvon is one; they are many. □

By Dolores Cox

For the umpteenth time, another "Central Park 5" court hearing/status conference was adjourned on July 23. Again, the Manhattan courtroom was filled with supporters, including New York state Sen. Bill Perkins; City Councilmember Charles Barron's assistant; and Sharrone Salaam, the mother of Yusef Salaam, one of the "Five."

In 1989, five Black and Latino teens, known as the Central Park 5, were arrested and charged with raping a white woman in New York City's Central Park. Confessions were coerced out of them. They were prosecuted, found guilty and served between six and 13 years in prison. In 2003, their convictions were overturned and they were exonerated of the crime.

Ten years ago, the Five, now men in their 30s, filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city of New York and its police department for false arrest, malicious prosecution, wrongful conviction

'Never forget the lesson taught by Willie Reed'

During a TV interview for "60 Minutes" on why he decided to testify, Reed explained, "I couldn't have walked away from that. Emmett was 14, probably had never been to Mississippi in his life, and he come to visit his grandfather and they killed him. I mean, that's not right." (CBS News, July 24)

David T. Beito, a historian at the University of Alabama, said of Reed in the same Times article, "I don't want to diminish the role played by the other witnesses, but his act in some sense was the bravest act of them all. He had nothing to gain: he had no family ties to Emmett Till; he didn't know him. He was this 18-year-old kid who goes into this very hostile atmosphere."

Juliet Louis, Reed's spouse, reported that he had recurring nightmares about Till's murder for many years.

No one should ever forget the lesson taught by Willie (Louis) Reed, a teenage sharecropper, living in the midst of fascist-like terror, who risked his life to stand up for justice for Emmett Till, as many are doing now for Trayvon Martin.

Eight years to the day after Till's lynching, a quarter of a million people marched and rallied in Washington, D.C., for Jobs and Freedom led by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1963.

On Aug. 28, the People's Power Assemblies Movement is calling for Justice for Trayvon Martin Assemblies. For many reasons, Trayvon Martin should be viewed as the new Emmett Till — as the inspiration for the new movement that is in birth. □

Continued on page 11

Dream Defenders sit-in for 'Trayvon's Law'

YOUTH OF COLOR RESIST RACISM

Continued from page 1

George Zimmerman was arrested.

'This is not temporary'

Dream Defenders' Executive Director Philip Agnew told Workers World, "The most important thing that people should know is we are not leaving here. This is not a temporary thing. The governor and the legislature need to know that this is for the future so no one has to do this again. This is not just about the verdict. This is just the latest in a series of injustices against young people."

Over 300 people participated in a rally on July 26 attended by renowned activist and performer Harry Belafonte. Then at 5 p.m. the Capitol was closed for the weekend and 159 young people — the largest number of protesters to date — spent the night.

Workers World journalists had the opportunity to interview several of these young activists who spoke about their lives and the racist, sexist, ageist oppression they face every day as they try to access jobs, go to school or simply walk around their neighborhoods as Black and Brown youth. Here are some excerpts; others will be published in future issues of WW.

INTERVIEWS: The people who are sleeping in the Florida Capitol building for Trayvon's Law

SHAMILE LOUIS, 21, from Orlando, currently living in Gainesville. She came and slept over at the Capitol with only the clothes on her back on July 16.

What are the conditions for young people in Orlando?

People think of Disney, such a happy-go-lucky place. In West Orlando — the west side — the police harass you if you fit that suspicious look. It is really sad where I come from. Kids die every day. Lots of single-parent homes with poor and old people.

My high school was the oldest high school for Black people in Orlando. It's old, dilapidated. The teachers don't care, and it's not up to par. Although University of Florida has been awesome, I wasn't ready, academically prepared, for it.

Why are you here at the Capitol?

At University of Florida it's mostly white, only 5,000 Black people [out of 50,000]. You see white frat guys painting "black face" on each other for their "rappers vs. rockstars" parties. That's when I got active on social media.

There was an isolated hazing incident involving a Black fraternity that made all the newspapers, and emails were sent by the administration to the entire community and alumni. Yet white frats have a minstrel show and nothing was done by the administration.

That was my first chance at activism. We had lots of people come out, held town halls, and a student speak-out against racism, so that they didn't push the minstrel show parties under the rug.

When I heard that Zimmerman was "not guilty," my world shattered. I went and balled up and cried for hours. I turned on the TV and saw [Zimmerman] smiling. My friends and I were supposed to go out, but I couldn't. How is this OK?

I just felt helpless and lost. Dream Defenders had an organizing meeting, organized a march the next Monday [July 15]. Then people decided to come to Tallahassee. I was only supposed to be here one day, but I stayed. So many times we just talked about what to do, but this time we really have a clear list and we are doing it.

I have been here 11 out of the 12 days. The one night I was away from the Capitol, I slept on the floor of my house in solidarity.

What has been the highlight for you during the sit-in?

After the first night, no one knew what to expect sleeping in here. Thirty-five people started, 15 stayed. I got nervous that people wouldn't care. So nervous that I bit all my nails off. By the time



Shamile Louis

the building closed the next day, we had doubled to 60 people. It was so beautiful for me because I knew this is what people care about. It was a feeling that could not be explained.

Last weekend when we were locked in, people from the outside were cheering for us and we were chanting together and communicating through the glass. It was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen. They had a candlelight vigil, it was raining, and they still showed up. It was the most beautiful thing.

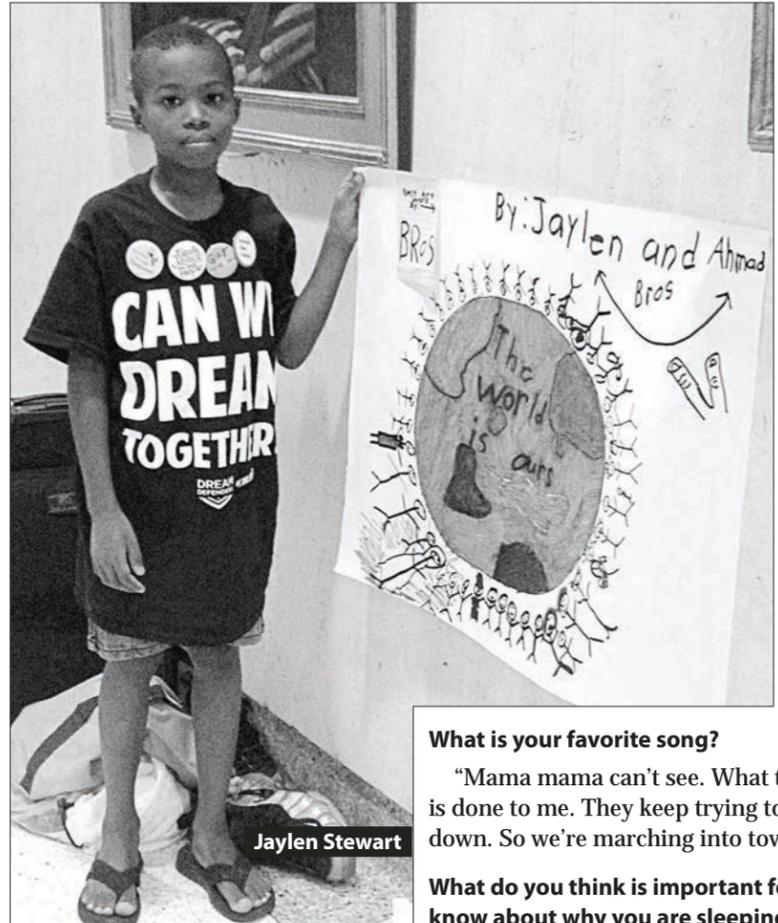
There was a woman who had come Monday after the weekend and said that people who had been standing on the outside felt such a connection with us. She hugged me and started crying — this woman I had never spoken to. When we are here inside and outside the Capitol, we are all family. We are here for Trayvon, but this is so much bigger than Trayvon.

