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Red and green at People's Climate March

By Gabe Falsetta

The Communist Party USA joined with hundreds of other organizations Sept. 21 - labor, youth, peace, justice, clergy, political organizations and international groups - in the largest climate march ever. Some 400,000 marched here just prior to the UN summit this week, a gathering of more than 120 world leaders tasked with developing a planet-wide approach to drastic reduction of greenhouse gases.

The lively and diverse CPUSA contingent, wearing bright red t-shirts picturing a small blue earth and the words "Too Big To Fail," marched behind a colorful banner that read, "People and nature before profits" and "Green jobs, living wages." There were younger, new members (many of whom were Young Communist League members) and veterans of many social and labor struggles marching - a compact version of the great global majority demanding protection of our environment. Party members came from Georgia, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago, Washington State, New York State, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Ohio with a large presence from Connecticut.

The party's table at 65th St. and Central Park West attracted attention almost immediately after it was set up early in the morning. As the hours passed people working at the table gave out literature and engaged in extensive discussion with



many who were interested in the Party's program. Dozens of marchers signed up to receive, by email, People's World headlines. Among the most popular items were CPUSA peace stickers.

Party members made sure the November mid-term elections were not forgotten by climate activists. They distributed thousands of "Too Big To Fail" post cards urging everyone to come out and vote for progressive candidates on November 4. "Hold the Senate and flip the House," was the idea

T H I S W E E K :

- **Red and green at People's March**
- **Labor history: Birmingham church bombing**
- **Climate change riders make their voices heard**
- **¿No quieres ser malo? Entonces aléjate de ALEC**
- **Politics trumps justice in Cuban 5 case**

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they tried to convey - keeping right-wing Republicans from gaining control of the Senate and ending their majority in the House.

"I'm walking in a march for climate change. I think it's great, I hope it makes a difference. I think it's good that a lot of young people are here,

...it's important that they understand that this problem this world has is our problem and the struggle for life is ours to fight.

it's important that they understand that this problem this world has is our problem and the struggle for life is ours to fight," said one YCLer.

The march came at a time that environmental issues are taking center stage both internationally and locally.

As world leaders gather at the United Nations this week for the Climate Summit, greenhouse gas emissions are increasing, California is in the midst of a drought emergency and 95 percent of Alaska's glaciers are melting at an unnatural and unprecedented pace.

New York City officials took the opportunity to highlight steps to cut global warming emissions. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that he is committing the city to an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. In a city hard-hit by Hurricane Sandy, New York's City Council is also addressing the issue. Donovan Richards Jr., co-chair of the Progressive Caucus, represents the council district in Far Rockaway Queens that was devastated by Hurricane Sandy. His caucus, now

the majority, is a major voice and champions the call to rebuild the city sustainably.

Marching with the contingent, John Bachtell, chair of the Communist Party, was exuberant about the huge People's Climate March turnout and said given the nature of the crisis - not a moment too soon. "This movement has the potential to embrace the overwhelming majority of humanity," he said, "crossing class, race, gender lines and national boundaries. Solutions to the climate crisis inevitably collide with the capitalist system and its inherent need for endless drive for maximum profit. The system's existence is incompatible with a planet of finite resources and ecological balance."



Gabe Falsetta is a writer for Peoplesworld.

Labor history: Birmingham church bombing

By Peoplesworld.org

The heinous crime sent shock waves across a city already convulsed by the struggle against segregation.

On Sept. 15, 1963, at 10:22 a.m. that Sunday morning, a bomb exploded at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, blowing a large hole in the wall of what had been the women's lounge. Debris - concrete, stone, wood and mortar - that had once been a church wall had been blown against the opposite wall.

And somewhere in the wreckage were the bodies of four young girls: Denise McNair, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson and Addie Mae Collins.

Many martyrs died in the cause of freedom during the civil rights revolution of the 1950s and 1960s but none touched the conscience of the nation and the world more deeply than the terrorist murder of these four children.

The heinous crime sent shock waves across a city already convulsed by the struggle against segregation.

The bombing took place two weeks after the

Aug. 28, 1963, March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Many saw the bombing as Ku Klux Klan revenge for that immense outpouring in which African American people, joined by tens of thousands of trade unionists and other fighters for equality, delivered a message to President John F. Kennedy and the Congress: segregation must go!

In his Pulitzer prize-winning "Parting the Waters," Taylor Branch devotes a chapter to what he calls "The Children's Miracle," in which youngsters, some of them only six years old, poured into the streets to protest segregation. Connor's response was to arrest them all. At one point more than 600 youth were packed into Birmingham's jails, sometimes 40 or more to a cell. Connor thought he could crush the movement. But in fact, the strategy of King, Shuttlesworth and other leaders of this non-violent revolution were to fill Birmingham's jails with protesting youth to expose to the world the immorality of Jim Crow.

Climate Train riders make their voices heard

By Blake Deppe



With everyone aboard the People's Climate Train, bound for the Sept. 21 People's Climate March in New York City, it was time for activists to begin voicing opinions and exchanging ideas. From marching tactics to environment workshops, people prepared for the upcoming mass event.

Hilary Colby, a Chicagoan on board, underscored what seemed to be the driving motivator for everyone who would be marching: "I have to do something," she said. I want to find a way to be heard. It's hard, in your daily life, to get away from the anti-environmental media and to be able to participate" in these kinds of actions. She said she felt fortunate to be able to take part, adding, "People my age are trying to hold a job. Not everyone is blessed with the time to do this.

