Hunger march to D.C. planned on King anniversary

Feed the people, not the Pentagon

By Sharon Black

On Feb. 20, the Peoples Power Assembly announced a campaign to roll back food-stamp cuts and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) rule changes taking effect in April.

On April 4, on the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the group will launch a “Hunger March” from Baltimore to the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

The Department of Agriculture must face the poor families, children and food industry workers who will suffer from its actions.

The people losing SNAP benefits (as food stamps are now officially called) are just the tip of the iceberg. Social Security Disability benefits and children’s school lunches will be cut, too.

But not the Pentagon! This year, the military gets a $730 billion increase. People will starve while billionaires like Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos pay next to nothing in taxes.

700,000 people to lose food stamps

This April, some 700,000 people will lose food stamps. Millions more will get fewer benefits under USDA rule changes made by the Trump administration.

In Maryland, over 50,000 people will lose food stamps. In Baltimore City alone, 15,000 will be cut. Nearly 25 percent of the people in Baltimore — that is 1 out of 4 people, many of them children — already go to bed hungry.

Major cuts in food stamps will also mean that many small grocery stores that service the poor will have to close their doors. This is a crisis affecting not only big cities, but many small towns and rural areas across the U.S.

School lunch programs cut; children suffer

The Department of Agriculture’s rule changes not only impact food stamp recipients, they will also reverberate in cuts to free school lunch programs.

As of this writing, it remains unclear exactly how many children will lose school lunches. But, according to USDA regulations, as many as 942,000 children could be cut.

Millionaire Sonny Perdue attacks workers’ rights on the job

Millionaire Georgia farmer and politician Sonny Perdue is the Trump-appointed head of the USDA. On top of food stamps and school lunches, the USDA also overhauled slaughterhouse rules that threaten the safety of workers.

These rule changes removed federal limits on pork-processing line speeds. While highly profitable for the meat industry, it puts workers in danger of higher rates of injury, both acute and long term. The United Food and Commercial Workers union has filed a lawsuit to suspend the rule change.

Activists say, ‘Fight, don’t starve!’

On Jan. 18, during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday holiday, Miranda Bachman from Youth Against War and Racism participated in a March to Resist War and Racism, opposing U.S. war threats against Iran and Iraq and to stop the food stamp cuts.

She explained, “People were so angry about food stamps being cut that some of those watching our protest from bus stops and the sidewalk spontaneously joined the march.”

She added, “Our phones started ringing immediately. April 4 is our next step.”

André Powell, a Peoples Power Assembly organizer and retired AFSCME state worker who helped to administer the food stamp program, explained. “We have to organize and march. It’s time to revive the Food Is a Right Campaign and the old slogan, ‘Fight, don’t starve.’”

Powell added: “The Trump administration, and more importantly the entire capitalist system, is determined to roll back every possible workers’ gain imaginable. But we can stop it if we organize and fight.”

March organizers are inviting groups to endorse and join in organizing the march.

“But April 4, we will put a face on poverty. We will march from Baltimore to the doors of the USDA,” concluded Powell.

Women resist war, sanctions, racism and poverty

Rev. Annie Chambers speaks

MEXICO: Women vs. Femicide

CUBA: la Federación Mujeres Bolivía – Khalida Jarrar – Move 9 Free

Wet’suwet’en: No reconciliation!

COVID-19 crisis · Bloomberg

End of war in Gaza

El movimiento por Bernie Sanders: Which side are you on?

Why revolutionary socialists call for critical support

We have no illusions about the Democratic Party. It is a billionaire and bankers’ War Party. Any notion that the Democratic Party represents the working class is a sugar-coated charade. All the time, it remains a neoliberal institution bent on preserving capitalist rule.

Destructive imperialist wars have been waged under Democratic Party administrations; workers’ rights and benefits for the poor have been stripped under every single administration, regardless of party. What is constant regardless of which party prevails is the system of capitalism and imperialism that is the root cause of so much human misery.

So why are we calling for critical support of the Sanders movement?

Bernie Sanders as the candidate is not the pivotal issue. What is critical is the struggle that his campaign has unleashed against the Democratic Party establishment. A struggle which has struck fear in the ruling class.

This campaign is a working-class movement, mostly of young people and increasingly of the oppressed, that deeply distrusts the Establishment of both parties. It is a movement fueled by increasing anger against the rule of billionaires and the growing gap between rich and poor that has left so many workers impoverished.

The fact that the ruling class is so worried and so frantic to cut this movement off at the pass is a clear indicator of their own fear that the movement, galvanized around health care, free education, curbing the climate crisis, etc., may well get out of control. Meaning that it might leave the constricted straitjacket of the Democratic Party.

The increasing virulent anti-Bernie Sanders attacks have been picking up steam ever since it’s become clear that Sanders’ campaign might win the primaries. Of course, there are a million tricks between now and the July Democratic Convention, and the likelihood of a stolen election looms large.

The Iowa Caucus debacle was a sickening reminder that forces behind the curtain pull the strings. That they would go so far as to wreck the Iowa Caucus in an attempt to slow the Sanders campaign demonstrates their continued on page 5
China buys time for world, but Trump and Wall Street can’t cope with COVID-19 crisis

By Scott Scheffer

The White House held a rare press conference Feb. 26, trying to calm financial markets after fear of a COVID-19 outbreak caused the largest stock market tumble in years. President Donald Trump painted a rosier picture of the situation in the U.S., contradicting the national health officials who were lined up alongside him.

Wall street markets — already jitters over the looming capitalist crisis of overproduction — lost $3 trillion immediately following an announcement by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) declaring a national health emergency. Investors are terrorized by the prospect of an epidemic, not for humane reasons, but because of its potential impact on profits.

Trump didn’t mention at the press conference that, in 2019, his administration disbanded a global health security team whose job it had been to implement a national biodefense strategy, or that he cut the budget for global health by 20 percent.

Nor did he mention that Vice President Mike Pence, whom Trump-appointed to head his “task force” on COVID-19, blocked life-saving measures — his tenure as Indiana governor.

China’s campaign to control the virus has been at great cost: medical staff risking and losing their lives but bravely carrying on, public transportation shut down, millions of people confined to their apartments, workplaces halted and an economic loss of $196 billion in January.

But there was no hesitation. The Chinese people knew what had to be done. Their historic actions were enabled by a planned, centralized social system put in place by the 1949 revolution, and by unity in the face of the crisis.

China’s war against the virus is looking more successful every day, as the daily count of new cases has slowed. The sacrifices made by the Chinese people have bought time for the rest of the world.

U.S. health care system unprepared

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has expressed numerous times that his biggest concern has been the spread of the virus to countries that are less capable of controlling it than China is.

One might have interpreted his remarks to refer to impoverished countries with capitalist economies so drained by imperialist exploitation — their health care systems battered and weakened by budget cuts imposed by the International Monetary Fund. Of course, the danger is great in impoverished countries.

But as William Haseltine pointed out in a Feb. 24 LA Times Op Ed, the U.S. has shown itself to be in a health care crisis with every influenza outbreak: “Just two years ago — patients seeking treatment ... found themselves in ‘war zones.’ Hospitals turned away ambulances, imported parking lot tents when they ran out of beds. Surgeries had to be canceled and hospitals ran out of supplies.”

The fatalities from COVID-19 are roughly 2 percent, or 2,000 out of 100,000 infections. That is far less than those of the outbreaks of related infections like SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome) earlier in this century that took the lives of 25 percent and 34 percent of those infected, respectively.