DERRICK STEPHENS, 24, Youth United for Change, Philadelphia.

What are conditions like for young people of color in Philadelphia?

"Overall, young Black people are stereotyped that they are young and dangerous. There is the school-to-prison pipeline. Schools are set up to send you to jail. Cops are always suspicious of us. People get arrested for minor things. Cops ask me randomly if they could see my ID.

It's hard for young people to get jobs. In Philly, if you do make it through college, you can even get lower-paid jobs than the people who didn't graduate from college. I know three college graduates working at restaurants, two as servers. These are jobs that people would get out of high school.



Jaylen Stewart

JAYLEN STEWART, 8, Tallahassee. He starts 3rd grade on Aug. 19. He has been in the Capitol for six days.

Why are you here, Jaylen?

Because I want justice.

What do you think was bad or unjust?

That Trayvon Martin got killed. Because he was on his way home and he didn't do nothing.

What has been your favorite thing about being here?

I get to learn more stuff. Games. Songs.



Derrick Stephens

What brought you to the Capitol this weekend?

First, my morals. I joined YUC in 9th grade. Afterwards I graduated and was a mentor. The executive director asked me to sit on the board.

When I got the email, I knew I had to come this weekend. I am working as a chef at a restaurant, and I called my boss and told him that there is a movement going down to Florida around Trayvon and the school-to-prison pipeline. My boss is a Black small business owner in Philly so he was very supportive.

Since you've been here, what is a highlight for you?

How many people came from around the country for the takeover yesterday and the people that stayed, slept here and continued the fight.

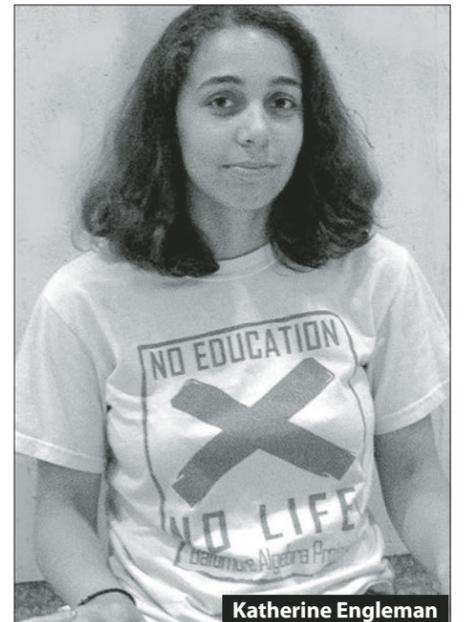
What is your favorite song?

"Mama mama can't see. What the state is done to me. They keep trying to bring us down. So we're marching into town."

What do you think is important for people to know about why you are sleeping here?

They need to change the law because it wasn't right what Zimmerman did to Trayvon.

WW PHOTOS: IMANI HENRY



Katherine Engleman

KATHERINE ENGLEMAN, 20, Baltimore Algebra Project. All the Baltimore participants traveled four extra hours on their own to get on the Philadelphia bus.

What are conditions like for young people where you come from?

I lived in Baltimore for nine years; before that I lived in Evansville, Ind. Where I lived in Indiana was one of the poorest school districts, but we still had books, good food in the cafeteria, air conditioning. It was so drastically different in Baltimore. You could tell they just didn't care about us as students. There were no books, no AC, not enough supplies.

Right now we are dealing with the closing of parks and recreation centers while the city spends more money for police. If your car gets pulled over, you see three police cars surround that one car. Why do they need more money for cops if you clearly have enough police to pull over people?

Why did you come from Baltimore this weekend?

I felt like I had to be here and not just talk about things but take action.

The action yesterday, all the marching, singing "We who believe in freedom cannot rest" with all those people made me cry. It is powerful when we chant "I believe that we will win!"

Egypt's revolution & the military coup

PART 3 This is the third part of an article adapted from a talk given by Joyce Chediak at Workers World Party meetings in New York and Boston on July 12 and 13. Read the entire talk online at workers.org.

Army a powerful part of Egyptian bourgeoisie

Egypt has the largest standing army in the Arab world. Most of its 450,000 soldiers are conscripts and low-ranking officers with little opportunity for advancement. They are close to the people and are often the only source of financial support for extended families.

The military has ruled Egypt for six decades. Most Egyptians view the army with pride as a patriotic nationalist organization going back to the era of Gamal Abdel Nasser and when it fought Israel in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s.

However, for the past four decades the office corps has been armed and trained by the Pentagon — at a cost of \$1.3 billion a year. The interest of the officers is diametrically opposed to the interests of the rank-and-file soldiers and the people as a whole.

In a July 4 Counterpunch article, "Egyptian Military: A State Within a State," Barry Lando, a former producer for "60 Minutes," wrote: "For years, Egypt's top military ranks have enjoyed a pampered existence in sprawling developments such as Cairo's Nasr City, where officers are housed in spacious, subsidized condominiums. They enjoy other amenities the average Egyptian can only dream of. ...

"Many of Egypt's brass are notoriously corrupt. Vast swathes of military land, for instance, were sold by the generals to finance some major urban developments near Cairo — with little if any accounting.

"The generals also preside over 16 enormous factories that turn out not just weapons, but an array of domestic products from dishwashers to heaters, cloth-

ing, doors, stationery, pharmaceutical products and microscopes. ...

"The military also builds highways, housing developments, hotels, power lines, sewers, bridges, schools, telephone exchanges, often in murky arrangements with civilian companies.

"The military are also Egypt's largest farmers, running a vast network of dairy farms, milk processing facilities, cattle feed lots, poultry farms, fish farms."

The military are making "billions and billions and billions" of dollars, and their operations are off the nation's books. There are no real published accountings, no oversight. Its economic affairs are kept totally secret and actually sealed off in the new constitution under "state security" protections.

The Egyptian military distrust and fear the Islamists and their mass base, which is quite large and can exert influence on the leadership. The Egyptian military have history to remind them. Lando wrote, "They certainly will never forget the lurid spectacle of Iranian generals being publicly executed in the aftermath of Khomeini's revolution in Iran. Iran also demonstrated that a radical revolution also means a radically transformed military. (Egypt's generals have a constant reminder of that lesson nearby: The Shah is buried in a Cairo mosque.)"

