“Human power is its own end”—Karl Marx

Workshop talk: Reclaim our labor

by Wun Lin

Dockworkers in Oakland, Calif., and up and down the West Coast, labor in an increasingly hi-tech work place. They have seen their ranks decimated over the decades by automation accepted by labor bureaucracies of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union as “necessary progress.” Yet in February the rank-and-file dockworkers fought back against the machine. They have been able, after months without a contract, to show their power to shut down a sizable segment of the capitalist economy with a work-to-rule action.

Work to rule means doing everything methodically, correctly, without cutting corners. That’s essentially what mental health workers demanded when they struck for a week in January. Mental health workers and dockworkers showed the workers have the power to reclaim their work. In working healthcare today is very alienating. It has become a race to the bottom as it is felt profoundly. The workplace is drowning in fancy hi-tech machines. Cadres of bureaucrats spend their working hours promoting the product of healthcare with marketing campaigns. The rank and file hear daily admonitions to smile more and are told, “Just be glad you have a job.” Bureaucrats preach “customers come first,” while cutting service and staffing. Hospital and HMO executives are in a race to eliminate labor as much as possible in their “product.”

Conventional wisdom would have us believe that continued en p. 3

Syriana many challenges

The Jan. 25 electoral victory of Greece’s Syriza party was an important first step in resisting the brutal austerity that has been imposed on the Greek and European working classes as capitalism’s response to its own intractable, seemingly endless crisis. Unemployment is conservatively estimated at 25.8% with youth unemployment at 49.6%; nominal wages have fallen 23.9%; and public health care spending has fallen by 40%. These conditions are unlivable.

The subsequent meeting on Feb. 21 between the new government leaders and European Union bosses was widely presented as a defeat for Syriza’s anti-austerity agenda. It would be more accurate to call it a recapitulation of the last few hundred years of history in one afternoon. That people’s democratic aspirations and the role of the working class is incommensurable is a fundamental lesson of the modern world.

Seldom does history present a clearer example of Marx’s categories come to life than in the Greek people’s struggle today. Marx’s discussion of the historic tendency of capitalist accumulation culminates in just the problem. What form will be taken by wealth as much as possible in their “product.”

Conventional wisdom would have us believe that continued en p. 3

Solidarity with striking oil workers

By Tom Kane

Solidarity with striking oil workers continued on p. 10

From Turkey to USA, women as force & reason fight inhumanity

by Terry Rosso, Managing Editor

Another savage sexual assault and murder—this time in Turkey on Feb. 11—brought forth thousands of demonstrators, mostly women, throughout the country and beyond. Ogecan Aslan was a 21-year-old student taking a bus home at the end of the day.

Her murder is a reminder of a similar brutal rape and murder of 23-year-old medical student Jyoti Singh Pandey in late 2012 that galvanized women throughout India (see “Rape protests in India,” Jan.-Feb. 2013 N&L). Lake County, Aisan fought back when the driver tried to rape her. Then the driver, Ahmet Sufi Altindike, stabbed her and beat her to death with an iron bar after an effort to hide the murder. Altindike did this with his father and a friend, took Aslan’s body, burned it, defaced it by cutting off her hands and dumped her in a river so that people’s democratic aspirations and the role of the working class is incommensurable is a fundamental lesson of the modern world.

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Solidarity with striking oil workers

By Tom Kane

Over 100 nurses from CNA made up the largest contingent of picketers, who stopped many delivery trucks from entering the refinery. Nurses said their solidarity action was natural because they have been engaged in their own prolonged struggle for workplace health and safety for nurses as well as for their patients.

Workers from very different fields, coming together with members of the surrounding community, signal a new multi-dimensional fight to defend political actions for human life.

—Marxist-Humanist picketers

Strike’s broad support

Neighboirs and local businesses around refineries are supporting strikers with food and supplies. Nurses have vigorously voiced support and joined picket lines. Environmental groups such as Oil Change International and Greenpeace have also issued statements of support, which has not always been the case. Many have come around to the view that worker solidarity is good for society.

—continued en p. 3
**Review of Unspoken Things**

**Unspoken Things: Sex, Lies and Revolution by Laurie Penny, Polity Press**

Describes how neoliberalism, defined as “the attempt to reorganize society and the state on the basis of an ideal of ‘the market,’” has become the new face of patriarchal authority. Under neoliberalism, even feminism has undergone a transformation, as the opportunity for middle-class women to climb the corporate ladder and earn more money with which to buy more products. Since “the self is just an entrepreneurial project,” women are urged to spend labor and money to make themselves fit into patriarchal gender roles to be more marketable as commodities. The new market of women forces women to pretend to be a cisgender male, white heterosexual. Penny calls a woman’s opinion “the miniskirt of the internet” because any woman expressing one will be harassed online, threatened with physical attacks, and shamed and blamed for not treating with moralistic overtones. She discusses how the “offensive language” that has estranged men and minority participation on the internet and in the sciences, both of which will play a big role in the future.

**GENEREF’S RELATION TO CAPITALISM**

Unspoken Things is also important because it discusses the negative effect patriarchal gender roles have on men, which has worsened in today’s economic climate. This effect can cause men to lose at them- selves or against those not like themselves. Penny discusses how it is important to feminism to encourage men to talk about gender and sexuality and how powerful the insight that can result. She also says she uses the words “masculine” and “feminine,” Penny does explain how patriarchal stereotypes of how the genders should behave are harmful to everyone. She also connects this critique with one of the miniskirt of the internet” because any woman can fit in if they pretend to be a cisgender man to talk about gender and sexuality and how power- ful the insight that can result. She also says she uses the words “masculine” and “feminine,” Penny does explain how patriarchal stereotypes of how the genders should behave are harmful to everyone. 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Solidarity with striking oil workers

Refining oil is a dangerous industry, with dozens of refinery fires and over 100 workers killed in an average year. Long-term exposure to toxic chemicals results in cancers and other diseases. Oil workers inside the plants, but in surrounding communities—which are usually Black or Latino and never rich.

NO PROTECTION FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

Emergency procedure used as a fallback by authorities who have no real protections for people.

Some 30 schools were also told to shelter students in place.

Last November the Torrance refinery, where a worker was killed in 2009, was cited for 25 safety violations, and one of the emergency procedures related to respirators. More than 100 health complaints stems from cutting corners or covering up hazards and accidents—business as usual at capitalist production facilities, where workers are squeezed to produce more in less time at lower cost.

The lives lost, crippled or shortened are viewed as a part of doing business. Workers and neighbors are pressured to accept these conditions as the price of getting jobs and revenue for community services. Environmental justice activists have long called this “environmental blackmail.”

IT IS CAPITALISM THAT DESTRоYS JOBS

When workers demand better pay and safer conditions, and when communities demand an end to their emissions into their air, water and soil, capitalists and their mouthpieces howl that radicals and agitators are trying to destroy jobs. True, the industrial and political environment they set is the way capitalist “progress” destroys jobs every day through automation, outsourcing and competition, which they celebrate as “creative destruction.”

