

THE MILITANT

INSIDE

Cuba's role in fight against Ebola highlighted at Havana bookfair
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 80/NO. 8 FEBRUARY 29, 2016

Fight gov't frame-up of Oregon ranchers

BY SETH GALINSKY

The day after Oregon State Police and the FBI ambushed and gunned down Robert “LaVoy” Finicum — a leader of the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge protesting the imprisonment of cattle ranchers Dwight and Steven Hammond and land-use issues in the West — Ruth Danielsen took a snowcat into town for repairs. “We had to go through two roadblocks,” she said by phone from Harney County Feb. 15. “They stopped us both times. Made us put our hands on our heads. Thirty or 40 federal agents, dressed to the nines, snipers.”

“I had on a vest and they told me to unzip it,” she said. “When I saw the video of the shooting [of Finicum], I kept thinking, if there had been a plane overhead filming me, they could’ve said it looked like I was reaching for a gun.”

She was referring to the FBI video of the Jan. 26 killing of Finicum and the FBI’s claim that he was shot because he was reaching for a gun.

Danielsen is a neighbor of the Hammonds and is involved in the fight to win their freedom and to regain their families’ grazing rights on federal land.

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Syrian people face catastrophe as regime, allies press attacks

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Russian bombers and some 20,000 ground troops — led by Iranian special forces, Hezbollah combatants and irregular forces from Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere under Iranian command — continue their murderous assault on opponents of the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad around Aleppo, once the country’s largest city. At the same time, Washington continues efforts to firm up a political bloc with Moscow and Tehran to put a cease-fire in place and defend its imperial interests in the region.

There has been no pause in Moscow’s bombing and the Assad regime’s moves against Aleppo since the Feb. 11 United Nations announcement that a Washington-Moscow-led gathering had reached agreement on a cease-fire to take effect in a week. Washington says it has no plans to interfere with the advance of the pro-Assad forces.

With callous indifference to the fate of tens of thousands trapped in Aleppo, U.S. Army spokesman Col. Steve Warren told the press he considered the situation there “dire,” but

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Socialist Workers Party: ‘Fight attacks by bosses!’

Working-class campaign challenges capitalist parties



Militant/Laura Anderson

SWP presidential candidate Alyson Kennedy, right, discusses fight to defend workers jobs, conditions with Electro-Motive Diesel worker Dwayne Johnson at plant gate near Chicago Feb. 17.

BY NAOMI CRAINE

“I am running for U.S. president on the Socialist Workers Party ticket because the other parties don’t represent workers. They are the bosses parties,” Alyson Kennedy explained to members of the United Auto Workers at the morning shift change at Electro-Motive Diesel in La Grange, Illinois, where railroad locomotives are built. Workers there have been through several rounds of layoffs, as the deepening capitalist contraction of production and trade has hit hard at workers in oil, steel, coal, transportation and other manufacturing.

Many workers stopped, glad to dis-

cuss a key point of the SWP campaign — that our class is capable of organizing independently of the bosses and their parties, both to confront immediate problems we face and to ad-

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY CAMPAIGN
— Editorial, page 9

vance toward taking political power into our own hands.

“Falling profit rates have pushed the bosses to assault workers’ conditions of work and life worldwide,” Kennedy

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NY cop convicted for killing Akai Gurley in Brooklyn



Reuters/Stephanie Keith

Dec. 27, 2014, protest demands arrest of cop Peter Liang, who killed Akai Gurley month before. Liang was convicted Feb. 11, first time in over a decade NY cop was convicted in a shooting.

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

NEW YORK — City cop Peter Liang, who gunned down unarmed 28-year-old Akai Gurley in a Brooklyn housing project stairwell 15 months ago, was convicted in a jury trial Feb. 11 on charges of reckless manslaughter and official misconduct.

The case marks the first time in over a decade that a New York Police Department cop was convicted in a

shooting.

On the evening of Nov. 20, 2014, Liang and his partner, Shaun Landau, were conducting so-called vertical patrols, where they walk the stairways and the roof, in the Louis Pink Houses in the East New York neighborhood. As the cops entered the eighth floor stairwell, Gurley and his friend Melissa Butler, both of whom are Afri-

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Support Eleanor García, SWP candidate for US Senate in Calif.

In addition to running Alyson Kennedy for U.S. president and Osborne Hart for vice president, the Socialist Workers Party is announcing candidates across the country. In California, the party is running aerospace worker Eleanor García for U.S. Senate and plans to put her on the ballot. The Militant is reprinting her biography, released by the SWP National Campaign Committee Feb. 16. Information on other candidates will follow in coming issues.

Eleanor García for U.S. Senate from California

Eleanor García, 63, an aerospace worker at Triumph Vought Aerostructures in Hawthorne, outside Los Angeles, was born in Phoenix. Her father was a fireman and her mother, after she raised her children, a production-line worker at Revlon and member of the United Auto Workers union. Her grandfather, an underground copper miner in the Inspiration Consolidated

Copper mine in Miami, Arizona, was crushed by a mine car and killed at work.

