

Failure to recall Walker not a blow to working class

BY JOHN STUDER

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker won reelection June 5 by some 170,000 votes over Democratic Party challenger and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. The special election was the

COMMENTARY

result of a recall campaign organized by the Democratic Party and leaders of the state’s public workers’ unions.

Workers, farmers and young people organized important mobilizations in the spring of 2011 to protest legislation pushed by Walker to limit collective bargaining rights for public workers, sharply increase their payments for health care and pensions, and eliminate mandatory dues check-off for public workers’ unions. So

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Spring 'Militant' subscription campaign				
April 14 - June 17 (week 8)				
Country	quota	sold	%	2,400
UNITED STATES				
Los Angeles*	170	163	96%	2140 should be
Lincoln**	45	43	96%	
Atlanta**	200	188	94%	
Philadelphia	90	84	93%	
Denver***	14	13	93%	
Boston	60	55	92%	
New York	260	238	92%	
Seattle*	190	172	91%	
Chicago*	170	151	89%	
Twin Cities*	155	133	86%	
San Francisco	175	143	82%	
Des Moines*	140	114	81%	
Houston	90	68	76%	
Washington*	75	55	73%	
Miami	100	73	73%	
Pittsburgh†	6	4	67%	
Total U.S.	1940	1697	87%	
UNITED KINGDOM				
London*	140	136	97%	
Manchester*	60	61	102%	
UK Total	200	197	99%	
CANADA*	97	91	94%	
NEW ZEALAND*	85	85	100%	
AUSTRALIA*	75	70	93%	
Total	2397	2140	89%	
Should be	2400	2136	89%	
* Raised goal **Raised twice † New to scoreboard				

US military shift to Asia, India alliance, targets China

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

In a one-week visit to Southeast Asia in early June, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta played up U.S. military shifts toward the Asia-Pacific region aimed at countering the growing influence and military power of China.

The U.S. Navy plans to place 60 percent of its battleships in the Pacific over the next eight years, up from 50 percent now, Panetta said at the Shangri-La Dialogue annual meeting of Asian defense ministers in Singapore. “That will include six aircraft carriers in this region, a majority of our cruisers, destroyers, Littoral Combat Ships, and submarines.”

In addition, the number and size of U.S. military exercises and other naval activity in the region will increase, Panetta said. Last year U.S. forces participated in 172 military exercises in the area.

Recent advances in Chinese military technology, as well as rapid acquisition and production of modern weaponry, poses an emerging challenge to U.S. imperialism’s dominance of the Pacific. Major Chinese military innovations include the development of a new generation of stealth jet fighters and the world’s first land-based anti-ship ballistic missile designed to take

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Subscription drive poised for victory

BY LOUIS MARTIN

In the final stretch of an international campaign to win 2,400 new and renewed subscribers to the *Militant*, with a few more days to go, we are on target at 2,140.

According to the chart at left, communist workers in several regions are poised to go over their local quotas—if they have not already done so as in Manchester, England. Denver raised its quota for the second time last week.

Two books by Jack Barnes, *Malcolm X*, *Black Liberation*, and *the Road to Workers Power* as well as *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning: The Fraud of Education Reform Under Capitalism*, are offered to subscribers at a special price. (See ad on page 3.)

“It’s important to get a paper that has information about other struggles,” said Sydney Coe, a forklift operator on strike against Davis Wire

Continued on page 3

‘Our strike is strong’ say Texas Machinists

Reject Lockheed’s concession demands



International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District Lodge 776
Striking Machinists confront scabs June 4 at entrance to Lockheed plant in Fort Worth, Texas.

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON AND MICHAEL FITZSIMMONS

FORT WORTH, Texas—Picketing around the clock, Machinists here are holding firm in their strike against Lockheed Martin Corp.

More than 3,300 workers have been on strike here since April 23, according to company figures. Another 350 union members work at Lockheed’s

testing facilities at Edwards Air Force Base in California and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in Maryland where Machinists are also on strike.

“We’re on strike because the company won’t give us what we need,” Maria Gupton, a composite binder, told the *Militant*. “Now they are trying to pressure us to go back to work.”

Continued on page 4

Hundreds of groups, unions support June 17 stop-and-frisk protest in NY

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK—The June 17 protest march against the New York cops’ “stop-and-frisk” offensive against working people is getting a wide

hearing and winning broad support. The action is called by the NAACP, area unions, and hundreds of Black rights, Latino rights, religious and other groups.

In the first three months of 2012, cops accosted 203,500 people, a 10 percent increase from the year before, on track to make over 800,000 stop and frisks in the year. Nearly 90 percent of the stops involved Black and Latino males.

As of June 11, more than 230 groups are listed on the march’s website in support of the action, from numerous

Continued on page 4

Steelworkers ‘won’t give up’ in Rio Tinto lockout fight

BY KATY LEROUGETEL AND JOE YOUNG

ALMA, Quebec—“I won’t give up for anything in the world,” Carl Larouche, an operator at Rio Tinto Alcan’s aluminum smelter here, told the *Militant*. Larouche is one of 780 members of United Steelworkers Local 9490 who continue to stand firm as the lockout by the mining giant enters its sixth month.

The company aims to gain wide leeway to replace union workers as they retire with subcontractors paid half the wage. During the lockout, the

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Solidarity boosts spirit of Caterpillar strikers	3
US airstrikes incite anger in Afghanistan, Pakistan	6
10 Calif. prisoners sue to end solitary confinement	9

Mining giant charged with 2 workers’ deaths in Canada

BY JOE YOUNG

MONTREAL—The Ontario Ministry of Labour laid charges May 31 against international mining giant Vale and a company supervisor in the deaths of two miners at Vale’s Stobie Mine in Sudbury, Ontario, in June 2011. Jason Chenier, 35, and Jordan Fram, 26, were working in a tunnel when they were buried by a torrent of muck, a wet mixture of mud and ore.

The company is facing nine charges with potential fines of \$500,000 for each charge. An unnamed supervisor faces six charges, for which he could receive a maximum penalty of \$150,000 in fines and six years in prison if convicted.

The company is accused of failure to ensure worksites at the mine were “free from accumulation or flows of water which might endanger workers in the area” for allowing work to proceed under hazardous conditions, among other charges.

United Steelworkers Local 6500, which represents Vale miners and smelter workers in the Sudbury area, conducted its own investigation of the deaths and released a report Feb. 29 calling for criminal charges against the company.

“We believe the charges against Vale are warranted,” said Rick Bertrand, president of Local 6500, in a May 31 USW media statement. “However, these charges against Vale fall far short of the urgent, comprehensive action that is needed to better protect workers and ensure justice for families whose loved ones are needlessly killed on the job.”

Vale released a statement the following day: “We need to consider the charges very carefully before we determine how we will proceed. Until that time, and as this is now before the court system, we will not be commenting further on the matter. ... Our own investigation concluded that there were a number of factors contributing to the tragic deaths of Jason and Jordan. As a result, a plan of action, including more than 30 recommendations, is being implemented to put control measures in place to address the contributing factors identified through our investigation.”

“From what I’m told there are still a lot of water issues there four months after Vale reopened the mine and they are running muck through it,” Paul Theriault, who works at Vale’s smelter in Sudbury, told the *Militant*. “Not much has changed. About 25 years ago that kind of problem was fixed at the Creighton Mine. They have to spend money to save lives and they won’t do it.”

“I’d like to see the supervisor do maximum time so it sets a precedent that they can’t get away with it,” commented Tim Levesque, who works at Vale’s Coleman Mine.

