

# THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Join April 21 rally in Washington  
to demand: Free the Cuban Five!  
— PAGE 7

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 76/NO. 15 APRIL 16, 2012

## Quebec march backs fight against Rio Tinto lockout



Militant/John Steele

March 31 rally in Alma, Quebec. Rio Tinto Alcan locked out 780 Steelworkers Local 9490 who have been fighting a three-month lockout after they demanded limit on contracting out work to nonunion workers at lower pay.

BY KATY LEROUGETEL

ALMA, Quebec—Some 7,000 people marched and rallied here March 31 to back 780 members of United Steelworkers Local 9490 who have been fighting a three-month lockout by Rio Tinto Alcan at the company's aluminum smelter here.

Unionists and students came on buses from throughout Quebec and Ontario to join thousands of others from the local area in a show of solidarity against Rio Tinto's union-bust-

ing campaign. The central issue is the company's goal to replace workers as they retire with subcontracted non-union jobs at half the pay.

Local 9490 voted Dec. 30 by 88 percent to reject the bosses' contract demands. The were locked out two days later on New Year's Day.

"We're not negotiating for wages, we're not negotiating for pensions ... we're fighting for a community, a community under attack," Marc Mal-

Continued on page 5

## 'Militant' supporters gear up for int'l drive to win 2,400 subscribers

BY LOUIS MARTIN

More than 140 people subscribed to the *Militant* over the last week—a strong lead-in and harbinger for the

**MALCOLM X, BLACK LIBERATION,  
AND THE ROAD TO WORKERS  
POWER—Special offer p. 4**

spring 2012 international subscription campaign! The eight-week drive will run from April 14 to June 10, with a goal of 2,400.

Communist workers and other sup-

porters of the paper will use the campaign to distribute the paper broadly in the working class. A major component will be systematic selling door to door in working-class neighborhoods, with particular attention to areas where Black workers live. *Militant* distributors are currently discussing their local quotas, which will be printed in next week's issue.

In three areas—Iowa, Illinois and Washington state —Socialist Workers Party election campaigns are well

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### Help build 'Militant' Fighting Fund

On April 14, the *Militant* will begin its annual seven-week *Militant* Fighting Fund drive to raise \$120,000.

The boss press is underwritten by commodity advertising and other capitalists' interests, to which it is beholden. The *Militant* is beholden only to the workers and farmers whose struggles it backs and whom it depends on for funds.

The annual drive helps cover basic operating expenses such as rent, printing costs and the fielding of volunteer worker correspondents to take part in and report on political developments from Sanford, Fla., to Havana, Cuba.

As working-class resistance to the bosses' assaults has grown, increasing numbers of workers see the *Militant* as their own. Consider supporting the socialist newsweekly and help get it out far and wide. Every contribution matters.

You can contact distributors of the *Militant* listed on page 8, or send a check directly to: the *Militant*, 306 W. 37th St., 10th floor, New York, NY 10018. We will report weekly on our progress.

Doug Nelson, Managing Editor

## Protests demand arrest Trayvon Martin's killer!

6 weeks after lynching, vigilante still free



Militant/Seth Galinsky

Protest in Sanford, Fla., March 31 to demand arrest of vigilante who killed Trayvon Martin.

BY SETH GALINSKY  
AND SAM MANUEL

SANFORD, Fla.—"Shot in the chest, we want an arrest," was among the popular chants at a march of some 5,000 here March 31 to demand prosecution of George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch vigilante who

convenience store wearing a hooded sweatshirt, when Zimmerman started following him, telling a police dispatcher there was a "real suspicious guy" walking through the gated community of the Retreat at Twin Lakes. Martin tried to run away and Zimmerman followed him, according to what Zimmerman told 911.

According to Martin's girlfriend, who was on the phone with him moments before he was shot, Martin asked Zimmerman, "Why are you following me?" Zimmerman replied, "What are you doing around here?" Then the phone went dead.

Zimmerman, who worked as a loan

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**JOIN PROTESTS TO DEMAND  
ARREST OF MARTIN'S KILLER**  
—EDITORIAL p. 9

shot and killed 17-year-old Black high school student Trayvon Martin Feb. 26.

Martin was walking home from a

## US, Australia imperialists expand military partnership, target China

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia—Military ties between the governments of the United States and Australia, Washington's key imperialist ally in the Pacific, are expanding. Some 250 U.S. Marines arrived April 3 to begin training in Darwin, Australia's northern-most city. The marines are the first of 2,500 troops to be deployed to the Northern Territory as announced by U.S. President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Julia Gillard during Obama's visit to Australia last November.

Attending the 2012 Nuclear Security Summit in South Korea along with Obama, Gillard called the marine deployment the next step in the evolution of the long-standing alliance. The two imperialist rulers used the meeting to attack North Korea's plans to launch a satellite this month. Gillard called on

China to put pressure on North Korea to call the launch off.

Washington has shifted its military attention to the East, seeking to coun-

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# Chicano activist in L.A. fights frame-up charges

BY BILL ARTH

LOS ANGELES, March 27—Two of six felony charges against Chicano political activist Carlos Montes were dismissed by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge George Lomeli at a pretrial hearing today. The charges were related to applications Montes had filed in 2002 and 2005 for gun permits. The judge ruled that the statute of limitations on them had expired.

Montes still faces four felony charges for possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of ammunition, and two charges of perjury for lying on gun registration paperwork. All the charges are based on the state’s claim that Montes has a felony record dating back to a 1969 arrest for leading a student strike demanding Chicano Studies and Black Studies at East Los Angeles College. Montes maintains he has never been convicted of a felony.

“The struggle continues,” Montes told a gathering of supporters outside the courtroom.

Montes is active in the fight for immigrant rights, as well as against U.S. wars and FBI repression. He was one of the founders of the Brown Berets, a Chicano nationalist organization.

In a predawn raid May 17, 2011, FBI

agents and the SWAT team of the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department—armed with riot gear and automatic weapons—smashed down the front door and ransacked Montes’ home, taking his computer, cell phones, and documents related to his political activity. While he was sitting in the back seat of the sheriff’s car, Montes said, an FBI agent asked him questions about the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, which he refused to answer.

On Sept. 24, 2010, the FBI had raided the homes of antiwar, union and political activists in Chicago, Minneapolis and other cities. The Freedom Road Socialist Organization was among the targeted groups. FBI spokesman Steve Warfield said at the time that the raids were part of an “ongoing Joint Terrorism Task Force investigation into activities concerning the material support of terrorism.” Montes was named in a subpoena left by the FBI in the office of the Twin Cities Anti-War Committee.

Jorge Gonzalez, Montes’ lawyer, also filed a motion at today’s hearing for discovery on the FBI’s role in the raid and called for dismissing the charges. “The FBI started all this against Carlos because he’s a political activist,” Gonzalez said. The next hearing is scheduled for April 26.

The L.A. Committee to Stop FBI Repression has scheduled a “Night of Solidarity! A Defense Fundraiser for Carlos Montes” on Saturday, April 14, at 7 p.m. at the Echo Park United Methodist Church, 1226 N. Alvarado St., Los Angeles. For more information, go to stopfbila.net or call (626) 532-7164.

## Illinois rally opposes building immigration jail



Militant/Betsy Farley

CRETE, Ill.—Two hundred rallied here April 1 protesting the building of an immigration detention jail in this southern suburb of Chicago. Some of the participants had taken part in a three-day 37-mile walk from the Cook County Jail in Chicago.