In high school García was inspired by the successful fight to overthrow

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Boston SWP — A long, proud history 9

—On the picket line, p. 5—

Greece: Workers, farmers protest gov’t attack on pensions

Pa. Steelworkers mark six months of fighting ATI lockout

Washington imposes new sanctions on N. Koreans

BY SETH GALINSKY

Washington, Tokyo and the U.N. Security Council condemned the government of North Korea Feb. 6 and announced new sanctions against the North Korean people as punishment for launching a telecommunications satellite into space. The U.S. Department of State ignored the scientific accomplishment, instead condemning what it claimed was a “missile” launch.

The North Korean government says this is the fourth satellite it has put into orbit since 1998. According to a statement by the country’s National Aerospace Development Administration, the successful launch is part of “developing the country’s science, technology, economy and defense capability by legitimately exercising the right to use space for independent and peaceful purposes.”

Only eight other governments have space programs capable of putting satellites into orbit — Washington, Moscow, Paris, Tokyo, Beijing, New Delhi, Tel Aviv and Tehran. The government of North Korea, a smaller, underdeveloped nation facing harsh economic sanctions and permanent

hostility from Washington and other imperialist powers, is the ninth.

The 15-member U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution Feb. 7 charging that the orbiting of the satellite “contributes to the DPRK’s development of nuclear weapons delivery systems.” The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has limited nuclear capacity and conducted a nuclear test Jan. 6 over the objection of the Security Council. The UN body threatened further sanctions.

The Security Council fails to mention that for decades Washington deployed nuclear weapons in South Korea aimed at the North, and to this day deploys nuclear weapons on U.S. ships and warplanes in the region. Nor does it mention that Washington continues to refuse to sign a peace treaty with North Korea, 63 years after U.S.-led troops were fought to a standstill and forced to sign a cease-fire in Korea.

The effects of Washington’s 1950-53 war against Korea — during which U.S. planes dropped more than 635,000 tons of bombs and leveled vast parts of the country — are still felt today.

In a joint statement the day after the launch, Washington and South Korean officials announced that they had begun negotiations to install a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system in South Korea.

Beijing, a major trading partner for both South and North Korea, objected to the missile deployment, saying it is aimed at China as well.

The U.S. Senate and House of

Quebec actions demand ‘end attacks on child care’



Courtesy of Association Québécoise des Centres de Petite Enfance

MONTREAL — Tens of thousands of day care operators, workers, parents and children took to the streets here and in 18 other cities across Quebec Feb. 7. They protested against the Quebec liberal government’s moves to cut up to \$120 million (US\$87 million) this year from government-subsidized day care centers. Established in 1997, they were a major social gain for working people.

Louis Sénécal, president of the Association Québécoise des Centres de Petite Enfance, which organized the actions with the support of the main trade union federations, said 2,000 to 2,500 jobs are at stake. Since 2014 the Quebec government has slashed nearly \$300 million in day care spending.

“Educational materials, work hours and menus for the children have been cut,” Brigitte Bernard, co-management director general of the Bois-des-Filion center, told the *Militant*. “The maintenance is done by the teachers every second day, and the next cuts will mean layoffs and a cut in opening hours.” She said that 30 of the 35 unionized teachers in her center came to the protest.

“We had to replace meat with tofu in our meals,” said Mélanie Boutet from the Montmorency center. “We don’t have staff to help kids with difficulties.”

As of Jan. 1, families with incomes higher than \$55,000 will pay on a sliding scale, up to \$20 a day. The fee today is \$7.30.

— MICHEL PRAIRIE AND JOHN STEELE

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THE MILITANT

Protest attacks on political rights, Muslims

Under the pretext of fighting terrorism, capitalist rulers have deepened their assault on political rights — first and foremost targeting Muslims and Arabs.

The ‘Militant’ covers protests against these attempts to close political space and divide working people.



Militant/Claude Bleton

Paris rally Jan. 30 against state of emergency.

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Representatives voted almost unanimously to expand economic sanctions against companies that are involved in the trade of arms or luxury goods with North Korea or in “human rights abuses” there. President Barack Obama says he will sign the bill.

The Japanese government also approved harsh sanctions, prohibiting money transfers for humanitarian purposes to residents of North Korea above \$870 and banning North Korean and third-country ships that have visited North Korea from entering Japanese ports.

On Feb. 10 the South Korean government shut down all its operations

at the Kaesong Industrial Complex, a joint factory zone located just across the border in the North. Pyongyang receives up to \$100 million a year from production at the complex, while South Korean companies there produce more than \$500 million worth of goods each year.

Washington and Seoul are using the latest tensions to step up their military cooperation with Tokyo, directed both at North Korea and China. This remains a work in progress, as there remains widespread resentment among the Korean people against Tokyo’s brutal occupation of the peninsula before and during World War II.

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

Pussy Riot on US tour: ‘Keep an eye on your democracy’

BY EDWIN FRUIT

SEATTLE — A program featuring two members of Pussy Riot, Maria Alyokhina and Ksenia Zhivago, attracted several hundred people here Feb. 8. The event is part of a multicity U.S. tour of the Russian political punk rock collective, which opposes Moscow’s anti-working-class course at home and abroad.

The tour coincides with the release of a new Pussy Riot video entitled “Chaika,” which portrays the brutality of the Putin regime and ridicules Russia’s Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika.