In 2004 the criminal code was amended so that corporations and their executives and managers could be held criminally responsible for putting workers’ lives in danger. Ken Neumann, national director for Canada of the USW, told CBC News that since then “despite 8,000 deaths, not a single executive, director or manager has been jailed.”

15 year old killed by cops in South San Francisco



Militant photos by Willie Cotton

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif.—“I’ve lived here for 50 years and they just killed my nephew,” Dolores Piper said as she protested outside the Arco gas station here where 15-

year-old Derrick Gaines was killed by cops June 5.

Derrick and a friend were walking from a McDonald’s when they were stopped by a police officer. When Derrick ran, the cop chased and fatally shot him. Police claim Derrick pulled out a gun. A pistol was recovered, but friends and family don’t believe Derrick threatened the cop’s life.

Supporters of Derrick Gaines have gathered for several days at the Arco station, with signs to protest the killing. Many passersby honk in support. Others have said Derrick got what he deserved.

“I have a 15-year-old son. It could have been him,” said Mona Uli-López, who helped organize the sign making. She and her son have been at the protest every day.

The two youth were stopped because they were “engaging in suspicious behavior,” police spokesman Capt. Mike Brosnan told reporters at a news conference a day after the killing. Brosnan would not comment on whether Derrick pointed a gun at the cop.

Many of the protesters are in their early teens and report an increase in cop harassment of youth since school let out a week ago. They are demanding cops stop racial profiling, which they believe led to the death of their friend.

—WILLIE COTTON

NY cop indicted for manslaughter in killing of Ramarley Graham

BY JOHN STUDER

NEW YORK, June 13—Richard Haste, the undercover narcotics cop who shot and killed Ramarley Graham, turned himself in this morning after being indicted for first- and second-degree manslaughter by a Bronx grand jury.

Haste killed Graham, an 18-year-old Black youth, in the bathroom of his apartment in full view of his 6-year-old brother and his grandmother. Cops claim they broke the door down and shot

Graham because they received a report he had a gun and ran away from them. Graham was filmed on surveillance video walking, not running, into his building and was unarmed.

Hundreds have demonstrated demanding the cops who killed Graham be arrested and charged.

“The whole family will be at the arraignment,” Jeffrey Emdmin, lawyer for the Graham family, told the *New York Daily News*.

THE MILITANT

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The ‘Militant’ covers fights for women’s rights, from the U.S. to Indonesia to Turkey and beyond. Women’s right to abortion, to control her body and her life, is a central aspect of the working-class battle for women’s equality.



Thousands march in Istanbul June 3 against government plans to curb abortion rights.

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

Subscription campaign

Continued from front page
in Kent, Wash. “I don’t feel alone knowing that other workers are going through the same thing, standing for their rights.”

Coe is a recent *Militant* subscriber. He was talking at 12:30 a.m. June 10 on the picket line with a group of Socialist Workers campaigners headed by Mary Martin, SWP candidate for governor of Washington state.

The 85 Teamster-organized workers at Davis Wire have been on strike since May 21 for safety, improved conditions and against increased health insurance costs, among other things.

Coe’s interest in a working-class newspaper that helps forge links between working-class fighters is not an exception.

“The *Militant* is more reliable than other news,” Romelito Charles told SWP members in Miami June 7. “It tells you the true story because its interests are pure. It’s not for profit.” They were on their way back from

Solidarity boosts spirit of Caterpillar strikers

BY LAURA ANDERSON
JOLIET, Ill.—Unionists from the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council No. 14 in Chicago brought water and food as they joined the IAM Local 851 picket line here where Machinists have been on strike since May 1.

Tracy Johnson, a member of the IUPAT and Chicago Young Workers, helped organize the solidarity action. “We organized this because we feel that a struggle for one is a struggle for all,” she said. “Most importantly this is to build relationships since we see a lack of unions sticking together. We wanted to come down and show them support.”

On the lively picket strikers said they had just had a union meeting that morning. “The membership is strong, everyone is on the same page. We know the way we can lose is if we beat ourselves,” said picket captain and union steward Steve Westhoff.

Three other Caterpillar plants that the Joliet facility feeds hydraulics to have run out of valve controls, according to IAM Local 851 President Tim O’Brien.

“I know a lot of people taking action to prepare and get part-time jobs and stay out here until the battle is over,” stated Kendrick Harris on the picket line.

The Machinists thanked the painters and others for coming. Four workers from the postal union also joined the picket that day.

an action Charles helped organize at two Walmart stores demanding that a worker the company fired because he is a well-known proponent of a United Food and Commercial Workers union organizing campaign there be rehired with back pay.

Charles renewed his subscription for six months and gave \$10 to the Militant Fighting Fund.

The final day of the campaign will coincide in New York with a major demonstration against the anti-working-class stop-and-frisk policy by local cops. Members of the Socialist Workers Party have built the event and are expecting to meet many workers and young people who will be interested in subscribing to the socialist newspaper.

Dan Fein, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, campaigned with a bullhorn in Harlem June 10, urging workers to attend the June 17 protest.

“I don’t agree,” Simone Vines, a young Black woman, told Fein. “Stop and frisk could save my life.”

“The purpose of stop and frisk is to intimidate workers,” Fein said. “The bosses and their cops do it to emphasize who has the power and who is in charge on the streets.

“It is true that some workers prey on each other, it’s a reflection of the dog-eat-dog values of capitalism,” he added. “That can’t be solved through



Truck driver Jack Simmons, right, signs up for subscription to *Militant* June 9 at his home. At left is Harry D’Agostino, who was selling paper door to door in Omaha, Neb.

the brutality of capitalist justice or prison life.

“Working-class solidarity and our sense of worth can only be gained through struggles—for jobs, higher wages and other working-class issues,” Fein said.

Vines told him she enjoyed hearing about the socialist campaign, bought a copy of the *Militant* and said she

would think more about the issue. Another woman, who had listened to the exchange, got a subscription. Altogether six subscriptions were sold during the afternoon of campaigning.

The final scoreboard of the drive and a balance sheet on the effort will be printed in the next issue of the *Militant*, which will be mailed July 5 following a two-week break.

First-time contributors help put fund over the top

BY LEA SHERMAN
A big hooray and thank you to all our contributors! We’ve gone over the top!

Working people have contributed more than \$120,000 to the Militant Fighting Fund, which keeps the socialist newsweekly publishing. All areas, except New York and San Francisco, made their local goals, some going substantially over.

Contributions from a number of workers giving to the *Militant* for the first time put us over the top, wrote Tom Baumann from Miami.

“I donated to help the struggle of the working man,” Joaquin, a ware-

house worker and first-time contributor, told Baumann.

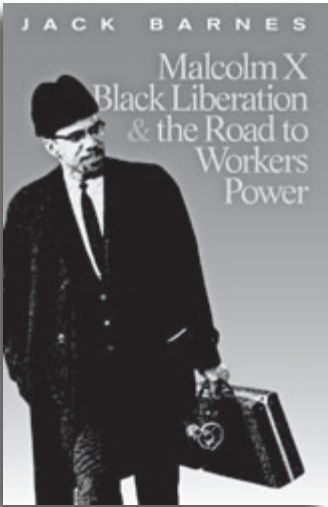
Kyle Enty, a substitute teacher, is a new contributor from Philadelphia. He shows other teachers the *Militant*. “I find that it’s important to keep information about working-class struggles moving out to other working people. Especially from a worker’s perspective instead of the mainstream media,” Enty told *Militant* distributors there.