But it’s more than the annual outbreaks of influenza that take the lives of 14 out of 1,000 infected patients.

Had China not moved so boldly, the worldwide death toll could have been catastrophic. Nearly 90 percent of COVID-19 cases result only in mild symptoms. Ironically, that coupled with the fact that human to human transmission of the disease can happen almost immediately after the infection, makes the disease extremely difficult to contain, because many people think they have a cold and continue with normal work and social interaction.

All of this points to the enormous challenge that the Chinese people have faced and validates their plan to make containment the first order of business.

China prioritizes virus containment

In addition to a strategy of keeping workplaces closed and a quarantine that at its peak affected 100 million people to varying degrees, drones sprayed disinfectant on the streets of Wuhan and broadcast messages encouraging people to stay indoors. Food was delivered to people’s doorsteps.

Although Western media accused the Chinese government of not being transparent in its efforts to combat the virus, videos posted on YouTube are an example of the material released to explain the crisis in scientific terms, the timeline of events, and offer guidelines to help curb the outbreak.

Interviews with quarantined people and medical staff show what a hard time it has been for the Chinese people, but also the confidence that they have in the Chinese Communist Party leadership.

The People’s Liberation Army staffed a newly built hospital — one of two new hospitals built for COVID-19 patients in record time. International help was solicited by the Chinese leadership, including a delegation of scientists from the World Health Organization, and medications to help with treatment were sought and received from other countries.

Notably, revolutionary Cuba, one of the world’s pioneers of biotechnological medicine despite the brutal U.S. economic blockade, has provided a medicine with antiviral properties that is being used in treatment.
Cops raid Wet’suwet’en camps, Indigenous and allies respond: Shut Down Canada!

By M. Tshiiu

Indigenous people and allies who support Indigenous sovereignty have taken to the streets throughout Canada in response to multiple raids on peaceful encampments in Wet’suwet’en territory in British Columbia.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have arrested Indigenous people by police as part of enforcement operations in Wet’suwet’en territory. There have since been released, with some facing future court dates.

On Feb. 6, the RCMP launched a pre-dawn raid on the first Wet’suwet’en camp at kilometre 39 of the Morice River. They arrested six people, detained journalists and dismantled the camp.

On Feb. 7, the RCMP — including tactical squad members with rifles — moved in via helicopters and vehicles on the Gidimt’en camp at kilometre 44, eventually arresting four people.

On Feb. 10, the RCMP entered the Unist’ot’en camp, arresting seven people who were in a prayer ceremony for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (#MMIW2G25).

All of these raids have included dogs, snipers, helicopters flying overhead, and removing or distancing journalists so that they often could not record what was happening.

Years of resistance

The RCMP raids have been in response to years of resistance by the traditional clans of the Wet’suwet’en Nation to TransCanada’s Coastal GasLink pipeline. Their stolen lands are unceded, not subject to any treaties.

Each clan within the Wet’suwet’en lands has full jurisdiction under their law to control access to their territory. Under ‘Anic niwh’t’en (Wet’suwet’en law) all five clans of the Wet’suwet’en Nation are unanimously opposed all pipeline proposals and have not provided free, prior and informed consent to Coastal GasLink (TransCanada) to do work on Wet’suwet’en lands.

The Wet’suwet’en have their own laws and systems that predominate on Canada by thousands of years. The collective will of the people is the final law, not the signatures of single chiefs or councils (Canada-approved tribal governments).

In addition to protecting the future of the lands, the Wet’suwet’en are also trying to protect their people from violence. Coastal GasLink was building a work camp that would house up to 150 men only 20 km from the Healing Center on Wet’suwet’en Yintah (lands). As a result, the hereditary chiefs have blocked a road to protect the people from harm, since man camps are well-known to be dangerous to nearby Indigenous women.

“Just these past two years we’ve had two women from our own community of Witset go missing,” Dr. Karla Ta’t from the Healing Centre said. “One was discovered murdered. Despite being such a small Indigenous community, I think we’ve lost about seven women, that I’m aware of, that we don’t have any suspects or any leads on their whereabouts.”

With a population of about 850, Red dresses symbolizing #MMIW

As the RCMP entered the Unist’ot’en camp, there were dozens of red dresses hanging from trees in the vicinity’s coast-to-coast rail system has been largely shut down for three weeks, despite Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s Feb. 21 declaration that “the blockades must come down.” Riot cops have been sent against blockades in the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory in Ontario and by the Secwepemc and Gitxsan peoples in British Columbia. Indigenous youth blocked the British Columbia Legislature and ports were blocked on both coasts. The Mohawks of Kanesatake and Kahnawake in Quebec set up solidarity blockades, including rolling blockades that stalled traffic for hours.

The hereditary chiefs have denounced consent or ignoring Indigenous people’s consent or ignoring Indigenous people from their lands, stealing Indigenous resistance, breaking strikes and more.

When justice fails, Block the rails!

From coast to coast, marchers round dance at public places, march, and demand that Canada back down from Wet’suwet’en and from its destructive defense of oil and gas extraction.

Youth-led occupations of the offices of federal cabinet ministers and members of Parliament have occurred across the country. Indigenous youth locked themselves down to the main entrance to the British Columbia Legislature, where hundreds more people later joined and blocked the doors on the opening day of the legislative session.

Reconciliation is dead

When the RCMP arrived at the gate to Unist’ot’en, the matriarchs were in ceremony and cremated a Canadian flag marked with the words “Reconciliation is dead.” Matriarch Freda Huson threw the paper with the court injunction against the Wet’suwet’en into the fire, shouting “This is all it’s worth, this paper it’s written on.”

Even before this latest series of raids, many Indigenous people were already outraged by the Guard’s new power tools. They believed that the RCMP had secretly been ready with snipers during previous raids on Wet’suwet’en in January of 2019, with RCMP leadership calling for “lethal overwatch” to protect the Coastal GasLink project.

The RCMP has a lengthy and bloody history as an occupying army whose role for generations has been removing Indigenous people from their lands, stealing Indigenous resistance, breaking strikes and more.

While Trudeau and other politicians have sometimes paid lip service to Indigenous sovereignty and the concept of reconciliation, it has become painfully clear that they are not interested in building back Indigenous relations. Indigenous peoples and have not kept their promises to improve conditions for First Nations, Metis and Inuit people.

Indigenous children continue to be condemned disproportionately to poverty and experience suicide crises in all too many communities. Indigenous people are disproportionately imprisoned, impoverished and underhoused. Many reserves continue to lack basics such as clean drinking water. Indigenous women, girls and 2-spirit people continue to go missing and murdered. Colonialism and genocide have never ended.

Indigenous sovereignty is not respected, and the government and energy extraction corporations collaborate to coerce Indigenous consent or ignoring Indigenous consent or ignoring Indigenous refusal of projects that impact them. Oil and gas companies and the government use economic and legal pressure and threats of force to secure consent whenever possible. If they can't manufacture consent, such as with the Wet’suwet’en, they roll it back.

It has become increasingly clear that the British Columbia government and the RCMP do the bidding of energy corporations such as Coastal GasLink, and that Prime Minister Trudeau is hand-in-glove with energy extraction and mining corporations that sustain the current form of the Canadian economy.

Freda Huson, before RCMP invasion of Unist’ot’en Healing Center.
The best democracy money can buy
Bloomberg is greasing the election

By Stephen Millies

Millions of people know that billionaire Michael Bloomberg is trying to stop Bernie Sanders and buy the White House for himself. The former stop-and-frisk New York mayor has already spent over $400 million seeking the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination. He may spend billions more.

