

RALLY, COMRADES!

THE VOICE OF THE LEAGUE OF REVOLUTIONARIES FOR A NEW AMERICA

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Denied a Future, Young Workers Have a World To Win

Maria Fernandes held down three jobs, working over 87 hours each week, split between three New Jersey Dunkin' Donuts locations. "She worked so much, that landlady Amelia Resende sometimes went two weeks without seeing Fernandes..." NBC reported. "Five or six times in the past year, Resende said, she came outside to find Fernandes asleep in the driver's seat with the car running." She even kept a gas can in the back in case she ran out of gas.

Maria worked hard to make ends meet for herself, but she was generous and believed in doing good for others. NBC recounted, "She bought a tent and explained that it was for a homeless man she saw near work. When Culhane's [her boyfriend at the time] mother died, Fernandes bought him and his three sons suits for the funeral. ... Friends recount a number of instances when she gave them cash or handed over a debit card to help pay for food or travel."

On Sunday, August 24, 2014 she worked her usual triple-shift from 8 am-1 pm at the first shop, 2 pm - 9 pm at the second shop, and 10 pm-6 am overnight at the third. Monday morning she pulled into the parking lot of a convenience store to sleep before going to her next shift, and left the engine running. Maria would never wake up. Carbon monoxide from her engine leaked into the car, and her gas can tipped over, leaking gas; the fumes took Maria's life as she slept. When Maria Fernandes died on the morning of August 25, 2014, while still in her work uniform, she was 32 years old.

The tragedy of Maria's death is heartbreaking, but the circumstances she found herself in have become increasingly common for today's young workers.

A GENERATION FACES ECONOMIC DECLINE

Today's young generation of workers born, between the early 1980s and the mid- to late-1990s, are known as millennials. According to the *Pew Research Center*: "Millennials are the first in the modern era to have higher levels of student loan debt, poverty and unemployment, and lower levels of wealth and personal income than their two immediate predecessor generations had at the same stage of their life cycles."

This downward economic trend that millennials are experiencing is brought on by fundamental changes in the capitalist system. Every aspect of the economy is in the midst

of a decades-long transition, from relying on wage-labor to labor-replacing technologies such as robotics, information technology, artificial intelligence, and mobile tech.

This is the first time in human history that there has been laborless production. This changes everything.

Labor-replacing technology, intended to maximize profits, is also shrinking and destabilizing the workforce. A new class of workers is emerging from within the working class, those forced to exist outside of the basic capitalist framework. This new class is unable to sell their labor, because new technologies are cheaper than their labor.

The new class is made up of workers from every generation, but young people are unique, in that they will never know a world without labor-replacing technology. Older generations have had economic security, jobs, and housing taken away from them. But many of today's young adults will never have access into the economy the way previous generations did – they are denied a future.

Maria Fernandes was just one of many stressed young workers; 40 percent of millennials identify as "work martyrs," consistently overworking, and "racked with guilt if they take time off." According to a *Bankrate* study, 25 percent of 19-25 year olds don't take any of their paid vacation or sick time. The work that most millennials can find is in the low-paid service sector. Millennials who have been able to get full-time salaried work earn salaries that equate to \$13 an hour. Millennial wages can't even keep up with the increasing costs of basic goods. Many millennials can't find work, making up 40 percent of the unemployed.

These low earnings and unemployment lead to the net worth of millennials being about half that of previous generations at the same stage in life. One in three millennials lives with their parents to save money, and to help provide for their struggling families. The economy is taking a toll on millennial's health: they are the first American generation in over 100 years to have a decrease of their average lifespan, and they have the highest rates of depression.

Reporting by *USA Today* shows new Federal Reserve data indicating that, "White millennials – who still earn much more than their Black and Latino peers – have seen their incomes plummet the most, relative to boomers," falling by 21 percent when compared to



Young workers picket for living wages and a future free from poverty at a Walmart store in Dearborn, Michigan.. Photo © Daymonjhartley.com

baby boomers. Young white workers are being pushed toward the same economic deprivation in which the country's history of racism has kept workers of color. Economic inequality is a central way that capitalists have been able to divide workers and block unity.

As traditional employment has become scarce, the "gig economy" has risen to prominence, where workers are independent contractors, temporary employees, on-call, or otherwise tenuously employed. According to the *New York Times*, "The number of Americans using these alternative work arrangements rose 9.4 million from 2005 to 2015. That was greater than the rise in overall employment, meaning there was a small net decline in the number of workers with conventional jobs... Employers have succeeded at shifting much of the burden of providing social insurance onto workers," getting off the hook for providing healthcare, vacation, sick days, retirement, social security, workers' compensation, and unemployment benefits. The "gig economy" is one more step toward destruction of work as we know it.

CHILDREN IN THE CROSSHAIRS

While young workers try to survive in this failing economy, capitalism is also failing today's children and teens. One in five

American children experience hunger each year. The Urban Institute held focus groups with teens facing hunger in ten diverse communities across the country. In their 2016 report "Impossible Choices: Teens and Food Insecurity in America," they found that in all ten of the communities there were stories of girls selling their bodies in "sex for money" transactions, and boys shoplifting and selling drugs, all just to get food.