Nine new contributors helped Des Moines go over their goal, wrote Ellen Brickley. Six were workers who had participated in the 10-month fight against the lockout by Roquette America in Keokuk, Iowa, last year.

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by Jack Barnes



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—Jack Barnes

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by Jack Barnes
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<i>‘Militant’ Fighting Fund</i>			
April 14–June 4 (week 7)			
Country	Quota	Paid	%
UNITED STATES			
Houston	\$4,000	\$4,271	107%
Atlanta	\$8,600	\$8,958	104%
Washington	\$7,600	\$7,825	103%
Lincoln	\$375	\$383	102%
Seattle	\$8,800	\$8,981	102%
Des Moines	\$2,200	\$2,230	101%
Twin Cities*	\$7,200	\$7,266	101%
Los Angeles	\$9,000	\$9,059	101%
Miami	\$3,200	\$3,219	101%
Boston*	\$4,000	\$4,012	100%
Philadelphia*	\$4,400	\$4,406	100%
Chicago	\$10,000	\$10,000	100%
New York	\$21,000	\$19,795	94%
San Francisco	\$15,000	\$13,820	92%
Total U.S.	\$105,375	\$104,225	99%
CANADA	\$7,000	\$8,203	117%
NEW ZEALAND	\$4,500	\$4,730	105%
AUSTRALIA	\$1,500	\$1,520	101%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	\$700	\$975	139%
Manchester	\$375	\$525	140%
Total UK	\$1,075	\$1,500	140%
FRANCE	\$320	\$357	112%
Total	\$119,770	\$120,535	100%
Should be	\$120,000	\$120,000	100%
* Raised goal			

A celebration of the life and political contributions of

Stu Singer

Longtime member and then supporter of the Socialist Workers Party
Singer died June 1 after a battle with cancer

Saturday, June 16

Reception 2 p.m. Program 3 p.m.
Armenian Ballroom (G-Hall)
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Greece: meeting launches new book on fight to free Cuban 5

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece—Forty-five people participated in an event at the Cuban Embassy here June to launch *The Five Cuban Fighters in U.S. Jails*.

The Greek-language book was published as a contribution to the international fight to free Gerardo Hernández, Antonio Guerrero, Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and René González, who were framed up by the U.S. government for their work in defense of the Cuban Revolution.

The event was organized by the embassy, the José Martí Cultural Association, and Diethnes Vima, the book's publisher.

"This book reflects the stature of these men who have resisted for nearly 14 years," said Eliselia Díaz Suárez, chargée d'affaires of the Cuban Embassy, who opened the meeting.

The Cuban Five, as they are known internationally, were arrested by the FBI in September 1998 in Miami and railroaded to prison by the U.S. government on trumped-up charges that included conspiracy to commit espionage.

The five had been carrying out assignments from the Cuban government to monitor armed counterrevolutionary groups that were conducting dangerous provocations against Cuba and have a long record of murderous attacks and acts of sabotage directed against the Cuban Revolution and its supporters.

Much of the material in the new book is based on articles from the *Militant* included in *The Cuban Five: Who They Are, Why They Were Framed, Why They Should Be Free*, published last year by Pathfinder Press.

The book also contains prison letters and poems by the Cuban Five, drawn in large part from *El dulce abismo, cartas de amor y esperanza de cinco familias cubanas* (The sweet abyss, letters of love and hope from five Cuban families), published by Editorial José Martí, Havana, in 2004.

Publication of the book "becomes even more significant in moments as difficult as those the Greek people are living through today," said Díaz Suárez.

Natasha Terlexis, president of Diethnes Vima, returned to that theme in her presentation. The book, "product of a joint effort between the José Martí Cultural Association and Diethnes Vima," she said, "provides a tool in the Greek language to make the case known among those involved in working-class resistance to the capitalist crisis we are living through," she said.

Terlexis pointed to the example of

the 400 steelworkers on strike for more than six months at Elliniki Halivourgia. They were presented with a copy of the new book on the picket line June 1. "The union president and all those at the picket line signed a statement demanding freedom for the five," she said.

"To understand this case, we have to understand that these five fighters are the product of the five decades of the socialist revolution in Cuba," said Nikos Karandreas, president of the Greek-Cuban Friendship Association and author of the book's introduction. That revolution is an example to the peoples of the world "that there is another road for toilers besides capitalism," he added, and "that is what's behind Washington's hostility."

Several poems from the book were read, accompanied by music from guitarist Manolis Androulidakis.

The event was closed by Denis Lázaro Sáez, a member of the José Martí Cultural Association, who read an open letter to the five that will accompany copies of the book to be sent to each of them.

A total of 10 copies of the new book were sold at the event. One participant took another 10 to sell to members of an amateur soccer club, who donated their club's banner to be sent to the five.

Atlanta meeting celebrates life of Maceo Dixon



Militant photos by Bob Braxton

CLARKSTON, Ga.—Some 75 people attended a meeting here June 10 to celebrate the life of Maceo Dixon and his four decades of political contributions to building the communist movement as a

leader and supporter of the Socialist Workers Party. Dixon died May 30 following a several-month hospitalization after collapsing at his job. Inset is Sam Manuel, a leader of the party who lives in Atlanta, speaking at the meeting.

During his decades of political activity, Dixon was deeply involved in many working-class fights and social struggles. Among these, as several speakers recounted, was the Boston school desegregation fight in 1974-75, of which Dixon was a central leader. Most recently, Dixon helped lead a project of party supporters to distribute books by Pathfinder Press on revolutionary working-class politics to workers and others around the world, including workers behind bars.

An article on the meeting is planned for a subsequent issue of the *Militant*.

—JANICE LYNN

'Our strike is strong' say Texas Machinists

Continued from front page

But it's the company that needs to get back to the bargaining table. Our strike is strong."

The workers, members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 776, have been on strike since they voted by a 94 percent margin to reject company proposals that would slash pensions for new hires and significantly increase the cost of health insurance for all workers.

"Gains like these were made by fighting for them in the past, and if we lose them it will be hard to win them back," said Chris Hanska, a 35-year-old field and service mechanic.

On Monday, June 4, the unionists started organizing expanded early morning rallies to greet the vans of temporary replacement workers Lockheed is busing in. Lockheed announced three weeks ago that it was hiring the strike-breakers from PMG, a Bloomington, Minn., temporary staffing agency that specializes in providing scab labor.

The factory here builds the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter for the U.S. mili-

tary. Lockheed has been under pressure from the Pentagon to lower costs of its latest-generation fighter jet, as the U.S. government looks to reduce its expenditures in response to mounting fiscal problems, exacerbated by the deepening worldwide crisis of capitalism.

Chief Executive Bob Stevens "said Lockheed was focused on maintaining its profit margins, largely through cost-cutting measures and higher international sales, even as defense spending declined," said the *New York Times*.

Lockheed recently moved center wing assembly work for the F-35 to Marietta, Ga., a basis for one of six unfair labor practice complaints filed by the union with the National Labor Relations Board. Company spokesman Joe Stout claims the decision to move the work was not related to the strike, reported the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*.

The union has also filed a complaint against the company for pressuring

workers by sending letters saying they had to maintain payments on loans during the strike.

Some 200 have returned to work, according to union spokesman Bob Wood. "On the other hand, we know we are having a big impact on the company."

As the strike enters its eighth week workers are organizing to help each other deal with the challenges of being on strike. This week the union began a program of member-to-member food donations.