Bloomberg is the latest billionaire, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, reportedly urged him a year ago to run for president. Bezos’ $159 million in his previous successful run for mayor in 2001 and 2005.

Money has always greased U.S. politics. This is the sort of “democracy” that Wall Street wants to bring to Cuba and Venezuela. Working people there don’t want it and neither should we.

Hiring presidents

Even with the U.S. dollar buying less than 15 cents of what it could buy 50 years ago, Bloomberg’s $60 billion stash is still a lot of money. It amounts to what 4 million low-paid workers earn in a year at the miser-able federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour.

But that’s only if these 4 million workers were able to work 40-hour weeks for the entire year and not suffer seasonal layoffs. That $60 billion also represents the annual wages of over 1.9 million workers earning $15 per hour. There was less inequality in the time of the Pharaohs.

The United States has never been “a government of the people, by the people, for the people.” Forty-one of the 57 signers of the Declaration of Independence were slave owners. That means that 72 percent of these “founding fathers” directly profited from the African Holocaust.

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Among them was Black youth Ka- liu Brinkley, who spent three years in jail — two years of which were spent in solitary confinement — before his charges were dropped. Brinkley later committed suicide on June 6, 2015.

Bloomberg succeeding Trump in the White House will be like Bloomberg having replaced Rudy Gi- uliani in New York’s City Hall. Black and Latinx people suffered 20 years of hell from this racist tag team.

Michael Bloomberg needs to be flushed out of politics. His $60 billion fortune should be seized for reparations.

Anybody but Bernie

Bloomberg’s candidacy destroys the metaphorical game. It is flush- ing lights that the United States is a government of the rich, by the rich and for the rich.

Many capitalists believe that Bloomberg’s fortune is the only thing that will stop Bernie Sanders from getting the Democratic nomi-nation. If Bloomberg is able to steal the Democratic Party’s nomination at the Milwaukee convention, millions of people will be outraged.

It may be the catalyst for forming a mass working-class movement that will banish the dead end of capitalist parties.

Both Trump and Bloomberg are wannabe dictators. “I have my own army in the NYPD [New York City Police Department], which is the seventh biggest army in the world,” proclaimed Bloomberg in 2011.

President Trump puts dear chil-dren in cages. While Bloomberg was New York City mayor, thousands of youth — convicted of nothing — were sent to the Rikers Island prison simply because they couldn’t afford bail.

Among them was Black youth Ka-liu Brinkley, who spent three years in jail — two years of which were spent in solitary confinement — before his charges were dropped. Brinkley later committed suicide on June 6, 2015.

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Trump’s war on unions:
Stand with federal workers!

By Lev Koufax

On Feb. 21, the Federal Register published a disgraceful anti-worker memo issued by President Donald Trump attacking union rights for civilian workers in the Depart- ment of Defense. The memo effectively gives Secretary of Defense Mark Esper the right to unilaterally strip 750,000 DOD civilian workers of their collective bargaining rights and union representation. The memo was the latest step in an escalating war by Trump and his big business allies on federal labor unions.

Since 1962, DOD workers have had the right to form unions and collec-tively bargain. The importance of union representation to the federal workforce cannot be overstated. For decades, federal unions have fought to strengthen benefits for civilian workers and protect them from unwarranted terminations, suspensions and other disciplinary actions.

The rationale behind Trump’s memo is that unionized DOD workers threaten U.S. “national se-curity.” This is simply an excuse to justify an all-out attack on the rights of one of the more blue collar sectors of the federal workforce.

Many civilian DOD work-ers, especially those more active in unions, are paid at the “wage grade” scale. Essentially, wage grade jobs are more likely to be paid on an hourly basis and involve physical labor or clerical work.

The substance of [Trump’s] memorandum is unprecedented and is clearly meant not as an effort to protect national security, but as an instruction to carry out the adminis-tration’s ongoing effort to under-mine federal sector collective bar-gaining: the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) said in a letter to members of Con-gress.

The hypocrisy behind Trump’s memo is appalling. He and other im-perialist politicians simultaneously declare themselves to be allies of veterans and then attempt to worsen the working conditions of hundreds of thousands of civilian DOD em-ployees by stripping them of their rights.

The entire working class and progressive movement must fight against Trump’s anti-worker agen-da and stand in solidarity with fed-eral workers under attack!
The movement for Bernie Sanders: Which side are you on? Why revolutionary socialists call for critical support

Continued from page 1

real contempt for their own so-called democracy.

Billionaires reject even mild reforms — imperialist war is their answer

This class of billionaire bankers isn’t inclined at this point to give much in the form of concessions — whether it’s to provide health care for the (often reactionary) predatory landlords or raise the minimum wage — let alone push back police terror and the white supremacist system driving it, shutting down the immigrant detention centers, respecting Indigenous rights, providing justice for women, oppressed genders and the LGBTQ2S communities or saving the planet.

Capitalism as a system is in crisis and the use of this it has become harder and harder for it to provide for the needs of the mass of people. Not only has the gap between rich and poor widened, but the next generation faces the threat of planetary collapse.

What the capitalists are driven to is imperialist war in all its many forms, whether by direct intervention or through sanctions. Democrats and Republicans are united in the imperialist attacks on Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Palestine, Korea, Zimbabwe, China and other countries.

The importance of the movement

Will Sanders take this to the logical conclusion, that is, to openly break with the Democratic Party? While unlikely from his own admission, it remains an important question. What his supporters do is even more critical.

It is the movement that we are most interested in, and the potential for a larger struggle to push the working class in an independent direction is its own name.

Many of us at Struggle–La Lucha were extremely active in organizing an all-latinx “Million Dollar March” (October 17, 2004), which was founded and led by Black trade unionists who called the national march in large part with the goal of developing an independent workers’ movement that would break from the chains of the Democratic Party. Shouldn’t revolutionary socialists and communists be in the Sanders movement — even if it takes a critical turn — so that we can agitate, educate and explain what the next step could be?

Referendum between capitalism and socialism

Both in the time leading up to the Democratic Convention — and also for some of these reasons Sanders wins the nomination — what, de facto, will take place is a referendum between capitalism and socialism.

It doesn’t so much matter whether Bernie Sanders is or is not a real socialist or a “New Deal Democrat” — socialism is how the issue is being defined by the bourgeois establishment of both parties. Trump is already defining this, as are many in the Democratic Party establishment.

Appeal to revolutionaries disgusted by the bourgeois elections

The U.S. electoral system is wholly undemocratic. Just look at who can and cannot vote and how many times elections can be rigged, stolen, subverted or bought off in the interests of the ruling class. A good contrast could be made between the Cuban electoral system and that of the U.S. in an argument about which is more democratic.

In addition, the electoral system as it’s constituted in the U.S. does not cover the police and military, who are not elected, but their actions can be a matter of life and death. Also unselected are our bosses, who exercise day-to-day power. You get the picture.

Nevertheless, it was the architect of the Bolshevik revolution, V.I. Lenin, who argued for revolutionaries to participate in electoral politics, not as an end but as a means.

Elections are a barometer of the struggle, but more importantly in this instance, they are also a measure that struggle of a larger layer of the working class is taking place.

Why is this so? Many of us have a history inside the workers’ and union movement.

Any experienced worker or union representative will tell you that most workers do not want to go on strike. Why wouldn’t they? It means going without a paycheck, taking the risk that you’ll lose your job completely and facing major hardships that could impact not only yourselves but your children.