—BETSY FARLEY

## Quebec students: ‘No to tuition hikes!’

BY JOHN STEELE  
AND KATY LEROUGETEL

MONTREAL—Students, teachers and others filled the streets here March 22 to protest the Quebec government’s imposition of a 75 percent tuition fee increase over five years.

The demonstration stretched for nearly two and a half miles. Police estimated 100,000 participated. Buses brought demonstrators in from all corners of Quebec.

“There are people who won’t be able to go to university if the hikes go through, and others who will spend the rest of their lives paying back their debts,” University of Montreal student Irina Badita told the *Militant*.

In a proposed budget presented March 20 Quebec’s Liberal Party government plans to eliminate its \$70.1 billion deficit within two years.

Beginning next autumn tuition fees will go from \$2,168 a year to \$3,793 by 2017, with annual increases of \$325.

As a result of previous student strikes against government efforts to raise fees going back decades, Quebec university fees are the lowest in Canada and have remained unchanged for 33 of the last 43 years.

The student organizations with formal backing of Quebec’s three main union federations have vowed to keep up the pressure by continuing the protest actions.



Militant/John Steele

Some 100,000 students demonstrate in Montreal March 22 against 75 percent increase in tuition fees over five years.

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## THE MILITANT

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*The ‘Militant’ follows the very important battles to beat back these attacks wherever they happen.*

*Don’t miss an issue!*



Dawn Des Brisay

Cops assault Longshore workers protest at EGT terminal in Longview, Wash., Sept 7.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant’s* views. These are expressed in editorials.



# Tenants challenge cop patrols in NY working-class housing

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK—A federal class action lawsuit was filed March 28 against the New York Police Department’s stop-and-frisk operations in thousands of privately owned apartment buildings in working-class neighborhoods, especially targeting African-Americans and Latinos.

Thirteen plaintiffs, all but two of whom are Black and reside in the Bronx, charge police with “unconstitutional stop, question, search, citation, and arrest policies” operated under the city’s “Operation Clean Halls” program, states a 52-page complaint. Defendants in the suit are the City of New York, Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, and 17 city cops.

The New York Civil Liberties Union, Latino Justice Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, and lawyers with the Bronx Defenders submitted the suit.

Police stops occur “in lobbies, vestibules, stairwells, hallways, and other public areas of Clean Halls Buildings,” states the complaint. Residents are “arrested without cause for allegedly trespassing inside their own buildings. They are frequently stopped and forced to produce identification while engaged in completely innocuous activities.” Police also annually conduct hundreds of thousands of floor-by-floor sweeps, known as “vertical patrols.”

Plaintiffs charge the city and police with numerous rights violations as established under the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution against illegal search and seizure; the First and 14th Amendments on the right to association, assembly, and equal protection; the New York Constitution; and the Fair Housing Act.

The suit also charges defendants with violations of state laws against

false arrest, false imprisonment, assault and battery, and malicious prosecution. Plaintiffs are demanding an end to the practices and compensatory payments.

In August 2011, Jaenean Ligon, a 40-year-old Black woman who lives in the Bronx and is lead plaintiff in the suit, sent her 17-year-old son to a nearby store to buy ketchup for the dinner she was preparing. “As he was coming back into the building the cops stopped him,” Ligon told the *Militant* in a phone interview. “They rang my bell saying they were holding my son and I had to go downstairs to identify him.” She found two undercover cops and two uniformed ones surrounding him in the lobby. “They were grinning with one holding the bag with the ketchup,” she said.

A couple of months later, Ligon’s son and a friend were visiting another friend in a “Clean Halls” building down the block. After leaving that person’s apartment, the cops stopped them in the hallway, Ligon said. “The mother ran out saying they had just left my house. The cops proceeded to handcuff them anyway, taking them to central booking where they were held for a few hours.”

In some Bronx neighborhoods “Operation Clean Halls” exists in “virtually every private apartment building,” the complaint notes. Landlords there simply fill out forms with the city to enroll their buildings “into perpetuity.” Similar programs include some 3,900 buildings in Manhattan as well as areas in Brooklyn and Queens.

“Clean Halls” has been in operation in some form since 1991.

A similar federal lawsuit was filed in 2010 against police operations in public housing units, leading the NYPD to dress up their invasive operations with “new regulations.”

## ‘Humiliated by the police’

“For residents of Clean Halls buildings, taking the garbage out or checking the mail can result in being thrown against the wall and humiliated by the police,” said New York Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Donna Lieberman in a statement.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly responded to the suit at a March 28 press conference by essentially saying residents should be thankful. “I will suspect that, probably, the attorneys involved in this case live in buildings with doormen, and they have a level of safety that people who live in tenements, which is most of what these buildings are, don’t have,” he told reporters. “That is the service that is being provided.”

The complaint cites dozens of examples of harassment.

Jovan Jefferson, a high school student, returned one day to his Bronx apartment to change clothes to play basketball. As he was leaving, cops stopped him in front of the building asking for identification. He said he didn’t have it with him but could get it upstairs. The cops instead handcuffed him for trespassing and put him in a police van. When his mother saw what was happening she ran downstairs saying her son lived in the building. The police said it was “too

## Chicago protest demands arrest of killer cop



Militant/Laura Anderson

CHICAGO—Some 200 people rallied at Douglas Park and then marched to the District 11 police station in the North Lawndale neighborhood here March 27. The protesters demanded justice for 22-year-old Rekia Boyd, who was shot by an off-duty Chicago police detective March 21. She died in the hospital the next day.

According to police, the off-duty cop stopped to look into a “disturbance” in Douglas Park, where a group of people had gathered. The cop fired from his car striking Boyd in the head and Antonio Cross in the hand. Without a shred of evidence or any witnesses the cop claimed that Cross advanced toward him with a gun.

“I want people to know I didn’t have a gun. She didn’t have a gun,” Cross told reporters at the rally. “I want people to know that girl was killed for nothing.” Chicago police have admitted Boyd was an innocent bystander and that no gun was found on the scene.

A number of community residents joined the march with homemade signs, including against the killing of Trayvon Martin (see article on front page) and Ricky Bradley, a homeless man they say was killed by cops March 19.

—DENNIS RICHTER

late” and arrested and jailed him for three nights.

“It’s just wrong what the cops are doing here. They don’t respect our rights,” Trevor Lauriano, a 22-year-old African-American told the *Militant* inside one of the “Clean Halls” buildings in the Morrisania section of South Bronx, outside of which an elevated police patrol tower operates day and night. The police “stopped me when I was out with my girlfriend. They let me go after questioning me. But you shouldn’t have to go through that.”

At first it “didn’t bother me so much,” Adabella Adon, a building resident originally from the Dominican Republic, told the *Militant*.

“There were a lot of gangs here. When the cops came that got cleaned up. But they go too far. One teenager who lives here gets stopped every day. The weather’s nice but they won’t let anyone sit in the courtyard. And they harass me all the time just because I have Jersey plates on my car.”

According to NYPD data, between 2006 and 2010, the department made 330,000 stops based on suspicion of trespassing. Of those questioned some 94 percent were Black or Latino. Over the past eight years Blacks were arrested for trespassing 12 times more than Caucasians in the city.

Sara Lobman contributed to this article.