A “Green New Deal” or “just transition”—centered on creating millions of jobs through government renewable energy programs plus training and compensation for workers thrown out of jobs—has been discussed as a basis for a labor-green alliance war chest that it is designed to be moderate, not replace, the capitalist economy with its inherent tendency to disrupt industries and cause mass unemployment.

Mainstream environmental groups and union bureaucrats shy away from a total transformation of this system. The main line environmental movement’s attempts to incorporate the movement against environmental racism into the narrow box of the nominating NG0/Left/Pro-Left/Democratic Party politics.

Support the striking refinery workers! Help fight the capitalists and at the same time empower the ways the unions can be allies in rank-and-file-worker’s thoughts and goals. Help empower them for a real society where people aren’t forced to sell their labor power at the price of exploitation, lack of control over the workplace, risk to life and limb, undermin- ing the environment and poisoning themselves, their families and their neighbors.

—Franklin Rainey

The men I work with

There are some indications that Williams will be the men that change their attitudes and aspirations. It’s a rarity to see anything of the day-to-day existence of the men appear in its pages. It’s a rarity to see anything of the day-to-day experience of the men that change their attitudes and aspirations. It is an understanding from these circumstances that a true left can organize the workers as they do, and why they must do it.

The man I work with

Bob McGuire

Will UAW represent rank and file again?

—Bob McGuire

Editor’s note: As a part of acquainting readers with News & Letters over its first 60 years, we spotlight here the regular feature “News & Letters People” which featured the voices of coal miners, many from West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Below is a letter by former Union secretary’s report and a miner’s story, both from the initial June-24, 1935 issue, when coal miners had long earned the title of shock troops of American labor.

A Coal Section because...

Morgantown, W. Va.—The coal miners of America have played a key role in the political and economic life of the nation, a part of doing business. Workers and neighbors are pressured to accept these conditions as the price of getting jobs and revenue for community services. Environmental justice activists have long called this “environmental blackmail.”

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The man I work with

Fairmont, W. Va.—When I first got the buddy I was with, I had heard what the others had said about him—that he was lazy, didn’t want to work, made his buddy carry the load and never would do his own work. I assumed the company didn’t like him, so he must have something in his mouth.

No matter what it was that had to be done or how much, he had his one pace and that was slow. Nobody or nothing could change that. There would be times when I’d get real sore at him.

Then I started to do some thinking. I began to re- alize that he wasn’t such a bad buddy at all. With the way he was there I knew I could have the job done.

The bosses are always on your necks trying to get you to work more. They never want to give a buddy like mine. We’ll go along and do our work, but there isn’t anything extra they can put on us. We work together fine now.

—Lenore Williams

—John Jones

Will UAW represent rank and file again?

Detroit—There will be a laundry list of grievances pressed by the auto workers union when they bargain in the United Auto Workers (UAW) contract talks, according to a new survey of rank and file UAW members taken as the workers begin contract talks. The survey by the National Labor Committee (NLC) found that workers plan to use the current bargaining campaign to hold in Detroit, Mich., in March. Many of these grievances have been festering throughout auto plants in the country since 2009, when General Motors and Chrysler went bankrupt.

Since 2007, the contract has included a no-strike clause. Now that the UAW can strike after the contract expires, auto workers are watching to see what UAW president Dennis Williams will do. Williams is facing a major conflict within the union. The major focus for Williams will be his. He has already given notice that a wage increase, which auto workers haven’t had for ten years, is a top priority. This is a problem all community hospitals across the country currently face. It relies on govern- ment funding to care for the poorest and sickest. It is forced to close services because chronic budgetary shortfalls have been exacerbated by the privatization of public hospitals promised by Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) private exchanges.

Pensions are dying because of closed emer- gency rooms and community hospitals. In an ACA environment, the private sector through private exchanges is growing rapidly at the cost of publicly funded community hospitals.

We have to create a path out of this mess so extreme alienation comes from not only technology, the machine, but also many the machines that dominate and disconnecting us from each other.

—Bob McCloud

—Andy Phillips

by Raya Dunayevskaya

The dialectic of the 1949-50 Miners’ General Strike, as it was transformed from a Lewis–authorized strike that already had lasted some six months into a challenge that it had to defend and the growth for new ways of thinking. The historic rejection by the miners of Lewis’ order to return to work had imbued the old order of Labor with a new meaning because of the totally new question the miners raised. It was necessary to understand the fact of the miners’ decision, by being concerned not just with the unemployment that is always caused by new machinery, but with the unbridgable gulf between manual and mental labor, which the continuous miner widened, they pointing to new directions.

I had for some years been developing the theory of state-capitalism. To me the Miners’ General Strike seemed to touch, at one and the same time, a concept Marx had mentioned as an aberrant labor and the absolute opposite to it, which Marx had spelt out as the end of the division between mental and manual labor.

Miners' Strike 1949-50

Indeed, the tyranny of Marxism shone through brilliantly in the miners’ attitude to a passage I had read to them from Marx on the “automaton.” The light–enestricted machine, even, becomes a sort of torture machine, the machine does not free the laborer from work, but, depending on the product of labor, the fact that the laborer is completely alienated.

—Three ways to reestablish Marxism in its original form, which the book I had variously referred to as “Marxism and Human Practice That Is Itself” and “Marxism-Humanism.”

The differences that developed between Forest and Johnson occurred, after all, in a most critical period—between Lenin and Trotsky. He said that if I could put forward the question I had been discussing with him for the first time before that although in the approach to the Absolute Idea Lenin had mentioned that man’s cognition not only reflects the relationship of his consciousness to the outside world, but also forms it, in the chapter he never developed it. In disagreeing with Lenin for telling us that the last half of the final chapter of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right, he thought that the concept of the Absolute Idea, “But, my dear Vladimir Ilyich, it is not true, the end of that page is important; we have got it down by instinct, after three decades you and I tried to absorb all you have left us, we can tell you that.

The shock was that it was also the beginning of the end of a united Johnson-Forest-Tendency. Where I proposed that the miners’ paper we planned to issue should be devoted to the new miners’ seniority strike, Johnson (James) opposed. He insisted that “our membership and our friends are the only audience.” The differences that developed between Forest and Johnson, occurred, after all, in a most critical period—between Lenin and Trotsky. He said that if I could put forward the question I had been discussing with him for the first time before that although in the approach to the Absolute Idea Lenin had mentioned that man’s cognition not only reflects the relationship of his consciousness to the outside world, but also forms it, in the chapter he never developed it. In disagreeing with Lenin for telling us that the last half of the final chapter of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right, he thought that the concept of the Absolute Idea, “But, my dear Vladimir Ilyich, it is not true, the end of that page is important; we have got it down by instinct, after three decades you and I tried to absorb all you have left us, we can tell you that.