A young girl in San Diego, California, said: "Someone I knew dropped out of high school to make money for the family. She felt the need to step up. She started selling herself." A girl in Chicago spoke of an 11-year-old girl who dropped out of sixth grade to do sex work. A girl in Portland, Oregon told researchers: "It's really like selling yourself. Like you'll do whatever you need to do to get money or eat."

The findings show that this behavior is consistent across gender, race, and geography. Susan Popkin, senior fellow at the Urban Institute and one of the authors of the report, said, "The extent to which we were hearing about food being related to this vulnerability was new and shocking to me, and the level of desperation that it implies was really shocking to me. It's a situation I think is just get-

Continues on page 6

CONTENTS

Inside: Property – Public for the Many or Private for the Few	2
From the Editors: Charlottesville: No Going Back	3
Public Education – The Dream or the Nightmare	3
Unity of Our Class: Indispensable Step for the Liberation of Humanity	4
From the Editors: "First Do No Harm"	6

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Property – Public for the Many or Private for the Few

Inside Rally, Comrades!

Denied the basic necessities of life, millions of American workers are engaged in a life and death struggle to survive. At the same time, the government is cutting social programs to the bone, while the corporations loot the public treasury and privatize everything in the public domain.

Whether it's the struggle for clean or affordable water, housing, education, healthcare, the environment, or even democracy itself, one fundamental question is at the center of virtually every social struggle in the U.S. today: Will the people take over the private property of the corporations to serve the common interests of society, or will the corporations continue to take over public property to serve the interests of a small ruling class?

The LRNA report "Unity of Class: Indispensable Step for the Liberation of Humanity" explains how a new class of workers is growing throughout society. Further, it shows how this new class cannot survive in a society governed by laws that protect corporate private property interests, while noting that this is not a new class of poor or a new class of the new poor. Their poverty is a consequence of their economic position, not the cause of it. We refer to these workers as a new part of the working class; a new class of workers created by the qualitatively new means of production that eliminates the need for human labor. If united and conscious of its historic mission, the new class has the potential to lead society to a new cooperative society organized in its own interests and in the

interest of all of humanity.

"From the Editors: First Do No Harm" clearly shows that health care is where two antagonistic and irreconcilable forces face off against one another. It comes down to: in whose interests does the government operate, in the interests of the corporations or in the interests of working people? Here there are no half-measures, no incremental reforms, certainly no going back. Single payer is an important step in the fight to nationalize health care in the interests of working people, but it can only be seen as a part of the solution the times require, and that is to make private property public property. There is no room for private, for-profit corporations in a health care system that serves the best interests of the people.

The article, "Public Education - the Dream or the Nightmare" points out that technology is increasingly making capitalism unworkable. People are already openly challenging the fascist offensive in public education. The demand to abolish student debt challenges the corporate presence in what should be a public institution. The growing opposition to vouchers strengthens the demand that schools are truly a public good. Fighting for a curriculum that strengthens collective humanistic learning and a real history of our peoples is likewise the fight for the public to control its own education and its own future.

None of these steps can be established as long as corporations have a role in public education. This is the historic step that is at hand – the battle we must go through to get to the next stage for humanity. The role of revolutionaries is to make clear that private property has no place in public education.

The cover story, "Denied a Future, Young Workers Have a World To Win" tells a compel-

ling story about the struggle that young workers face. It explains that the new class is made up of workers from every generation, but young people are unique, in that they will never know a world without labor-replacing technology. Older generations have had economic security, jobs, and housing taken away from them. But many of today's young adults will never have access into the economy the way previous generations did – they are denied a future.

For young people there are no "good ole' days" to fight back to, only a new world to fight for. Youthful imagination can envision the possibilities for a future that unleashes our world's abundance to provide for everyone, and to forge a path to achieving that future. We can remake our economy, where the labor-replacing technology is used to meet everyone's needs. The production of everything we need to live healthy, happy lives can be owned publicly for the common good, rather than by the corporations. We can develop technologies to undo the damage we have done to our planet, restoring our ecosystems for future generations.

Robotics makes it impossible for the new class to coexist with private property. The new class is increasingly outside of the economy and therefore exists in antagonism to the wages system. Robotics has made reform of the capitalist system impossible. The only way for the new class to prevent itself from being crushed is to make the gigantic means of production public property. The program of the new class is therefore objectively communist, in the true sense of the word. Owning no property, without employment or resources, it cannot move in the direction of securing individual property. Its objective demand makes economic sense: each for all and all for each, from each according to ability to each according to need.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Rally: to bring back together and put in a state of order, as retreating troops [to return to attack]

Comrade: a person with whom one is allied in a struggle or cause

Rally, Comrades! is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. In this period of growing motion and developing polarization, *Rally, Comrades!* provides a strategic outlook for the revolutionaries by indicating and illuminating the line of march of the revolutionary process. It presents a pole of scientific clarity, examines and analyzes the real problems of the revolutionary movement, and draws political conclusions for the tasks of revolutionaries at each stage of development in order to prepare for future stages. It is a vehicle to reach out and communicate with revolutionaries both within the League and outside of the League, to engage them in debate and discussion, and to provide a forum for these discussions. Articles represent the position and policies of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

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League of Revolutionaries for a New America

Tens of thousands of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions. The League's mission is to unite these scattered revolutionaries on the basis of the demands of the new class, to educate and win them over to the cooperative, communist resolution of the problem.