"I'm a single mother with two kids and I've gone through my savings," Jackie Elrod, a 32-year-old assembler with nine years at Lockheed, told the *Militant*. "But I am here because I understand what the strike's about. My 11 year old would like to work here some day. It's about the future."

Strike donations and support letters can be sent to District Lodge 776, 7711 Clifford St., Ft. Worth, TX 76108.

NY stop-and-frisk protest

Continued from front page

labor unions and churches to immigrant rights organizations throughout the region.

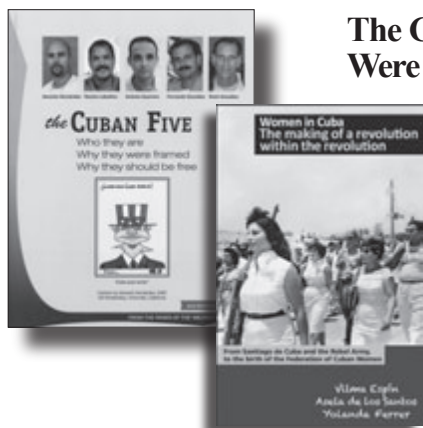
Joined by NAACP President Benjamin Jealous, National Action Network leader Al Sharpton and union officials, representatives of a number of gay rights organizations announced their support for the protest at a press conference June 5 outside the Stonewall Inn, a bar where patrons' defiance of cops in a 1969 raid set off battles that inspired broader struggles against anti-gay discrimination.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke in defense of his administration's stop-and-frisk policy at the First Baptist Church of

Brownsville, a predominantly Black neighborhood in Brooklyn. He said the program was crucial to stopping crime and getting guns off the streets. Feigning empathy with those angry at the racist anti-working-class program, Bloomberg vowed to ensure it was "conducted appropriately, with as much courtesy as possible."

"The practice needs to be mended, not ended," the mayor said.

Bloomberg then hurried from the church service to walk in the annual Puerto Rican Day Parade in Manhattan where a contingent marched to protest stop and frisk, led by the NAACP's Jealous, Service Employees International Union President George Gresham and others.



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by Vilma Espín, Asela de los Santos, Yolanda Ferrer - \$15 (normally \$20)

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ON THE PICKET LINE

Illinois bearing workers fight for union recognition

MACOMB, Ill.—Workers at NTN-Bower Corporation, a manufacturer of bearings, will vote June 21-22 on whether to be represented by the United Steelworkers union.

“Seniority in the plant means nothing,” Greg Frakes, who works in the plant and supports the union, told the *Militant*.

“No matter how long I work I won’t have health care when I retire,” said Todd Mason, 36, a third generation employee at the plant. All pensions have been frozen and workers only have a 401(k) for their retirement option.

“The company has hired a union-busting outfit called LRI—Labor Relations Institute,” said union organizer Marc York.

Frakes and other workers said the company organizes compulsory weekly meetings where LRI presents anti-union videos and speeches.

Temporary workers in the plant make minimum wage. Some have worked as long as two years without being hired by the company. Those working directly for the company start production jobs at \$9.99 an hour, and wages rise to \$16.07 after two years.

NTN-Bower also has a bearings plant in Hamilton, Ala., which is organized by the United Auto Workers union.

The company has not responded to calls from the *Militant* for comment.

—Helen Meyers

Houston building cleaners march for higher wages

HOUSTON—Chanting “No contract! We strike!” union janitors marched through downtown June 8, stopping to rally in front of large office buildings they clean.

“We are here rallying for a decent wage,” janitor Marisol Quintana told the *Militant*. “They don’t want to pay us a wage we can live on.”

Most janitors make less than \$8 an hour and work fewer than 40 hours a week. They are seeking wages of \$10 an hour. The Service Employees International Union Local 1, representing some 3,200 janitors, voted June 5 to authorize a strike.

“We are also here to demand Prichard Industries end the lockout of 11 workers at Greenway Plaza,” Maria Xiquin, an SEIU organizer, told the *Militant*. The 11 janitors were locked out after participating with nearly 100 workers in a one-day work stoppage June 5.

Contract negotiations with the cleaning companies for the big office buildings in Houston broke down when janitors’ contracts expired May 31.

—Jacquie Henderson

Calif. hotel workers strike for ‘benefits, wages, respect’

SAN JOSE, Calif.—“We can’t stay quiet! We have to let our demands be known,” said Gregorio Arce, one of some 250 hotel workers who went on strike June 4-7 at the Doubletree Hotel here.

Rosa López, a room cleaner at the hotel for 14 years, summed up what they are fighting for in three words: “Benefits, wages and respect.”

The workers, members of UNITE HERE Local 19, told the *Militant* that wages here are below what is paid to hotel workers doing similar work in San Francisco. Yet over the past 11 months of negotiations the company has not budged from plans to impose higher health care costs and a wage freeze of four years for workers who receive tips and of 18 months for those who don’t.

All but a few workers at the hotel walked out. They were joined on the picket line by workers from other area hotels and members of UNITE HERE Local 2 from San Francisco. According to workers, services at the hotel, owned by the Hilton Corporation, were disrupted during the four-day strike, despite the bosses’ hiring of temporary replacement scabs.

—Betsey Stone

Mass. nuclear workers locked out after rejecting concession pact

PLYMOUTH, Mass.—Members of Utility Workers Union of America Local 369 put up picket lines at the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant here June 6. The workers were locked out by plant owner Entergy Corp. after they voted down the latest contract offer. The company’s proposals would have increased workers’ health insurance costs by hundreds of dollars per month, far more than the 2 percent pay raise in the proposal. With approval



Militant/Betsey Stone

Workers picket Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, Calif., June 5, on second day of a four-day strike demanding same wages that hotel workers doing similar work in nearby San Francisco get.

from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Entergy is running the plant with managers and contract workers hired in preparation for the lockout.

—Kevin Dwire and Sarah Ullman

Teamsters’ picket line solid at Wash. Davis Wire strike

Members of Teamsters Local 117 on strike against Davis Wire Corp. are standing strong in Kent, Wash. Their picket lines are up 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Teamsters report that before the strike began May 21 bosses at the Kent plant recalled workers they had laid off. Only one recalled worker returned, for one day. “We talked to him and he came back out. He stood on the picket line with us today,” striker Hi Tang told the *Militant* June 7.

—Clay Dennison

Greece: striking steelworkers face court and scabs

ATHENS, Greece—The government here has begun to move against 400 workers on strike against steelmaker Elliniki Halivourgia. On June 5, after seven and a half months on the picket line, an Athens court ruled the strike illegal. The court justified its decision with the bosses’ argument that the strike was called without a secret ballot or the statutory 24-hour advance

notice to the company.

The steelworkers are fighting cuts to hours and wages and demanding the company reinstate more than 100 fired coworkers. Several days before the court’s ruling, workers conducted a secret ballot vote in which 204 voted to maintain the strike and 42 voted against.

“From early in the morning [June 6] the police chief had about 50 cops and riot police buses parked two kilometers [1.2 miles] from the gate,” said Sofia Roditi, wife of a striker and member of the workers’ Women’s Support Committee. “The strikebreakers we all know very well showed up at 8 a.m. They hurled curses and insults, hoping to provoke us into a scuffle so the cops could intervene.”

Meeting right after the court decision came down, the local union executive board issued a call to rally around the strikers and push back “the hired strikebreaking apparatus of the company and its attempts to provoke and slander our struggle.”