"They fear the masses even more," he continues, because "real civilian rule could spell an end to the system of massive military corruption and patronage that has gone on for decades in Egypt, a system that has given the military unimpeded control over an estimated 40 percent of the Egyptian economy — 'a state within a state.'"

U.S. imperialism plays both sides, scrambles to contain mass struggle

At first Washington said it was "cautiously encouraged" by the timetable proposed for a new presidential election. The

United States called on the Egyptian army to exercise "maximum restraint" while also condemning "explicit" Brotherhood calls to violence. Yet it will not suspend its annual \$1.3 billion to the Egyptian military and will go ahead with the planned delivery of four F-16 jets.

After thousands of Egyptian supporters of the Brotherhood took to the streets to demand Morsi's release and reinstatement, Washington also called for Morsi's release from detention.

Washington may be comfortable with the generals it trained and is on a first-name basis with. But it has been working both sides — the military and the Brotherhood — in order to maintain influence and relevance. The unprecedented, huge demonstrations in this key Arab country have shaken everything up. There's no real solution for the U.S. but to try to contain it.

This is why there are splits. The New York Times came out against the coup. The Washington Post, usually more hawkish than the Times, called for a cutoff of U.S. military aid to Cairo, as did John McCain, who heads the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Overall U.S. goals: keep Egypt stable, part of pro-imperialist orbit

The U.S. wants to contain the struggle, stabilize Egypt in the imperialist orbit and have a calm border on Israel's southern flank so that Tel Aviv can continue to attack Gaza, the West Bank and, most recently, Syria. The imperialists have no permanent allies, only permanent interests.

The Wall Street Journal — which can be the bold face of predatory capitalism and imperialism — not only favored the coup but said in a July 5 editorial: "Egyptians would be lucky if their new ruling generals turn out to be in the mold of Chile's Augusto Pinochet, who took over power amid chaos but hired free-market reformers and midwived a transition to democracy." They did not mention Pinochet's 17-year reign of terror.

What Wall Street wants for Egypt is to continue and deepen the economic exploitation of Egypt's workers and rural poor. The New York Times on July 9 pointed out that the new prime minister, Hazem el-Beblawi, is a former finance minister and founding member of the Social Democratic Party (founded after the 2011 revolution), who criticized both Mubarak and Morsi for "failing to move fast enough to open up the economy, reform Egypt's bloated and unaffordable subsidy programs and provide for the poor."

Beblawi, the Times continues, "is ideally suited to negotiate with the International Monetary Fund over a package of changes tied to a pending \$4.8 billion loan." These changes mean more austerity for the Egyptian people, whose services have already been cut to the bone.

The critical IMF loan, which was held back from Morsi's government under U.S. pressure, is now suddenly being made available to the government of the generals.

At the same time, some of the most reactionary and antidemocratic regimes in the world, all U.S. clients, are coming to the generals' assistance. Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi and Kuwait have pledged \$12 billion in aid to the military government.

But things are far from stable in Egypt. Already the agreement between the secular forces and the military is unraveling. The umbrella National Salvation Front and some Tamarud leaders have already protested that powers claimed by the new military government have gone further than agreed and have been done without consulting them. The military's response has been to warn them against disruption of what it calls a "difficult" transition.

Struggle is not over

What has happened in Egypt? Despite the huge outpouring of the people, the revolutionary forces have lost momentum to the right wing. But this is only a temporary development. The struggle is far from over, and the revolutionaries will recoup and recover.

And to be sure, any government that agrees to U.S. demands for reducing food and fuel subsidies as a precondition for IMF loans — as this one has signaled it is happy to do — will set off even more huge demonstrations by the Egyptian people, who have a strong sense of entitlement and are determined to see their demands met.

The Brotherhood continues to organize significantly large demonstrations calling for the reinstatement of the Morsi government. This polarization between Islamists and seculars fomented by the military-liberal alliance works against the interests of the Egyptian workers. Islamists are an integral part of Egyptian society, and may need to be included and reached out to.

Key to overcoming this divide is the development of a program that addresses the need of all workers and rural poor among the Muslim Brotherhood ranks and among the secular-minded and minorities, where all can fight shoulder to shoulder for economic, social and political justice. The rank-and-file members of both the army and the Muslim Brotherhood will be open to such a movement, allowing for a new direction for the country.

The Egyptian revolution needs its own leadership, its own program and its own organs of power that speak for the workers of all religions and persuasions and that safeguard their interests. This is the way to sweep away the pro-capitalist and pro-imperialist seculars, the pro-capitalist and pro-imperialist Islamists, and the pro-capitalist and pro-imperialist military. And ultimately smash the Egyptian military-industrial state.

The strength and depth of the Egyptian mass movement continues to inspire the world. We have every confidence that it will develop the independent leadership and independent organs of power that it needs.

Long live the Egyptian revolution! □

Henri Alleg: 1921 – 2013

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Henri Alleg was a journalist's journalist. Of French-Algerian ancestry, he witnessed the horrors and brutalities of the Algerian War personally.

What distinguished him from his colleagues was his willingness to speak out against the State, which was waging an anti-colonial war based in large part on State terror and torture.

Alleg defied the State by writing accounts of such French torture, and incurred the wrath of the authorities.

They placed his name on their roundup list, and when they finally found him at the home of a friend (mathematician Maurice Audin), they took him to a suburb of Algiers called El Blar, where they repeatedly utilized torture to force him to name the

names of his sources and contacts.

In his "La Question," his memoirs from the times of torture, Alleg recounts the State's use of electroshock, sodium pentothal (truth serum), and yes, waterboarding, to break him.

And yet, incredibly — incredibly! — He did not break. No name of a source or of a colleague slipped through his lips.

Henri made up his mind. Not only would he endure, he would die rather than betray others.

When his torturers saw that, they recognized it. They knew that they could kill him, but they also knew that they couldn't break him.

Transferred to Lodi prison camp, Henri Alleg made notes of his torture, and found innovative ways to smuggle them out of this den of darkness.

Those smuggled notes and scraps of paper became his memoir, published in 1958: "La Question." It electrified France, for it exposed the secret torture system that permeated the colony of Algeria. It was a sensation.

Henri Alleg did not break in El Blar. He did not die. He did not tell. He did not betray. He wrote.

And the world was better for it.

Henri Alleg: Born July 1921 — died July 2013, with a lot of living in between.

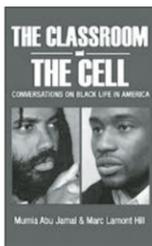
Henri Alleg, gentle, small in stature, but a giant in his heart, remembered. □

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TUNISIA

Mass demonstrations, strikes greet political assassination

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Tunisian workers and youth shut down the North African country on July 26, when the largest trade union federation and other political organizations held a general strike. The actions were in response to the July 25 assassination of Popular Front leftist politician, Mohamed Brahmi, 58, who was shot 14 times outside his home near the capital of Tunis.

Brahmi, a member of the legislative, 217-member National Constituent Assembly, is the second left political figure to be assassinated. In February, Chokri Belaïd was murdered, also outside his home. Tunisia Minister of the Interior Lofti Ben Jeddou reported that both leaders were killed with the same weapon.