I debated with Harry Braverman in Pittsburgh correctly predicting the miners’ movement, and the miners did not know that this passage was from Marx. It is the light–enestricted machine, even, becomes a sort of torture machine, the machine does not free the laborer from work, but, depending on the product of labor, the fact that the laborer is completely alienated.

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The todaysness of Selma, USA, 1965

Editor's note: As a part of acquainting readers with core concepts of praxis, the following is excerpted from News & Letters over its first 60 years, we here reprint from February 1965 “Continuing Magnolia Jungle terror exposes real failure of the civil rights movement in Selma,” by Charles Denby, founding editor and Worker’s Journal columnist until his death in 1983. He wrote this in the midst of the bloody campaign for voter registration in Selma, Alabama.

by Charles Denby

The arrest of over 3,500 Negroes in Selma, Ala., in three weeks just because they tried to vote, the sight of a Negro voter being dragged out of his car by three fat deputies of Sheriff James Clark while Clark beat her face in with his hilly club, the sight of a long line of Negro high school and elementary school students of both sexes who demonstrated in support of their parents’ right to register and then were forced to run three miles with police hilly clubs and electric cattle prods and who demonstrated that things expose the great lie of President Johnson’s Great Society for all the world to see.

During the (1964) election campaign, Negroes were yelled at by everybody, especially their own leadership, to stop their demonstrations and to go back and give the administration and the Civil Rights Bill a chance to work out the issues. Just a week before the Selma demonstrations broke out, Roy Wilkins, head of the NAACP, appeared on a nationwide TV interview that he did not think Negroes would demonstrate again. He said he felt the Negroes would want to go back and vote. It was the back door of the Court House to try to register. It was the fact that even some local whites took part in the violence that would not be surprising if LBJ failed the test—and yet that is exactly what happened. All the violence and actions. While the President was saying it, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that Negroes in the South should be allowed to vote, and that this qualified to vote in the South.

The Negroes of Selma have already seen that Science of Logic didn’t hold up. She had already seen that the “Funeral of Reason” didn’t hold up. She had already seen that the “Science of Logic” didn’t hold up. She had already seen that “Science of Logic” didn’t hold up. She had already seen that the “Science of Logic” didn’t hold up. She had already seen that the “Science of Logic” didn’t hold up. She had already seen that the “Science of Logic” didn’t hold up.

On the 53rd letters

Because, for Hegel, subjectivity and objectivity constitute the same in opposition, in his work we witness subjectivity coming out of objectivity. For example, once he says, “Nature is a consciousness of Being and Essence and subjectivity (Notion) logic. When, in the last part of the Doctrine of Essence, objectivity finds itself equal to itself in the form of objectivity, it makes the big leap toward the subjective notion: It is the transition from necessity to freedom which constitutes the subjective notion, whereas the objective notion is applied to Freedom—and that just now, after all its self-development, has come to the fore. This reminds us of Marx saying that the saving principle is freedom from the realm of necessity; this means, that only after the human race has taken control of the capitalist means of production and put itself at its own service, can it begin constructing a new—human—world.

In Hegel’s Philosophy of Mind, we see again the transition from objectivity to subjectivity: it is the Free Mind that has left behind “all that interferes with its universalism.” From here we go to Absolute Mind, where we find the idea of “the universal” in its purest form. In its essence, the Universal Mind—Mind—Logic—idea—Nature (Notion). In these syllogisms, we witness the same spiral movement in the objectification of the subjective notion (Subject—Nature in its pure form) into the subjective notion (Mind—Nature, or, and at the same time, subjectivity) giving birth to objectivity (Nature).

In her May 3, 1964 letter (see Jan-Feb. 2015 N&L), Dunayevskaya interprets the Hegelian dialectic in a revolutionary way. In her May 12, 1963, Letter (“Object—Nature—Mind,” June 14, 1964 N&L), she had already seen that Science of Logic didn’t end as (Lenin believed) with the mere transition from the Theoretical to the Practical Idea, but with the merging of both in the Absolute Idea. Now, the idea to which Dunayevskaya refers is that Hegel realizes that “the movement is from the logical principle or theory to nature or practice and from practice not alone to theory but to the new society which is its essence.”

Furthermore: “Nature, standing between the Mind and its essence, sunders itself, not indeed to extremes of formal abstraction, but from them and independent—which, as other than they, only serves as a link between them: for the sylogism is in the Idea, Nature in the Idea, or, Nature in the Idea, not the Idea in the Idea, or, the Notion—point and negative factor, and as implicitly the Idea.” If, for her, Nature can be translated as Practice, and this is the Real, the Nature—point and factor, and as implicitly the Idea. If, for her, Nature can be translated as Practice, and this is the Real, the Nature—point and factor, and as implicitly the Idea.

What philosophical-political conclusions can be made? That practice—nature—nature—point and factor, and as implicitly the Idea is in itself, therefore, the actions of the masses are forms of theory in themselves. This breaks completely with Hegel’s theory of the mass and the subject—Nature in its pure form and the mass of the masses.” Dunayevskaya dedicated her first book, Marxism and Freedom, to this conclusion. She says, “What is happening in Selma is felt all over the country. In the factories of Detroit, and Negro workers feel it, furthermore they feel it much more there than here. There is a block. Reform and the UAW leadership have taken the black man in the factory that is going on down South, or in the North. But what Reform does now is what the federal government ought to do, not what the union ought to do. He doesn’t commit either the union or himself. He needs a government that will supervise the negotiations down South. Even though the Negroes do not have the support of many people that are in positions of power to help them, like the labor leaders, and still keep on their fight to get their freedom. What is the role of the socialist, the socialist, something is still very much in need of The battle of the Negroes in the South is just not a question of the right to vote, but a question of making this country a democracy by breaking with the idea of one’s own individual freedom and human justice for all people, not some abstract slogan called the Great Society. A great society can be reached all right, but it will only come when all of the forces moving for freedom come together and move together.

The Revolution has made it greatly needed for Negroes to jump into the Alabama River that practically runs through Selma. Almost all the cases in the past three years—and they are greater than anything that has happened in the South, and in the North, for all of the 100 years in this country.”
Your online statement “On Greece and Syriza: Against the inhumanity of austerity” and “We pause to pose the fullness of human liberation!” makes clear how political parties should resist the demands for individualism just in tactics and strategies but in a humanist philosophy of liberation. Without that, it’s all just words. A new and powerful language, they are nothing. But as the statement says, the rank-and-file (workers, youth, women, minorities), whose demands made possible the electoral triumph of the left, have once again fell short of asserting human liberation as the ultimate goal. It is the revolution our community demands deeply.