Hopes were high that this march wakes people up to recognize the danger of a changing climate as being a reality - one that is intrinsically connected to everything else. Fighting for the climate can provide job opportunities, said Colby. "A friend of mine does solar installation," she remarked. "The amount of opportunity there is for job growth in the area of renewable energy is incredible." "The march organizers really were strategic in creating specific

groupings to focus on different issues. I'm excited, and I want even more people to get engaged in this fight."

Also aboard the train was Christopher Cook from San Francisco, author of *Diet for a Dead Planet*, a book detailing how big aggro-business negatively affects food and the climate. "Even our food is connected to climate change," he said. "The way our food is processed has it producing over a fifth of all climate changing emissions. Concentrated industrial agriculture areas are producing phenomenal levels of methane and other toxic greenhouse gases. Furthermore, deforestation is often required to create many mass crop plantations.

This removal of trees further depletes the Earth's way of naturally restoring itself." It's another aspect of the overall problem that he hoped the march would address. "This is an industrial model designed around the interests of large corporations, at our expense. It's not a sustainable system for humanity."

"Before we can effectively change anything else, we have to change the damage we're doing to this planet right now," said Schwimmer. "Because if we don't get this right, it won't matter if we get anything else right."

Even our food is connected to climate change.

Politics trumps justice in Cuban 5 case

by Richard Grassl

When the corporate-controlled U.S. media conspired with the Miami court to railroad the Cuban 5, few people realized the power of government to silence the truth for so long.

Reading the affidavit (8-31-2012) of Martin Garbus, First Amendment attorney, is an eye-opener for anyone concerned with freedom and justice in the U.S. legal system. A sixteen-year time period, from the shoot-down of a plane over Cuban waters flown by extremist exile groups, to a sensational trial, leading to the present attempts by Gerardo Hernandez to discover new facts, provides the setting for a drama in which journalism, prosecutorial misconduct, and a wall of media silence conspired to condemn five innocent men known as the Cuban 5.

A fair trial would have exposed the cozy relationship between the FBI and anti-Castro extremists in Miami that has existed since the mid-20th century.

Let us re-enforce the worldwide "jury of millions" that strive to obtain recognition and respect in circumstances of dire prejudice against the Cuban 5. Possibly, then, cracks in the silent walls of oppression will become visible for all, so equal treatment under the law, and freedom for the Cuban 5 can be achieved sooner rather than later. Obama give me Five!

¿No quieres ser malo? Entonces aléjate de ALEC

J. Barksdale y D. Patterson

Si Google siguiera su propio lema – "no seas malo" – dejaría de financiar el mal y rompería lazos con ALEC, una organización que se dedica a promover leyes que favorecen a las corporaciones a costa de las familias trabajadoras.

ALEC reúne a legisladores estatales con grupos de presión corporativos para formular leyes extremas que atacan a las uniones laborales y reprimen los derechos de votación de los ciudadanos.

AFSCME pertenece a una coalición de más de 50 uniones laborales y grupos de defensa que se oponen a las malas prácticas de ALEC.

En una carta enviada al CEO de Google, Larry Page, y a otros oficiales, la coalición recuerda que cientos de miles de estadounidenses firmaron peticiones durante este año instando a Google a romper lazos con ALEC "preocupados por el rol dañino que ALEC ha jugado en nuestro proceso democrático".

Tan sólo el mes pasado Microsoft anunció que ya no será más miembro ni apoyará financieramente a ALEC, lo que es evidencia de una creciente reacción negativa contra el grupo. Más de 90 compañías y miembros eliminaron su apoyo a ALEC, incluyendo Coca-Cola y Pepsi, Kraft Foods Inc., General Motors y Walgreens. La Fundación Bill y Melinda Gates también dejó de apoyar a la organización en 2012.

Tal vez los hermanos Koch (poderosos industrialistas que se oponen a las familias trabajadoras) puedan aprender algo de Raymond Burse, presidente interino de la Universidad

Estatal de Kentucky (KSU, por sus siglas en inglés). Luego de enterarse de que más de 20 trabajadores de la universidad ganaban solamente \$7.25 la hora, Burse decidió recortar más de \$90,000 de su propio salario para darles un aumento a dichos trabajadores y que cada uno de ellos pudiera ganar al menos \$10.25.

"Pensé que si de verdad les voy a pedir que tengan un compromiso real con esta institución y den lo mejor de su parte, yo debería de hacer algo por ellos también", afirmó Burse.

Antes de firmar contrato, Burse recibió una oferta salarial de la universidad de \$349,869 al año. Pero antes de aceptar dicha oferta Burse averiguó cuántos empleados de la universidad ganaban menos de \$10.25 la hora, una cantidad que se considera un salario digno. Fue entonces que Burse habló con los miembros de la Junta de Regentes para efectuar el cambio.

"Esto no es un truco publicitario" dijo. "Uno no renuncia a \$90,000 para ganar publicidad. Yo hice esto por la gente. Es algo que había estado pensando hacer desde el principio".

El aumento salarial que recibieron los trabajadores se mantendrá firme cuando Burse sea reemplazado por un nuevo presidente. Además, todo nuevo personal recibirá este nuevo salario mínimo.

AFSCME

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