The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, health care and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a cooperative society. Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

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Charlottesville – No Going Back

From the Editors

As we go to press, the battle lines have been drawn. There is no going back. Both during, and after Charlottesville, we see a tremendous outpouring – a passionate, intense striving for social unity – that is making a clear break with the past and its old divisive ideas of white supremacy, bigotry, and racism. People by the tens of thousands are coming out all over the country, and the world, to take a stand: an injury to one is an injury to all. We stand in unity and solidarity with all of our sisters and brothers who suffer from exploitation and oppression.

The fascists are not simply the racist gangs, like those we saw in Charlottesville; they play their role. The real threat is the ruling class. It cannot bring back jobs or prosperity, with an increasingly laborless economy that is irrevocably broken. The ruling class understands that, in order to control a working class in rebellion against its conditions, they must transform the State into a direct, brutal dictatorship, a militarized police state. Trump plays his role by clearing the way for a section of the American people to accept fascist solutions.

The fascist offensive is an attack upon the lives of the workers. Millions of working people of all nationalities and colors are seeing their jobs eliminated, or reduced to contin-

gent low-wage labor, leading to families being thrown out onto the streets. The response of the ruling class to the growing hunger is to cut food stamps. Millions more are being denied access to health care. For many more an education is becoming unattainable. The demands for a decent life are at the heart of the outrage around the country and the world, and this is the essence of the fight against fascism today.

The impulses toward unity and the deep morality of our class must be infused with the knowledge that the world they are already fighting for is possible today. They must come to see that achieving this vision will take transforming society in their own interests, and that class unity is a condition of them moving toward that end.

Public Education – The Dream or the Nightmare

As schools open this fall across the United States, tens of thousands of students, parents, and educators are demanding Sanctuary Cities Schools as safe zones for undocumented students, to be free of ICE, Border Patrol, and police persecution. The ongoing fight to defend neighborhood public schools and the fight to defend immigrants are no longer separate struggles.

The issue of sanctuary schools is just one important reason why public education is a battlefield. Even if this battle is won, all students will face other attacks against the working class, like charter school privatization, budget cuts, and police abuse of young people. The bigger question is, why is public education today in such turmoil?

As with every necessity of life, public education faces the world-historic transformation of human society that is caused by computers and information technology. Technology is compelling the reorganization of every institution of society, as it replaces humans in production. Which class controls this technology is of the utmost importance.

Elements of 21st century education already exist and are being facilitated by technology. Technology inevitably eliminates the cost of sharing knowledge and information, since information can be digitally copied almost for free. This objective effect could ultimately mean the end of knowledge as a commodity to be bought, sold, and speculated on for private corporate profit. In a truly democratic, humanistic society, knowledge works best when it is distributed for free.

The result is that there are two antagonistic visions for the transformation of education. Since corporations have merged with the State, the ruling class seeks to maintain education as private property through coercion. Government privatizes and militarizes education, forces schools to close, reduces teachers to contingent workers, and insures the corporate control of the learning process.

On the other hand, for the new class of workers – those increasingly replaced by laborless production – the abundant possibilities for quality education would allow individuals to develop every capacity with lifelong learning. This vision can only be guaranteed by total public ownership and completely free education for all.

Ultimately this battle will be about which class owns the technologies of education. The reconstruction of society that is already in a transformation process, turns on this question. The new class can only achieve an educational system that encourages people to develop every capacity, by reorganizing society into one, where the aim of production is humanity, rather than one where the aim of humanity is production. This is education for outcome, not income, education you create and participate in, not something that is done to you.

COLLECTIVE LEARNING

As a species, humans have always learned the best collectively, a social act that includes relations between people. Today technology creates new platforms for collective learning, from *Wikipedia* to computer driven classes, education-technology systems, and even computer games. New technology augments the ways that humans develop and share ideas, from teach-ins and story-telling, to political forums and more, all of which exist today outside of restrictive educational structures.

Great improvements and new possibilities for future education already exist. Finland, for example, implemented a new national curriculum in 2016 that moved away from test scores to emphasize 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, creativity, international understanding and the integration of modern technology into learning.

Students work cooperatively alongside their teachers through an interdisciplinary approach, to develop projects about topics and situations that impact their own lives, instead of passively receiving knowledge from the teacher. This supports imagination, envisioning, creativity, and the wonderful possibilities of finally liberating every human being's real potential to contribute to society. The 21st century is a world of continual, rapid change. Instead of acquiring a skill-set for life, education must be designed for constantly improving, reinventing, and increasing one's skills. As the costs of information drop, so do the barriers to accessing education. In a healthy system, this should open education to all.

Instead, capitalism attempts the impossi-

ble, the monopolizing of information, precisely at the very moment when our capacity for collective learning is greater than ever before. Historically, information has been “owned” and monopolized by universities, publishers, libraries, and corporations. Humanity's ability to use the knowledge that it creates is limited by fettering it as a commodity.