Revolutionary Mexico

Your statement on Greece poses serious questions about the revolutionary character of Syriza. I agree with the basic discourse. But the movement cannot build a revolutionary movement in alliance with fascists. We should be deeply disappointed with them and with us all outside them out of the political realm forever. Narrow nationalism of whatever sort is the death of the left. Time and again, women are made to carry the revolution to its ultimate victory.

Suzanne Rose

Syria doesn’t claim to be anti-capitalist. It has a clear mandate to fix capitalism. I am convinced that the Syrian revolutionaries want to transform everything into a new society, and not just in tactics and strategies but in a humanist philosophy of liberation. Without that, it’s all just words. A new and powerful language, they are nothing. But as the statement says, the rank-and-file (workers, youth, women, minorities), whose demands made possible the electoral triumph of the left, have once again fell short of asserting human liberation as the ultimate goal. It is the revolution our community demands deeply.

Revolutionary Mexico

I saw the “60 years” banner and how about that as a great legacy to Raya and her vision all of those years ago? How much has changed and how much has remained the same. Racism and sexism may have evolved to not be as out in the open as the issues were in the 1950s, but I feel that the subtlety (or attempts thereof) of today’s racial and gender issues is more of a slap in the face. As much as things changed for people of color and women, so much remains the same if not worse.

Robert Taliaferro

I hope in your looking back and future studies you will formally incorpo-
ration you articles by founding editor Charles Denby. He really was an excel-
ent writer. I read his pieces in News & Letters in the 1980s, I had become dis-
troyed the early Women’s Liberation move-
ment exploded in the 1960s. The unprecedented budget cuts that Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner wants to make in human services are nothing but a thinly disguised, calculated attack against the poor, including children, se-
niors and the disabled. His Republican cronies call him “courageous” for his new budget, but he is a coward of the worst sort. If that’s what they call a reform, then we’d just stay out of women’s vaginas and lives.

Robert Taliaferro

The unprecedented budget cuts that Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner wants to make in human services are nothing but a thinly disguised, calculated attack against the poor, including children, se-

Anti-imperialist socialist Midwest

I hope in your looking back and future studies you will formally incorpo-
ration you articles by founding editor Charles Denby. He really was an excel-
ent writer. I read his pieces in News & Letters in the 1980s, I had become dis-
troyed the early Women’s Liberation move-
ment exploded in the 1960s. The unprecedented budget cuts that Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner wants to make in human services are nothing but a thinly disguised, calculated attack against the poor, including children, se-

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Anti-imperialist socialist Midwest

Time and again, women and men are the scapegoats for an economy that pro-
vides few if any jobs. Ethel Edun-
bar wrote in N&L about the women who worked in factories during World War II, when they had the added advantage of being of color. They went overseas. Those factory jobs empow-
ered the women, despite the racism and alienating capitalist mode of produc-
tion. As Karl Marx had written nearly a century earlier, factory work brought people together in new ways with po-
tential for cooperation, a socialization which fueled the growth of workplace re-
pression. But as Ethel Edunbar wrote, “as soon as the war ended, all the women were laid off”. Their newly discovered ideas of freedom were not erased, but lay dormant until the Women’s Liberation Movement exploded in the 1960s.

Katlin Tomal

On a windy night, 28 degrees, 100 students at Rhodes, a small college in Memphis, formed a silent, spotlight vigil for the young Muslims murdered in Chapel Hill, N.C. (Abd Ararabat, Yousuf Mohammad-Ul-Sabha and An-
zan Mohammad Abu-Salha. The media coverage has been disappointing, double standards glaring, but the words of the students and the attendance that night were heartening.

Liz D. Memphis
MARXISM-HUMANIST PHILOSOPHY IN THE WHIRLWIND OF EVENTS

N&L is going strong with great coverage of the major domestic and international events. We have begun to see the light at the end of the tunnel, after years of continuous articulating Marx’s core vision of a free, human, human society. I am so heartened by the youth activism around police violence. What a time to be alive! Even the Republicans feel compelled to talk about economic inequality! The link between economic destruction, community disintegration and police state repression, both federal and local, is clear even to the minimally attentive citizen. This is a rare time for a critical Marxist–Humanist message as an alternative to the corporate-controlled political parties and media of the US.

***

If the lyrics of “Glory” weren’t perfectly clear, “Justice is justicposing us/justice for all specific enough/us/justice for all ain’t specific enough/justice for all” is. Rosa Dunayevskaya’s May 20, 1983, letter dissimulates W.E.B. Du Bois’s Philosophy of Mind. “Free will in a new social order...not the free will of the Ego...but the free will of the social individual.”

Through Marxist–Humanism I have become more aware of Oscar’s formulations of social struggle, and how they are essentially the determining factor through which we humanize ourselves and our relations with other humans. That awareness prompted me to examine all my present social relationships from the standpoint of the Marxist concept: humanism as the expression of the manner in which a human being is human to another human. The change agent is the social conflict of the new society struggling to transcend the perversity of capitalist relations. The perversity lies in the nature of capital’s production process where dead labor dominates living labor and whereby humans have material relations with each other and things having social relations. It is that inverse social relation which must be transcendened if humanism is ever to really breathe free from all that interferes with it.”

Fanoq Reposa, Calif.

Marxist–Humanism gives us a deeper understanding than has been possible for articulating the relationship between philosophy, practice, and the mediation between both. I see Rosa Dunayevskaya’s “Philosophy of Dialogue” organization should be rooted in dialectical philosophy, as well as in the practice of humanism as itself a form of theory; with out, that is, it is nothing. But I have a friend who read Gramsci, Lenin, even Mao, and all the theoreticians who talk about organization and “revolutionary intellectuals.”

He concretized that into a vanguardist organization. He understood the idea of the “organic intellectual” as a logically distinct political entity inside the academy struggling against “traditional intellectuals” for hegemony of knowledge. These “organic intellectuals” are not the social subjects; intellecctuals are. The relation between theory, practice and organization can be developed from within MH itself, and in a more profound sense—for it is rooted in the absolute method. In Dunayevskaya’s Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Liberation, and Marx’s Philosophy of Revolution, as well as in her unwritten book about organization and philosophy (examined in E. Gogol’s Toward a Dialectic of Philosophy and Organization: a Terry Moore essay), we can learn several lessons about how to develop this relationship.

G.M.F. Héctor Mexico

VOICES FROM BEHIND THE BARS

Thanks again for your continued coverage of prison activism. Your commitment reminds me how important N&L is in a media environment that ignores the plight of two million second-class citizens of the US in prison and forced to remain more or less cut off from prison but because they show up as ex-cons on background checks are legally allowed to be discriminated against.