The program included excerpts from the documentary “Pussy vs. Putin,” comments by Alyokhina and Zhivago and discussion.

Alyokhina said that Pussy Riot formed in 2011 in response to the deteriorating economic conditions in Russia and the erosion of democratic rights under President Vladimir Putin. After she and fellow Pussy Riot members Nadezhda Tolokonnikova carried out a punk performance mocking Putin in a Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow, they were framed up and sentenced to penal colonies.

The penal code in Russia keeps getting expanded so that more people the regime considers opponents are sentenced to prison for minor infractions, Alyokhina said. And the majority of women in the penal colonies are there because of drug convictions or for having responded in self-defense against spousal abuse.

Alyokhina stayed politically active while imprisoned. Eight abusive guards were dismissed because of complaints that she and others raised, she said. Pussy Riot is now involved in a project to help prisoners obtain medicine, protest violations of their rights and obtain legal counsel.

She gave several examples of attacks on political and democratic rights in Russia: the sentencing of Ukrainian film director Oleg Sentsov by a Russian military court in Crimea to 20 years; the destruction by hoodlums of art exhibits they consider offensive to the Orthodox Church; and the assassination in February 2015 of Boris Nemtsov, an opponent of Putin, while he was walking across a bridge in Moscow. Alyokhina said that activists maintain a 24-hour vigil there and are calling for the bridge to be re-

named in his honor.

Democratic rights are not under attack only in Russia, she said. She told the audience, “Keep an eye on your democracy. It can happen here as well.”

Alyokhina was asked if it was true that over 80 percent of the Russian people support Putin. If you believe that, she said tongue-in-cheek, you also believe that 101 percent of the people supported Stalin.

Alyokhina said that she had visited the Maidan protests in Kiev, Ukraine, during the uprising there and had joined a march in Moscow opposing the Russian takeover of Crimea.

“There are no borders between us,” she said. People around the world “need to keep connecting with each other.”

The video stars Tolokonnikova as a female version of Chaika. Opposition



Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, center, portrays Russia’s Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika in new Pussy Riot video exposing corruption and brutality of regime of President Vladimir Putin.

figure Alexei Navalny has released a documentary accusing the prosecutor of corruption, torture and ordering the death of political opponents.

“Be loyal to those in power, because power is a gift from God, son. I love Russia. I’m a patriot,” she raps, a statement by Chaika in response to the corruption allegations.

She also raps a description of how “justice” works in Russia. “First the cops will pull you in for questioning. Then it’ll look like an accident. You’ll be fed to the fish.” The video is on YouTube with English subtitles.

Upcoming cities on the tour include Chicago, Feb. 21; New York, Feb. 22; and Washington, D.C., Feb. 23.

UK students debate ‘political correctness,’ free speech

BY ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

LONDON — A thuggish disruption of a meeting addressed by an Israeli speaker at King’s College here highlights growing attempts to stifle free speech and debate on campuses — in the name of support for the Palestinian struggle.

This is a deadly threat to the political space and wide room for discussion the working class needs to chart a way forward in face of capitalism’s grinding depression conditions. There is growing opposition here to the attacks.

On Jan. 19 Ami Ayalon, a former Israeli navy commander and former head of the internal secret service Shin Bet, spoke at a meeting jointly hosted by the Israel Society at King’s College and the London School of Economics. Ayalon now advocates freezing all Israeli settlements in the West Bank and for negotiations based on “the concept of two states, 1967 borders with territorial exchange based on parameters of security, demography and contiguity.”

Up to 100 people gathered outside the building chanting slogans against him speaking that included “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” a euphemism for wiping out the state of Israel, which sits between the river Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea.

A handful of protesters pushed past security staff, heading for the meeting.

When security stopped them from getting in, they started beating the walls, banging chairs on the floor and setting off fire alarms, while the crowd outside continued chanting, banging on windows and trying to get in. The meeting was halted and campus security called in the cops.

An event about peace was “greeted by violence and intimidation,” the Union of Jewish Students said. “Just 25 people managed to disrupt an event attended by nearly 60 while over 100 others who wished to hear the speaker and engage positively were turned away as there was no more space for them.”

King’s College London Action Palestine had opposed holding the meeting, saying Ayalon’s responsibility for Shin Bet’s torture of detainees during the five years he led the agency in the 1990s meant he forfeited the right to speak.

“We believe that peaceful disruption of speaker events by people who have participated in war crimes, including torture, is a legitimate form of protest,” the group said in a Jan. 24 statement.

Action Palestine also calls on students “to support the BDS [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions] movement and the academic boycott of Israeli institutions until Israel grants Palestinians their basic rights and ends the illegal occupation and siege of Gaza.” While the group says it opposes anti-Semitism “as a matter of principle,” shutting down speakers and performers simply because they are from Israel flies in the face of this claim.

Students were eager to discuss the issue with Communist League members, who set up a literature table outside King’s campus on Jan. 28. Four people subscribed to the *Militant* and one bought *The Jewish Question* by Abram Leon.