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### GEORGIA

**Atlanta**  
**Oppose SB 469! Class Struggle and Union Power Are the Answer.** Fri., April 13, 7:30 p.m.  
**Legalization Now! Fight Anti-Immigrant Legislation in Georgia and Alabama!** Fri., April 20, 7:30 p.m. Both events at 476 1/2 Edgewood Ave. Tel.: (404) 525-5200.

### MINNESOTA

**Minneapolis**  
**Why the Assault on Immigrants Is a Crucial Question for All Workers. All Out for May 1st!** Fri., April 13, 7:30 p.m. 1311 1/2 E. Lake St., 2nd floor. Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

### TEXAS

**Houston**  
**The Keystone XL Pipeline Debate: Where Should Workers Stand?** Speaker: Michael Fitzsimmons, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress, 29th District. Fri., April 13, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5. 4800 W. 34th St., Suite C-50L. Tel.: (713) 688-4919.

### NEW ZEALAND

**Auckland**  
**Fukushima: Nuclear Panic vs. Real Disaster.** Speaker: Mike Tucker, Communist League. Fri., April 13, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5 waged, \$2 unwaged. 4/125 Grafton Road. Tel.: (09) 369-1223.



Militant photos by Brian Williams

Left, cops’ watch tower, part of its “Clean Halls” operation, by housing complex in Morrisania section of South Bronx where police patrols both inside and outside have led to arrests of residents and guests. Above, sign posted on another nearby “Clean Halls” building.



# Int'l subscription drive

Continued from front page

under way. Other party branches will launch campaigns in the coming weeks and the party nationally will launch its presidential ticket. The combination of subscription and socialist election campaigns will be used to present a revolutionary working-class road forward as workers confront the deepening crisis of capitalism and the efforts of the propertied rulers to foist the burden on our backs.

The coming subscription campaign builds on initial steps taken by branches of the Socialist Workers Party and Communist Leagues abroad to put this kind of steady weekly sales of the *Militant* and revolutionary books at the center of their political work.

Last week several worker correspondents from Atlanta, Miami and New York went to Sanford, Fla., in order to report on the ongoing protest against the lynching of Trayvon Martin and introduce the *Militant* and communist books to workers there.

In three days, they sold 164 copies of the socialist newsweekly, 31 subscriptions and 16 copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes, SWP national secretary. The book, about the dictatorship of capital and the road to the dictatorship of the working class in the U.S., is offered at a discount of \$10 with a subscription. (See ad on this page.)

"Last week," writes Chuck Guerra from Des Moines, Iowa, "SWP members sold 66 copies of the paper, 15 subscriptions and three copies of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* in areas of Des Moines with a high concentration of Blacks; at a rally to support striking members of Teamsters Local 371 at Nichols Aluminum in Davenport, Iowa; and at three different actions protesting the murder of Trayvon Martin."

The *Militant* is a key weapon for building solidarity with ongoing labor battles against assaults by bosses and their government on our living and working conditions, basic rights and dignity.

John Naubert writes from Seattle that SWP members there sold 45 copies of the *Militant*, five subscriptions and four copies of the book while campaigning

last week with Mary Martin, SWP candidate for Washington state governor.

While they were going door to door in Tacoma, Wash., after joining a protest for Trayvon Martin, says Naubert, "a student from Equatorial Guinea renewed his subscription to the socialist newsweekly and asked, 'Do you have this book?' pointing to the ad on the front page of the *Militant* for *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power*. 'I really liked the book *How Far We Slaves Have Come* [by Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro] that I got the last time I saw you.'"

John Steele writes from Montreal that at a March 31 demonstration of some 7,000 in solidarity with Steelworkers locked out by Rio Tinto Alcan in Alma, Quebec, members of the Communist League sold to the overwhelming French-speaking crowd 38 copies of the *Militant* and 13 books on revolutionary working-class politics in French, including eight copies of *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* by Jack Barnes and three copies of *Teamster Rebellion* by Farrell Dobbs, who was a central leader of strike battles and union organizing drives in the 1930s in the Midwest and of the SWP.

"Two members of the Socialist Workers Party from Albuquerque, N.M., and Los Angeles traveled to Superior and Kearny, Ariz.," writes Ellie Garcia, "to



Naomi Craine, right, selling subscriptions along with *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* door to door in working-class neighborhood of Sanford, Fla.

discuss with copper miners Senate Bill 1054, which will extend time worked underground from eight to 12 hours. We sold 18 copies of the *Militant* as well as four subscriptions, including at the plant gate of the Asarco open pit mine."

We urge interested readers to get a weekly bundle and join the effort to expand the circulation of the socialist

newsweekly among workers. Contact a distributor near you, listed on page 8, or the *Militant* office (see page 2).

This column will run for the duration of the subscription drive. Send brief reports and photos on your sales experiences by 8:00 a.m. EDT every Tuesday, along with comments and quotes from new and renewing subscribers.

## The 'Swedish model': work harder, get less

BY ANITA ÖSTLING

STOCKHOLM—The image of the "Swedish model" is typically associated with a big, benevolent welfare state with free and universal public services and massive government employment, predicated on heavy taxation and support from large labor unions.

The term "Swedish model" has also in recent years been used in the capitalist press to ironically describe the progress made by Sweden's capitalist rulers in cutting government expenditures by slashing away at the living standards of working people. They have come up with some "innovative" methods for accomplishing what many capitalist

governments are carrying out around the world. And so far they have done it without engendering much resistance in Sweden.

Like in the rest of the world, working people here are bearing the brunt of the capitalist crisis. One thing they are learning in the process is that their benefits and entitlements are not actually "theirs" at all. They can be taken away. This lesson is part of overcoming a mentality of dependency on the capitalist state and its bureaucracy. For the working class, this is essential for building the self-confidence, combativity and class independence that is necessary to mount an effective fight against the unrelenting assault by the bosses and their government.

This was all brought into relief for this author during a recent visit home after being abroad for nearly two years.

While waiting for the bus one morning the icy and slippery road made the driver skip the stop in the roundabout and stop further up ahead. We had to walk a little ways. Once on board, the driver took the mike: "Sorry about that, folks. But if I'm going to work till I'm 75, I need to spare my arms."

"It's a big problem that people think their retirement age is 65," Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt had said in an interview the day before, Feb. 6, with the daily *Dagens Nyheter*. "In the future we should expect to work until 75."

The bus driver's comment sparked a discussion among the passengers.

"Sure! I'll stagger with my roller [walker] and distribute medicine to the patients," said one.

"They never stop. They go on and on and on. The state is supposed to protect me. And there's no point putting anyone else in there. They're all the same!" commented another.

"My mother talked about times like

these. But never in my life did I think they'd fall upon me," said one elderly woman.

A pension reform in the 1990s made payments dependent on the performance of the economy and the stock market. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* in 2007 describing the change said, "Sweden has given its citizens incentives to be more productive and retire later." It emphasized, "The bottom line of the Swedish model: Most people will have to work harder to reap the kinds of pensions their grandparents could take for granted."

"It puts the cost of aging onto the individual, rather than onto society," commented Sarah Brooks, political science professor at Ohio State University, in the same article.

Governments from around the world have visited to "study" the new system. Many countries in eastern Europe have adopted it. A book describing it has been translated into Chinese. The governments of Russia and Brazil have both adopted elements of it.

In the last 10 years the average age when people retire has risen by almost three years. At close to 65, it's the highest in the European Union. Among imperialist countries it trails only Japan, Iceland and the U.S.