Prisoner

Bastrop, Texas


SAVING THE PLANET

Calling them out, the #Flood11, eleven activists who participated in last September’s Flood Wall Street action effort to mobilize the People’s Climate March in NYC, are facing fines related to charges of disorderly conduct. Instead, when their trial begins March 2, they will use the necessity defense to argue that Wall Street, through its investments in fossil fuels, is the real harbinger of climate change. Please see a collective statement from #Flood11 and sign and circulate the petition http://www.change.org/articla/flood-wall-street-goes-trial

Pete R. Brown

***

Our tax money supported the development of nuclear fission, then the labs at Oak Ridge and Rocky Flats to figure out how to get lots of fissionable plutonium and uranium. The whole put up with the fallout from nuclear tests in the atmosphere—a sacrifice that will go on for generations. Then we supported the outrageously expensive “Atoms for Peace,” which was a glossy on the need to generate plutonium for the cold war. All of the public money for private enterprises, that is the most horrible. The amount of student debt is about the same as what the administration is planning for the Cold War decade to “upgrade” and “modernize” our nuclear arsenal. A jubilee for the students would be better and wouldn’t cost as much as spending on promoting the unspeakable filth of more nuclear enterprises with its impossible waste.

Nuclear opponent Chicago

TO OUR READERS: Can you donate $5 for a prisoner who cannot pay for a subscription to N&L? It will be shared with many others. Prisoners are eligible to continue their subscriptions when they are released, or get released, at a time when the system tries to make them forget the struggle.

Prisoner

Huntington, Penn.

I like everything about this paper because it keeps me updated on what’s going on in the SHU. After five years in the Cooler SHU, I know the struggle we convicts are going through. A lot of mistreatment is going on. Your newspaper exposes those wrongs. I am about to get out after doing 13 years and I’d like to continue getting the paper so I can continue to know the truth about what’s going on in the mind of the Beast.

Prisoner

Black River Falls, Wis.

***

I am a politicized prisoner who is very interested in your newspaper but at the current moment I’m without funds and would like if you can please provide me with a donor subscription. I highly appreciate your time and assistance. Together we can end all oppression! In love and struggle supreme.

Prisoner

Kenmore, N.Y.

Wisconsin spends $100 million a year locking up parole violators who have done almost nothing, yet Gov. Walker’s cuts to the University of Wisconsin’s budget to alleviate a nearly $2 billion shortfall—to gut education, to the point that almost ensures that mass incarceration will continue. It’s another way to disenfranchise the Black community without poll taxes.

Prisoner

Bastrop, Texas

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by Rosa Dunayevskaya

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Guerrero in a national focus
by G.W.F. Héctor
Mexico City—On Jan. 31 around 100 members of the community police of Guerrero went to Chilpancingo, the capital of the state, to protect its people from narco-traffickers and state violence. They were summarily dismissed by the government and left without homes. However, the official police didn’t let them in. Because of this, the community police, by accepting and sheltering the latter in their homes, even captured six soldiers, releasing them later hours. The army decided to withdraw.

IDEAS THROUGH THE STRUGGLE
One could be tempted to say that this was just an act of strength, a battle won by force. However, by putting their hands between the working class and the community police, by accepting and sheltering the latter in their homes, the community police put their ideas into the struggle as strong: the right to autonomy and self-government. The community police didn’t put up a struggle for freedom on a major national scale—specifically, for the right to autonomy seen in the last five months? (See “Letters from Mexico: Mexican protests deep- en,” Jan.-Feb. N&L.)

How is this action of self-defense related to the struggle for freedom on a major national scale? In the past five months, the community police of Petaquillas has come to an end, that the mass demonstrations, especially in Mexico City, haven’t shown a significant development recently. In some sense this may be true. At the same time, however, the struggle for autonomy in “rural” states like Guerrero, Oaxaca, Michoacán and Chiapas are becoming deeper.

Though there may not be a direct consequence of the protests for Ayotzinapa, but a re- sult of centuries of people’s organization. Nevertheless, the Ayotzinapa movement has given us a new life, and put them in a national focus. People throughout the country have turned to the mass movements in Ferguson on the streets and in the black community. It is high time to find there a source of practical and theo- retical inspiration for social uprooting.

In this paper, I will attempt to wrap the reason for boycotting the 2015 elections. This is not just not voting or annuls the vote, but aiming to actually prevent the election from taking place. The idea is born from the popular movements in Guerrero. It has been accepted nationally. Trying to concretize it could be a crucial step in the construction of a people’s government.

Returning to Petaquillas, Guerrero: What does an act of popular defense, like the one that took place there, tell us about the society and the social movement? What does it mean, theoretically and practically? These are questions that both mass move- ments from below and revolutionary organizations should try constantly to answer, in order to go forward on the road for freedom.

Stop Israeli settlements
Los Angeles—On Feb. 5, I joined six CODE Pink members and supporters at the Wilshire Blvd. RE MAX Megal Group office, where all Israeli repre- sentatives in the West Bank of Palestine, and to speak to the owner of the franchise. CODE Pink’s flyer stated, “These settlements have displaced thou- sands of Palestinian families...and are in direct viola- tion of international law.”

We entered the RE MAX office lobby after 4:30 PM with signs such as “Every settlement is an obstruction to peace.” This caused their secretary to disappear from the reception desk. We decided to wait there until the office closed and confront the owner and staff as they left. But after 40 minutes, the secretary reappeared and listened to our group’s issues, after which she accepted several petitions and documents which explained the reason for our protest.

King march transformed
Los Angeles—The annual Martin Luther King march here on Jan. 19 was changed after Michael Brown, the unarmed Black teenager, was shot dead by a white police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. Some people who called an outright murder. Young activists carrying pictures of 21 youths who were recently killed by the police. We lay down in the street. A dead police officer being shot by the police, while another group went near the police station, shouting, “Don’t shoot, hands up!”

We were brought charges—either lie and live matters! Other people had signs demanding criminal charges against the police who shot the youth. One protestor’s sign quoted Dr. King: “An injustice anywhere is an injustice here to all.” Another proclaimed, “I can’t breathe!” A Black woman stated that she has sent her sons to live with white relatives to avoid violence and to make them feel safe.

The Black community is energized and angered by the brutality of the police. One observer stated that maybe the writing on the police car, “to protect and to serve,” means that the police serve the community of the cops rather than the people.

by Suzanne Rose
Several hundred people with physical and men- tal disabilities and their supporters blocked streets in Taipei, Taiwan, during a mass anti-austerity protest. Many lay down in the street while others held up signs to bring attention to the hardships experienced by people with disabilities. They called for a living wage and to improve their employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

In New Delhi, India, women and girls with dis- abilities are being bumped into mental hospitals and institutions by family members and the police with horrifying consequences. They face dehumanizing con- ditions, risk physical and sexual violence and receive involuntary treatment, including electroshock therapy. One woman told them to little, she said, “I was just too hot. I wanted to die.”