“I understand why people are angry over Palestine, and they have a right to exercise freedom of speech and to protest,” said Orlando Yang. “But this disruption will give an opportunity to the right wing to paint all supporters of the Palestinian struggle in a bad light.”

Government ‘Prevent’ program

Robert Andrews, another student, said the government takes advantage of this atmosphere to undermine freedom of speech, pointing to their “Prevent” policies.

Prevent is part of the “Counter Terrorism and Security Act,” adopted in 2015. It makes it a legal requirement for schools to “assess the risk of pupils being drawn into terrorism and support for extremist ideas,” to “promote fundamental British values,” create “safe spaces” and remind schools of their existing duty “to forbid political indoctrination.”

“Under Prevent, if anyone says something ‘radical’ in a seminar, the tutor has to report them,” Andrews said. “But who’s to judge what’s ‘radical’?”

“There are ‘safe space’ monitors who report anything ‘offensive,’” he said. “I sometimes end up trying to censor myself.”

The Conservative Party government says Prevent allows it to bar speakers it deems “extremist” from appearing on campus. Education Secretary Nicky Morgan has called for banning Cage, a group that defends people accused of “terrorism” whose leaders include former Guantánamo detainees. A government watchdog is conducting an inquiry into six universities where Cage leaders have spoken.

A study of 115 universities by online magazine Spiked reports curbs on free expression were in place at 90 percent of them. In the name of “safe space” and “dignity” policies, various speakers, newspapers, pressure groups, types of behavior, songs and even hand gestures had been banned at more than half of these schools last year. Student unions impose four times more bans than university authorities, the magazine reported.

Last November feminist writer Germaine Greer went ahead with a lecture at Cardiff University, despite a petition signed by more than 3,000 people, calling for her to be banned because of alleged “transphobic” views.

“What they are saying is that because I don’t think surgery will turn a man into a woman I should not be allowed to speak anywhere,” Greer said.

At the London School of Economics, one of the most ban-happy campuses, a motion is under debate to shut down the newly founded Free Speech Society before it has even held its first meeting. The group wants to invite speakers who have been barred elsewhere and debate controversial topics.

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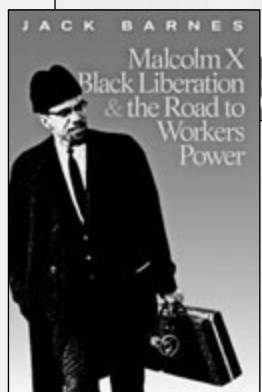


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National actions called to demand ‘Free Oscar López’

BY TONY LANE

NEW YORK — The fight to free Oscar López Rivera, a Puerto Rican independence fighter jailed in the United States for more than 34 years, continues to gain support. A national planning meeting here Jan. 30 called three days of protest over the next several months to advance the fight.

Alejandro Molina, an organizer of the meeting called by the National Boricua Human Rights Network, said there will be “local and citywide events including vigils, church services, cultural events and protests for May 29,” the 35th anniversary of López’s incarceration; a national action on June 20 outside the United Nations during its annual hearings on the decolonization of Puerto Rico; and a protest at the Democratic Party convention in Cleveland in July.

Supporters are planning to make June 20 an international day of solidarity with actions in 35 countries and Puerto Rico.

Molina told the meeting that groups modeled after 34 Women for Oscar in New York and Puerto Rico have begun in Chicago and Boston. In New York, 34 Women holds monthly protests at busy intersections around the city, helping to get the facts out and win new support. Meeting participants agreed to work to initiate similar monthly activities in Detroit, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

Katilia Vélez reported that this year’s Newark, New Jersey, Puerto Rican Parade on Sept. 18 is dedicated to López.

“We will make it a rally for Oscar and we want as many groups and contingents as possible to take part,” she said.

López grew up in Puerto Rico and moved to Chicago when he was 14. He was drafted into the U.S. army in 1965 and sent to Vietnam the next year. Upon his return, López joined struggles against discrimination and police brutality and for independence for Puerto Rico. He was arrested in 1981, accused of being a leader of the Armed Forces of National Liberation, which took credit for the bombing of banks and businesses with investments in Puerto Rico.

With no evidence that he was involved in a single act of violence, López was convicted on charges centered on “seditious conspiracy.” In a failed attempt to break him, he was kept in solitary confinement his first 12 years in prison.

In a sign of the depth of support for



34 Women New York City X Oscar

“34 Women for Oscar” in New York holds monthly actions in busy intersections across city, this one in Times Square Nov. 29. “34 Women” groups have expanded to Boston and Chicago.

the fight, in January all candidates for governor of Puerto Rico in the upcoming elections taped a statement for a video demanding that President Barack Obama free López.

López continues to speak out from prison. In January he wrote, “Let’s make this the year that Puerto Ricans rise up together with the goal of putting an end to colonialism.”

Outcry halts bill Cleveland sent to family of Tamir Rice

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Cleveland authorities announced Feb. 10 they were billing the family of 12-year-old Tamir Rice \$500 in “dying expenses” for ambulance costs after a city cop killed him 15 months ago. After widespread public outcry, they cancelled the order the next day.

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson apologized to the family, for the second time. He did so a year ago after city lawyers asserted in court papers that the

African-American youth’s death was his own fault.