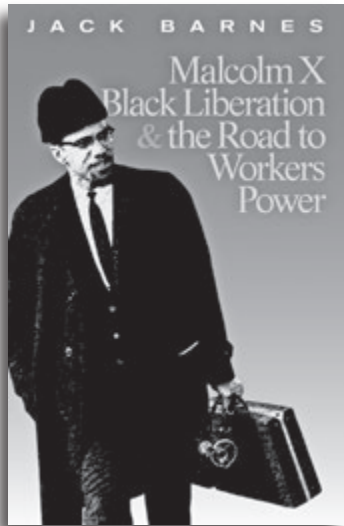
Figures show that 40 percent of the unemployed get no compensation, twice as many as in 2006. They have to live either with their family or apply for social security, which is means tested and not easy to get. Owning anything resembling an "asset," like an old car or a house, whether saleable or not, is an automatic disqualification.

Official unemployment is 8 percent and rising. One in four young people is out of work. One in three unemployed has been jobless for six months or more.

## Special offer

### Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power

by Jack Barnes



**"Don't start with Blacks as an oppressed nationality. Start with the vanguard place and weight of workers who are Black in broad proletarian-led social and political struggles in the United States. From the Civil War to today, the record is mind-boggling. It's the strength and resilience, not the oppression, that bowls you over."**

—Jack Barnes

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***www.pathfinderpress.com or see distributors on page 8***



## ON THE PICKET LINE

### Iowa aluminum strikers fight pay freeze, two-tier wage scale

DAVENPORT, Iowa—Some 160 members of Teamsters Local 371 and their supporters rallied outside the Nichols Aluminum plant here March 26, determined to keep fighting the bosses' concession contract demands.

The Teamsters have been on strike since Jan. 20 against company demands for a pay freeze, a two-tier wage scale and employee health care costs that would include 20 percent of the insurance premiums and a \$6,000 annual deductible. Of the 254 workers in the plant before the strike, 220 are members of Local 371.

"How I see it, Nichols is looking at other companies that have imposed two-tier wages and increased costs for medical insurance, and they want to shove it down our throats," Scott Antle, 51, told the *Militant*. "They don't care about the working man, the one that makes the dollar for them. We don't ask for much, but it's way too much for them."

The company is trying to maintain some production with replacement workers, but most of the work is actually being done by supervisors, according to Teamsters Local 371 President Howard Spoon.

Nichols Aluminum did not return phone calls from the *Militant*.

Members of Teamsters locals from as far away as Chicago and Indianapolis came to show their support.

Also present were members of the United Auto Workers, United Steel-

workers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, members of building trades unions, officials of the Iowa Federation of Labor and a member of Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union Local 48G, which fought a 10-month lockout by Roquette America in Keokuk, Iowa, in 2010-2011.

"We're going to stay on this line as long as it takes. They're hoping we'll get weaker but we're getting stronger," Spoon said.

—Chuck Guerra

### Quebec City paper workers approve concession contract

MONTREAL—Workers at the White Birch paper mill in Quebec City voted by 79 percent March 24 to accept major concessions.

The 600 members of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union have been laid off since Dec. 9. At that time the workers put up picket lines and demanded the mill be reopened. On Jan. 12 the company announced it was closing the mill permanently. The previous day workers had voted down the company's concession demands.

The concessions include a 10 percent cut in wages from \$32 an hour to \$28, and pension cuts of 30 percent for retirees and 55 percent for those still working. New hires would start at 70 percent of the regular rate and take more than two years to catch up.

Despite the vote accepting the concession demands, it is not yet clear when



Militant/Maggie Trowe

March 26 rally at Nichols Aluminum in Davenport, Iowa. Teamsters have been on strike since Jan. 20. "We're going to stay out as long as it takes," said union president Howard Spoon.

White Birch, which has declared bankruptcy, will reopen the mill. Workers at two other plants are also voting on the concession contracts.

"Unfortunately, these days it is only profits that count," Jacques Renaud, a member of the union executive board, told the *Militant*.

—Joe Young

### Athens airport workers protest wage cuts, concessions

ATHENS, Greece—About 80 workers rallied at Athens International Airport March 29 protesting the airline

companies' concession proposals and contractors' unilateral imposition of wage cuts.

"Using the new pro-employer laws passed by parliament, the airport bosses have not lost any time in lowering wages, pushing for four-hour flexible shifts, and firing senior workers and replacing them with younger workers," Nikos Gourlas, president of the Union of Workers at the airport, told the rally. "Ground services contractors Swisport and Goldair are imposing wage cuts."

"Our strike is no different from your fight," said striking steelworker Panagiotis Dellis from Elliniki Halivourgia steel mill, where the union is fighting for a guaranteed workweek of 40 hours. Dellis noted that metal workers at the Perama shipyard recently "forced all the contractors to agree to hire only union labor under a union contract. This shows that even under these economic conditions we can win victories."

"The fights at the airport, at Halivourgia and at *Eleftherotypia* are part of one struggle," Moisis Litsis, a striking journalist from the daily *Eleftherotypia*, told the rally.

—Georges Mehrabian

## March backs Rio Tinto workers in Quebec

### Continued from front page

tais, Local 9490 president, told the rally.

Unionists representing Rio Tinto workers in the U.S., Australia, New Zealand and South Africa also participated.

Hydro-Québec, the provincially run electricity company, is currently buying Rio Tinto Alcan's excess electricity, generating up to \$20 million monthly for the company, a move widely criticized in many placards and speeches at the action.

François Cardinal from USW Local 6658 in Valleyfield, 325 miles from Alma, told the *Militant* he traveled to the picket lines in January for two days with two coworkers. "Subcontracting is an issue for us, too," he said.

"We gave \$50,000. And if it continues, we'll give again because like it or not, they're fighting for us," said Steeve Tremblay, Canadian Auto Workers member and port worker at Rio Tinto's La Baie installations, where Rio Tinto subcontracted out 30 jobs in 2008.

"This is the big stuff. But you don't hear about the daily things like not getting a lunch break," said Mike Clark, a Rio Tinto port worker from Los Angeles and a member of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Through a fight, the ILWU forced Rio Tinto to provide workers with a break during their eight-hour shift. "It took a long time to settle and meanwhile, workers handling hazardous chemicals were not taking proper breaks, covered in filth, you could see it on their hands as they were chewing their sandwich."

A lively group of strikers from Sept-Îles on Quebec's North Shore wore green T-shirts and wigs to publicize their fight for better wages against the Desjardins credit union.

Hundreds of students fighting provincial government tuition hikes took part.

Annie-Claude Fortin, a junior college student at nearby CEGEP Jonquière, marched with her parents. She had traveled to Montreal for the 100,000-strong student action against tuition hikes on March 22. Five days later she rallied with 100 locked-out Rio Tinto workers together with 400 students outside her school in a tuition hike protest.

Étienne Jacques, one of some 40 students who traveled here from Mon-

treal, told the *Militant*, "I learned about the lockout and the march at a table on March 22."

Smelter workers were buoyed by the show of support.

"We'll be out eight months, 10 months—up to a year," said Alain Côté. "All the better if it's less."

"It's going very well on the picket line," said Gilles Doré, another locked-out worker. "On the negotiations, I don't know. But on the picket line, morale is very good."