The pickets stood firm thanks to the solidarity and physical presence of supporters, as the defense of the picket swelled to about 1,000 people, Roditi said. “Thanks to this solidarity we are able to keep standing out here and demand justice.”

—Maria Plessa and Natasha Terlexis

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



June 26, 1987

DELANO, Calif.—More than 3,000 farm workers and their families from all over the state converged on this small farming town to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the United Farm Workers of America. Many of the union members, both veterans and new members, talked about the challenges facing the union.

In the 1960s and 1970s the UFW won collective bargaining rights for California’s farm workers by waging a struggle that won broad national support. This fight included a boycott of grapes and lettuce. Passage of the Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975 made California the first, and still today, the only state where farm workers have the legal right to petition for union recognition.

After the 1975 victory, the UFW won many contracts and at its peak had 100,000 members. However, in recent years the union has been under heavy attack, and the number is down to 30,000.



June 25, 1962

NEW YORK—While the wealthy businessmen and politicians who sit on the board of trustees of the Beth-El Hospital in Brooklyn are still trying to break the strike of their non-professional employees, workers at another hospital in the city have struck on the same issue—union recognition.

Picketing began June 18 at the Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat hospital for recognition of Local 1199 of the Drug and Hospital Employees Union. The 150 nurse’s aides, porters, dietary and cleaning workers there—almost all of them Negroes and Puerto Ricans—now average \$47.00 a week in wages.

“The money is little enough,” said one picket on the line today, “but the real issue is just plain union recognition. We work hard and don’t get any rest and get pushed around and we don’t have any rights or dignity at all in there. That’s why we voted to strike.”



May 1, 1937

The great wave of sit-down strikes has established very clearly that this particular tactic is one of the most popular weapons developed by the working class in its long struggle against the capitalists.

The sit-down has definitely shown that it is (1) highly effective in winning workers’ rights and (2) highly effective in preventing the violence of employers from resulting in the wholesale clubbing and killing of workers commonly practiced upon unprotected picket lines.

Harassed by this new working class weapon, employers have filled the air with cries that it is “illegal” and “lawless.” That these epithets were the stock in trade of capitalists speaking against all strikes only a few months ago seems to have been completely forgotten. The old-fashioned picket line seems to have become “legal” and “American” all at once.



US airstrikes incite anger in Afghanistan, Pakistan

BY LOUIS MARTIN

In early June two U.S. airstrikes in Afghanistan and Pakistan highlighted the marked escalation of such attacks and growing tensions in Washington's relations with Islamabad and Kabul over the last few months.

On June 6 NATO air forces bombed a house full of civilians in the Logar province of Afghanistan. In addition to an undetermined number of Taliban fighters, 18 civilians were killed, among them four women, two elderly men, three teenage boys and nine young children.

The attack took place in a region where U.S. troops are conducting a major military offensive aimed at maintaining control around Kabul, the country's capital, and pushing Islamist fighters back toward the Pakistani border. The move, reinforced by the transfer of some 5,000 troops from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division, is planned to extend through what U.S. generals call "the current fighting season," which stretches from now through October. Washington has announced that 23,000 U.S. troops will be drawn down by the end of September, leaving 68,000 in the country.

The scope of the slaughter made international news June 7 when local residents displayed to reporters bodies of women and children piled in vans.

"This is unacceptable. It cannot be tolerated," said Afghan President Hamid Karzai in a statement demonstratively released during a four-hour stopover in Kabul by Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to discuss the status of the 11-year war.

Marine Corps Gen. John Allen, the U.S. commander of NATO-led forces, announced June 10 that airstrikes on Taliban in civilian homes would be restricted.

The limited character of these restrictions was indicated by an unnamed U.S. defense official quoted by the *New York Times*. "When there is concern over the presence of civilians, air-delivered munitions will not be employed while other means are available," he said.

A CIA drone-fired missile struck a compound in the tribal area of North

Waziristan in northern Pakistan June 4, killing Abu Yahya al-Libi, an al-Qaeda deputy leader, according to U.S. officials. Up to five people were killed in the attack, according to the *Times*.

The Pakistani government condemned the strike, one among eight in two weeks in that area of Pakistan.

There has been a sharp escalation of U.S. drone strikes in northern Pakistan since the end of April, coinciding with a marked deterioration in relations between the two governments.

The Pakistani government shut down Washington's use of Pakistani land routes to bring supplies to Afghanistan after 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed by U.S. airstrikes near the



AP Photo/Ihsanullah Majroh

Afghanis gather by house destroyed in NATO airstrike June 6 in Logar province, south of Kabul, Afghanistan. Night raid reportedly killed 18 civilians, including nine young children.

Afghan border in November. Islamabad has demanded to no avail that Washington apologize for the killing.

At a NATO summit in Chicago

last month, President Barack Obama refused to meet with his Pakistani counterpart for lack of an agreement on the supply roads.

US military shifts to Asia, targets China

Continued from front page
out aircraft carriers.

Last year the Pentagon announced its "AirSea Battle" war strategy, a plan that entails coordinated U.S. Air Force and Navy offensive operations in the Western Pacific tacitly directed at China.

These battle guidelines are raising concerns "even among military circles," noted the *Financial Times*, with some warning "that the new doctrine will aggravate relations with China unnecessarily."

Panetta's seven-day trip was aimed at bolstering military ties with governments throughout the region. In his visit to India, Panetta described the country as a "linchpin" in Washington's regional military strategy. "We will expand our military partnerships and our presence in the arc extending from the Western Pacific and East Asia into the Indian Ocean Region," he stated, according to the *Times of India*.

A month and a half earlier New Delhi test-fired a long-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead as far as Shanghai. Washington, which since 2008 has been providing India access to civil nuclear technology, responded favorably to this development, in contrast to its campaign to terminate the nuclear programs of North Korea and Iran.

"India's build-up is being watched with a benign eye by those who see it as a useful counterweight to China's rising military power in south Asia," said an April 20 editorial in the *Financial Times*.

Washington is also exploiting disputes between Beijing and several Southeast Asian governments—Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Vietnam—over territorial waters and islands in the South China Sea. More than half of the world's supertanker commerce travels through the South China Sea and it is believed to hold vast reserves of oil and gas.

Along these lines, the U.S. government is stepping up its military presence in the Philippines, which has been involved in a two-month standoff with China over control of the Scarborough Shoals. Military exercises and the number of U.S. troops and ships being rotated through the country are "ramping

up," said the *New York Times*. At the same time, relations between Manila and Beijing have been deteriorating in recent years.

In April Washington and Manila conducted joint military exercises near disputed territory in the South China Sea. That same month some 200 U.S. Marines arrived in Darwin, Australia, where Washington is expanding its military presence as part of its growing strategic ring around China.

Manila is also asking Washington for more military hardware, including patrol vessels and aircraft, radar systems and coast watch stations, reported the *Army Times*.

During Panetta's visit to Singapore, the government backed Washington's request to deploy four U.S. warships

there, double the amount previously agreed upon.

Relations between Vietnam and Washington were normalized in 1995. In recent years U.S. imperialism has sought to exploit rifts between Hanoi and Beijing to strengthen ties with the Vietnamese government. Twenty U.S. vessels have docked in Vietnam since 2003, military officials told the *Wall Street Journal*.

On June 3, Panetta "became the first Pentagon chief to set foot in Cam Ranh Bay," a major port and airfield for U.S. forces during the Vietnam War, reported Agence France-Presse. He "described the deep-water harbour as a strategically valuable port that could support the U.S. military's focus on the Pacific," according to the news agency.