Capitalism still needs a highly-skilled sector of scientists, engineers and techies, but this stratum is increasingly smaller than what was required in the industrial era fifty years ago. These experts will be mainly drawn from those who can afford to pay the high costs of education that is increasingly being privatized. Redesigning education becomes a question of who has access to knowledge and information, who decides this, at what price, for what purpose.

RULING CLASS STRATEGY TODAY

Enter Donald Trump's Secretary of Education, multi-billionaire Betsy DeVos, who openly advocates removing public education from public control. Trump's education budget makes some \$10 billion in cuts to public education, while diverting a billion more to vouchers. Fraudulent for-profit colleges, like the University of Phoenix or Trump University, show where this is headed.

Arizona has already passed the first universal voucher law that gives families pre-loaded debit cards to use for a la carte education, especially for private schools, thereby funding individuals, not entire classes of people. This historic change vividly demonstrates how our corporate-controlled government is abandoning its responsibilities to the public.

Today, new voucher programs exist in 17 states, where “tax credit scholarship programs” legalize a pass-through of tax credits to private schools. Massachusetts is attempting to legalize “Innovation Partnership Zones,” where state-appointed private boards oversee school districts, with at least one school in the lowest achievement level. Schools in these zones do not receive more money, but are forced to partner with “entrepreneurs” and divert funds to them.

These measures are touted as 21st century innovation for “individualized learning.” In reality, the capitalist class is reconstructing public education along the lines of privatized

health care: public finance for private providers for “atomized,” individual consumers.

Computer-learning corporations are rushing into this market with a wide variety of education-technology programs and systems that supposedly help each individual. Rich parents will of course purchase super, artificial intelligence programs, supported by specialized tutors. Poor students, who fail algebra will be placed in “solitary confinement,” with a computer that refuses to allow them to move forward unless they pass standards established by corporations. At least for the time being, public education that is offered through community colleges continues to expand online courses, even with a poor success rate.

How revealing is it that the U.S. Army can tout the slogan, “Be All that You Can Be!” while public education devolves into “test all those you can test.” Public education becomes “schooling,” to indoctrinate students to uncritically accept a fascist, militarized police presence in the schools. Military recruiters prey on students, who confront life-long student debt.

Capitalism proclaims that education guarantees a job and a ticket out of poverty. Yet the system must continue to install automation – laborless production without human beings – to reduce labor costs. This means the end of jobs. It is not a choice for society. It is an objective process rooted in the tools we use.

Capitalism organizes the work that the planet needs in one narrow way – as “jobs.” Capitalism ignores any and every problem if it cannot profit from it. A society with robots doesn't need “jobs,” even though there is plenty of work that must be done. Any ten people can make a list of real social needs, but corporations cannot and will not organize this necessary work as “jobs.” Since the ruling capitalist class dictates what work society does, there is no way forward, without de-linking work from jobs and from the wage system.

Robots are demanding a society where humans stop doing routine, low-paying work and unleash their wonderful potential instead! Knowledge can no longer function as a commodity to be bought and sold, yet capitalism still holds onto knowledge as private property. Public education as the way out of poverty is

Continues on page 6

Unity of Our Class: *Indispensable Step for t*

Political Report

Something new is arising and growing by the day in America. Based in the objective development of new technologies at the core of the productive process, which for the first time makes human labor superfluous, a new class of workers is emerging. This new class consists of employed and unemployed sectors. The part-time, contingent, minimum wage, and below minimum wage workers within the employed sector are now 40 percent of the workforce. This employed sector of the class is constantly drawn into the growing unemployed sector that ranges from the structurally unemployed to the absolutely destitute, homeless workers.

The new class appears simply as a conglomeration of people defined by their poverty. But it is not a new class of poor or a new class of the new poor. Their poverty is a consequence of their economic position, not the cause of it. We refer to these workers as a new part of the working class; a new class of workers created by the qualitatively new means of production that eliminate the need for human labor. Necessarily, the struggle today is expressed in terms of the polarization of wealth and poverty or rich and poor.

This new class of workers is growing in every section of society, across all boundaries of color or nationality, in every city, suburb, and rural area in the country, in every age group and gender. The hitherto unknown breadth of equality of poverty reveals an objective unity that cuts across the divisions created by the ruling class. The question of the subjective development of class unity is paramount.

The real division in society is between a propertied ruling class and a propertyless working class. The increasing polarization of wealth and poverty is an expression of that. In 2012, for the first time since the Great Depression, over half of all income went to the top ten per cent. Today there are 540 billionaires in the U.S. alone. Globally, the eight richest billionaires possess as much wealth as the bottom 3.6 billion of the earth's population. The ruling class is absolutely determined to maintain and protect their property at all costs.

With the advances in new technologies, people are sensing that we are on the edge of not just a quantitative, but an exponential leap to new possibilities. Under capitalist private property relations, these new technologies mean only misery and suffering for the working class. Released from these bonds, these technologies can become the foundation for a new society, where human happiness and a commitment to the betterment of all is finally possible.

Achieving that vision requires understanding, consciousness, and strategy. The first step is that the American people have to be won over to the reality that private property can be brought to an end. It is only through widespread propaganda that revolutionaries

can get this over. We must show that a cooperative society is not only possible, but is the only practical solution to the problems the workers face.