A strike, a sit-down action, a workplace takeover only materializes around the actual fight — after easier routes are exhausted. Maybe not in stages, but usually not as the first choice.

And it is this painstaking preparation and work by organizers who consistently do the work of distilling lessons and of raising consciousness that will tell you that.

It should not be surprising then, that the many workers and those in the community, both young and older, who want to go with what they are most accustomed to and what seems easiest, and that is to vote for change at the ballot box.

It only makes sense that that drives class struggle forward.

Critical support

Finally, no one is proposing that revolutionaries join the Democratic Party, drop our call for revolutionary socialism or swallow our criticism of Bernie Sanders.

Quite the contrary. He is not an anti-imperialist. He can even claim that he is thoroughly anti-capitalist. On these issues and perhaps others, we will find ways of supporting a Sanders victory.

Perhaps the most important criticism of his campaign on the domestic front has been his failure to embrace the call for reparations for the descendants of those enslaved. We can explain why supporting reparations and opposing white supremacy will strengthen the working-class movement and why it is a necessary bridge to building solidarity.

But none of this criticism will be effective or meaningful from the sidelines of the flesh and blood struggle.

We need to be with the working class, who will learn by trial and error, through experience, that we can only win our liberation by being in the streets, by conducting sit-ins and sit-downs, by strikes and ultimately organizing working-class power on a global scale. As Frederick Douglass said, “If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”

We should remind ourselves that the Russian Revolution of 1917 based itself on the call for “peace, bread and land.”

Vice President Mike Pence’s words at a campaign rally in Atlanta, on August 11, 2019, shouldn’t be lost on anyone. He said, “The moment America becomes a socialist country is when the moment America ceases to be America.”

For the capitalist class, it doesn’t really matter what kind of socialism is under consideration (at least at this moment), whether it’s a revolutionary version, or simply a reform that they believe will cut into their profit margin. Of course, that would all change if they were confronted with these two choices, reform or revolution. It’s our job to see that the latter choice is ultimately on the table.

San Diego protests racist ban on campus speakers

By Carl Muhammad

The International People’s Democratic Umbroh Movement (InduPum), a mass organization of the African People’s Socialist Party, held a news conference on the “free speech” steps of the San Diego State University campus on Feb. 19 to denounce the school’s banning of APSIP Chair Omali Yeshitela and Nation of Islam leader Minister Ava Muhammad.

Both Yeshitela and Muhammad had been invited to speak at a campus event on reparations. Student organizers, bowing to pressure from university officials, SDSU’s Hillel chapter and Zionist leaders, later “uninvited” them, prompting many to call for a boycott of the event.

Speakers at the news conference stood behind a banner reading “Africans Charge Genocide.” They included Benjamin Prado of the Committee for African Self-Defense, Omali Yeshitela and Nation of Islam leader Minister Ava Muhammad.

“San Diego State University sits on land stolen from the Mexican people, whose holocaust at the hands of U.S. white power is continuous, made clear by the mass graves lining the false colonial border, where Mexican women, children and men have been shot and discarded by U.S. Border Patrol and white vigilantes,” Prado said.

“This writer joined the other speakers calling on the community to skip the censored event, but offered to work with the organizers to move the reparations event to a venue “so that these important voices can be heard.”
#UnDiaSinNosotras: Women challenge femicide and rape in Mexico

By La Carbalaj

Think about the last 10 women you’ve seen. Can you remember their faces? Their eyes? What they were wearing? Could you? In Mexico, we do.

We always remember their faces and the way they were dressed, not because we want to, but because we know that if they disappear we’ll need that information to tell the police.

Statistics show that 10 women are killed every day in Mexico. It seems that, with every femicide that’s committed, we develop a new form of self-defense to go out on the streets.

“Don’t act like that, the red lips are too provocative. Walk with a pair of keys in between your fingers in case anyone tries to assault you. Don’t act rude to your Uber driver. Don’t act too friendly. If someone is raping you, just let them finish. Don’t fight back. Run, run as fast as you can.”

We have heard all these phrases since we were little girls. We’re tired of being a country that seems like a normalized war zone — where the only constant targets are us, the women.

In recent days, we saw a lot of front page headlines related to two femicides. One was the murder of Ingrid Escamilla, who was tortured and killed by her boyfriend. The other one, Fatima Aldrighetti, was a 7-year-old girl who was tortured and killed by a married couple. The wife claimed she “needed to commit the crime” in order to prevent her husband from raping her own children, since he told her several times that “he wanted a little girl as a girlfriend.”

Two different cases, both shockingly vile in the way they were committed, and both clear representations of everything that’s wrong in our country.

After these crimes, our President Andrés Manuel López Obrador told the press in one of his morning news conferences that “feminists shouldn’t paint the institution’s walls as a way of protest.” That made a lot of people on social media criticize his response.

For many, the same concern that he has taken to conserve the integrity of buildings should be channeled instead into developing effective plans of action in order to eradicate violence against women.

“We’re facing a crisis that for many years has gone unsolved and year by year seems to get worse. That’s why a feminist collective in Veracruz convened all women around the country to carry out a national strike on March 9 under the hashtag #UnDiaSinNosotras — a day without women.

The goal is for women of all ages to be absent nationwide. The idea is that, since the governo, fast is not hearing our needs, the economic disruption caused by the women’s strike will make them wake up and listen. Everyone will experience “a day without women!” and finally realize what the loss of women’s lives means.

When the femicide of Ingrid Escamilla was committed, a sensationalist newspaper leaked explicit photographs of her mangled body, proving that, even after death, a woman’s identity can be reduced to a gruesome news story.

But I guess — until now — that was part of growing up as a woman in Mexico, a country that consistently calls us the weaker sex, that objectifies and sexualizes girls on an inhuman scale, instantly calls us the weaker sex, that yet are out there constructing amazing and inspiring lives.

So, if they forget who we are, we’ll remind them. We will paint walls, we’ll conduct strikes, we’ll yell hard, and, if it’s needed, we’ll set the entire city on fire, until they remember, until they never forget, until we can get that without having any fear, until we can remain alive, until, as women, we can finally be free of this terror.

The writer is a student from Mexico City.

Julia ‘Pachamama’ Fernández

on the U.S. coup against Bolivia’s first Indigenous president, Evo Morales of the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS)

“I was just told by a woman in Bolivia that the Juana Azurduy program has been suspended by the de facto government. It’s a stipend program that’s designed to provide health and nutrition benefits, basically for pregnant mothers and young children in underserved sectors of the population — so that’s been suspended.

“And it’s clear that most of the most vulnerable communities which predominantly comprise our Indigenous peoples in the rural areas are the ones being most affected. That, along with the expulsion of our Cuban medical doctors, has basically created panic within the sectors.

“We have elders, we have children, pregnant women and men, which includes those protectors of democracy who were assaulted and shot during those peaceful marches in Senkata and Sacaba, who still have not received medical attention, so they are the most vulnerable. For me that spells out G-E-N-O-C-I-D-E. For me that’s what’s happening.

“Basically, the Indigenous movement is being forced to rebuild amid all the chaos happening in Bolivia. Right now, there’s a series of intimidations, of persecution and unlawful detention of Indigenous MAS supporters, false accusations against grassroots journalists and against MAS political leaders — even, you know, false allegations against the presidential candidate Luis Arce Catacora.

“The focus — in spite of what they’re facing — is to really stay together against all odds. And the Bolivian Indigenous peoples have fought and won the gas and water wars in the past. The May elections may not be fair, but international volunteers will arrive to be witnesses of the upcoming historical events happening in Bolivia. And as for the Bolivian people, their courage and their strength will pull them through.”