Rice had been playing with a toy pellet gun in a city park Nov. 22, 2014, when he was shot by officer Timothy Loehmann less than two seconds after the cop and his partner, Frank Garmback, arrived on the scene. Rice died in the hospital the next day. Police didn’t provide him with medical care.

When his family heard the youth had been shot, they rushed to the park. “As

I was trying to get through to my son, the police told me to calm down or they would put me in the back of a police car,” Samaria Rice told reporters.

She complied, but when Rice’s 14-year-old sister tried to help him as he lay on the ground, cops tackled and slapped her in handcuffs.

After 13 months of “investigations,” Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty recommended a grand jury not file charges against Loehmann or Garmback. The jurors complied.

In a Dec. 28 statement McGinty described the killing as a “perfect storm of human error” where Loehmann “had reason to fear for his life.”

McGinty “deliberately sabotaged the case,” Rice’s mother told the press.

“Prosecutor McGinty hired so-called expert witnesses to try to exonerate the officers,” said Earl Ward, who filed a civil case against the city on behalf of Rice’s family. “It is unheard of, and highly improper, for a prosecutor to hire ‘experts’ to try to exonerate the targets of a grand jury investigation. These are the sort of ‘experts’ we would expect the officer’s criminal defense attorney to hire — not the prosecutor.”

In response to the lawsuit, city officials said that Rice is to blame for getting killed because he failed “to exercise due care to avoid injury.”

After the cops were let off, the U.S. Department of Justice said it would “review” the Rice family’s request for a federal investigation.

NY cop convicted for killing of Akai Gurley

Continued from front page
can-American, began walking down the stairs a floor below, as the elevator wasn’t working.

Liang, holding his gun in his left hand and a flashlight in the right, fired off a shot that ricocheted off the wall, hitting Gurley in the chest. Gurley, father of a 2-year-old girl, went down two more flights before collapsing.

Neither officer made any effort to provide medical assistance and didn’t call for help for at least four minutes. Butler testified that while she knelt in a pool of blood trying to resuscitate Gurley, the officers came by, stopped briefly, and then just went on down the stairs.

A lawyer for Kimberly Ballinger, the mother of Gurley’s child, is asking the NYPD inspector general to investigate whether the Police Academy provided inadequate CPR training. Three cops, including Liang, testified at the trial that they were unprepared. Liang said his academy instructor gave the class the

answers to almost the entire CPR exam.

Liang, a “rookie” who’d been on the police force for 18 months, claimed at the trial that his finger was on the side of his drawn pistol as he entered the stairwell and it went off accidentally. But to fire the 9 mm handguns the cops were using takes more than 11 pounds of force on the trigger, NYPD firearms expert Detective Mark Acevedo testified.

The conviction “was right because it will make other cops think twice before they shoot anyone,” a young woman who lives in the building where Gurley was killed and asked that her name not be used told the *Militant* Feb. 14. She said the cops had started the building patrols a couple months before Gurley was killed and then stopped immediately after.

“Frankly, they made the cop into a scapegoat. He was a rookie, scared,” said Rodney King, a 48-year-old maintenance worker who lives in Pink Houses. “He was a scapegoat for all those other cases where the cops killed people, but nothing was done. It’s good that people are speaking out about police brutality.”

“Wow, I am happy for [Gurley’s] family,” Esaw Garner, widow of Eric Garner, told the *New York Daily News* after the verdict was announced. Four months before Gurley’s death, cop Daniel Pantaleo killed Eric Garner in Staten Island in a chokehold. But in that case no charges were brought against the cop.

Both Liang and Landau were fired after the trial. Liang faces up to 15 years in prison, with sentencing set for April 14. His attorneys said they will appeal.

Seth Galinsky and Lea Sherman contributed to this article.

—MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

World Capitalist Crisis and the U.S. Presidential Election. Speakers: John Studer, Socialist Workers Party national campaign director; Eleanor García, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in California. Sat., Feb. 20. Dinner, 6 p.m., program 7:30 p.m. Donation: program, \$5; dinner, \$10. *University of Southern California, Arts and Humanities Building, PRB Multipurpose Room, 920 W. 37th Place.* Tel.: (323) 643-4968.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland

U.S. Troops, Missiles Out of Korea! Speaker: Annalucia Vermunt, Communist League. Fri., Feb. 26, 7 p.m. Donation: \$5. *188a Onehunga Mall.* Tel.: (09) 636-3231.

UNITED KINGDOM

Manchester

Celebrate Publication of ‘It’s the Poor Who Face the Savagery of the US ‘Justice’ System.’ Speaker: Caroline Bellamy, Communist League. Sat., Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m. *Room 301, 3rd Floor, Hilton House, 26-28 Hilton St. M1 2EH.* Tel.: (016) 1478-2496.

—CALENDAR—

CALIFORNIA

Richmond

Has U.S. Policy Towards Cuba Really Changed? Join a discussion with Miguel Fraga, First Secretary of Cuban Embassy in Washington D.C. Fri., March 11, 7 p.m. *Community Room, Public Library, 325 Civic Center Plaza.* Tel.: (510) 219-0092. Sponsors: *International Committee for Peace, Justice and Dignity, Richmond; CA Regla; Cuba Friendship Committee; and Marin Task Force on the Americas.*

WASHINGTON

Seattle

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

MAGGIE TROWE, EDITOR

Help the *Militant* cover labor struggles across the country!