Robotics makes it impossible for the new class to coexist with private property. The new class is increasingly outside of the economy, and therefore exists in antagonism to the wages system. Robotics has made reform of the capitalist system impossible. The only way for the new class to prevent itself from being crushed is to make the gigantic means of production public property. The program of the new class is therefore objectively communist, in the true sense of the word. Owning no property, without employment or resources, it cannot move in the direction of securing individual property. Its objective demand makes economic sense: each for all and all for each, from each according to ability, to each according to need.

An epoch of social revolution is being unleashed. If united and conscious of its historic mission, the new class has the potential to lead society to a new cooperative society, organized in its own interests and in the interest of all of humanity.

IDEOLOGICAL BLOCKS ATTEMPT TO PREVENT CLASS UNITY

The ruling class, regardless of color, portrays itself as superior because of its culture, presenting itself as orderly, self-reliant, religiously moral, and law-abiding. The emerging new class, regardless of color, is portrayed by the ruling class as inferior, because of its culture. Those who make up the new class are presented as violent, criminal, dependent, and unwilling to help themselves no matter how much help society gives them. Of course, these are ideas created by the ruling class, but these ideas filter down amongst the workers. Within this context, the ruling class continues to divisively use color as a racial designation.

Today the material basis for color racism is being taken away. Bribery has long been the material undergirding for an ideology of white supremacy, utilized to divide the working class in America. Every step the ruling class takes, to take more and more of the wealth of society for its own private property, undercuts the bribery that made white supremacy viable, and lays the basis for overcoming the deep divisions that have prevailed throughout American history. With the taking away of the bribe, combined with the breadth of the equality of poverty across color lines, the ruling class is promulgating a new form of racism, which is directed against the new class on the basis of its economic condition and social status. While it has precedent in American history, it is also new. It is racism in the new epoch of electronics. It is an ideology of class supremacy, and class inferiority.

In the past period of industrial development, it was not possible for the workers to unite as a class. Racism, backed up by the social privileges granted white workers over Black workers, kept people divided. But the privileges granted to white workers

were not because the ruling class cared for them. The ruling class used bribery, a political tactic designed to prevent unity of the class, made possible by an expanding capitalist system that was based upon imperialist conquest.

Today a growing section of the white workers has been abandoned and betrayed. Their deteriorating economic position is forcing them to seek unity. Revolutionaries must seek out the socially conscious workers among them. They are open to propaganda. If politically educated, they are able to reach, unite with, and play a critical role in politicizing the larger mass of workers, who are becoming more impoverished daily, and who no longer remain an objective material base of political support for the ruling class. For the first time in American history, large sections of workers are becoming economically equal. This hitherto unknown breadth of equality of poverty is creating the basis for real class unity. This is the historic role and possibility of the new class.

The impulse towards unity among the new class of workers reflects a striving towards unity that arises out of their common interests, rooted in the fight for the basic necessities. Their common condition is undermining all of the old ideologies that have been used to divide the class. These fighters need an understanding of the significance of their fight and a vision of what is possible, to avoid falling victim to the ideology of a ruling class they are fighting. They need a strategy that reflects the new situation – a strategy that protects them from falling prey to simply fighting the tactics of the enemy.

In a very real sense, the movement of the new class today is a freedom movement to acquire the very necessities of life. It's a movement to be free from the misery of poverty. It is a movement to be free of exploitation and oppression. How can this revolutionary movement move forward? How can it advance? Class unity is indispensable. There is already objective unity – the equality of poverty. The next step is the conscious unity of the new class of workers, united around the commonality of its interests in the fight for a common solution.

The answer to the plight of these workers cannot be found in the confines of a social and economic system that is being destroyed. The only solution is to reorganize society on a new basis, in the fundamental interest of the new class and in the interest of all humanity. Distribution not with money, but according to need and contribution. Only then will we finally be free.

Consciousness lags behind the objective changes we are observing. Therefore, the intellectual grasp of class unity, the subjective side, must be fought for. Recognition of the necessity for that kind of unity is a result of consciousness. Having no meaningful relationship to the economy, the new class is objectively untethered to the ruling class. This combined with the equality of poverty that is the objective basis for its unity, is the reality revolutionaries must rely upon.

The actual program of this class is to abolish private property and this communist program is in the interest of all society. The ruling class has to contain and destroy that fight. Today, fighting for the basic necessities of the class is the fight against fascism. Under the current conditions, both rulers and workers must turn to the government to meet their respective needs, yet the needs of the two classes are in direct antagonism to one another. Because of this, the question of which class the government will serve is at the cutting edge of the struggle. This means focusing on fighting for the immediate demands of the workers, insisting that the government provide for their basic needs and using that fight to disseminate the necessity of class unity, a vision of the new society and a strategy to achieve that vision.