The general strike on July 26 and the funeral of Brahmi on July 27 brought out hundreds of thousands of people who expressed their opposition to the current government dominated by the moderate-Islamist Ennahda party. Demonstrations were held in the capital, Tunis, as well as the southern mining areas at Gafsa and the town of Sidi Bouzid, the birthplace of the uprising in December 2010, which spread across the country and led to the forced removal of longtime Western-allied president, Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali.

Initiated by the General Union of Tunisian Labor (UGTT), the leading trade union alliance, the work stoppage and demonstrations were held under the theme of stopping "terrorism, violence and murders." Thousands gathered outside the UGTT headquarters on July 26, planning to march down the city's main street to the Interior Ministry building when they were attacked by riot police using teargas.

UGTT Deputy Secretary-General Sami Tahri stated that all sectors of the labor force observed the strike, including health services, public transport and banking. The UGTT claims 500,000 members.

In Sidi Bouzid, demonstrators threw firebombs at the headquarters of the Ennahda party. The sister of the slain politician Chhiba Brahmi pointed her finger at the Ennahda party as being responsible for the assassination. "I accuse Ennahda. It was them who killed him."

Bernie Dwyer, presente

The following is based on a statement from the International Committee to Free the Cuban Five:

At 7:30 a.m. today, July 10, Irish journalist and beloved compañera Bernie Dwyer died surrounded by her family. Bernie was based in Cuba and worked for years at Radio Havana Cuba. She made several important documentary films, including "Mission Against Terror," "The Day Diplomacy Died" and others.

Her deep research on the aggression and terrorism against Cuba, and the defense of the Cuban 5, imprisoned in the U.S., was one of the most important contributions to the solidarity movement with Cuba.

Her smile, her words in English and Spanish, her messages, her insightful articles, her participation in international events and her fruitful work, despite being severely ill, will be an inspiration to all

Protest after Mohamed Brahmi's assassination on July 25 in Tunisia.

Similar accusations were made in February in the aftermath of the killing of Belaïd.

Political crisis deepens in Tunisia

The assassination of Mohamed Brahmi is a reflection of the political crisis in Tunisia that has developed since the overthrow of Ben Ali. At the funeral of Brahmi on July 27, tens of thousands gathered with many chanting, "The people want to topple the regime! Ghannouchi! Assassin! Criminal!" (France 24, July 27)

Rached Ghannouchi is the leader of the Ennahda party and has played a prominent role within the former opposition movement against Ben Ali. Ghannouchi stayed in exile for many years and was only un-banned after the fall of the previous regime.

The Ennahda-led government has denied any involvement in the assassination. Ghannouchi described the murder of Brahmi as "a catastrophe for Tunisia," saying, "Those behind this want to lead the country towards civil war and disrupt the democratic transition." (dw.de, July 26)

Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki declared Friday, July 26, as a day of mourning and requested that the military grant Brahmi a state funeral. The government delayed the funeral another day, saying this was to avoid the further escalation of tensions. (Reuters, July 26)

On July 29, the Ettakatol party called for the governing coalition led by Ennahda to resign and make way for the creation of a new, national unity government. A spokesman for Ettakatol stated, "If Ennahda refuses this proposal we will withdraw from the government." (Reuters, July 29)

If Ettakatol withdraws from the coalition it will pose a serious dilemma for the prime minister, Ali Larayedh. Nouredine Bhiri, a spokesman for Larayedh, said that the demonstrations taking place in Tunisia were tantamount to "the destruction of the state." (Reuters, July 29)

On July 29, rival protests outside the NCA building at Bardo Square in Tunis



The much desired constitution was discussed after the fall of Ben Ali in January 2011 but has not been finished in two-and-a-half years. Since the overthrow of the former government under Ben Ali, the economy, based largely on tourism and mining, has continued to decline.

Political developments in neighboring Egypt have their impact in Tunisia. In Egypt, the military seized power on July 3 following mass demonstrations opposing the Muslim Brotherhood government. Members of the secular opposition in the National Salvation Front (Egypt) have supported the military actions and some are participating in the newly appointed interim governing council.

Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki, President of the National Constituent Assembly Mustapha Ben Jaafar and Interim Prime Minister Ali Larayedh reportedly held a consultation meeting on July 27 in Carthage to evaluate the political crisis in the country. Mufdi al-Masady, spokesman for the NCA, told a local radio station, "The trend now is to move towards expanding the base of power."

Both the secular liberal and left parties, along with the Islamist forces, have formidable constituencies in the country. The UGTT will undoubtedly play a significant and even pivotal role in the developing crisis, having the strength to engage in general strikes and mass demonstrations.

There will be no resolution for the mass of Tunisian workers and farmers if there is no real break with imperialism and the formation of a revolutionary government. This government will have to function outside of the influence and domination of both the former colonial power of France and of the United States, which has utilized the country in its so-called "war on terrorism" in North Africa. □

Polls say Snowden is 'whistle-blower,' not 'traitor'

By Chris Fry

Despite a relentless bombardment of messages from politicians and the media alike that the National Security Agency Administration's monitoring of cell phones, emails and social network sites is essential to "fight terrorism," recent polls indicate that many here in the U.S. are shocked and angry at the government's intrusions into their private communications.

In a Quinnipiac University poll released on July 10, 55 percent of respondents viewed Edward Snowden, the man who exposed PRISM and other NSA monitoring programs, as a "whistle-blower" rather than as a "traitor," the label applied by many right-wing politicians. (tv.msnbc.com, July 10)

From the most right-wing commentators to the most liberal, each has chimed into the chorus of demanding that Snowden return to the U.S. to face harsh criminal prosecution under the infamous 1917 Espionage Act, which provides no protection to whistle-blowers.

Consequently, an ABC News/Washington Post poll released on July 24 showed

that 53 percent thought Snowden should be charged with a crime for releasing information that "threatened national security." (abcnews.go.com, July 24)

Yet most people oppose the idea of any sanctions against Russia for temporarily harboring Edward Snowden. And most favor no economic retaliation against any nation that provides sanctuary to Snowden. This obviously runs counter to the U.S. campaign to block any air traffic that may convey Snowden, not to mention the forced landing of the Bolivian presidential airliner.

This latest poll showed that more and more people see the whole range of NSA activities as being an unjustified intrusion on their rights — the ABC poll showed that 34 percent feel that way, which is more than any other polls conducted over the last several years.

As the global capitalist crisis deepens, people here and abroad are beginning to see these high-technology computer applications at the NSA for what they are: tools for repression directed against a rising tide of anger against this obsolete and failed economic and social system. □



of us who knew and loved Bernie. We will always remember this great revolutionary woman and social documentarian that she was.

We send our warmest embrace to Bernie's family and her beloved people of Ireland, from all of her comrades in Cuba and the U.S., and the family of the Cuban 5. It has been our honor to know her and she will be deeply missed, but we will carry the struggle forward with Bernie Dwyer in our hearts and minds.

Hasta la victoria siempre dear Bernie Dwyer! □

WORKERS WORLD
 editorial

Zimmerman a hero? No way!