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



### April 17, 1987

WAPUTO, Wash.—"The strikers of today will be the architects of the future." "We will struggle, and we won't get tired."

These were some of the slogans raised on hand-painted signs by 400 farm workers and supporters who marched in the Yakima Valley April 4.

The demonstrators were supporting a strike by 60 tree pruners at Pyramid Orchards. The strikers, members of the United Farm Workers of Washington State, have been fighting to win a union contract since February 10. The strike began when Pyramid arbitrarily cut wages from \$2.50 to \$1.75 a tree. Most workers couldn't earn the minimum wage at that rate.

The Pyramid strike has won wide support among farm workers here. Many drove by to wave support, as the marchers passed by apple and peach orchards, vineyards, and hops fields.



### April 16, 1962

The report of two GI's killed and two others missing in action on April 8 in South Vietnam is a grim foretaste of the heavier casualties to come if the Kennedy administration persists in its dirty war to save the bankrupt regime of dictator Ngo Dinh Diem.

As U.S. involvement deepens it will become impossible to cloak the real nature of what is going on there.

The March 16 issue of the British *New Statesman* carried this report from Saigon: "The area of American involvement was greatly extended with the setting up last month of the U.S. Military Assistance Command under General Paul Harkins. In addition to the 4,500 armed American personnel in South Vietnam, he has a strategic reserve in Okinawa described as a 'staging area surpassing Korea as the scene of the greatest concentration of U.S. military power in Asia.'"



### April 17, 1937

Hotel workers of six crafts voted overwhelmingly to strike in San Francisco as negotiations with hotel owners were broken off after two months of parleys.

The strike vote came as the culmination of a successful drive to organize the famous hotels of this city, with the owners refusing to consider the demands of workers for collective bargaining.

Revolting against long hours, short wages and bad conditions, hotel workers have been flocking into the unions since the culinary trades instituted an organizing campaign several months ago. Basic demands are preferential hiring and the agreement for all workers to join their respective unions within 15 days after the signing of contracts.

The unions' negotiating committee found itself stalemated when the owners refused to accept the unions as the representatives of the hotel workers.



# Trayvon Martin protests

**Continued from front page**  
analyst and was studying at Seminole State College to become a cop, claims he shot in self-defense. According to police reports of Zimmerman's account, Martin, who was unarmed, punched him and knocked Zimmerman to the ground. Zimmerman, whose mother is Peruvian and father Caucasian, was taken to police headquarters then released without charges that same night.

More than four weeks after Martin died, cops still have not interviewed his girlfriend, reported the *New York Times*.

Frustrated by the stonewalling of the police department and city prosecutors, Martin's parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, got in touch with lawyer Benjamin Crump two days after their son's death and began organizing to demand Zimmerman's arrest. They called on leaders of Black rights organizations and others to back their fight, pushed to get the case into the media, and took part in demonstrations from Florida to New York.

"If it was a Black man who had killed a white, he would be arrested and they would throw the whole jailhouse at him," said Bernice Hawkins, in front of her home in Bookertown, an African-American neighborhood here.

More than 1,000 people from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama, many on buses organized by churches or the NAACP, joined thousands of Sanford residents on the mile-long march. Health care workers with Service Employees International Union Local 1199 had a contingent that included members from South Carolina and Florida.

Residents of the predominantly African-American neighborhood of Goldsboro here took part in the action as it passed through. Some chanted from their yards, others joined the march.

"This is the first protest I have ever gone to," said Vincent Lester, 38, an unemployed worker from Ocala. "The racism, the stereotypes. I felt compelled to come."

## Smear campaign

A campaign to justify the lynching has sought to smear Martin's image, painting him as dangerous. This has included digging up Facebook photos of Martin with gold teeth and tattoos and emphasizing the fact that he was suspended three times from his Miami high school, the last time for allegedly having marijuana residue in his backpack.

"I have tattoos. I have gold teeth. I've had 'gangster' pictures taken of me," said Sanford resident and cosmetologist

Leticia Sessions, 37. "So what? Does that mean someone can say I'm suspicious and shoot me?"

"This is a small town, but I have friends from all races," Jeffrey King, 21, from Sanford said at the rally. "If Zimmerman had shot a white guy, someone who looks like me, I think he would be in prison."

In the days leading up to the march, the controversy continued to deepen as Zimmerman's brother and father, a retired magistrate judge for the Supreme Court of Virginia, took the offensive to claim that Martin was the aggressor.

ABC News reported March 27 that one Sanford police investigator wanted to charge Zimmerman with manslaughter, but was overruled by the State Attorney's Office for the county.

In a police video released last week of Zimmerman as he arrived at the Sanford police station after the killing, Zimmerman showed no obvious evidence of cuts, bruises or blood on his clothes. But ABC TV broadcast a digitally enhanced video April 2, which appears to show a pair of welts on the vigilante's head.

"They keep saying on the news that Zimmerman was afraid for his life," Hanh-mari Watson, 13, told the *Militant* during the demonstration. Watson lives in the Retreat at Twin Lakes where Martin was killed. "If he was so afraid, why was he following Trayvon in the first place?"

## Stand Your Ground law

Trying to calm down the continuing protests, the Sanford City Council March 26 named Darren Scott, a Black cop who has been on the police force for 23 years, acting police chief to take the place of William Lee, who announced he was temporarily stepping down, although he is still being paid. Lee came under fire after saying that Florida's Stand Your Ground law prohibited Sanford police from arresting Zimmerman, because there was no evidence Zimmerman did not act in self-defense.

When worker-correspondents from the *Militant* asked about the new police chief the day before the march, five men at a barbecue in a mostly Black neighborhood just laughed. "They need to disband the whole police force and start all over," said Calvin Donaldson, as the others nodded.

"When I was young, it used to be you couldn't go into a store, and restaurants would only give you food through the window," said Violet Robinson, 60, in Goldsboro, remembering the days of Jim Crow segregation. Schools were not desegregated in Sanford until 1970. "Things are a little bit better. You can



Sylvia Hansen

Several hundred participated March 26 in rally and march in San Diego protesting lynching of Trayvon Martin. Actions like these have been held across the United States.

use the store bathrooms now and our children go to mixed schools but they want to change that too."

"What happened with Trayvon is nothing new," said Joseph, a Black worker who declined to give his last name, when getting off first shift at an electronics plant outside Sanford. "We face it all the time. It's part of what's going on with everything else, police brutality, discrimination, unemployment."

A handful of Caucasians were tense and would not talk about the case to the *Militant*. Others said they thought Zimmerman should be arrested.

Amanda Gross, 20, said that she has some doubts after seeing pictures of Martin with tattoos and reports of him allegedly boasting of being in fights. "But that's no reason to shoot an unarmed kid," she added.

"The police should have kept Zimmerman when they had him," said Patricia Jackson, a waitress who is Caucasian. "There's still a lot of racism."

Florida Gov. Richard Scott named Angela Corey to prosecute the case, replacing the state attorney whose district covers Sanford and who recused himself. Corey is expected to decide soon whether or not to prosecute Zimmerman or send the case to a grand jury.

The U.S. Justice Department and the FBI are also investigating the case.

"Everyone should have the same rights," said Mary Hollingsworth, 59, a member of the United Auto Work-

ers union at the Lockheed Martin aerospace plant near Ocala, during the march. Referring to lynchings that used to be common occurrences before the rise of the Black liberation struggle in the 1950s and '60s, she said, "The world has changed. They can't do it like they did back then anymore."