BREAKING THE TIES THAT BIND

The motion around the 2016 presidential election and the social unrest that followed are clear manifestations of a nation in the midst of growing political polarization. According to a report from *Business Insider*, dated December 1, 2016, "Mainstream media painted Trump's election victory as a 'white working class revolt'. The real story is that voters who fled the Democrats in the Rust Belt were twice as likely either to vote for a third party, or to stay at home, rather than to embrace Trump. Compared with 2012, three times as many voters in the Rust Belt, who made under \$100,000 voted for third parties. Twice as many voted for alternative or write-in candidates. Similarly, compared with 2012, some 500,000 more voters chose to sit out this presidential election. If there was a Rust Belt revolt this year, it was the voters' flight from both parties. In short, the story of a 'white working-class revolt' in the Rust Belt just doesn't hold up, according to the numbers. In the Rust Belt, Democrats lost 1.35 million voters. Trump picked up less than half, at 590,000. The rest stayed home or voted for someone other than the major party candidates."

Revolutionaries gravely err labeling all Trump voters as racists or fascists. They are not a monolithic group of people. Certainly, there are some who are anti-immigrant and racist. There are others who simply feel they have been abandoned by their government. They are desperate. Their needs have not been addressed by the Democrats or the Republicans. Trump appealed to these anti-establishment sentiments. These workers are already beginning to discover that the Trump administration cannot deliver the jobs, better healthcare, or the better life that were promised during the campaign. Even if some manufacturing jobs are brought back, they will have to utilize robotics and thus provide nowhere near the jobs needed.

For example, additive manufacturing, or 3D printing is one of the industries that is growing in the Rust Belt. Economist Michael Spence, in a 2014 Project Syndicate article, "Labor's Digital Replacement," wrote about additive manufacturing saying, "Now comes

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the Liberation of Humanity

a...powerful, wave of digital technology that is replacing labor in increasingly complex tasks. This process of labor substitution and disintermediation has been underway for some time in service sectors – think of ATMs, online banking, enterprise resource planning, customer relationship management, mobile payment systems, and much more. This revolution is spreading to the production of goods, where robots and 3D printing are displacing labor.” Now you can 3D print a house in 24 hours.

The new advances in technology and the progression of the introduction of electronics continues to hit the more stably employed sector of society. This formerly bribed sector of the industrial working class, along with a section of the intelligentsia, has historically bound the mass to the capitalist class. The destruction of this economic middle section of the working class is of the greatest political importance, as it means the beginnings of the separation of the workers from the enemy class and is opening the way for the ever increasing possibilities for visionary propaganda. Trump’s electoral victory shows the dangers of revolutionaries ignoring this section of the working class.

Revolutionaries focus on the ruling class’s weak point, and take advantage to make a breakthrough. It is here that we find the recently dispossessed section of the new class, which is educated, socially conscious and used to organization. Without new ideas and a vision of the future this section can be turned against the revolution.

A direct consequence of the increasing economic polarization is social and political polarization. The workers are growing disillusioned with government and its institutions. They are questioning why so many are poor, or living from paycheck to paycheck in the richest country in the world. The workers are beginning to demand the government solve society’s ills.

Consciousness develops in stages. An event occurs that sparks a flash of consciousness in people’s thinking. For instance, the real estate financial crisis of 2008 became a flashpoint in the thinking of the American people. Millions of workers lost faith in the government. They questioned how could it be that while millions of workers were losing their jobs and millions more were being dispossessed of their homes due to foreclosures, the Obama administration was bailing out the banks and the auto industry? This was a quantitative point in the development of people’s thinking and a particular time to introduce a new quality, such as the need for a totally new society where humanity’s needs come before the profits of a hand full of capitalists.

During the election of 2016 both Sanders and Trump addressed the American people’s fear over their economic conditions, as well as their sentiment against what they saw as the billionaire elites and the political parties that represented them. As an outcome, Trump won with only 20 percent of the eligible voters. Ninety million registered voters decided

to stay home and not vote for either candidate. A Gallop poll in September 2016, just prior to the general election revealed that 57 percent of Americans believe that a major third party was needed, up from 46 percent in 2012. Additionally, more than one in four Americans believe that the government is the enemy of its citizens, and a full 75 percent of all registered voters acknowledge that the government is essentially run by a few big interests, and is not representative of the people.

The growing motion toward a third party is part of the splitting, wrecking and destruction of ruling class institutions of the past period. It is the social and political reflection of the increasing economic polarization created by the new electronically automated means of production. It is part of the battle to reorganize society on a new foundation, based on the new means of production. As the workers are thrown out of the production process and the capitalist economy, the subjective ties to the old are beginning to fray and break. The development of a third party, even one created by the ruling class, is an indispensable stage in the revolutionary process. It will accelerate the political polarization and political formation of the new class.

SOCIAL MOVEMENT RAISES DEMANDS OF THE NEW CLASS

A broad social motion is arising in response to the worsening conditions. Within this motion, the demands of the new class are increasingly coming to the fore, as the destructive consequences of the ongoing introduction of the qualitatively new means of production entangles these demands with the interests of the broader society.

Since the election of Donald Trump millions have protested. On the day of his election and the days that followed, thousands of students walked out of schools across the country, declaring, “Not my president!” On January 21, the day after Trump’s inauguration, more than three million marched and protested in 676 towns and cities across the U.S. This Women’s March had 500,000 in Washington, DC, 750,000 in Los Angeles and 300,000 in Chicago.