There's a good chance you dismissed the ridiculous media reports of July 22 that Trayvon Martin's killer, George Zimmerman, "emerged from hiding" to save a family from an overturned SUV.

Why waste time on such nonsense? You might be spending your time more productively — supporting the Tallahassee sit-in of the Dream Defenders, for instance, or going to one of the "not-guilty"-verdict inspired demonstrations against racist violence that continue to take place.

It is worth noting, however, why the big business media ran the story at all. It wasn't just FOX News that covered it: CNN, USA Today, ABC, CBS and the Associated Press carried it, too.

Like other watershed events — like Hurricane Katrina — Zimmerman's "not-guilty" verdict has exposed the prevalence of societal racism.

The way the trial itself played out was a dramatic display of the racism of the police and the courts. And the response to the verdict has included everything from demonstrations calling for justice in other racist killings, to African-American media commentators reporting how many times they've been profiled. This has included President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder.

Stark examples of racism have come to the surface, like the case of Marissa Alexander, who, in order to defend herself from a violent ex-spouse, fired off a warning shot into a ceiling. She was sentenced to 20 years in prison for killing nobody. Or African-American transwoman, CeCe McDonald, jailed for standing her ground against a violent, fascistic attack.

These and countless other examples that expose systematic, state-sponsored racism have begun to form the basis for a renewed struggle, potentially on a level matching the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

As always, the rich and their subservient tools in the media have pushed back. To counter the anti-racist momentum, the corporate media — the mouthpiece of the ruling class — have tried to change the focus.

Now the story isn't profiling, stop-and-frisk or police brutality. Now it's the vast gulf between African Americans and whites in the response to the Zimmerman verdict.

Polls by the Washington Post-ABC News, the NBC News-Wall Street Journal and the Pew Research Center have all reported stark polarization in the way Blacks and whites view the outcome of the Zimmerman trial.

While the polls do reflect an aspect of reality — many whites don't get the manner in which the system conspires against people of oppressed nationalities, and many are misled into blaming immigrants and others for their personal hardships — many are also quick to sympathize when the truth is revealed, as it was in the Trayvon Martin case.

It is just this outpouring of sympathy that the bourgeois media are trying to stamp out.

The SUV story, which no one can really take seriously, is still valuable to the billionaires for its divisive potential in the wake of the verdict.

When ABC News reported that George Zimmerman had rescued a family from an SUV, the on-air anchor reported that the news of this story was itself "adding fuel to a fire of racial tensions across the country."

It's true there was a firestorm of protests — against racism and police killings. Many whites joined these protests.

The massive Times Square demonstration the day after the verdict jammed the streets, preventing dozens of cars from moving at all — yet the drivers of the jammed cars, which included many whites, honked in support of the protest.

Organized racists will jump on the bogus SUV story in an attempt to sanitize Zimmerman and spread the idea online — which is just what the corporate media hope will happen. But the overriding, objective polarization today is not Black versus white, but the rich — what some call the 1% — versus the rest of us. And be assured, the rich will never stop using divide-and-conquer ideology, especially white supremacy, to try to prevent us from uniting. □

Fast-food workers demand 'LIVING WAGE'

Continued from page 1

workers to that for "Justice for Trayvon Martin."

Similar walkouts in this "Nationally Coordinated Day of Fast-Food Workers' Strikes" were held at restaurants, including McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, Wendy's, Domino's Pizza, Taco Bell and Subway, in Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Detroit, and Kansas City, Mo. This is the third set of nationally planned job actions by fast-food workers.

Each day of organized protests brings more support. Dozens of community, labor and faith-based groupings have joined this campaign. In addition to the organizations listed above, Jobs with Justice and Action Now are involved, among others.

Momentum is quickly growing in support of these workers and their call for a \$15 hourly minimum wage. This call is resonating louder and clearer than ever — and is rapidly becoming a national issue. These workers' strong, persistent de-

mands on pay and the right to organize, gain medical benefits and be guaranteed workplace respect are being heard — because they're fighting back!

The workers taking on this struggle are courageous. They are risking jobs they so desperately need to pay for essential expenses like rent and food for their families. Many work two and three jobs to do so. Yet, they are standing up to the most powerful corporations, which make super-profits from their labor. McDonald's alone is worth \$100 billion, yet the company refuses to pay its workers a living wage.

These fast-food workers are blazing the road ahead for all workers, employed and unemployed, who have been hit hard by the economic crisis, rising cost of living, growing income inequality and corporate downsizing of their standard of living. Not only would their victory help the 4 million employed in this industry, but it would be a boon for all workers. □

NORTH KOREA

60th anniversary — history & celebration

By Deirdre Griswold
Pyongyang,
Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Even on normal days, this magnificent city proudly wears its history on its sleeve. There are monuments and buildings everywhere dedicated to the almost unimaginable sacrifices the Korean people have made to safeguard their independence from would-be conquerors.

But these are not normal days. This is the 60th anniversary of the armistice agreement, signed on July 27, 1953, that ended the three-year bloody conflict called the Korean War in the West and the Fatherland Liberation War here.

To mark the occasion here in the north of the divided Korean peninsula, thousands of foreigners and many governments have been invited to share in festivities organized by the Workers' Party of Korea. Flags with the party's symbol — a hammer, a sickle and a brush, to symbolize the workers, peasants and intellectuals whose revolution transformed the north — fly from buildings and lampposts alongside the national flag of the DPRK.

Most honored in the many activities occurring around this city and the country are veterans of the war. Their light-brown uniforms, many bespangled with medals, are seen everywhere, and younger people show them special reverence as they pass on the street.

Their lined faces and lean, hard bodies bespeak their age and the hardships they endured fighting for their country and their future.

People in the United States seldom hear anything about that war anymore. When the corporate media talk about "North Korea" — they rarely mention its real name — it is almost always to attack the leadership and the measures they have taken to strengthen the country's defenses.

But here in the DPRK, everyone knows about the war and their support for the government's "army first" policy is resounding.

The centerpiece of the July 27 commemoration was a military parade through Kim Il Sung Square, named for the legendary revolutionary leader and military tactician whose guerrilla army liberated the north from Japanese colonial rule in 1945. Kim became the first president of the DPRK in 1948 and led the young country's resistance to U.S. imperialist aggression from 1950 to 1953.

Hundreds of thousands of Koreans participated in the parade, including units of the military, militia members and civilians. Their body language and chanting of slogans showed extraordinary determination. Despite standing hours in a very hot sun in full dress uniforms, the ranks of women and men maintained perfect formation, then marched with a high-stepping, almost bouncing gait that exuded coordinated energy.

Then came a massive display of weapons, ranging from multiple-rocket launchers to long-range artillery mounted on trucks and tanks. Nuclear-capable missiles rolled by as MiG jets and helicopters zoomed overhead. The civilians then got their chance to march and chant, which they did with great passion as they passed the reviewing stand.

The DPRK's new young leader, Kim Jong Un, was joined there by high dignitaries, including Vice President Li Yuan-

chao of the People's Republic of China. Special homage was paid to the million Chinese volunteers who had joined forces with the Koreans during the war to push back the U.S. invaders. A large delegation of Chinese veterans of the war attended the ceremonies.