## MIAMI

Some 4,000 people rallied here April 1 calling for the arrest of George Zimmerman in the killing of Trayvon Martin. The teenager's parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, spoke briefly.

"I worry that something like this could happen to my son," said Ena Blake, a nurse originally from Jamaica. She lives in a predominantly Caucasian area, and often other residents "tell me to go around to security," not believing she lives there.

Martin lived with his mother in the suburb of Miami Gardens. Earlier protests here included walkouts by students at more than 30 high schools and a rally in the Black community of Liberty City. On March 28 more than 2,000 people marched through the Little Haiti neighborhood to protest.

—Naomi Craine



## MINNEAPOLIS

Some 5,000 rallied in Minneapolis March 29 in a march for Trayvon Mar-

**Continued on page 9**

# Man sentenced to life for lynching Black auto worker in Mississippi

**BY BRIAN WILLIAMS**

Deryl Dedmon pleaded guilty to murder in Mississippi state court March 21 for the lynching of James Anderson, a 47-year-old Black autoworker. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Dedmon, who is Caucasian, was 19 years old when he and six other youths drove into Jackson, Miss., from a neighboring county to assault African-Americans. They spotted Anderson standing in a motel's parking lot in the early morning last June 26. While yelling racist epithets and slogans, including "white power," they severely beat Anderson. Dedmon then ran Anderson over with his pickup truck, leaving him to die.

The killing was filmed by a hotel surveillance camera and widely distributed. Jackson residents organized protests condemning the slowness by the

local police and prosecutors in arresting the seven youths involved in the assault, reported the *New York Times*.

Under state guidelines Dedmon could have faced the death penalty, but Anderson's family urged state and federal prosecutors not to impose this because of their moral and religious opposition to capital punishment.

Appearing in federal court March 22, Dedmon's accomplices, John Rice, 19, and Dylan Butler, 20, admitted to carrying out other attacks on African-Americans in the weeks leading up to Anderson's death. They targeted people they thought were drunk or homeless.

Anderson's family has filed a wrongful death suit against all those involved in the assault. The family is also seeking a civil trial to make more facts about the case known, reported the *Times*.



Militant

Some 700 turned out for a March 31 action in St. Albans neighborhood of Queens, N.Y.



# Supreme Court justice: U.S. Constitution passé

Workers should defend protections won in struggle

BY SETH GALINSKY

The U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights is passé, so says U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, considered the most senior member of the court's liberal wing. According to this view, a constitution that gives the capitalists' government more power and "flexibility" to bestow numerous promises of rights and entitlements is better than the current Constitution and Bill of Rights, which are built around protections *against* the capitalist state.

"I would not look to the U.S. Consti-

## COMMENTARY

tution if I were drafting a constitution in the year 2012," Ginsburg told a local television station when she was in Egypt at the end of January. "I might look at the constitution of South Africa. That was a deliberate attempt to have a fundamental instrument of government that embraced basic human rights."

The liberal justice, also pointed to Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedom and the European Convention on Human Rights as better models than the U.S. Bill of Rights.

### Amendments won in struggle

The Bill of Rights of 1791 along with the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution—which abolished slavery, recognized "equal protection of the laws," and voting rights—were won as a result of massive, bloody struggles by and in the interests of workers and farmers, including the revolutionary war for independence, Shay's rebellion in 1786, the 1861-65 Civil War and related struggles that followed it.

South Africa's Bill of Rights, which is four times longer than the U.S. Bill of Rights, begins by saying it "affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom" and guarantees the "full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms."

Among the more than 35 categories containing scores of highly detailed rights, so highly lauded by Justice Ginsburg, are the rights to "life," "freedom of artistic creativity," "fair labour practices," "sufficient food and water" and "access to adequate housing."

These rights, the South African law says, may be limited "to the extent that the limitation is reasonable and justifiable in an open and democratic society" or if a state of emergency is declared.

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees rights subject "to such reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society."

Compare those descriptions to the preamble to the Bill of Rights, which notes that the amendments to the Constitution were made "in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers."

Succinct, clear and to the point. No worthless promises from the capitalist rulers to ensure "human dignity," much less caveats about "reasonable limits."

The last thing working people need is to depend on the capitalist state to "give us rights." We need it to leave us alone so

we can organize independently and with as little interference as possible, until the working class and our allies are strong enough to wrest power and establish a new social order based on solidarity and the needs of the great majority of toiling humanity.

There are useful examples from the early history of the United States. The words "equal rights to life, liberty and property" were popular among bourgeois opponents of monarchical tyranny and feudal reaction in the late 18th century and were included in the constitution of the antislavery New York Manumission Society. In drafting the Declaration of Independence, however, these words were altered by slaveholder Thomas Jefferson to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." The exploitation of wage and slave labor is predicated on dispossession and denial of property for the toiling majority.

We don't need any government involved in our "pursuit of happiness." We have as much use for that as so-called rights to "artistic freedom" or "adequate food and water" championed in Gins-

## Join April 21 rally to Free the Cuban Five!

The *Militant* urges working people and supporters of workers' rights to build and join an April 21 rally in front of the White House, to demand freedom for the Cuban Five—Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino and René González. The rally will be the culmination of five days of activities in the Washington, D.C., area, initiated by the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5 and sponsored by a wide array of individuals and organizations.

These five Cuban revolutionaries have been jailed in the U.S. since 1998 under various trumped-up "conspiracy" charges that include conspiracy to commit espionage and, in the case of Hernández, conspiracy to commit murder. At the end of a trial heavily stacked against them, they were sentenced to prison terms ranging from 15 years to double life plus 15 years.

Their frame-ups and treatment by the U.S. "justice" system, including long periods of solitary confinement, are fa-

## EDITORIAL

miliar to millions of working people in the United States, which incarcerates at a rate immensely higher than anywhere in the world.

The workers and farmers of Cuba overthrew a U.S.-backed tyranny in 1959 and wrested state power. It is the one country today where workers and farmers continue to wield and defend that power for the benefit of the toiling majority.

The five were living and working in southern Florida gathering information for the Cuban government on activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary groups with a long history of violent attacks on Cuba and supporters of the



Schomburg Center/New York Public Library

Recently enfranchised Blacks in Lincoln County, Ga., rifles in hand, on their way to the polls, after the Civil War. The 15th Amendment to the Constitution, ratified in 1870, made it illegal to bar anyone from voting "on account of race, color or previous servitude."

burg's model constitution, while in the real world people go hungry. No, we'll work to take care of those things ourselves *despite* their rule—and we find "happiness" in fighting to replace it.

The fact is, the U.S. capitalist rulers are constantly working to undermine the Bill of Rights. The right to a "speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury" has become the right to plea bargain and go to jail—unless you want to risk a 10-fold harsher sentence. The right "against unreasonable searches and seizures" has become "stop and frisk" anywhere, anytime. "Equal protection of the laws" is today further from reality than at any time in nearly half a century. And Presi-

dent Barack Obama now asserts the Constitution does not protect citizens accused of being "terrorists" from being assassinated on his orders.

*New York Times* Supreme Court correspondent Adam Liptak put forward views similar to Ginsburg in a Jan. 6 article that reports on a study soon to be published in *the New York University Law Review*.