A woman marcher in Washington, DC from Detroit said, “This was not a Women’s March, but a march led by women that took up working class demands. This is the first march I’ve seen, not totally socially conscious, but the first with such social and political activity. The people in the march were reaching for a vision of a new America, with love and respect for mother Earth. They heard something in Trump that they didn’t like. They felt something was wrong. They got this feeling that this is not the direction they want to go and they came.”

The response of the workers to the ruling class offensive against them is spreading, as they lose their hopes and dreams that come with losing a decent paying job, a house to call home, or their health care. They are already beginning to fight for the basic necessi-

ties of life, and to come together with others in that same fight, regardless of what specific issue it might be.

From the fights against police murders, to Moral Monday, to the water battles in Flint, Detroit and Standing Rock, to the immigrant rights marches, the workers are beginning to understand that simply fighting back is no longer enough. They are beginning to put forward programs in their interests. Written posters carried in every protest across America regardless of issue are the basic demands of the class: Health care for all, quality education, protection of Mother Earth, no to police killings, and no to separation of families. Their natural impulse to unity has brought them to town hall meetings to speak in the interests of those who would be thrown off of health insurance, to airports to speak out against the travel ban, to march against “The Wall” and the growing number of deportations around the country, to march for science and truth, and in defense of the environment.

As we go forward we must never forget our class enemy. The ruling class is united on their program – what they must do. Their only option to save private property is consolidate a fascist State to protect private property. They engage in fierce and sometimes dangerous battles over how that program is to be carried out. They use the two parties to disseminate their views, as well as a myriad of non-profits and think tanks, in an attempt to bring the working class behind them.

The capitalist class cannot cover the sun with one finger -- it cannot hide the reality that electronic production is making the workers superfluous, creating a new class of workers outside of the capitalist relations. The fight for survival, the fight for basic necessities of life can defeat any lies and tricks of the ruling class. Revolutionaries rely on the objectivity of that fight to introduce new ideas.

Many of the marches, protests and speaking out are being organized by the Democratic

Party, which seeks to channel the discontent into anti-Trump strategies, to corral it into the Democratic Party. It is also true that these protests might appear to be issue oriented or identity based, but under the new conditions the struggles take a new meaning. It’s a class attempting to break away ideologically from the capitalists.

For centuries the workers have been told that they have different interests, based on their color, gender, age and where they came from, as a way of preventing them from uniting as a class. While some workers are being moved by the rulers toward a more fascist outlook, a growing number within the class are moving toward a more class-based position. The ruling class moves to suppress this embryonic class awareness wherever it appears. Revolutionaries have to grab hold of and develop these seeds of class awareness, no matter how contradictory and embryonic they are.

Class consciousness is key to winning the fight for a new society. But it won’t happen unless revolutionaries take advantage of every flash of consciousness in the thinking of the workers, to ensure they grasp the ideas of a new society based on the qualitatively new means of production. Now is the time for revolutionaries to go on the offensive with propaganda about the vision of the new society that is possible.

We will find ourselves pulled in many directions. However, our primary responsibility as revolutionaries remains the same. That is, to teach from inside the movement – to raise both the intellectual understanding and the independent political development of our class, by influencing those practical revolutionaries who are emerging to the forefront of the social struggle.

Political Report of the Central Body, August 2017

The Fight for Strategic Clarity

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Denied a Future...

(Continued from page 1)

ting worse over time.”

While most food-insecure children aren't pushed into sex work, many take on the responsibility to help their families with food. They will eat at friends' and relatives' houses and save school lunches for their siblings, or to eat only on weekends.

The situation these young people face lays bare the truth, that capitalism is an immoral system, a system that is not only broken, but rotten to the core, and a system that becomes more desperate and despicable by the day. Our situation is getting worse because capitalism is incompatible with the rising laborless production.

Capitalism is in a death spiral, and it is imperative that we gather together to do something about it, to replace our failing economy with an economy that provides for all people, especially our children. The horrors we see today are nothing compared to what the future will hold if we do not get organized to change the world.

YOUNG WORKERS – A KEY SECTION OF THE CLASS

What would it look like to remake the world in a way, where Maria Fernandes would not be not worked to death?

Young people, full of energy and idealism, are often at the heart of social change. Youth played leading and decisive roles in the Civil Rights, women's rights, and antiwar movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Youth stepped up again leading the Arab Spring, Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter, and NoDAPL movements. Even during the American Revolution, George Washington recounted in his diary that half his army was 15 years old. Indeed, the youth have always been at the front lines of social revolution, untethered to the past and full of imagination and energy to make the future into what it ought to be.

Just look at Maria Fernandes and her boundless energy, working extraordinary hours to make a living for herself and provide for her loved ones. We need to reclaim

what we can from the capitalist system before it takes more lives, and put our energy into building a future that will let us live our lives free of exploitation and hunger. Labor-replacing technology is already creating material abundance. There is already enough food to eliminate hunger now, and enough homes to end homelessness now.

For young people there are no “good ole days” to fight back to, only a new world to fight for. Youthful imagination can envision the possibilities for a future that unleashes our world's abundance to provide for everyone, and to forge a path to achieving that future. This will not happen automatically. We see some young workers being pulled toward fascist solutions and a fascist vision of the future. The key role of revolutionaries today is to introduce the new ideas that can move millions to make the vision of a peaceful and cooperative society a reality.