Khalida Jarrar

is a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, member of the Palestine Legislative Council and advocate for prisoners. She has been jailed many times by the Israeli occupation and was imprisoned again in October 2019.

“Palestinians imprisoned for political reasons are discussing many topics. Of course, the events of the day, those outside the prison, those in the Occupied Territories, the arrests, the demolitions of homes, the killing of protesters, the situation in Gaza and other political issues take up a large part of the discussions. But my companions in prison also speak about their rights as women in Palestinian society.

“There have been very many protests. I think the one that became particularly well-known was the one calling for respecting our privacy. In an Israeli prison, you are monitored through cameras placed almost everywhere. Even during our time in the yard, the most longed-for moment for anyone who is forced to live almost all the time in a prison cell. Some Palestinian prisoners are religious women who are carefully guarding their privacy.

“For 63 days, we refused to go out of our cells. As punishment, we were transferred to Damon prison, where conditions are harsher. There as well, we were punished on several occasions because we didn’t follow orders that made no sense and were abusive. For a whole month, we could not receive any visits from our families. And they always spoke to us in Hebrew, a language that many of us did not know.”

Read the full interview at tinyurl.com/tizhbrre

Read the full interview at tinyurl.com/tixdn7as
**Women resist poverty**

**Interview with Rev. Annie Chambers**

By Miranda Bachman and Sharon Black

Struggle–La Lucha interviewed the Rev. Annie Chambers for International Working Women's Day. Chamber is a resident and housing rights leader at Douglas Homes, a public housing project in Baltimore which is threatened by privatization. She is a former Black Panther Party member and is currently organizing a new housing coalition.

**Struggle–La Lucha:** Could you tell us a little about your experiences as a young activist? Where did you grow up? How did you become committed to the struggle?

**Rev. Annie Chambers:** Life experiences propelled me into the struggle. I grew up in Richmond, Va. I lived there until I was 12. When I was a little girl, I was raped. Out of that rape I had a child. Her father is white. Back then, I couldn’t tell my father because my father and family would have wanted revenge. I didn’t want my father to die, so I couldn’t tell him.

I had a brother who was already in the struggle at that time, my brother James. He was one of Malcolm X’s men. He would come home and talk about the struggle. I was amazed that people were fighting back. I had a lot of anger in me.

I was forced into marriage. You couldn’t be a single woman without a husband having a baby back then. But I wanted to do something, so when my brother would talk about the struggle, I kept telling my father I wanted to go. I kept begging my father to let me go. In the summer, my father finally agreed to let me go, even though I was still a child and I was married. I was 14.

**SLL:** Can you tell our readers a little about your experiences organizing the Baltimore Welfare Rights Organization?

**AC:** They used to call us “the welfare rights women.” In 1973 or 1974, it was getting close to the holidays and a whole lot of people in Baltimore had not gotten their AFDC [Aid to Families with Dependent Children] checks. So they came to Welfare Rights and we decided to go to the welfare office and talk to the director of social services, Buzzy. We went directly to Buzzy’s office, walked in and locked the door. We told him that none of us would have Christmas or any other holiday until the checks got out. We stayed in there all night until Buzzy got on the phone and called his people back into the agency. The checks and the food stamps went out. That was the sort of struggle we engaged in.

We also started taking over houses that the city was renovating and turning into public housing. We really started to pick up people that way, a lot of women looking to house their families. The women in Welfare Rights just kept fighting. Whenever we said we were going to do something, we did it. We were a strong, working-class organization, with all races, creeds and colors.

**SLL:** You are spearheading a new coalition for housing rights. What are some of the major issues that you’re fighting around?

**AC:** The main thing we are fighting for right now is to keep Douglas Homes as public housing. Johns Hopkins University has already tried to evict Douglas Homes. The city doesn’t want to fix the doors and the roofs. They want to evict everyone. They are destroying Douglas Homes. We want it to be a historic development here. It has been here since the 1970s. It was one of the first public housing developments.

**SLL:** You’re fighting to keep Douglas Homes. You're fighting around?

**AC:** The connection between capitalism and poverty is that the capitalists are greedy as hell. What communities are thriving? Only upper-class people. We need to talk about education, housing and decent wages. Fifteen dollars isn’t enough. It’s a joke. By the time it goes into effect, we will need $50 an hour. America enslaves its own people. We want to work with the unions so the unions don’t back off, so they don’t compromise.

People want to say that we don’t have a king and queen system, but we do! It is just the few at the top with the wealth, and they won’t even let crumbs drop off the table. When people tell me they are in the middle, I say, “No you aren’t. You are just one or two lost paychecks away from being me, from being poor.”

Janine Africa and Janet Africa have not been crushed by the horrendous ordeals they have suffered. They say it is the unbroken solidarity of the MOVE family and support of many others that gave them the strength to survive.

Janine said: “For 41 years, they have tried to beat us down. They have tried to take our health. They have tried everything to stop us because they couldn’t stop us on another way.”

“We have a family that is so strong and supportive. They had our backs and we rode on their strength and that made us strong. We can’t stop talking about it because we know how important that is.

“We are out here fighting for every­body, whether you are white, Black, Chinese. We know this system is on pins and needles because we are coming out!”

Read about Janine and Janet Africa’s historic visit to Southern California at tinyurl.com/vhhaxr8

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*SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD*

*SLL PHOTO: DAISKA RUPAMANTHI-HANA*

*SLL PHOTO: RAISHA BULLERTH/WHITMORE*

*SLL PHOTO: RASIKA RUWANPATHIRANA*
Consumer debt soars to $14 trillion
So, cancel the debt!

By Gary Wilson

Consumer borrowing in the U.S. rose to a new record level at $14.15 trillion, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said on Feb. 11. Everything rose: mortgages, student loans, auto loans, credit card debt.

Student debt is at $1.51 trillion. Auto loans are at $1.33 trillion. Credit card debt in the U.S. is at a record $3.20 trillion. Credit card interest rates have soared to a record high. According to the Federal Reserve, average interest rates on credit card accounts with balances on which interest is assessed — so not counting the theoretical interest rate on credit card accounts that don’t carry balances — was about 17 percent at the end of 2019, a record level going back to 1994.

According to the Fed’s report, are credit card delinquencies, that is, nonpayment of credit card debt rate of credit card balances that are 30 days or more delinquent has spiked to 7.05 percent, the highest delinquency rate seen since back in the 1990s. Similarly, seriously delinquent auto loans jumped to 4.94 percent. This is higher than the delinquency rate when unemployment was the highest since the Great Depression of the 1930s. In 2010, delinquencies on credit cards and auto loans were soaring because over 10 million people had lost their jobs and they couldn’t make their payments.

Today, delinquencies aren’t because of high levels of unemployment; the government’s Bureau of Labor Statistics says the unemployment rate is near historic lows. While unemployment isn’t really that low — it’s at least triple what the government says — it’s not at 2010 Great Recession levels.

Sharp divide
So why are these delinquencies spiking now? We haven’t seen millions of people getting laid off. You hear every day in the business media like the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg News and CNBC that the economy is good.

The stock market is booming. CNBC headlined Feb. 10: “S&P 500 and Nasdaq jump to record highs, Dow climbs more than 100 points.” The Dow Jones Industrial Average reached an all-time high of 29,569.58 in February 2020. But there’s a sharp divide in the economy. One group is doing well. Their wealth is rising. Profits are up. For the rest, their incomes have not risen, have been kept up with inflation, with the price increases of cars and homes and other items. Capitalist economists call it slow wage growth.