Nine months after a then Mississippi judge smacked a mentally disabled man and yelled “run, you....run,” a grand jury indicted him for “simple assault on a person with a disability.” Twenty-year-old Eric Rivers, who is Black and has special needs, was working at a Canton, Miss., meat market when Judge Bill Weishofer attacked and punched him.

continued from p. 1

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Greece: postmodernism in power

Yannis Varoufakis, the Finance Minister in Greece’s Syriza government, shows where postmodernist attacks on Marx lead politically. This self-declared “erratic Marxist,” says Varoufakis, forcibly that the task of today’s Left is to save capitalism from the forces which requires “forging alliances with reactionary forces” (“How I became an erratic Marxist,” by Yannis Varoufakis, The Guardian, Feb. 18, 2015). In his mind, capitalism’s collapse “would only help the Right so that the Left’s task to save European capitalism would be at the same time we need to formulate its alternative.” However, the agenda he lays out is all about saving capitalism, not formulating an alternative.

THEORY ASSUMES LEFT’S POWERLESSNESS

Why in Varoufakis’s mind is the Left not in a position to formulate an alternative? One clue is his total lack of mention of the actual movement in Greece, including one of the world’s most vibrant occupations and assembly movements, whose military Syriza worked to contain in 2011-12. He is correct that Marxist-Leninist and social democrat forces abandoned the category of freedom, which the Thatcher Right exploited. He does not grasp. Beyond much of the Left’s attachment to defending the family, he clearly understood clearly USSEK and China as “socialist,” state-capitalism expresses itself in the administrative necessity that still pervades the Left, and for which leaving out freedom is no mere rhetorical mistake but a basic element of its attitude.

In Varoufakis’s hands, freedom is reduced to indeterminacy and contingency, which he counterposes totally undialectically to economic determinism. This is the postmodernist post-Marxist argument of Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe’s Hegemony and Socialist Strategy: Towards a RadicalDemocratic Politics, which uncouples freedom from the emancipation of working classes from alienation through the revolutionary transformation of the mode of production. It suffuses his muddled revision of Marx’s concept of labor. Not only does Varoufakis omit the determination of mathematical models so that Marx would have had to admit that his theories were “indeterminate” and “his ‘laws’ were not immutable.” The real target of his ire is Marx’s rigorously worked out law of motion of capitalism. Replying to the recent indeterminism of post-Marx, justifies empiricist political oscillations—Varoufakis was earlier an adherent to Gramsci’s social democratic PASOK party—and pragmatic tactical maneuvers, while downgrading the role of a philosophy of revolution. Varoufakis is restated in Laclau and Mouffe, who were intellectual leaders at the university where he earned his doctorate. They, in turn, took to its logical conclusion, via Louis Althusser, Mao Zedong, and the revision of Derridean philosophy. Mao revised the concept of contradiction to an indeterminacy, undermining Marx’s law of motion of capitalism. Laclau and Mouffe rigorously diminished the Hegelian—and therefore also the Marxian—concept of totality because supposedly the necessity involved in modernity also includes all contingency. The thesis, vulgarized the Hegelian dialectic of self-determination into determinism. Their attack on dialectics leads to an absurdly implausible choice between binary oppositions: absolute determinism or absolute contingency.

The postmodernist attack on totality and “essentialism” winds up denying post-Marxist theory of its class nature and historicity, to paraphrase Derrida’s famous critique of Derrida’s philosophy of Difference, p. 164). What constitutes and organizes social relations is now “discursive structure,” not, as Marx did, human praxis, which occurs in and against historically specific class structures and relations of production.

Moreover, “Society” is not a valid object of discourse (Hegemony and Socialist Strategy, p. 111). Let us be honest: the major difference between politics and this work is the role of oppression. If “Society” and social agents lack any essence (p. 98), then freedom is purely external to social agents, subordinated to revolution and determined themselves based on their social position and experiences, and there is no law of motion to society, no essence of capitalism, no abolition of capitalism is a merely contingent wish, not an essential goal. This is perfectly compatible with Varoufakis’s political actions. The “erratic Marxian” turns out Marx’s philosophy of revolution in permanence and its power to open doors to a society on totally new, human foundations.

Budget cuts are death sentences!

Chicago—On Feb. 19 I attended a program at the Chicago Teachers Union’s Malcolm X Hall to hear the horrendous state budget cuts that Illinois’ new governor, Bruce Rauner, wants to make. Over 250 people braved one of the coldest days of the year to hear them speak about their voices there, and at the outdoor Thompson Center rally that followed. Many talked about the effects the cuts would have on their schools.

Rauner, who was called “an immoral man” by a clergyman who spoke, plans to gut vital programs ranging from mental health services to student loans. One woman spoke of how childcare cuts would mean the loss of her job and her healthcare. “But, she added, ‘we can’t go on in Medicaid because he wants to cut that too’”

A disabled woman talked about how cuts to the home program means she will no longer be able to hire people to help her anywhere, including the aide who helps her get out of bed in the morning. My daughter’s personal assistant will be out of work, and my personal attendant. If these cuts go through, I fear that they will cut the hours my daughter can pay me, leaving us to save enough money to keep her, who also lost my health insurance and could no longer get the medications that keep me out of the hospital.

Rauner’s plan to cut education will have a devastating impact on those who depend on this program for their healthcare. “Some people will die from these cuts,” a woman at the rally said. Taxes that should be collected from the rich could fund these programs, but there was no mention of that in Rauner’s plan. “We need to keep all about talking whatever he can get from those who can afford it.”

Rauner also added for an “aggressive review” of eligibility for enrollees in the health insurance program for low-income and disabled people. This implies people are no longer worth their lives.

Cuts to homecare and disability programs will force more seniors and those with disabilities into nursing homes, such as the ones Rauner owns, making him richer. These nursing homes cost the state the two to three times what they cost private companies. He would like to see for the ill is warehousing of people as is happening in prisons now. It flows from having no regard for the lives of people who aren’t his.”

This is exactly in line with the logic of capi
tal. The owner of one large chain of nursing homes opens up operations in Illinois. “It is the wave of the future and envisages provid
ing “services” at 20% cheaper than today’s nurs
ing homes. He even says that he would like to see what happened in concentration camps have in his institutions. This is the planned common future of the “baby boom” generation. These inhuman cuts today, if allowed, will only stifle everything else’s capitalism has in store for us. Our lives depend on fighting this inhuman logic.

Susan Van Gelder

Queer

By Ely Fair

Lesbian teenager Jasmin Hernandez was shot and killed by police in Denver on Jan. 26. Her supporters hold a vigil that might, then demanded of District At
torney Beth McCann, questions of justice in this case.

On the basis of the NAACP’s September 2014 report, Black History Month 2015, who were murdered or who committed suicide.

These inhuman cuts today foreshadow what tomorrow’s capitalism has in store for us. Our lives depend on fighting this inhuman logic.

Queer people of color are at most risk for police profiling.