Young workers, abandoned by late-stage capitalism, but eager to secure a future for themselves and society as a whole, are increasingly open to ideas of socialism and communism. Today, with capitalism in full naked decline, communism isn't just a “good idea,” but communism – the basic concept that the goods and wealth produced by a society are used to meet the needs of all its people – is absolutely needed for survival.

We can remake our economy, where the labor-replacing technology is used to meet everyone's needs. The production of everything we need to live healthy, happy lives can be owned publicly for the common good, rather than by the corporations. We can develop technologies to undo the damage we have done to our planet, restoring our ecosystems for future generations.

We have an entire world to win. We need to join together and organize for the political power to turn our vision into reality. Let us fight for a world where Maria Fernandes could still be with us, a world where she could pour her boundless energy into her loved ones and community.

‘First Do No Harm’

From the Editors

Health care in America is a matter of life and death. It is a fundamental necessity of life itself. Without it your very life is in jeopardy.

That is why the vast majority of the American people – the working class – view the current debacle over health care in Washington with a great sense of urgency. With every passing day that the ruling elite bog themselves down in a debate that goes nowhere, a debate that provides no solution, the American people find themselves being put in harm's way.

The truth is that we don't really have a health care system in this country. We have a health insurance system that is firmly in the control of corporate capital, whose primary motivation is the increase of profitability. Particularly for the health industry corporations, the insurance companies, the pharmaceutical and private medical facility corporations, the measure of health is the health of their bottom line, their profit margin. That puts the health insurance industry in direct opposition with what is supposed to be the primary mission for all of those engaged in caring for the health of all of us: First do no harm!

What lies beneath all of the current efforts to deny accessibility to millions more, is the unstated understanding that the ruling class has no intention to provide health care to a growing section of the population that it no longer needs.

For some time now, since electronic laborless production was introduced into the economy, millions have come to find themselves permanently outside the workforce, and for millions more the only employment available is low-wage, contingent, and part-time work. Following in the path of the systematic destruction of the economy is the decline and destruction of health care itself. It is this new class of workers, created by electronics that are necessarily in the forefront in the battle for the necessities of life. Health care is a central battle zone in this overall fight.

It really comes down to: in whose interests does the government operate, in the interests of the corporations, or in the interests of working people? The corporations have already merged with government to direct the economy and society in their own private interests. If the ruling class has its way, millions more will be denied health care, in the name of the profitability of a privatized health insurance system. A massive transfer of wealth from the working class to the ruling class will be passed on, in the form of tax cuts to the wealthy and the corporations.

Opposed to this are the interests of a working class. For them, “health care is a right.” It is the only possible solution, a material reality for every person. It means a national health care system that guarantees quality health care from the cradle to the grave, for everyone regardless of economic status.

Single payer is an important step in the fight to nationalize health care in the interests of working people, but it can only be seen as a part of the solution the times require. The solution is to make private property public property. There is no room for private, for-profit corporations in a health care system that serves the best interests of the people.

The working class of this country, led by a new class that is being excluded from health care and the other necessities of life, is on course to fight forward to a solution that is in their best interests.

To your health.

Public Education... (Continued from page 3)

part of the myth of the American Dream. And of course, in the US, the issues of nationality, class and color are used to justify restricting public education even more.

THE FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE

Technology is increasingly making capitalism unworkable. People are already openly challenging the fascist offensive in public education. Opposition to the criminalization of the youth of the new class, regardless of color, whether documented or undocumented, and to the growing School-to-Prison Pipeline, is the demand to eliminate the militarization of education and the police.

The demand to abolish student debt challenges the corporate presence in what should

be a public institution. The growing opposition to vouchers strengthens the demand that schools are truly a public good. Fighting for a curriculum that strengthens collective humanistic learning and a real history of our peoples is likewise the fight for the public to control its own education and its own future.

None of these steps can be established as long as corporations have a role in public education. This is the historic step that is at hand – the battle we must go through to get to the next stage for humanity. The role of revolutionaries is to make clear that private property has no place in public education. Education is not for sale, nor is it for profit or investment; it is not a commodity. It is a public right that we will establish. There is no other viable way

to guarantee public education than to make it available and free to everyone.

Today, it is only the government that has the power to reestablish education in the public domain. This is not the government of Donald Trump nor the Democratic Party, but rather we must ensure a “We the People” government, by accepting the challenge to govern in our own name.

Holding government accountable to meet human needs is a necessary step, one that cannot be achieved piece-meal, school-by-school or even state-by-state. Forcing government to ensure the interests of people, instead of corporations requires a national movement to take over corporate property and make it public. Revolutionaries participate in this bat-

tle for 21st century education to guarantee that the new class attains the political power to direct society's resources in the interest of humanity and the planet.

The fight for education and the basic necessities of life *is* the fight against the political and economic programs of fascism. If education, housing, food, health care, clean water and work itself remain commodities to be bought and sold, then corporations will dispossess humanity of them all. Once the new revolutionary class understands its strength, it will lead this political fight for a healthy and sustainable future for all.