Liptak says the U.S. Constitution is "out of step with the rest of the world" is "terse and old" and "guarantees relatively few rights." He calls the "right to bear arms" an idiosyncrasy and favorably quotes University of Texas law professor

**Continued on page 9**



Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González, René González

Cuban Revolution. For decades these forces carried out various acts of murder and sabotage with the complicity of Washington.

The five are working-class fighters. Three of them—Fernando González, René González and Hernández—served as volunteer internationalist combatants in Angola. (See speech by Fidel Castro on page 8.) Their example—and that of the Cuban Revolution they represent and defend—is the reason why the U.S. rulers have gone after them with a vengeance.

All but René González remain in prison. González was released last fall after 13 years in jail, but has been forced to serve an additional three-year parole in the U.S. instead of being allowed to return to Cuba, as is the norm in such cases. (Only after much delay did the federal court and

U.S. authorities allow González to travel for two weeks to Cuba, where he currently is, in order to see his terminally ill brother Roberto.)

The week of activities from April 17 to April 21 will be an important opportunity to broaden the fight to free the Cuban revolutionaries. It will include film showings, discussions of the case, exhibit of political cartoons by Hernández, a Friday evening public event, and the White House protest. For more information see <http://www.thecuban5.org>.

Five buses will leave New York for the protest April 21 at 6 a.m. as part of a "Freedom ride for the Cuban 5." They will bring demonstrators to the 1 p.m. rally and return the same evening. The cost is \$5. To reserve a seat, call (917) 945-9877 or (718) 601-4751, or contact a *Militant* distributor listed on page 8.



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# Cuba's foreign policy based on internationalist solidarity

*Below is an excerpt from Fidel Castro Speeches: Cuba's Internationalist Foreign Policy 1975-80, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for April. The selection is from the closing speech given by Castro at the First Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba in December 1975. Copyright © 1981 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission. The footnotes are by the Militant.*

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### BY FIDEL CASTRO

[The U.S. government was] already indignant at the holding of the Conference of Solidarity with Puerto Rico, claiming that it seriously affected any possibility of improving relations. But if we must renounce this country's dignity, renounce this country's principles in order to have relations with the United States and improve relations with the United States, how can we possibly have relations with the United States?

Apparently, according to the mentality of the U.S. leaders, the price for improving relations, or for having trade or economic relations, is to give up the principles of the revolution. And we shall never renounce our solidarity with Puerto Rico. *[Applause]*

What kind of people do they think we are? What country do they think they are dealing with? The old Cuba? No! This is the new Cuba, and this is a dif-

ferent country! *[Applause]* And until they get this fact into their heads, I cannot see any possibility of improving relations, because we shall never desert our Puerto Rican brothers and sisters even if there are no relations with the United States for a hundred years. *[Applause]*

Now it is not only Puerto Rico; now it is also Angola. In all our revolutionary process we have always followed a policy of solidarity with the African revolutionary movement. One of the first things the revolution did was to send arms to the Algerian combatants who were fighting for their independence. This impaired our relations with the government of France, which was indignant at the fact that we were sending arms to the Algerian combatants and supporting them in the United Nations and in every international forum. But we were firm in that policy and we helped them.

After the victory of the revolution, when the new Algerian state had to face certain risks and certain dangers, we did not hesitate in sending them our help, and we did send it. ...

We have given our support to the progressive governments and revolutionary movements in Africa since the very moment of the victory of the revolution. And we will continue supporting them! *[Applause]*

This assistance has taken different forms: sometimes we have sent weapons, or on other occasions we have sent men; we have sent military instructors, or doctors or construction workers, and sometimes we have sent all three: construction workers, doctors, and military instructors. *[Laughter]* Loyal to its internationalist policy, what the revolution has been doing since the beginning is to help wherever it can help, wherever it may be useful and, moreover, wherever this help is requested. ...

When the Angolan people were about to attain independence—just as Guinea-



Juventud Rebelde  
Cuban volunteer combatants train fighters from Angola how to operate antiaircraft guns, January 1976.

Bissau, Mozambique, Cape Verde, and other countries attained their independence—imperialism worked out a way to crush the revolutionary movement in Angola. They planned to take hold of Cabinda, with its oil, before [independence day] November 11; to seize Luanda before November 11. And to carry out this scheme, the U.S. government launched South African troops against Angola.

You know that South Africa is one of the most hated and most discredited states in the world, for three million whites oppress fourteen million Black Africans. And there they have established one of the most ignominious, shameful, and inhuman regimes that could ever be thought of. ...

And the U.S. government, absolutely devoid of all scruples, launched the South African regular troops against Angola. Thus Angola was being threatened on the north by the FNLA<sup>1</sup> and was attacked on the south by regular troops organized into armored columns. Everything was ready to take over Angola before November 11. And the plan was

very solid; it was a solid plan; the only thing was that the plan failed. They had not counted on international solidarity.<sup>2</sup> ... *[Applause]*

On November 8 they launched an offensive against Cabinda and were crushingly repelled. What they went through in Cabinda was a sort of Girón<sup>3</sup>: in three days, in seventy-two hours, the invaders were annihilated. In Luanda, they were twenty-five kilometers from the capital on November 10; they attacked with armored columns; now they are more than a hundred kilometers from Luanda. ...

That is, the heroic struggle of the Angolan people, supported by the international revolutionary movement, has made the imperialist plan fail.

And that is why the imperialists are irritated with us, among others. Some of them wonder why we help the Angolans, what interests we have there. They are accustomed to thinking that whenever a country does something, it is in pursuit of oil, or copper, or diamonds, or some other natural resource. No! We are not after material interests, and, logically, the imperialists do not understand this, because they are exclusively guided by chauvinist, nationalist, and selfish criteria. We are fulfilling an elementary internationalist duty when we help the Angolan people! *[Applause]* We are not looking for oil, or copper, or iron; we are not looking for anything at all. We are simply practicing a policy of principles. We do not remain passive when we see an African people, a sister people that the imperialists all of a sudden want to swallow up, and that is brutally attacked by South Africa.

1. The Angolan National Liberation Front (FNLA), formerly a pro-independence group, was part of the imperialist-backed alliance seeking to topple the new Angolan government.
2. In November 1975 the Cuban government, in response to a request from the Angolan government, sent massive military aid to help defeat the invading armed forces of South Africa's white supremacist regime. More than 375,000 Cubans took part in the Angola campaign, which ended in May 1991.
3. On April 17, 1961, 1,500 Cuban mercenaries, organized, financed and deployed by Washington, invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. In less than 72 hours, they were soundly defeated.

April

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# Jail vigilante who killed Trayvon Martin!

Over the last few weeks, tens of thousands have taken to the streets across the U.S. to demand the arrest of the “neighborhood watchman” who shot and killed Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla.

Working people need to continue to mobilize and pressure the government to not allow this modern-day lynching to be swept under the rug. This fight is part and parcel of other workers’ struggles today against the propertied rulers’ assault on our wages, working conditions, rights and dignity.

The Sanford cops hoped to bury the vigilante killing. But, like in the fight to expose the lynching of Emmett Till in 1955, the determination of Martin’s parents prevented them from doing so, and inspired a spreading wave of demonstrations.

A smear campaign, against both Martin’s character and against the African-American nationality as a whole, has reared its head in response to the popular protests. The goal, as Malcolm X said, is to make the victim look like the criminal and the criminal look like the victim.

National oppression is not a thing of the past. The racist killing of Martin and James Anderson provide examples of one side of this.