The China LGBT Awareness Campaign bravely launched the “Love Is Not A Choice” ad campaign just before Valentine’s Day. The campaign streams ads on social media sites, showing actual same-sex couples do exist. On Feb. 19 I attended a program at the Chicago Teachers Union’s Malcolm X Hall to hear the horrendous state budget cuts that Illinois’ new governor, Bruce Rauner, wants to make. Over 250 people braved one of the coldest days of the year to hear them speak about their voices there, and at the outdoor Thompson Center rally that followed. Many talked about the effects the cuts would have on their schools.

One of my mythical demonstrations all through Greece (this one is in Athens) against the austerity measures European bankers want to impose on the Greek people. At least for the moment.

The number of Detroiters helping their neighbors resolve property tax foreclosure (approximately 1,200 for every 10,000 residences occupied) has grown by leaps and bounds as community groups all over the city host meetings on what can be done. Since 2010, the number of struggles against these one less property that would otherwise drag down the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Every resident helps is asked to spread the word and give back to the community.

Volunteers at these workshops all said that what was removed was seeing residents—who had ended stood-stooped-shouldered, looking worried, barely making eye contact—exit with their heads held high, smiling, because they no longer need to worry about losing their homes. A small, vocal coalition made up of Detroit Eviction Defense, Marunorutu NOW! Coalition, People’s Water Board and the Detroit Tenants Association, protested Mayor Mike Duggan’s “State of the City” speech last month. The coalition said that the State of Michigan needs to use federal housing as
tance funds to keep people in their homes instead of using it to demolish vacant buildings. By paying off delinquent property taxes, fewer bad debts would be pre
vented and the city could use the increased property taxes for demolitions.

The surge in tax-foreclosed properties has become the latest form of class war in Detroit. Along with the water crisis that falls the massive amount of mortgage foreclosures since 2008, whole areas of the city face complete depopulation. Not only Nature but capital
ism—through its representatives Black and poor people will be forced out while developers and speculators get rich. That is why it is so important for neighborhood residents to stand together, so that the lofty words of the Mayor—“Every neighborhood has a future, and it doesn’t include blight”—become meaningful not only for developers but federal and local officials who have been here all along.

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These inhuman cuts today foreshadow what tomorrow’s capitalism has in store for us. Our lives depend on fighting this inhuman logic.
From Turkey to USA, women as resistance fight inhumanity

continued from p. 1

“women should not focus on any career other than the career of motherhood.” These “suggestions” are backed up not only by this total lack of security and work subsidies, but also by violence and harassment she has to endure. She also adds that we need to stop blaming women for their behavior and give them psychological help and support.

In Turkey, the sexual assault and murder of Ozgecan Aslan was not an isolated event. But what is new—and what is shocking—is the reaction of freedom—is the reaction to it. It is this dialectic freedom—self-development through contradiction—that we see everywhere when we see women fighting for liberation and it is in that self-development that something new and challenging emerges.

It isn’t as if women don’t have a great deal to fight. So intertwined are repression and the revolt against it that it is sometimes difficult to gauge if what we are experiencing is coming before the dawn or the beginning of a deeper darkness. There are too many challenges to take them all up. Here we can only point to a few.

The rise of ISIS is marked by brutal destruction of women, men and children. Anyone disagreeing with their inhuman theocratic view is obliterated. Women are bought and sold in cities ISIS controls in Iraq and Syria. Women are not sold just once, but over and over. They and others, including children, are enslaved. If a woman has any kind of public life not sanctioned by ISIS, she is sought out and murdered, often after being tortured.

In the U.S. the war on women’s reproductive lives and decisions is cruelly directed against poor women, women of color, the theocratic right-wingers in state and national legislatures, as well as against women who have legally married. Women are not only fighting ISIS, but also worldwide, the struggle against rape has developed into a U.S. revolution in the U.S., the depth of their demands as well as the exploitation of their labor can be gleaned by the demand of a Filipino worker in Lebanon who declared: “We want to be treated like human beings, like real workers.”

DOMESTIC WORKERS ORGANIZE

Women fight back against all these oppressions, including in the U.S., the U.S.—Is There an Organizational Answer?

In Mexico six women from around the world to crush every expression of women in Lebanon know they are not only fighting ISIS, but also worldwide, the struggle against rape has developed into a U.S. revolution in the U.S., the depth of their demands as well as the exploitation of their labor can be gleaned by the demand of a Filipino worker in Lebanon who declared: “We want to be treated like human beings, like real workers.”

Workers are treated so horribly in Lebanon that the Philippines now forbids its citizens from taking new work contracts there, which is especially significant considering that a large part of the Philippines economy depends on remittances from workers abroad. Of course Lebanon’s Azzi rejected the workers’ appeal for recognition of their union. Nevertheless, the meeting itself was a huge victory and it heralds the beginning of the end of the Kafala system and a new step forward for women throughout the Middle East.

When we look at women not just as revolutionary force but as resistance, we can see that what is being articulated by women worldwide is new. Women are not only railing against sexism and challenging men to change what is often deadly behavior and when not deeply, deeply oppressive; they are as well explicitly extending their critique to the state itself.

Women in Lebanon know they are not only fighting ISIS, but also worldwide, the struggle against rape has developed into a U.S. revolution in the U.S., the depth of their demands as well as the exploitation of their labor can be gleaned by the demand of a Filipino worker in Lebanon who declared: “We want to be treated like human beings, like real workers.”

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**The Value of Radical Theory by Wayne Price**

Writing as a former anarchist and present-day Marxist-Leninist, it is a pleasure, albeit with reservations, to read Wayne Price's book on Marx's Capital. It was a pleasure because Price is an author whom I know and respect. He wrote about several things: the character and functioning of the capitalist mode of production; how capitalism is rendering the planet unlivable; why capitalism is an obsolescent system; and Marxism economics.

Price presents a clear explanation of what Marx wrote in Capital about the capitalist mode of production and the inherent contradictions of capitalism—the labor value of the commodity, the falling rate of profit, and the labor theory of value. He then goes on to explain the idea of surplus value and the rise of the working class. He also presents the idea of surplus value and the rise of the working class.

**Chicago**—Five Nuclear Energy Information Service Chicago nuclear actionists in wearing black and white hats and suits protested nuclear power outside a downtown City Council luncheon here on Jan. 27. The sidewalk demonstration was part of the city’s “Irony of irony” by begging for money for the nation’s major nuclear corporation. “Alms for Exelon” it was the cry. “Donate $100,000 to save Exelon. We’ll take your money here and now!” We failed to collect a single penny.

Inside, panelists boosting the “benefits” of nuclear power spoke to well-dressed, business-like-appearing interest groups.

We were doing this to increase awareness that Exelon, a company which netted $1.16 billion in revenue and $90 million in all of its energy holdings in 2013, is in the red on six nuclear power plants in Illinois, and is threatening to close them and cut the jobs unless Illinois can give them $580 million.