The DPRK's military forces are purely defensive. Unlike the imperialist United States, it has no troops on foreign soil, no nuclear subs prowling the oceans, no battleships threatening to invade the Middle East or Africa or Latin America. But it has in recent years developed a nuclear deterrent, having both warheads and the long-range missiles capable of delivering them. However, it has pledged never to use them in a first strike.

The U.S. government refuses to make such a commitment and threatens the whole world with the Pentagon's stated policy of not ruling out a "preemptive" nuclear attack.

Early this year, the U.S. carried out large-scale military exercises right off the borders of the DPRK that for the first time included Japanese forces. This set off alarm bells in both Korea and China, which suffered horribly from Japanese colonial aggression before and during World War II.

Kim Il Sung and other leaders of the Korean Revolution had gained their early military experience in the 1930s fighting alongside Chinese Communists and patriots against the Japanese annexation of Manchuria, the Chinese province adjoining northern Korea.

With the defeat of Imperial Japan in World War II, anti-colonial revolutions spread throughout Asia, most led by Communists. But only five years later, the U.S. launched the war in Korea in an attempt to establish its hegemony over the entire peninsula.

It failed. Despite having inflicted millions of deaths on the Korean people and leveling structures in the north with carpet bombing and napalm, the Truman administration had to sign an armistice agreement with the DPRK.

Koreans today are celebrating this first defeat for the supposedly invincible U.S. imperialism while emphasizing their "army first" policy as the best insurance against such a war ever happening again.

This celebratory mood was given exuberant cultural expression on the evening of July 26 in a performance of "Arirang." This multifaceted drama employed song, dance, fireworks, acrobatics, high-wire aerialists and even preschoolers coordinating intricate jump-rope routines while thousands of students seated in the bleachers illustrated the story with rapid flip-card scene changes. Some 200,000 people participated in or watched the production.

More than anything, these mass events showed the energy, unity and determination of the people of the DPRK to defend the hard-won gains of their anti-colonial socialist revolution and support their leaders' defiance of all imperialist threats.

A solidarity delegation from Workers World Party attended the celebrations in Pyongyang at the invitation of the Workers' Party of Korea. Larry Holmes, first secretary of WWP's National Committee, headed the delegation and was accompanied by the author of this article as well as by Elena Gilbert, an organizer in the South.

SYRIA

U.S. war policy at a crossroads

By Sara Flounders

Despite CIA coordination of training operations in Jordan and safe havens in Turkey and despite countless reports in the corporate media of the imminent surrender of a panicked Syrian government, the more than two-year intense effort to overthrow the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad is collapsing.

This does not mean that the threat of a wider war has vanished. No, the Pentagon's response to the humiliating defeats of the forces they have spent large amounts of funds recruiting, training and equipping is to float plans for a long-term war with the goal of partitioning Syria into nonviable parts. As the July 22 New York Times reported, Washington is preparing for "the long-term reality of a divided Syria," of which Assad would only control a "rump portion."

In a July 23 letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee, Joint Chiefs Chair Gen. Martin Dempsey outlined five escalating military options to overthrow the government of Syria. These already planned options include sending U.S. troops as "trainers"; strikes on Syria's air, ground, missile defense and naval forces; and imposing "no-fly zones." Other options include establishing buffer zones and sending in thousands of troops to "secure chemical weapons."

Dempsey's blunt letter acknowledged that all these military options risk a wider war, tens of thousands of lives and long-term U.S. involvement. Most scenarios "could also average well over one billion dollars a month."

The many Pentagon plans are under intense discussion in Washington because the more than 1,200 bands of mercenaries funded and equipped by U.S. arms, supplied through Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and several other NATO countries, are now in almost total disarray.

The effort to overturn the Syrian government predates the uprising in the Arab world known as the Arab Spring. According to the April 16, 2011, Washington Post, the U.S. had quietly funded right-wing Syrian opposition groups since at least 2005.

Despite all U.S.-NATO efforts to cobble together a unified military command, they were never able to go beyond developing a collection of marauding bands.

Central Park 5:

Continued from page 6

nocent Central Park 5 as guilty.

There continue to be denials of wrongdoing by the city. And the court costs to the taxpayers caused by the delays continue to rise.

There are outstanding issues and topics that still need to be discussed. There are also documents to be obtained and filed, including scheduled depositions on both sides.

The case is still in pre-trial status. The city is still performing its elaborate dance on many federal cases and no settlement offer has been made on the Central Park 5 lawsuit. The next status conference is scheduled for Sept. 17 before Judge Ronald Ellis.

Today, Black youth and men continue to be off the U.S.'s priority list. They have been viewed as wage slaves, like all workers, for exploitation. Now, these youth are enslaved in prison, in record numbers, for superprofits. The struggle for liberation continues.

Despite their failures, the House and Senate Intelligence Committees have given a green light to publicly arm these forces, while continuing the thinly veiled flow of U.S. arms via Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Opposition lacks program & support

Behind the opposition's imminent defeat is its absence of popular support. The Free Syrian Army and the religious sectarian groups have been incapable of providing for the social needs of the population in the areas they occupied, not even to sustain bread lines or organize basic medical needs. They mobilize only through fear, focused on intensifying sectarian differences.

Even the corporate media report the extreme disarray of the reactionary forces that are largely uncoordinated bands, increasingly bogged down in local turf wars for lucrative control of towns and cities.

Mercenaries, privateers and criminal gangs from many countries have flooded into Syria to take part in the looting of equipment and cars that can be spirited over borders, cashing in on paychecks for fighters, and kidnapping and ransoming business people.

Other forces flooding into Syria have a totally reactionary and religious agenda of intolerance and sectarian war that the Syrian population abhors. Because they can't defeat the government, the competing groups are now selling their own weapons, looting weapons from opposing bands, and executing competing fighters and civilians, including children, to instill fear.

Widely publicized videos of bloody executions, along with decapitations, the eating of human hearts, the use of torture, and increasing bombings of civilian targets such as schools and marketplaces,

have confirmed the thoroughly reactionary nature of these forces.

Top United Nations envoy Leila Zerrougui, special representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, reported to the U.N. that many children between the ages of 15 and 18 have been recruited from other countries and brought to Syria to fight, in violation of international conventions banning the recruitment of child soldiers.

Syrian rebels have sent children into combat and used boys as young as 14 to transport weapons and supplies, according to a June 22 Human Rights Watch report.

Of the 6.8 million people displaced or made into refugees, 70 percent are women and children. Over 3 million children are in desperate need of humanitarian aid.

A U.S.-NATO effort at imposing a unified political coalition of a government-in-exile of well-financed expatriates living in comfort has met with similar failure. Contentious and disconnected individuals and groups have refused to even meet in the same room.

People's militias back gov't

Throughout the country, the reactionary bands have run up against local defense groups and people's militias, which have helped to turn the tide. SANA, the Syrian Arab news agency, has highlighted efforts such as those of the Palestinian Popular Committees that cleared several neighborhoods of the al-Yarmouk refugee camp, warning the armed terrorist groups to surrender or leave the camp.