Wages today for most workers are lower, in real terms, than they were 40 years ago. What’s increasing is the rate of capitalist exploitation.

The working class is strung out. Workers have jobs but are living from paycheck to paycheck, not because they’re splurging but because wages have not gone up. People are working, but they aren’t even making a living wage.

The Federal minimum wage is $7.25 an hour. The Fight for $15 movement began in 2012. According to FightFor15.org, the movement has won raises for 22 million people across the country. That’s good, but what is needed is much more.

Approximately 23 million workers are paid between $7.25 and $11 an hour. Nearly half (4.24 percent) of all workers in the U.S. make less than $15 per hour.

The fact is, even $15 an hour is not enough to be considered a living wage; it’s only enough to rise above what capitalist economists call a poverty wage, which is about $8 that is, more than the Federal minimum wage.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has a Living Wage Calculator. According to the MIT calculator, a single adult with one child in the New York-Newark-Jersey City metropolitan area has to make $32.29 an hour, working full time (40 hours a week), to have a living wage. In the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, Calif., metropolitan area, the living wage for a single adult with one child would be $27.75.

So, $32 an hour would be a good starting point for the minimum wage.

Wages under capitalism
Wages under capitalism is a hot topic. Karl Marx wrote a whole book or three on it.

Capitalist exploitation is hidden by the wage system. Workers are hired for a given amount of time and receive a wage in return. It appears on the surface that an equal exchange has taken place — but this isn’t the case.

Why not? The capitalist, in addition to purchasing computers, machinery, raw materials, etc., for production, also buys what Marx called labor-power, the capability to produce goods or services for sale on the market.

Working-class people, who don’t own the means to produce and sell commodities, have one commodity they can sell: their labor-power, their ability to work. In this way, workers are forced to sell themselves to some capitalist for a wage in order to acquire money to buy the necessities of life.

Labor is the actual process of work itself. According to Marx, unlike computers, machinery, raw materials and other inanimate materials for production that pass on their value to the product but create no new value, labor-power is a special commodity ... a source of value. In other words, workers produce new value contained in the final product, which belongs to the capitalist. This is what the capitalist calls profit.

The capitalist owns not only the means of production, and the workers’ labor-power which is bought to use in production, but the product as well. After paying wages as required for the workers to live, the capitalist then becomes the owner of the surplus value, that is, the profit.

The distinction between “labor-power” and “labor” is the key to understanding exploitation under capitalism. When a capitalist pays a worker a wage, he is not paying for the value of a certain amount of completed labor, but for labor-power. The soaring inequality in the U.S. today illustrates this. The wealth that workers create has increased, but this has not been reflected in wages, which remain stagnant. Instead, an increasing proportion of the wealth produced by workers swelled the pockets of the super rich, who did not compensate the workers for their increased production on the job.

It appears that the capitalist pays the worker for the value produced by their labor because workers only receive a paycheck after they have worked for a given amount of time. In reality, this amounts to an interest-free loan of labor-power by the worker to the capitalist.

As Marx wrote, “In all cases, therefore, the worker advances the use-value of his labor-power to the capitalist. He lets the buyer consume it before he receives payment of the price. Everywhere, the worker allows credit to the capitalist.”

Why workers are in debt
What is household debt — mortgages, student loans, auto loans, credit card balances — if not the debt of big businesses like General Motors or Walmart, which involve capital investment?

Workers’ debt is not a capital investment. Rather, consumer debt or household debt occurs because workers have too low wages and the costs of the means of subsistence — housing, food, transportation, clothing, health care and so on — as well as to smooth the personal booms and busts between paychecks.

What appears to be a lending of money by banks through loans or credit cards to wage earners is actually a borrowing by the capitalists. Only in the case of wage labor is the commodity used up before it is paid for. Every day, we make an interest-free loan of our labor power to our bosses. And, short of cash, we are forced to take out interest-bearing loans to cover the “revolving” costs of eating and dressing and living, as well as the long-term costs of housing, commuting, schooling, etc.

Actually, what is being loaned by the banks, the credit dealers and supermarkets is unpaid wages, loaned to the capitalists. A raise in pay to at least a living wage would relieve some of the debt burden. But the fact is that what has been borrowed is really unpaid wages and the debt should be cancelled altogether, as it is the accumulation of years of unpaid wages. That and a living wage for all would fix the record-breaking debt crisis.
Conference charts action to end blockade of CUBA

By Cheryl LaBash

The newest endorsements for the International Conference for the Normalization of U.S.–Cuba Relations demonstrate once again that the people of the United States oppose the current president’s accelerating economic war against socialist Cuba.

The event will be held at the Fordham School of Law in New York City on March 21–22. At this conference, participants can arm themselves with information and tools to bring the struggle to end the U.S. economic war into every social movement. Register and donate at US-CubaNormalization.org.

As demonstrated by 13 municipalities adopting resolutions against the blockade, organizers only need to ask to get support. In February, the Capital District of New York Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) unanimously voted to endorse the conference. Shortly after that, the Troy, NY, and Allegheny County, PA, DSA chapters voted to support it. DSA chapters in Washington, DC, and Richmond, VA, also recently added their support.

The conference plenaries and six topic panels will culminate with a unified action plan to end the extraterritorial, unilateral, genocidal blockade that imposes great hardship and violates the sovereignty of the Cuban people.

You can learn how to “Defend Your Right to Travel”; “Build Cross Border Solidarity Between Canada and the U.S.”; and “Amplify Voices Against the Blockade through resolutions and legislation.”

Also find out about “The Impact of the Blockade of Cuba on the People of the U.S. and What We Can Do About It”; “Cuba, the Caribbean and Latin America”; and “Cuba and Medical Solidarity.”

Hear from U.S. doctors who graduated from Cuba’s Latin American School of Medicine and doctors who’ve collaborated with Cuban medical teams to address the epidemic of Black infant and maternal mortality in U.S. cities. Meet environmental activists building exchanges with Cuba — internationally recognized as the globe’s most sustainable country.

Learn how ministers are fighting to get U.S. visas for Cubans, something blocked by the intentional de-staffing of the U.S. Embassy in Havana. Hear Cuban American voices against the blockade and activists from Puerto Rico, Haiti, Venezuela, Quebec and other parts of Canada.

In addition to representatives from the Cuban Mission to the United Nations in New York and the Cuban Embassy in Washington, members of the Federation of Cuban Women participating in United Nations Women’s Month activities will also attend to speak for themselves.

On Saturday evening, March 21, at the historic Riverside Church in Harlem, a “Stand with Cuba” cultural event will feature the renowned Cuban Dance Band led by Pepito Gómez, movement hip-hop artists Rebel Diaz and Immortal Technique, plus the Legacy Women Drummers and Bomba Yo.

So register now and join us in New York on the weekend of March 21–22!

National Network on Cuba responds to ‘60 Minutes’ interview

By National Network on Cuba

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By National Network on Cuba

The National Network on Cuba (NNOC) deplores and denounces all Cuba-bashing and “red-baiting” attacks on any individuals. We take particular offense to the tone and substance of the Feb. 23, 2020, “60 Minutes” interview conducted by Anderson Cooper, in which he used the example of Cuba to criticize and demean presidential candidate Bernie Sanders.

In their conversation, Sanders praised the literacy campaign, one of Cuba’s first initiatives following the triumph of the revolution. The literacy campaign has been universally praised and replicated around the world for the past 60 years, including in the United States, whose own academic achievements and access to education compare unfavorably to Cuba’s.