This column gives a voice to those engaged in battle and building solidarity today — including workers fighting for \$15 and a union; locked-out ATI Steelworkers; Verizon workers opposing concessions; construction workers demanding safe conditions. I invite those involved in workers' battles to contact me at 306 W. 37th St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10018; or (212) 244-4899; or themilitant@mac.com. We'll work together to ensure your story is told.

—Maggie Trowe

Pennsylvania Steelworkers mark six months fighting ATI lockout

WASHINGTON, Pa. — Some 150 locked-out members of the United Steelworkers and supporters picketed at the plant gate here Feb. 11 to mark six months of their fight against Allegheny Technologies Inc. "We will be here one day longer and a lot stronger than they are," said Marc Scott of USW Local 7139-5. Among the participants were two busloads of young Steelworkers participating in a leadership conference.

ATI locked out 2,200 Steelworkers at 12 plants in six states Aug. 15. The company announced it had a "once-in-a-generation" chance to cut wages and boost profits by imposing a lower tier as many workers approach retirement.

"I've never believed in two-tier contracts," said Local 1046 picket captain Dwayne Smedley of Louisville, Ohio. "Yesterday, Carrier, an Indianapolis air-conditioner manufacturer, announced it was moving its operation to Mexico. They had a two-tier system where a quarter of the workers made \$14 an hour or about \$30,000 a year while others made close to \$26 an hour and with overtime close to \$70,000 a year. Two-tier contracts don't protect jobs, they just split the union."

ATI cut off medical coverage for locked-out workers in November. Unemployment benefits ended Feb. 15. Many workers have been forced by economic pressure to retire, take side jobs or look for other work. "There's

hardly any full-time jobs out there," locked-out worker Debbie Cupec told Triblive. "It took me two months to get a [part-time] job at the post office."

Negotiations between the company and the union have resumed.

"We maintain our 24-hour picket lines and fight to get our side of the story out," Smedley said. "I can't get any coverage. The local paper would rather talk about how a police dog was stabbed, than the fact 106 of us are locked out."

—Arlene Rubinstein

Unionists rally in solidarity with California warehouse workers

MIRA LOMA, Calif. — Unionists and others rallied here Feb. 12 to support warehouse workers in their struggle for better conditions at Walmart supplier Olivet International. The 200 workers receive, repackage, palletize and ship merchandise to Walmart and other retailers.

Two years ago workers began making demands. "There were not even fans," among other things, Rafael Sanchez told the *Militant*. "You couldn't touch the walls of trailers parked in the hot sun. We forced them to provide fans." In retaliation, Sanchez said, bosses began to bring in temp workers on first shift, and moved workers directly employed by the company to second shift with reduced hours.

Workers are raising several demands. "Change all temp workers to direct and get rid of the temp agency," read a leaflet issued in conjunction



Militant/Becca Williamson

Warehouse workers rally for improved conditions outside Olivet International in Mira Loma, California, Feb. 12. "We're fighting for *all* warehouse workers," Miriam Garcia told rally.

with the Warehouse Workers Resource Center. Other demands are, "Assign work schedules based on seniority and no favoritism," and, "Stop the atmosphere of pressure, harassment, disrespect and retaliation by supervisors and leads against workers who are seeking to improve working conditions."

A delegation delivered a petition to the head boss the day of the rally.

Teamsters, United Food and Commercial Workers and UNITE HERE unions took part in the action.

There are tens of thousands of warehouse workers in the greater Los Angeles area.

"We're not only fighting for ourselves but *all* warehouse workers!" Miriam Garcia, a leader of the fight, told the rally.

—Becca Williamson

Greece: Workers, farmers protest government attack on pensions

BY GEORGES MEHRABIAN

ATHENS, Greece — Farmers, unionists, self-employed businesspeople and others have been protesting "pension reform" — higher taxes and increased contributions to social security programs — pushed by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' Coalition of the Radical Left (Syriza) government to satisfy international lenders. More than 40,000 people marched to the parliament here Feb. 4 and thousands of farmers, joined by unionists, did the same Feb. 12 and 13. Farmers have organized blockades in northern Greece and elsewhere.

"How can anyone live on 2,000 euros

[\$2,250] a year?" asked Kostas, 28, an olive farmer in Crete taking part in the Feb. 12 protest. "Taxes and the cost of production took 8,000 euros from my 10,000 euro income. So to make ends meet I work on three other farms for wages. We're facing ruin!"

A \$97 billion European Union/International Monetary Fund "bailout" loan Athens took in 2015 includes a \$2 billion cut in the pension system, the equivalent of 1 percent of the country's gross domestic product. Greek governments have already cut pensions 11 times since 2010.

Three protest marches were part of a 24-hour strike called by three union federations. The GSEE organizes private sector unions, the ADEDY the public sector and PAME represents unions led by the Communist Party.

The strike shut down many schools, public transport, ferry boats, hospital services, taxis and the court system. The Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen & Merchants also participated in the stoppage, closing many shops.