The militias are now organized under a structure called the National Defense Forces to defend their own neighborhoods. Many of the militias sprung

up spontaneously to defend their areas against sectarian forces, criminal gangs, car bombs and kidnappings. A New York Times article on July 21 described the militias that patrol the "Old City" neighborhood of Damascus to protect a diversity of peoples who have existed there in harmony for hundreds of years.

Government forces have rolled back rebel gains near Damascus, the capital; in Aleppo, a major city close to the border with Turkey; and in central Homs province. Hezbollah militia forces from Lebanon aided in the complete defeat of rebels in al-Qasr, a strategic transit and logistics point near the Lebanese border, which had been controlled by the opposition since the beginning of the war.

Washington's goal in Syria was to pull down another country that had for decades attempted an independent economic and political course. The country had full literacy and the highest education standards and lowest infant mortality in the region.

Most importantly, Syria was the only remaining country in the Arab world that was not drowning in debt to U.S. and Western banks, which to Wall Street is the greatest crime. Many of Syria's key industries are still nationally owned.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the U.S. wars in Iraq, the Syrian government had tried to reach an accommodation with Western corporate power by agreeing to privatize part of many industries and to cut basic subsidies. Now, under pressure of an imposed war economy and extreme sanctions from the U.S., European powers and the monarchies of the Gulf States, Syria has reorganized parts of the economy. Many of the unpopular economic decisions are being reversed. □

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The legal lynching of Trayvon Martin, following the actual lynching, has triggered a huge backlash against this travesty of justice. Racism, which could not be raised in the courtroom, has emerged front and center. Now there's a spotlight on the nationwide war against Black and Brown youth by killer cops and armed vigilantes.

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Given the attacks on voting rights that the recent Supreme Court decision has already unleashed in North Carolina and Texas, the Aug. 24 march in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March for Jobs and Freedom is gaining momentum. Adding to that is the call for "Justice for Trayvon." And now there is the call for Justice for Trayvon Martin Assemblies to be held nationwide on Aug. 28.

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strings or pander to the backward ideology of the 1%. We have been relying on support from our readers for 36 years to publish working-class truth and build so many vital struggles.

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Detrás del llamado de Xi Jinping para un retorno al marxismo

Por Fred Goldstein

El presidente de la República Popular de China, Xi Jinping, ha emitido declaraciones que buscan frenar la erosión de los valores socialistas que se ha generalizado en China.

El Press Trust de India informó el 1 de julio: “los funcionarios del gobernante Partido Comunista de China deben descartar la obsesión con las cifras del PIB para obtener promociones y volver a los principios del marxismo, que sufrió una crisis ideológica en el curso de las reformas del país, dijo hoy el presidente Xi Jinping”.

Después Xinhua, la agencia de prensa oficial de China, informó el 12 de julio: “el presidente chino Xi Jinping ha instado a los/as 85 millones de miembros del Partido Comunista de China (PCC) a trabajar duro y a servir al pueblo con entusiasmo para ‘garantizar que el color rojo de China nunca cambie’”.

Xi, quien también es el Secretario General del PCC, hizo estas declaraciones en la víspera del 92 aniversario de la fundación del Partido. El 11 de julio visitó Xi-baipo en la provincia de Hebei, donde los líderes del Partido Comunista Chino estuvieron basados desde mayo de 1948 hasta principios de 1949 mientras se preparaban para tomar el poder y convertirse en el partido gobernante de China.

Según Xinhua, Xi dijo que “las observaciones del difunto líder chino Mao Zedong sobre el estilo de trabajo de los miembros del Partido antes de la fundación de la nueva China en 1949 aún tienen un gran alcance ideológico e histórico”.

“En una reunión importante del PCC en marzo de 1949”, continuó Xinhua, “Mao exhortó a todo el Partido a llevar adelante decididamente el estilo de trabajo de mostrar modestia y prudencia mientras se previene contra la vanidad y la impetuosidad y decididamente llevar adelante el estilo de trabajar duro y llevar una vida simple”.

“Calificando la historia de la China revolucionaria como ‘el mejor nutriente’, Xi dijo que estudiando y recordando esa historia puede traer ‘energía positiva’ a los/as miembros del partido”.

Xinhua parafraseó a Xi diciendo “el pueblo debe ser alentado a cuidar del PCC y ser guiado para ejercitar su deber de supervisión”.

El artículo de Press Trust citó a Xi diciendo que “los cuadros del partido deben ser firmes seguidores de los ideales comunistas, verdaderos creyentes del marxismo y devotos luchadores por el socialismo con características chinas”.

El PTI continuó citando a Xi: “la integridad de un funcionario del Partido no crecerá con los años de servicio y la promoción de su puesto, sino con los persistentes esfuerzos para disciplinarse a sí mismo y estudiar los clásicos marxistas y las teorías del socialismo con características chinas, dijo Xi”.

Estos no fueron discursos pronunciados una sola vez. Son parte de una campaña para intentar restablecer la reputación del Partido, estimulando una base ideológica pública. La campaña comenzó en abril del 2013, como una campaña contra la corrupción poco después que Xi asumió la presidencia. En aquel momento era conocida principalmente por una consigna contra los “cuatro platos fuertes” para los

funcionarios, lo que significa el fin de los banquetes extravagantes y otras indulgencias. Ahora se está poniendo en el contexto de la renovación ideológica marxista.

La campaña se ha venido desarrollando paso a paso hace poco, con informes diarios en la prensa del gobierno chino sobre la realización de la “línea de masas” y con consignas como “de las masas para las masas”.

Todas las 31 regiones a nivel provincial, los órganos del gobierno central y las organizaciones populares están programadas para convocar conferencias de trabajo para llevar a cabo una campaña educativa, atacando los estilos de trabajo indeseables tales como “el formalismo, la burocratización, el hedonismo y la extravagancia”. Esto es parte de la campaña anticorrupción iniciada por Xi.

Xi promueve la rectificación del estilo de trabajo llamando a la “auto-purificación, auto-perfección, auto-renovación y el auto-progreso”.

Una cuestión de supervivencia o extinción para el PCC

En una declaración contundente en una reunión del Comité Central el 18 de junio, haciendo un llamado para lanzar la campaña en su totalidad, Xi expone los riesgos muy claramente. Xinhua reportó: “Ganar o perder el apoyo del público es un tema que atañe a la supervivencia o la extinción del PCC”, dijo Xi, haciendo hincapié en que la línea de masas, o la promoción de las relaciones con el pueblo, es el sustento del partido”.

El mismo mensaje habló de lazos de “carne y hueso” con el pueblo y hizo un llamado para integrar al Partido a más trabajadores/as con conocimiento de las bases y las condiciones sociales.