At the luncheon inside, Carol Browner, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrator and a person with high credentials as an environmentalist, was one of the speakers who carried water for the nuclear industry’s funding efforts. The Chicago Tribune article noted, “With 6% of nuclear power in the U.S. under financial threat, nuclear proponents are attempting to win over environmental activists. Who better to send the message that nuclear power is a clean form of power and worth saving than Browner, who changed her mind and began advocating for nuclear power in 2011.”

Browner saying that nuclear power plants (NPPs) don’t emit CO2 does not change their huge “carbon footprint.”

**EXelon’s Bailout Addiction**

This is the second time citizens have been asked to bail out Exelon. In the mid to late 1990s, when Illinois and other states deregulated electric power, Exelon was included in a national coerced rescue of about $110 billion—a gift from an unsuspecting public, including Illinoisians and their ratepayers, who are now paying the ledgerate for another bailout.

Since the beginning of nuclear power during WWII and a massive public research necessary to conceive of nuclear power plants. When “Atoms for Peace” came along, the public gifts private corporations what they could use to sell electricity back to the public.

“Clean, safe, too cheap to meter” became “Unspeakeable nuclear albatross.” Nuclear power is a massive failure. No amount of taxpayer or ratepayer subsidy over the last 60 years has been able to reduce its costs. On the contrary, they continue to balloon. The only conclusion to reach is that nuclear power is a massive failure.

**NUCLEAR: TOO RISKY FOR WALL STREET**

With an increase in extremely hot days on the horizon, climate change could increase electricity demand in the Chicago area, according to The Risky Business Project. In the summer of 1988, drought, high temperatures and low river volumes forced Commonwealth Edison to reduce power by 30% or shut down all nuclear reactors in Illinois/Detroit and Quad Cities plants. That was the first wake-up call that plants would be vulnerable in a climate-disrupted world said David Kraft, director of NEIS.

“Good policy for Illinois can’t have nuclear canniblas logic risks in the energy capacity,” said Becky Stanfield, Natural Resources Defense Council’s policy director of the Midwest, following the City Club luncheon. “That is deadly for both the environment and the economy. How much money gets thrown at those plants, they are going to retire—and now is time to invest in the resources that will replace them.”

“Exelon is asking our state legislators to provide hundreds of millions of dollars to subsidize its fleet of Illinois nuclear plants, NEIS member Maureen,” said Maureen jargon in a statement submitted at the event. “Why should Illinois taxpayers be compelled to subsidize an industry that is too risky for Wall Street?”

**Against police brutality**

Los Angeles—About 500 people, mostly Black and Latino youth, gathered in front of Horace P. Banks Jr. Southwest Community Police Station on Feb. 21, on Martin Luther King Blvd. Anti-police brutality and anti-racist organizing has radicalized the youth as well as concerned people from all walks of life.

There were young people from college, high school and middle school, mixed-age minorities and groups of white participants who all had a clear message: “Don’t shoot! Hands up!” and “We can’t breathe!” as the marchers near Crenshaw Blvd. turned to Leimert Park.

We were demanding justice for Ezell Ford, Michael Brown and Mexico’s Ayotzinapa students, too.

There were SEIU ULTCV United Long Term Care Workers, SEIU Local 721, African American Caucus, True Grit, Fight the Lockdown, Stop LAPD Spying and News and Letters Committees. Some of our demands were: “Enroll Ford deserves justice!” “Demilitarize cops under community control!” And there was a call for a National Day of Rage and Justice for Tamir Rice. People carried a picture of Malcolm X in celebration of his birthday.

There was a huge police presence. They followed the march with ambulances and a police motocar. The march ended in the park with speeches by religious and community leaders. 

**Stop nuclear power’s addiction to $$**

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WORLD VIEW

Nihilist Daesh attacks humanity, history

The world is marching towards unravelling the mysteries of the universe, while al-Qaeda and affiliates (ISIL, al-Shabaab) are busy with the destruction of the nation of Assad and eventually the emergence of the so-called Caliphate of Daesh ("Mediations on ISIS [Daesh]: The Birth of Islamic Colonialism," July 11, 2014).

The bourgeois world, preferring counter-revolution, has little concern for the small states of the world. U.S., Russian, Chinese, Saudi and Iranian imperialism have all had their part in this. That's why the most effective struggle against this horror has been carried out by Syria revolutionaries, and by the heroic defenders of Kobanê.

Do Black lives matter in Brazil?

Over one million Rohingya, a Muslim people living in Burma (Myanmar) and Bangladesh, have fled due to threats from the state. Burma's rulers, who are closely related to the military junta that ruled previously, have issued orders to revoke their "temporary registration certificates." Those white cards give the Rohingya the right to vote, and to some education and basic benefits. Revoking them raises once again the specter of wholesale expulsion.

The government, along with a significant part of the leftist opposition, has referred to the Rohingya as "illegals," claiming they are really Bengali, and should leave for Bangladesh. Some 140,000 Rohingya have been forced to flee to internment camps in the face of extremist Buddhism's incitement of anti-Muslim rampages. Home 100,000 have fled for fear of their lives.

This is only the latest act against the Rohingya. A 1982 law denied the citizenship, and imposed Nervous sanctions, a law which was still in effect. This has led to calls from the government to open UN resolution calling for their citizenship to be restored.

Threats to Rohingya

"Sacrificing that phase of the Syrian Revolution to defend the government rejected a UN resolution calling for their citizenship to be restored.

E.W.

NEWS AND LETTERS COMMITTEES

Who We Are And What We Stand For

News and Letters Committees is an organization of Marxists-Humanists. It has always stood for the abolition of imperialism and monopolistic capitalism and its private property form as in the U.S. and, in its stage of development, against segregation--activities which signaled a commitment to the defense of freedom as a form of theory. News and Letters was created so that the voices of revolt could be heard unapologetically and unceasingly. It is a part of the struggle for freedom.

News and letters Committees (1910–1987, founder of the body of ideas of Marxism-Humanism, was Charles Denby, editor of the paper from its founding to 1987. Charles Denby (1907–1987), a Black rank-and-file author, who was the first chair of BWC News and Letters, was the editor of the paper from 1935 to 1983.

The articulation of the relationship between the movement from practice which is itself a form of theory and the movement from theory to philosophy is reflected in Denby's three major works.

World Revolutionary Freedom, from 1776 until To-day (1958), established the American roots of Marxism while presenting a comprehensive attack on present-day Communism, which is a form of state-capitalism. It re-established Marxism in its original form as: "a thorough-going Naturalism or humanism," while pointing to the New Humanist philosophy expressed by the working class. It presented history and theory as emanating from the movement from practice.

In one form or another, News and Letters Committees have adopted a committee form of organization rather than any elitist party "to lead. We participate in all class and freedom struggles, nationally and internationally. As our Constitution states: "It is our aim... to participate in all class and freedom struggles among workers, Black and other minorities, women, youth and those in power, and organizations of social activists and the bureaucracy of both capital and labor. We do not separate mass activities from the activity of editing a newspaper."