These are the largest protests since the election of Syriza a year ago.

Rallies took place in other cities, often with contingents of farmers.

"I think we should all stand in solidarity with the small farmers movement," Panagiotis Efthymakis, 32, a petroleum technician at the port, told the *Militant*.

"The farmers are fighting for all of us right now, and they should be supported," said teacher Roberto Scilipoti. He voted for Syriza, but "at each critical juncture they have capitulated to the demands of the EU and the lenders."

Unemployment in Greece stands at 25 percent. Only 3.6 million people are employed out of a population of 11 million. By official figures 1.2 million are unemployed and 2.7 million are retired and collecting a pension. Many jobless workers survive with support from parents or grandparents who are retirees. It has become common to have three generations living together and scraping by on the pension of a retired worker.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



March 1, 1991

The onset of the war against Iraq has brought a qualitative increase in attacks on civil liberties and political rights in Britain, Canada, the United States and allied countries.

This fact presents unionists and other defenders of democratic rights in these countries with a big challenge.

The government-employer measures against democratic rights include press censorship; searches and interrogation of airport workers by Canadian police; employer and secret police attempts to intimidate and victimize workers opposed to the war; the arrest and detention of a Palestinian student by U.S. immigration; attempts to frame up Arabs as terrorists; and the arrest and detention by Canadian immigration of an Iraqi couple.

Democratic rights and the ability to exercise them are fundamental to the struggle of working people to defend themselves against the continued government-employer offensive and from the ravages the war in the Middle East will bring.



February 28, 1966

NEW YORK, Feb. 22 — After 20 days of testimony, the prosecution finished the presentation of its case Feb. 18 against the three men accused of assassinating Malcolm X. Yesterday, the defense began with opening statements on behalf of two of the defendants, Norman (3X) and Butler Thomas (15X) Johnson.

William Chance, Butler's attorney, said that they will prove that Butler was not at the Audubon Ballroom on Feb. 21, 1965, when Malcolm X was gunned down. Charles Beavers, one of Johnson's attorneys, said they would show that Johnson was in another county at the time Malcolm X was shot.

At almost all previous meetings held by Malcolm X at the Audubon, uniformed policemen were stationed at the entrance to the building — usually about a half dozen of them. But on this occasion — just a week after Malcolm's home had been fire-bombed and burned to the ground in such a way that Malcolm and his family were nearly trapped inside — the two policemen were told to conceal themselves.



March 1, 1941

CHICAGO, Feb. 23 — Assembled in the biting wind before the gates of the strike-bound International Harvester Company here, CIO members and sympathizers today heard Mrs. Lucy Parsons, 82 year old widow of Albert Parsons, one of the Haymarket martyrs of 1886, urge on the striking workers to finish the fight with the giant International Harvester trust.

Mrs. Parsons reminded the strikers, who have kept the IHC tractor plant shut down tight for three weeks, that her own husband was framed up and sent to the gallows along with four other working class leaders by interests close to the McCormicks, who still are linked with the International Harvester Company and the McCormick plant here.

The 1886 Haymarket meeting into whose ranks provocateurs threw a bomb which killed a number of people and for which Albert Parsons was framed up and hung, was a peaceable meeting called to find a remedy for the bad working conditions of that day, particularly at the McCormick Reaper Plant.

SWP challenges capitalist parties

Continued from front page

said. This is what underlies the broad discontent among workers and others reflected in the turmoil of the 2016 presidential elections, and especially the response to “outsider” candidates Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.

Trump remains well ahead in the Republican primary, playing on the anxiety, fear and anger generated by the smoldering depression conditions workers and middle layers face when he attacks the lies and hypocrisy of the “establishment” candidates.

Trump’s insistence that as a strong and wily businessman he can “make America great again,” combined with promises not to start any new ground wars, is popular among many workers, including veterans who Trump often points out have been “treated so horribly” by Washington.

Attacks on Trump from his rivals on grounds that he’s not a “real conservative” miss the point. The fact is he’s a New York liberal, a former Democrat. When Ted Cruz accused him of defending Planned Parenthood, Trump responded that it does “wonderful things” for women’s health, though he now says he opposes abortion.

He says while he would have made a better deal, Obama’s moves to restore diplomatic relations and open the door to more trade with Cuba are a good thing.

Following his victory in the New Hampshire primary, Trump said the real unemployment figures are many times the official 5 percent, “I even heard recently 42 percent.” This comes closer to the truth than what most bourgeois candidates will admit. Less than 60 percent of those over 16 are employed today, a big drop from before the 2008 recession.

“If we had 5 percent unemployment, do you really think we’d have these gatherings?” he asked.

“I was laid off in 2009 for two years, and called back in 2011,” Dwayne Johnson, a union member and team leader on the receiving docks, told Kennedy outside the EMD plant in Chicago. “There have been steady layoffs, one after another, in the past few years. The union is weak.”

Example of Cuban Revolution

“We point to Cuba as an example for working people here,” the Socialist

Workers Party candidate responded, “because they made a revolution, took political power, changed themselves as they fought and learned, and set up a government that has ruled in the interests of working people, not the bosses, for 57 years.”