Li Junnu, un ex vice presidente de la Escuela del Comité Central del Partido dijo a Xinhua: “Mantener estrechos vínculos con las masas es la ventaja política más grande del Partido, mientras que el aislamiento del pueblo es el mayor peligro que enfrenta el PCC”. (Xinhua, 18 de junio)

Debe recordarse que en el primer viaje de Xi después de asumir la Presidencia en marzo de 2013, fue a la provincia de Guangdong y dio una charla a un grupo del Partido advirtiendo sobre los peligros en China de un desarrollo tipo Gorbachev. Él habló seriamente acerca de cómo el Partido Comunista de la Unión Soviética fue derrocado y el socialismo completamente destruido. El destino a largo plazo del Partido es sin duda una profunda preocupación de Xi y sus colaboradores.

Un observador debe concluir que se trata de un intento serio de revertir los efectos de tres décadas de erosión de la moral socialista bajo el impacto de los avances capitalistas y toda la decadencia, corrupción e inmoralidad del mercado que los explotadores, nacionales e internacionales, llevan junto con el apetito por ganancias.

La corrupción masiva es la norma bajo el capitalismo. Y estas normas se han vuelto omnipresentes en toda China socialista, socavando seriamente la conciencia de la sociedad en su conjunto y engendrando cinismo y alienación entre los/as trabajadores/as y los/as campesinos/as.

La reputación del Partido ha sufrido enormemente, especialmente a nivel provincial y local. Ha habido decenas de miles de “incidentes de masas” anualmente, re-

portados por el propio gobierno. Incluyen a campesinos/as protestando porque sus tierras están siendo vendidas a los promotores inmobiliarios; trabajadores/as que protestan contra los empleadores que violan sus derechos; protestas contra la contaminación; y otros numerosos agravios.

En esta campaña liderada por Xi para bregar con la decadencia política y social provocada por las concesiones al capitalismo y el imperialismo, el liderazgo está evocando recuerdos y asociaciones con el período heroico de la Revolución China.

Es notable que Xinhua, sin duda con el acuerdo y tal vez con el consejo de Xi, se refiriera en forma muy favorable a Mao como la autoridad en la prescripción del “trabajo duro” y la “vida sencilla” como la práctica correcta para los cuadros. La referencia al estudio de la historia revolucionaria de China como “alimento” para fortalecer el Partido es una bocanada de aire fresco. Hablar de “línea de masas”, “de las masas para las masas” y “servir al pueblo, con alma y corazón” — varias recetas para la auto-corrección y la reflexión — son claras referencias a las primeras etapas de la Revolución China.

El liderazgo está evocando la época anterior más revolucionaria, para advertir a los elementos corruptos y para inspirar a las masas.

Arraigados intereses burocráticos deben combatirse desde abajo

Esta campaña es un paso loable, sin duda en cuanto a sus intenciones, y esperamos que traiga resultados positivos. Pero existen profundas contradicciones y limitaciones en la campaña que deben ser superadas para alcanzar sus objetivos.

Hay intereses burocráticos en el Partido que están vinculados a funcionarios del gobierno y a los que apuestan al capitalismo quienes no abandonarán sus posiciones basados solamente en apelaciones morales o en presión social. Encontrarán mil maneras de eludir u obstruir la campaña, mientras ésta se base en el cumplimiento voluntario.

Estos intereses arraigados deben ser combatidos. Y la manera más segura y más confiable para luchar contra ellos es alistando a las masas en la lucha. Sin esto, la campaña estará severamente limitada.

Los funcionarios corruptos deben ser expuestos. Y esto no puede hacerse desde arriba. Debe venir desde abajo, de las masas que están sujetas al abuso oficial, que conocen de primera mano quiénes son corruptos, quiénes son oportunistas, quiénes solo están por ellos mismos, quiénes están colaborando en privado con los propietarios o los promotores inmobiliarios y los empresarios, quiénes violan las normas que protegen los intereses del pueblo, quiénes tratan al pueblo con desprecio, y así sucesivamente.

Es irónico que Bo Xilai, un popular ex oficial del Partido y miembro del Buró Político a cargo de la provincia de Chongqing, ahora languidezca en detención porque fue perseguido por la actual dirigencia. Entre las cosas que lo dejaron en desgracia con el liderazgo fue que hizo un llamado a las masas en Chongqing para que denunciaran a los funcionarios, empresarios y funcionarios del partido corruptos. Bo libró una dura campaña para enjuiciar y encarcelar a estos elementos como parte de su campaña integral para

frenar la marcha por el camino capitalista. Y Bo intentó restaurar la cultura maoísta.

Leer los clásicos marxistas y popularizar la idea de permanecer leal al comunismo es un programa sano y de limpieza ideológica. Mientras más ampliamente se implemente, mayor será el beneficio para las fuerzas socialistas en China.

Pero se requiere mucho más que la lectura para superar a los pragmáticos, los oportunistas y los capitalistas que fueron permitidos ingresar al Partido por Jiang Zemin en 1992. El marxismo afirma que el ser determina la conciencia. Mientras que algunos individuos pueden reeducarse a sí mismos, las amplias capas de funcionarios privilegiados no lo harán voluntariamente. Tomará una pelea. Tal vez el liderazgo de Xi haya previsto esto y tenga un plan para romper la resistencia de los elementos recalcitrantes. Eso sería todo para el bien.

La economía determina la política

Pero hay un problema más fundamental. El problema es la existencia de un escandaloso privilegio en el mismo partido. A principios de la Revolución Bolchevique, Lenin y sus colaboradores instituyeron la “ley del máximo”, siguiendo el ejemplo de la Comuna de París. Ningún/a miembro del partido podía ganar más que los/as trabajadores/as mejor pagados/as.

Esto era una medida diseñada precisamente para evitar el privilegio y su acompañante, la corrupción. Fue el abandono de esta práctica y el crecimiento de la desigualdad lo que constituyó uno de los factores decisivos que condujo a la alienación de los/as trabajadores/as soviéticos/as y el declive de la dirección del partido soviético, haciendo que la URSS fuera vulnerable a la contrarrevolución capitalista cuando vino por todos los lados bajo la presión del imperialismo.

El privilegio en China bajo el régimen del llamado “socialismo de mercado” está al descubierto. Se aplaude como un signo de realización, no tanto en el partido sino en la sociedad en conjunto. China se ha desviado muy lejos de las normas socialistas y se ha envuelto en las normas capitalistas.

Cuando Xi exhorta a los/as miembros del Partido a ser leales al comunismo y a estudiar el “socialismo con características chinas”, lo que no reconoce es la relación entre la política y la economía. Es un principio fundamental de marxismo que al final, la economía determina la política — y también la moral, la conciencia social, la legalidad y la ideología.

“El socialismo con características chinas” es una frase cuyo contenido es en realidad una China socialista en colaboración con los capitalistas nacionales e internacionales. Pero esta es una alianza totalmente antagónica — una en la cual el lado capitalista intenta destruir el lado socialista.

Además de ser afectadas por la propagación de capitalistas privados — que son corruptos y corruptores — el sector socialista, las empresas estatales, el sistema bancario, y los planificadores han adoptado modelos de mercado capitalista. Esto es una gran fuente de corrupción dentro del propio estado.

Xi todavía no ha declarado abiertamente su programa económico ni ha tomado una posición pública sobre la orientación económica del primer ministro

Continúa a página 4