For example, the state of California has just settled a lawsuit for $53 million due to its denial of basic education to its students. Fifty-three percent of third graders didn’t meet state standards. A similar complaint has been filed in Michigan, alleging that children in Detroit are receiving an education so inferior and underfunded that it’s as if they’re not attending school at all. We call on “60 Minutes” to report on these cases, representing U.S. educational achievements, rather than lack of achievement, in the richest country in the world.

It is the height of ignorance and arrogance to denigrate literacy or to equate the Cubans’ prioritization of this as anything but exemplary. A totalitarian regime does not offer its citizens the ability to read and write, much less promote literacy. Everyone knows, it is the ability to read and understand that results in critical thinking and a well-informed populace. Cubans are an educated, cultured and curious society, not oppressed and ill-informed.

We further suggest that Cooper and the “60 Minutes” producers examine the political prisoner population of the United States and again suggest that they investigate and report on the U.S. children and adults who have been denied the educational opportunities guaranteed and enjoyed by all Cubans.
CARVED UP AFRICA AMONG THE EUROPEAN COLONIAL POWERS. THE BELGIAN KING LEOPOLD HAD MILLIONS OF AFRICANS IN CONGO KILLED AND MUTILATED FOR RUBBER PROFITS.

THE AMBASSADOR Spoke OF HOW HER FATHER AND HER FAMILY WERE SEIZED OF THEIR LAND BY WHITE SETTLERS IN ZIMBABWE. UNDER BRITISH COLONIAL LEGISLATION, WHITES COULD SEIZE 2,000 HECTARES — ALMOST EIGHT SQUARE MILES — AND BURN THE HOMES OF AFRICANS.

SHE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AFRICAN UNION INITIATING AN ALL-AFRICAN CIVIL WAR ON JULY 1, 2020. THE DOCTOR AND DIPLOMAT ALSO SPOKE MOVINGLY ABOUT HOW MUCH WAS STOLEN FROM AFRICA. THE AFRICAN HOLOCAUST INCLUDES THOUSANDS OF AFRICAN SKULLS THAT ARE DISPLAYED IN EUROPEAN MUSEUMS. DR. CHIHOMBORI-QUÃO TOLD HOW WOMEN BELONGING TO THE ASHANTI NATION IN GHANA PREVENTED THE BRITISH COLONIALISTS FROM STEALING THE GOLDEN STOOL, AN IMPORTANT SYMBOL OF NATIONALITY.

DR. JAMES McINTOSH, MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL BLACK THEATRE IN HARLEM ON MARCH 2, KILLED AND MUTILATED FOR RUBBER PROFITS. UNAUTHORIZED PSYCHOANALYSIS OF DONALD TRUMP.

VIOLA PLUMMER DENOUNCED THE NEARBY BLOOMBERG FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.
How do we get socialism?

By John Parker

Why is capitalism so fi@#*d up? Well, the short and loosely ac
curately worded form of what is likely of those driverless cars that still doesn’t
quite work the way they are supposed to — because no one’s at the wheel.

Now, monitoring what needs to be produced or by how much. It’s
basically all based on individual capitalis-
trade for the maximum profit — the most prof-
ing milk for babies or bombs that kill babies.

And since producing bombs has a higher profit than producing milk, it is.

Humanity be damned, the clima-
be damned!

Capitalism has always been a cruel system, but it came into being partly as a result of farm laborers rejecting an even crueler system, feudalism, which was much worse as far as production. This revolt against the old system was led by the soon-to-be new ruling class of capitalists, leading farming families (or serfs/peasants) as an army against the monarchs.

Once the capitalists were in control of how things were being produced in society, with their more scientific and more efficient means, bringing the farmers into their factories as workers, it allowed the advance in productive capacity, helping to limit our want for basic necessities.

But the problem is, there aren’t in business to employ workers or provide the necessities of life. They’re in business to maximize profits, which means reducing labor costs by lowering wages and using every new technological advan-
to make their machines and processes capable of producing more while cutting the amount of workers needed, eventually leading to more poverty and unemployment.

Capitalism blocks progress

But that’s just the problem for the capitalist system is the fact that the pace of production always accelerates above the pace of consumption, leading to a global crisis of overproduction — too many products that can’t be sold at a profit. And when greater profits can be made through financial speculation (gambling on the stock exchange), the investment money flows there.

That’s mostly why there aren’t enough full-time jobs that pay a liv-
ing wage. Of course, we could always just lower the working hours, al-
lowing more people to be employed — but that’s not allowed because (1) it cuts into profits and (2) even if we think humans are important, if profits, we don’t control how things are produced.

When we’re in the ruling class, and we don’t control the police and military — which will undoubtedly be called in when the profits of the bosses are threatened.

That’s why unemployment and low wages can’t be solved by politici-
cans working within the confines of the capitalist system. Just as feudalism became a strain hampering production, so too has capitalism. It becomes an inhibitor of vital production for humanity.

The world is now ripe, overripe in fact, for a new mode of production — one that uses, the workers, the producers of wealth, the majority, behind the wheel — and that defines socialism.

The science of Marxism

It’s important to remember, at this point, that the systemic change that occurred from feudalism to capitalism could only have happened after the revolution of machines and production technology from the old ruling class of mon-
archs and landlords and then con-
trolling the new ruling class — the capitalists.

Likewise, a socialist revolutionary change can only happen by taking the means of production from the ruling class of capitalists.

How do we know this? The same way we know that gravity exists. The very basis of objectivity can also be applied to social change as it relates to how a soci-
ety produces — the mode of product-
ction. The capitalists maintain their power precisely by controlling (owning) the means of production, their power precisely by controlling resulting from the value created by our human labor.

This science is called Marxism.

Karl Marx used the scientific method to analyse how human soci-
ety is organized to produce the neces-
cessities of survival, from ancient societies with no classes to the class societies of slavery, feudalism and capitalism. And this analysis pointed-
edly led to the next step: socialism.

This scientific socialism developed by Marx, explaining the eco-
omic workings of capitalist society and the methods to overcome it, has been the single most relied-upon source for implementing revolu-
tion in the 20th century on every continent.

It’s been utilized by revolution-
aries like Fidel Castro, Che Gue-
vara, Clara Zetkin, Amilcar Cabral, Paul Robeson, George Jackson, Rosa Luxemburg, Mao Zedong, W.E.B. Du Bois, Célia Sánchez, Samora Machel, and Chi Ming and, of course, V.I. Le-
nin — whose utilization of Marxism expanded its reach. His leadership was instrumental in bringing about the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 in Russia.

Socialism and elections

Okay, time to clean up that driver-
erless car analogy. The problem really isn’t that there is no one behind the wheel. The problem is that the driv-
er is more concerned about making profits than bothering to notice or even care to take at the car is going off a cliff.

Yes, we don’t control the police or military or even the legislative pro-
cess. In fact, it’s important to under-
stand that the executive and legis-
lative branches of government have been bigwigging over the status quo since the late 1800s.

That’s what’s the money of the Rockefeller, Vanderbilts, Mellons and many others funneled into the political process. It’s money used to build up the system with the enormous profits they gained from cotton pro-
duction — in other words, slavery and racism allowed power to expand into other markets.

In addition to using money to keep out candidates that appeal to work-
kers, nowadays the corporate media insist that any “controversial” can-
didates don’t make it far into the po-

tical process. They slander or more

commonly ignore candidates that repre-
sent real changes that could inspire a shift to the left.