Steelworkers fight Rio Tinto

Continued from front page

Quebec government has been buying excess electricity generated by Rio Tinto's privately owned dams, helping the company weather the lockout.

"This is a conflict that is going to continue for a while," USW Local 9490 President Marc Maltais said in a phone interview.

Étienne Jacques, company chief operating officer in North America, told the Alma City Council May 14 that he wanted a settlement before the summer. Two days later mayors of Alma and Saguenay and other local officials in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region called on the union to "seize the opportunity to settle."

The smelter here is one of six in Quebec owned by Rio Tinto Alcan, which owns an alumina refinery, six hydro-electric dams, and part of two other smelters. It also operates the Roberval-Saguenay Railway and a port facility at Port Alfred.

On May 30 and 31, government mediators met separately with the union and then the company.

"When we arrive to negotiate, they ask 'Do you want to talk about guaranteed minimum number of union jobs?' and they turn on their heel," said picket Luc Côté. "It's a pretext that the union's stuck on unrealistic demands."

The company is running production

at one-third normal capacity, according to company press liaison Claudine Gagnon. Quebec's so-called antiscab law allows only supervisory personnel hired before the conflict to cross picket lines. Yet Laval Larouche, who has 27 years in the plant, echoed comments by other pickets when he said, "I see a lot of unknown faces driving in."

Radio-Canada reported April 7 on a government investigation confirming Rio Tinto's use of strikebreakers. Maltais said the union is gathering information for a possible lawsuit.

According to locked-out Steelworker Suzy Fournier, organizer of the 200-strong "wife picket" on April 21, small businesses regularly donate items to the picket line. A caterer provides spaghetti for lunch every Wednesday and several cheese factories make donations.

On July 23, the contract of the 1,150 workers at the Rio Tinto aluminum smelter at Kitimat, British Columbia, expires. "A lot of jobs were specifically discussed in 2007—now the company wants to contract them out. It's the same issue as in Alma," Richard Belmont, president of the Canadian Autoworkers local that organizes the smelter, told the *Militant*.

To send solidarity messages and for more information, consult the union local's website: www.solidaritealma.org.

Recommended reading



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Changes in Israel, world pose challenges for Israeli rulers

Tel Aviv adjusts policy on settlements, Haredim, seeks accommodation with Hamas, scapegoats immigrants

BY SETH GALINSKY

“The state of Israel needs stability,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the Likud Party, told a May 8 press conference announcing the formation of a “national unity government” with Kadima, the main opposition party.

Netanyahu has sought to advance this “stability,” an elusive goal in a world increasingly marked by capitalist crisis and working-class resistance. He has made measured overtures to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas in the Gaza Strip; agreed to dismantle some Jewish settlements in the West Bank while promising to bolster others; scapegoated immigrant workers for the country’s growing economic and social problems; and taken initial steps to dismantle special government dispensation for the ultra-Orthodox *Haredim*, while maintaining the second-class status of Palestinian citizens of Israel amid small but persistent and potentially explosive fights against discrimination.

“Surprise Alliance Resets Israel Policy” is how the headline in the *Wall Street Journal* described the announcement of the new coalition.

On June 6 Netanyahu easily defeated a bill in the Israeli parliament that would have reversed a Supreme Court decision ordering the removal of the Ulpana Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank. Netanyahu had threatened to fire any minister who voted for the bill.

Ulpana consists of five apartment buildings housing some 30 families on privately owned Palestinian land on the outskirts of the larger Beit El Jewish settlement. The court has also ordered the demolition of the Migron settler outpost by Aug. 1.

Netanyahu promised he would build 300 more homes in Beit El. Some 500,000 Jewish Israelis now reside in the West Bank and Jerusalem, which were occupied by the Israeli regime during the “Six Day War” in 1967. More than 2.6 million Palestinians live there.

Integration of Haredim

The Netanyahu government has also initiated measures aimed at undermining the special status of Israel’s growing Haredim community. About 65 percent of Haredim men do not work so that they can study the Torah full-time, living off a small government subsidy. The

Supreme Court, with support from the government coalition, has set Aug. 1 as the end of the Haredim’s exemption from the Israeli army draft.

The special status of the Haredim is a source of resentment among many Israelis. It’s also a growing problem for a capitalist regime that, like its competitors worldwide, is looking to deepen the exploitation of wage labor and trim its government expenses.

The Haredim, the fastest growing group in Israel today, make up more than 10 percent of Israel’s population and 21 percent of all primary-school students. More than 60 percent live below the official poverty line.

Palestinian citizens of Israel

Palestinian citizens of Israel continue to face systematic discrimination in housing, jobs, language and access to government services, as well as harassment by cops and other police agencies. They represent about 20 percent of Israel’s population—a proportion that, like the Haredim, is growing.

“Israel is in the midst of an unprecedented social change,” wrote *Haaretz* editor-in chief Aluf Benn in February 2010. “Economic pressures, which are forcing Haredim to look for work and Jewish employers to take on Arabs, are fueling a slow change in the employment scene. ... But it is not enough.” Referring to Israel’s growing Haredi and Arab populations as a “time bomb on its doorstep,” he called for “buying in shops that employ Arabs and Haredim, hiring workers from these communities, renting apartments to them or simply watching television programs and channels that represent our multicultural mosaic.”

The changing demographics of Israel is also propelled by a net Jewish migration out of the country. In recognition of this irreversible trend, the Israeli rulers have retreated from the perspective of a “Greater Israel,” encompassing the West Bank and Gaza and beyond.

Instead, Tel Aviv is trying to find a way to redraw boundaries to maintain defensible borders, slow the growth of Palestinian citizens within it, and move toward some accommodation with the Palestinian bourgeois leaderships in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli government is also taking actions to encourage shifts already tak-



Oren Ziv/Active Stills

Tel Aviv march June 10 against sweeps targeting Sudanese and Eritrean immigrant workers.

ing place in Hamas, the Islamist group that dominates the Gaza Strip, and has vied for Palestinian allegiance with Fatah, which administers the West Bank.

In early March, when it was widely reported that Tel Aviv was considering attacking Iran’s nuclear facilities, Hamas made it clear that it was looking to stay out of any conflict.

“If there is a war between two powers, Hamas will not be part of such a war,” Salah Bardawil, a member of the group’s political bureau in Gaza City, told the London *Guardian*.

At the end of May the Israeli government handed over the remains of 91 Palestinians killed during armed conflicts with Israel going as far back as the 1970s to the Palestine Authority and Hamas.

“We hope that this humanitarian gesture will serve both as a confidence-building measure and help get the peace process back on track,” stated Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev.

700,000 ‘foreign’ workers

Like other relatively advanced capitalist countries, Israel has become a magnet for immigrant workers and refugees, who provide a source of cheap labor for the bosses.

At the end of May Netanyahu claimed that “illegal immigration” was threatening “national security and identity.”

“Currently there are 60,000 infiltrators in Israel,” Netanhayu said, referring to Sudanese and Eritrean refugees and others without work permits. “This number can easily reach 600,000.”

The Israeli government is erecting a 150-mile steel fence along the Israeli-Egyptian border to keep out undocumented workers and announced June 7 that it is building desert prison camps that could hold up to 25,000 immigrants.

“Most of those people arriving here are Muslims who think the country doesn’t belong to us, the white man,” Interior Minister Eli Yishai told the daily *Maariv*.