Murderous terror of vigilante gangs were key to the overthrow of Radical Reconstruction in the late 1870s. The bloody defeat of the popular, progressive Radical Reconstruction regimes was the worst defeat for the working class in U.S. history. After that, the officially extra-legal, but in fact police-backed violence, was a prerequisite for the imposition and maintenance of Jim Crow segregation. Decades of reactionary violence targeted and sought to cow African-Americans. This scourge of

the working class was also directed against Catholics, Jews, immigrants and was used especially to break the spirit of class-conscious fighting workers and farmers, particularly if they sought to join in struggle across the color line.

The popular response today is a registration of the permanent strengthening of the entire working class won as a result of the fight for Black rights in the 1950s and ’60s, as well as the vanguard role of the struggles for African-American liberation as part of the broader working class struggle today.

The mass movement for Black rights smashed Jim Crow and pushed back racist violence. But it was not strong enough to lay the basis to eliminate national oppression. That task remains and will be central to the revolutionary struggle for workers power.

In fact, as working people are forced to bear the brunt of the deepening economic and social crisis of capitalism, the myriad forms of oppression of the African-American nationality are being reinforced. For example, workers who are Black are increasingly the last hired and first fired. Further evidence of this unresolved national question can be seen in the disproportionate representation of African-Americans among the massive numbers of workers behind bars and the systematic racist targeting by cops from “stop-and-frisk” operations to outright murder.

The fight against the lynching of Trayvon Martin is among those battles today that strengthen the unity, self-confidence, and fighting capacity of the working class. Join, build, call actions to demand the arrest and prosecution of his killer!

# Australia-US rulers expand military ties

Continued from front page

ter growing competition from China. The U.S.-Australia alliance goes back to World War II, through which Washington established its unchallenged dominance of the world’s seas, a hegemony that is being challenged in the Pacific by Beijing’s growing military capabilities and regional influence.

Further steps could include “possible drone flights” from the Cocos Islands, an Australian territory 1,700 miles northwest of Perth in the Indian Ocean, reported the *Washington Post*.

The newspaper said that aircraft based on the islands would be well positioned to spy over the South China Sea, where the Chinese navy is becoming increasingly assertive. The Cocos Islands were handed over to Australia by the United Kingdom in 1955.

An Australian defense white paper said the Cocos Islands fall inside the strategic center of Australia’s primary operational environment. “It affords us an opportunity to detect and respond to potentially hostile military incursions at sufficiently long ranges to enable an effective response,” it stated.

Defence Minister Stephen Smith said that priority was being given to increasing U.S. access to mainland Australian military airfields and allowing greater naval access to Australia’s Indian Ocean naval base HMAS Stirling, south of the west coast city of Perth. *The Washington Post* reported on a proposal to upgrade the Stirling base so it could service U.S. aircraft carriers, other large surface warships and attack submarines. These steps are necessary before any moves to upgrade the Cocos Islands air base can begin, Smith said.

According to the *Post*, Washington is also finalizing a deal to station four warships in Singapore and has opened negotiations with the Philippines about boosting its presence there.

Last month Philippine President Benigno Aquino said that talks were under way for U.S. troops to hold more military training exercises in the Philippines, as well as increase the number of times that U.S. navy ships visit. Military exercises will take place April 16-27 involving some 4,500 U.S. troops together with the Philippine armed forces.

# Lynching protests

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tin on the University of Minnesota campus.

More than 60 students marched from nearby Augsburg College. A bus came from Mankato State University, 80 miles away. A group of youth brought signs demanding justice for Fong Lee, a 19-year-old Hmong youth killed by a Minneapolis cop in 2006.

—Tony Lane



## QUEENS, N.Y.

More than 700 residents turned out for a “March for Justice” in St. Albans, a working-class neighborhood in Queens March 31. Store workers and neighbors cheered the protesters, most wearing hoodies, along the route.

The flyer advertising the march included photos of Ramarley Graham, Sean Bell, Danroy Henry and Amadou Diallo—all Black males killed by the New York cops since 1999.

“My son died tragically the same way, he was unarmed,” Constance Malcolm, mother of Ramarley Graham, said at the event. “We can’t have our kids keep getting gunned down by police officers, and now civilians.”

—Deborah Liatos



## LINCOLN, NEB.

About 500 people participated in three actions in the Lincoln/Omaha area against the killing of Trayvon Martin between March 29 and April 1.

Two protests in Omaha included a rally at the Malcolm X Center and a candlelight vigil called by the *Omaha Star*, a Black Community newspaper.

An action in Lincoln March 31 marched from the Black community to the Nebraska State Capitol.

—Maura DeLuca

# Bill of Rights

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Sanford Levinson bemoaning that “the U.S. Constitution is the most difficult to amend of any constitution currently existing in the world today.”

That difficulty, including the separation of powers and restrictive rules for approving amendments, was built into the Constitution as a result of the heterogeneous alliance of merchants and slave owners that made up the first U.S. governments, their suspicions of each other and their fears of the laboring classes.

“Our Founders designed a system that makes it more difficult to bring about change than I would like sometimes,” Obama complained in a Feb. 6 interview with NBC’s Today Show.

As long as we’re under capitalist rule, we’ll stick with the current Constitution—especially the Bill of Rights and 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments. Anything that helps to provide some protection from the state and slows down the ability of the rulers to impose their will is better than any dependency on the repressive state and false promises of the enemy class.

# LETTERS

## Willie Anaya

Shop floor leader, strike leader and union militant Willie Anaya passed away Feb. 4 in the foundry at US Magnesium, a smelter in the desert 60 miles west of Salt Lake City, Utah. His viewing was attended by over 500 people. I looked through the crowd and asked people there if any bosses were present. There were none.

Willie liked the *Militant*. He once took an ad from the paper, or it may have been the actual cover of *In Defense of Socialism* with Fidel [Castro]’s image on it, and pasted it on his hardhat. He kept it there for months.

Willie worked in the foundry for over 35 years. Leading up to the strike in 1988 he worked tirelessly to build solidarity among his coworkers. He

continued to fight the company up until his death.

John Langford  
Park City, Utah

## Blood money

In late March, Eva Chertov’s pension money was released by the teachers pension fund. I received the note below from Judi Chertov, Eva’s sister, when I informed her we received Eva Chertov’s “pension bequest.”

Eva was a member of the communist movement for over half a century. An appreciation of her life appeared in the *Militant* on Oct. 3, 2011.

I thought *Militant* readers would appreciate this “blood money” account.

Dave Prince  
New York, N.Y.

\* \* \*

Dave,

I’ve always referred to Eva’s pension account not as “Eva’s bequest” but rather her “blood money.” And it truly was!

Over the years that Eva taught in the New York school system, she had to fight to stay out of the rubber room where teachers who were “troublemakers” were sent. Eva particularly liked to share these stories with us and family members who have become educators to try and bring them back to reality of education under capitalism.

Some of her stories were unbelievable, and were thought to be exaggerations. They were in fact the reality Eva faced most often during her teaching days. Eva was a fighter and I think that

was appreciated by her students and fellow teachers alike.

Judi

*Editor’s note: The Militant features a periodic column on blood money contributions to the communist movement for long-term projects, from so-called bonuses and other bribes from the bosses to get workers to accept concession contracts, speedup, wage cuts and other attacks on conditions they face.*

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**