That’s happening now with the media playing catch-up in their uni-
fied attack against Bernie Sanders, since, regardless of his advocacy of remaining within the framework of capitalism (as he has), but his progressive platform could threaten the ruling class’s ideological domination that holds back a raising of working-class consciousness.

This is certainly a new develop-
ment in our current period, and it affords a tremendous opportunity for revolutionaries: not to be spec-
tators from the sidelines, but active participants in an electoral political campaign that has the potential to go significantly beyond the inten-
tions of the liberal capitalist and al-
low access to the many members of our class who are excited about this campaign.

Lenin promoted this perspective in his pamphlet, “Left Wing Communism: An Infantile Disorder,” sharing the lessons from the experi-
ences of the Russian Revolution just three years earlier.

Revolution, not reform

But to answer the question you’re probably asking about how our class can take over the means of produc-
tion, we should first understand in promoting the idea of the ne-
cessity of that takeover is of prime importance.

That’s why when the organs of capitalism — its media, its politi-
cians and the entire ruling class — have an existential fear of, as Marx put it, “the specter of communism.” They will promote and help others to unknowingly promote any alter-
native theories that have been prov-

en ineffective and incorrect time and again — theories that call for every-
thing but the acquisition of the means of production and replacement of the bourgeosie’s and its bought legislature, military and police.

Marx, in fact, exposed the fallacy of the many forms of socialism being peddled by not only liberal forces, but also encouraged by some govern-
ment institutions, to avoid the rev-
olutionary implications of scientific socialism in his pamphlet “Critique of the Gotha Program.” Lenin did the same in “What is To Be Done?”

Three years ago was the 100th an-
niversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Rev-
olution. From then up to and includ-

ing today, socialism as an ideology and the countries that were and are working toward it have been mer-
lessly attacked by all imperialist powers, starting with the invasion of Soviet Russia by 16 countries when it was just one year old. Under French, British, U.S., Canadian and Japanese imperialists attempting to snuff out communism.

As powerful as the imperialists were, they were defeated. But devas-
tating economic warfare, embargoes and the continued threat of nuclear annihilation by the U.S. followed. In addition, serious missteps occurred in the leadership of the United Union after Lenin that would not allow the country to endure the external sabot-
age by imperialist countries.

As a result, in the 1950s the Soviet Union and its socialist economic system eventual-
ly collapsed and broke up into capi-
talist countries like Russia, Ukraine and others, now acquiring all the problems of homelessness and pov-
erty at breakneck speed.

What socialism can accomplish

Yet, in spite of these ongoing at-
tacks, it was the Soviet Union that proved the determining force in the de-
velopment of the future for the people of this country, and the world.

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El movimiento por Bernie Sanders: ¿De qué lado estás?

Por Sharon Black

No tenemos ninguna expectativa, ya habló el Partido. Es un partido guerrerista de multimillonarios y banqueiros. Cualquier noción de que el Partido Demócrata represente a la clase trabajadora es una farsa. En su esencia, sigue siendo una institución neoliberal empeñada en defender el dogma capitalista.

Guerras imperialistas destructoras han sido libradas bajo las administraciones del Partido Demócrata; los derechos de los trabajadores y campesinos para los pobres han sido despojados por cada administración, independientemente del partido. Lo que sí es constante, independientemente de qué partido gane, es el sistema de capitalismo e imperialismo que es el origen de tanta miseria humana.

Entonces, ¿por qué convocamos a un apoyo crítico al movimiento Sanders?

Bernie Sanders como candidato no es la cuestión crucial. Lo que sí es crítico es la lucha que su campaña ha despertado contra el sistema del Partido Demócrata. Una lucha que ha causado miedo en la clase dominante.

Esta campaña es un movimiento de la clase trabajadora, principalmente de jóvenes y cada vez más de los oprimidos, que desconfían profundamente del sistema de ambos partidos. La base del Partido se manifiesta por la creciente ira contra el gobierno de los multimillonarios y la creciente brecha entre ricos y pobres que ha dejado a tantos trabajadores empobrecidos.

El hecho de que la clase dominante esté tan ocupada y tan frustrada por parar este movimiento, indica claramente su propio temor de que el movimiento, galvanizado en todo el país, gane en la elección por el Partido Popular, que podría cambiar las leyes, lo que podría significar que podría abandonar la apretada camisa de fuerza del Partido Demócrata.

Los ataques cada vez más virulentos contra Bernie Sanders han ido ganando fuerza desde que se hizo evidente que la campaña de Sanders podría ganar las primarias. Por supuesto, habrá millones de trucos desde ahora hasta la Convención Demócrata en julio, y hay una gran probabilidad que haga robo de las elecciones.

La debacle del Caucus de Iowa fue un recordatorio repetitivo de que las fuerzas detrás de la Cortina Mueca, Zimbabue, Cuba, Irán, Palestina, Corea, Zimbabue, China y otros países, entenderán que el Partido Demócrata es un movimiento para tratar cualquier cosa que podamos agitar, educar y explicar si toma un giro crítico, para poder avanzar en los próximos pasos.

Preferiríamos un referéndum entre capitalismo y socialismo. No podemos cambiar el sistema de la “Marcha del Millón de Trabajadores” (17 de octubre de 2004), que fue fundada y dirigida por sindicalistas negros que convocaron a la marcha nacional en gran parte con el objetivo de desarrollar un movimiento independiente de trabajadores que se liberara de las cade-

En esta lucha, los socialistas y comunistas revolucionarios estarán en el movimiento Sanders, especialmente si toma un giro crítico, para que podamos avanzar en los próximos pasos.

Referéndum entre capitalismo y socialismo

Tanto antes de la convención demócrata — pero también, sí por al-gún tiempo, una farsa. En su esencia, sigue siendo una campaña de los multimillonarios y la creciente brecha entre ricos y pobres, sino que la próxima generación enfrenta la amenaza de un colapso planetario.

Lo que mueve a los capita
distas negros que convocaron a la “Marcha del Millón de Trabajadores” (17 de octubre de 2004), que fue fundada y dirigida por sindicalistas negros que convocaron a la marcha nacional en gran parte con el objetivo de desarrollar un movimiento independiente de trabajadores que se liberara de las cade-

Cuba: En su aniversario 60, la Federación Mujeres busca mayor empoderamiento de la mujer

Por Claudia González Corrales

El aseguramiento de un grupo de medidas en favor de la mujer y su empoderamiento en la sociedad actual es la principal división de la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas (FMC) para el próximo 8 de marzo. Desde su creación el 23 de agosto de 1960 por la destacada revolucionaria Vilma Espín, quien la presidió hasta su muerte, el 18 de junio de 2007, la FMC es una organización de la Agencia Cubana de Noticias de la Trincheras de Trabajadores de Cuba y la Asociación de Combatientes de la Defensa de la Revolución, La Cen-tral de Trabajadores de Cuba y la Asociación Nacional de Agricultores Pequeños, de la FAU, del PCE, de la Organización de la Mujer del Trabajo Voluntario Femenino.

La FMC es una organización de la máquina de masas fundada el 23 de agosto de 1960 por la destacada revolucionaria Vilma Espín, quien la presidió hasta su muerte, el 18 de junio de 2007, y defendió con todas sus fuerzas la emancipación de la mujer. La FMC es una organización de masas fundada el 23 de agosto de 1960 por la destacada revolucionaria Vilma Espín, quien la presidió hasta su muerte, el 18 de junio de 2007, y defendió con todas sus fuerzas la emancipación de la mujer. Fuente: ResumenLaVanguardia americano

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