Arnon Soffer, a professor who heads up an immigration task force set up by Yishai, told the *Jerusalem Post* that there are 700,000 “foreigners” in Israel today, making up 10 percent of the population.

According to Soffer, there are 60,000 African refugees, 100,000-200,000 non-African foreign workers, and 100,000 tourists with expired visas. Among those

he considers foreigners are 300,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories but not the thousands of Jews who have emigrated from the former Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

In May and June, rightist demonstrators, encouraged by the government’s anti-immigrant measures, physically attacked African immigrants, vandalized African-owned stores and firebombed homes and a kindergarten.

On June 11 and 12 immigration cops started rounding up hundreds of immigrants without papers. Workers from South Sudan, Nigeria, China, Ghana and the Ivory Coast were picked up in the first few hours of the sweep.

To meet the bosses need for cheap labor, “they bring in immigrant workers from Thailand and the Philippines every day, even while they sign the deportation orders for the South Sudanese. It’s a revolving door,” said Noa Kaufman, who assists refugees for Kav Loved, the workers hotline, in a phone interview.

Kaufman said that Yishai’s statement was “shameful,” pointing out that Yishai is himself a *mizrahi*, a Jew of Middle Eastern descent. “He found people darker than himself to blame for all the problems of Israel,” she said.

Some 300 African immigrants carrying signs saying, “A refugee is not a cancer” and “We want refugee status” were joined by some south Tel Aviv residents at a protest against the anti-immigrant moves June 10.

Construction workers protest in Iran

The semi-official Iran Labor News Agency reported that some 500 construction workers demonstrated June 12 in front of Iran’s Majlis (parliament) building in Tehran against a bill annulling social insurance for construction workers. The demonstrators came from the capital as well as from northern provinces of the country.



Above, Har Homa Israeli settlement in West Bank. Inset, Migron outpost that Israeli Supreme Court ordered dismantled. Israeli government is building up some settlements while removing smaller ones as it presses Palestinian Authority to come to accommodation with Tel Aviv.

Du Bois: We'll win equality by 'unceasing agitation'

The following excerpt is from W.E.B. Du Bois Speaks: Speeches and Addresses 1890-1919. Du Bois was a prominent leader in the struggle for Black rights in the first half of the 20th century. This 1906 speech was given in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, to the second annual meeting of the Niagara Movement, a Black rights group that led to the foundation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1910. Copyright © 1970. Reprinted by permission of Pathfinder Press.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

BY W.E.B. DU BOIS

The men of the Niagara Movement coming from the toil of the year's hard work and pausing a moment from the earning of their daily bread turn toward the nation and again ask in the name of ten million the privilege of a hearing. In the past year the work of the Negro-hater has flourished in the land. Step by step the defenders of the rights of American citizens have retreated. The work of stealing the black man's ballot has progressed and the fifty and more representatives of stolen votes still sit in the nation's capital. Discrimination in travel and public accommodation has so spread that some of our weaker brethren are actually afraid to thunder against color discrimination as such



W.E.B. Du Bois (seated at center) and other members of Niagara Movement, predecessor to NAACP, at group's 1906 conference in Harper's Ferry, W.Va. Du Bois gave speech excerpted here, calling for building mass movement to fight for overthrow of racial segregation.

and are simply whispering for ordinary decencies.

Against this the Niagara Movement eternally protests. We will not be satisfied to take one jot or tittle less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a freeborn American, political, civil and social; and until we get these rights we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone but for all true Americans. It is a fight for ideals, lest this, our common fatherland, false to its founding, become in truth the land of the thief and the home of the slave—a byword and a hissing among the nations for its sounding pretensions and pitiful accomplishment.

Never before in the modern age has a great and civilized folk threatened to adopt so cowardly a creed in the treatment of its fellow citizens born and bred on its soil. Stripped of verbiage and subterfuge and in its naked nastiness, the new American creed says: Fear to let black men even try to rise lest they become the equals of the white. And this is the land that professes to follow Jesus Christ. The blasphemy of such a course is only matched by its cowardice.

In detail, our demands are clear and unequivocal. First, we would vote; with

the right to vote goes everything: freedom, manhood, the honor of your wives, the chastity of your daughters, the right to work, and the chance to rise, and let no man listen to those who deny this.

We want full manhood suffrage, and we want it now, henceforth and forever.

Second. We want discrimination in public accommodation to cease. Separation in railway and street cars, based simply on race and color, is un-American, undemocratic, and silly. We protest against all such discrimination.

Third. We claim the right of freemen to walk, talk, and be with them that wish to be with us. No man has a right to choose another man's friends, and to attempt to do so is an impudent interference with the most fundamental human privilege.

Fourth. We want the laws enforced against rich as well as poor; against capitalist as well as laborer; against white as well as black. We are not more lawless than the white race: we are more often arrested, convicted and mobbed. We want justice even for criminals and outlaws. We want the Constitution of the country enforced. We want Congress to take charge of Congressional elections. We want the Fourteenth Amendment carried out to the letter and every state disfranchised in Congress which

attempts to disfranchise its rightful voters. We want the Fifteenth Amendment enforced and no state allowed to base its franchise simply on color. ...

Fifth. We want our children educated. The school system in the country districts of the South is a disgrace, and in few towns and cities are the Negro schools what they ought to be. We want the national government to step in and wipe out illiteracy in the South. Either the United States will destroy ignorance or ignorance will destroy the United States.

And when we call for education we mean real education. We believe in work. We ourselves are workers, but work is not necessarily education. Education is the development of power and ideal. We want our children trained as intelligent human beings should be, and we will fight for all time against any proposal to educate black boys and girls simply as servants and underlings, or simply for the use of other people. They have a right to know, to think, to aspire.

These are some of the chief things which we want. How shall we get them? By voting where we may vote, by persistent, unceasing agitation, by hammering at the truth, by sacrifice and work. ...

We appeal to the young men and women of this nation, to those whose nostrils are not yet befouled by greed and snobbery and racial narrowness: stand up for the right, prove yourselves worthy of your heritage and whether born North or South dare to treat men as men. Cannot the nation that has absorbed ten million foreigners into its political life without catastrophe absorb ten million Negro Americans into that same political life at less cost than their unjust and illegal exclusion will involve?

Courage, brothers! The battle for humanity is not lost or losing. All across the skies sit signs of promise. The Slav is rising in his might, the yellow millions are tasting liberty, the black Africans are writhing toward the light, and everywhere the laborer, with ballot in his hand, is voting open the gates of opportunity and peace. The morning breaks over blood-stained hills. We must not falter, we may not shrink. Above are the everlasting stars.

June

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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Recall failure not blow to workers

Continued from front page

what does the failure of the “recall Walker” campaign signify? Is it evidence of a rightward political shift or backward attitudes among working people? Does it represent a defeat for the working class?

On the contrary. There is growing discontent among workers and a desire to resist the assaults by the bosses and their government.

The problem is the decades-long dead-end political course of the top union leadership, subordinating the interests of the working class to finding “common ground” with the bosses, rationalizing and helping the employers impose giveback after giveback to keep “our” industries competitive, and backing the Democratic Party, which has played the leading role in the propertied rulers’ anti-labor assault.

In response to its declining membership, the labor tops did not turn to convincing the ranks that their union was indispensable by organizing a serious fight against the bosses. Instead, they became increasingly reliant on purely administrative methods to maintain their dues base—relying on legislative backing from Democratic Party politicians to which they were beholden—including mandatory dues deduction from workers’ paychecks, “card check” laws supposedly compelling bosses to recognize a union without an election, etc.

When the mandatory checkoff was eliminated by the Wisconsin legislature, more than 33,000 members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees opted out.

The consequences of this course, the weakening of the labor movement, comes into sharper relief as the deepening crisis of capitalism poses the need to fight and fight effectively or be dealt blows by the owners of capital.

There is an anti-democratic aspect to the methods of the pro-Democratic Party, anti-Walker campaign that undoubtedly turned some workers off. For example, the “fab 14” Democratic legislators leaving

the city to block a vote they thought they couldn’t win, the thuggish shouting down of Sarah Palin in an effort to prevent her from speaking at a rally in support of the governor’s proposals, and the demagogic referendum itself, whose one goal was to bring in a Democratic governor after failing to get one elected less than a year before.

On the heels of the 2011 mobilizations, some 900,000 people responded to a petition drive seeking to recall the governor, which labor leaders and Democratic political figures presented as a vehicle to fight the anti-labor assault.

This strategy channeled the fight into the bourgeois electoral arena, subordinating it to support for Democrat Barrett, who promised to “right size” state workers—slash jobs, pay and benefits. Barrett went out of his way to distance himself from the fight of government workers, rarely even mentioning it.

After the election, officials at the Labor Temple in Madison put up a sign saying, “We won’t stop fighting for workers rights.” But the union officials have not been carrying out any such fight, and their promises ring hollow to many.

People cast their votes for many different reasons; the election was not a referendum for or against labor. Among some who voted for Walker are probably many with a dislike for “big government,” a healthy attitude gaining ground in the working class as Democratic liberals lead the push for expansion of government powers and interference in workers’ lives to better “take care” of us.

Among workers who voted for either or neither candidate are many who are open to a class struggle perspective. This bodes well for the future. Through working-class struggle our unions will be transformed into instruments of class combat, championing the broad economic and social interest of all working people, and providing schools for revolutionary transformation.

10 Calif. prisoners sue to end solitary

BY JOHN STUDER

Ten prisoners who have been held for more than 10 years in solitary confinement in the California Pelican Bay State Prison Security Housing Unit (SHU) filed a federal lawsuit May 31 challenging their condition. The prisoners’ treatment, the suit says, violates their constitutional protection against cruel and unusual punishment, as well as their right to due process since they have no meaningful way to challenge their solitary confinement.

The suit—filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights, California Prison Focus, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children, and other groups—seeks to represent all 500 prisoners held for 10 years or more in the solitary unit.

The suit notes that in face of the inhumane conditions in solitary “prisoners at the Pelican Bay SHU, as well as thousands of others incarcerated in facilities across the country, have engaged in two recent sustained hunger strikes.”

The prisoners listed in the suit include some who served as negotiators for the hunger strikers with state officials.

Confinement to SHU units is carried out at the arbitrary whim of prison officials and most commonly based on allegations of gang association. Allegations that land you in the SHU can be reviewed every six years. In the meantime, being designated for solitary confinement disqualifies prisoners who would otherwise be eligible for parole.

On March 20 the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law and other groups, including some who joined the lawsuit, filed a petition with the United Nations asking it “to intervene by conducting on-site investigations, permitting Red Cross visits, and ultimately ruling that California’s policy on isolated segregation amounts to torture and violates well-established international human rights norms.”

“California holds more prisoners in solitary confinement than any other state in the United States or any other nation on earth,” Peter Schey, who heads the center and filed the petition, told the *Militant*.

The expanded use of solitary confinement—estimates go as high as 100,000 people in solitary today—rose simultaneously with the explosion over the past three decades in the number of working people, disproportionately African-American, incarcerated in the U.S. There are some 2.3 million in prison today.

“The United States now has five per cent of the world’s population,” Atul Gawande wrote in the *New Yorker* magazine in 2009, “twenty-five percent of its prisoners, and probably the vast majority of prisoners who are in long-term solitary confinement.

“By the end of the nineteen-nineties, some sixty supermax institutions had opened across the country,” Gawande adds.

Prison authorities use gangs and corruption to turn prisoners against each other, to reinforce the worst dog-eat-dog values of bourgeois society, to segregate and pit workers against each other, to debase and demoralize them.

Part and parcel of these anti-working-class prison methods in a growing number of facilities like Pelican Bay is the frame-up and snitch system where a combination of accusations from prisoner finks and prison officials’ arbitrary and subjective whims put inmates in solitary confinement—especially if they are political and stand for workers’ dignity inside or outside prison walls. Often the only way out of the torturous solitary condition is to debase yourself and “snitch” on others, accusing them of “gang affiliation” or some other official offense.

Over the past year there have been rolling prisoner protests over solitary conditions, from thousands in the SHU units in California in 2011 to recent hunger strikes at Red Onion State Prison in Virginia and the Communication Management Unit in Marion, Ill. And most recently, according to a letter printed in this week’s issue of the *Militant*, in Pontiac, Ill.

Two-week break

The *Militant* is taking a two-week break. The next issue will be mailed out July 5.

LETTERS

A voice to prisoners

I’m an avid reader of the *Militant* newspaper and was very interested in the articles about prisoners’ struggles. I’m currently housed within a gang block where we are restricted from participating in any vocational programs or working. We are kept segregated from population under the banner of security risk. At least 80 percent of us housed here have no gang affiliation.

Within this unit they further segregate us according to an ever-changing policy that suits their ambiguous and vague ends. We only receive around three to four hours of recreation a day.

There exists no adequate law library, no law clerk, and representation pushes us to plead out due to their negligence in researching and fighting our cases coupled with the extreme punitive measures used to detain us, and the complicit enhancements with the prosecutor’s immense arbitrariness and freedom to increase our sentences. Most detainees face

an additional 20 years to life for prior criminal history that we’ve already paid for but are doomed to pay for once more at the cost of families, our children, our freedom, our rights.

They add to the abuse by exorbitant telephone prices from Global Tel Link. When your family adds \$25 to your phone account, GTL automatically takes \$5. Calls are approximately \$10 for a 20 minute call. When money is added to your commissary online they take \$6.95 for every \$20.

The true abuse stems from the assault on our civil liberties. The Department of Justice, the district courts, the detention facilities, the public defenders office, everyone works against the accused.

Help me give a voice to prisoners. Help me build a true representation, a true perception of who we are, what we face, and what we are up against.

*A prisoner
Rhode Island*

Hunger strike in Illinois

Illinois has followed in the steps of California and Virginia. On June 3, 2012, twenty-three political prisoners went on hunger strike together in protest of various administrative issues at Pontiac Correctional Center. On the same day I.A. interrogated all of the strikers in an attempt to frame the strike as “gang activity.”

Pontiac Correctional Center exists in Illinois for the sole purpose of isolating prisoners from each other and the world. The vast majority of prisoners here are in segregation. As part of the administration’s oppression against us we are beaten, unfed, given inadequate law libraries, isolated, and much more. All of this is being protested by the strikers. From Palestine to California and Virginia to Illinois the Revolution against tyranny and despair, extortion and exploitation, oppression and capitalism is growing stronger.

In the name of Revolution, Solidarity, and Struggle,
*A prisoner
Illinois*

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.

‘Militant’ Prisoners’ Fund

The Prisoners’ Fund makes it possible to send prisoners reduced rate subscriptions. To donate, send a check or money order payable to the Militant and earmarked “Prisoners’ Fund” to 306 W. 37th St., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018.