“They got rid of the casinos,” Johnson said.

“Yes,” said Kennedy, “and prostitution,” one of the only “jobs” for women before the revolution. Through participation in transforming their society, millions of women, youth, farmworkers who had been only seasonally employed, and others were drawn into productive work, the opposite of the squandering of human potential under the capitalist profit system.

They discussed the importance of supporting every effort by working people to stand up to the bosses’ attacks. “I joined the picket lines in Kohler, Wisconsin, where the United Auto Workers went on strike in November to get rid of the two-tier wage system,” Kennedy said. “The contract they approved still has two tiers, but unionists there felt that by fighting they came together, and they’re stronger for fights to come. We need to do that more.”

“Yes, we need to stick together,” agreed Johnson. “You guys are doing a good thing.” He took a card to subscribe to the *Militant*.

“Sanders says he wants a political revolution,” a reporter said to Kennedy while she was campaigning on the street outside Sylvia’s restaurant in Harlem Feb. 10, where people had gathered while Sanders was meeting with Rev. Al Sharpton to seek his endorsement.

“He’s talking about reforms that won’t change anything fundamental,” Kennedy said. “We need to overthrow the rule of capital, to change which class rules.”

The central theme of Sanders’ campaign has been the call for a “political revolution” to “take big money out of politics” that he says is ruining “our democracy.” At the top of his agenda is overturning the 2010 Supreme Court ruling known as Citizens United, which lifted restrictions on corporations paying for political advertising.

Sanders’ emergence as a serious competitor for the Democratic Party nomination comes from a similar source as support for Trump — the widespread discontent among workers and others fueled by the depression conditions. His



Militant photos: Above, Dan Fein; inset, Arlene Rubinstein

Above, Nov. 27, 2015, Chicago protest against 2014 police killing of Laquan McDonald and cover-up afterwards. Inset, Eleanor García, 2016 Socialist Workers Party candidate for Senate from California, interviewed at Anaheim, California, protest against cop killings when she ran for Congress in 2012.



answer is the same liberal program he’s been advocating for decades. When asked, Sanders says he’s a democratic socialist, but his program is not socialist, as the *Militant*’s coverage last week wrongly stated.

Both Sanders and Trump also benefit from an ongoing shift in politics toward the bourgeois left. Trump has shoved the old Tea Party out of the picture. All the political pundits said Sanders had no chance against Clinton, but now they’re neck and neck.

The centerpiece of Sanders’ Johnny-one-note campaign is the proposal to raise taxes on the wealthy and on “Wall Street speculators,” to finance social programs, including a national health system and free tuition at public universities, and to provide some jobs. His campaign has generated enthusiasm, especially among a layer of youth, and he continues to draw large crowds rivaled only by those Trump attracts.

With the race tightening, and heading toward primaries in states in the north, south and west, many with large Black populations, Hillary Clinton received the endorsement of the Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee Feb. 11. Clinton resonates with Black elected officials and meritocratic minded professors, NGO staffers and like-minded “brights.” She and hus-

band William Clinton have done the most to elect Black Democrats, help them become chairs of subcommittees, and “has been on the stump with us” throughout the years, said Rep. Gregory Meeks, chair of the CBC PAC.

The Socialist Workers Party puts forward the only working-class alternative to all these capitalist politicians. Campaigning in New York, Kennedy invited all those she spoke with to join in the struggles that advance workers interests today.

“I’ve marched in the street against the Chicago cop killings of Laquan McDonald, Quintonio LeGrier, Bettie Jones and others,” Kennedy said. “We’ve succeeded in making the propertied rulers rein in their cops. When we organize together and fight, we can change things.”

“I will be going to Oregon to support the campaign to free the Hammonds,” ranchers jailed on frame-up charges of arson, she said. “We’ll be walking the picket lines with ATI workers who have been locked out since July, participating in the March 2 protest in Chicago against police brutality, and joining actions in support of a women’s right to choose abortion.”

Ilona Gersh in Chicago and Dean Hazlewood in New York contributed to this article.

Eleanor García for US Senate!

Continued from front page

Jim Crow segregation in the South and by farmworkers fighting to win representation by the United Farm Workers union. Public schools in Arizona mining towns were segregated for Mexicans and Native Americans.

Cesar Chavez, leader of the UFW, held a 24-day fast in Phoenix in 1972 to protest an Arizona bill restricting the union and outlawing strikes and boycotts. García was part of the security team to defend Chavez and meetings organized to support the fight.

She became an organizer for the UFW and the Arizona Farm Workers Union in the 1970s, helping workers win union contracts in vegetable fields and citrus orchards.

García joined the SWP in 1977. In the 1980s she lived in Minneapolis and joined protests by family farmers who faced foreclosure in a debt crisis that swept the region and were being driven off their land. She supported the fight of Native Americans for land and water treaty rights on the White Earth

Reservation in northern Minnesota.

García is a longtime supporter of women’s right to choose abortion and has defended clinics against right-wing attacks. As SWP candidate for governor of Utah she helped organize protests against the cops when a teenage cousin of one of her co-workers at Kennecott Copper was shot. Family, friends and supporters of the youth used García’s campaign statement to build support for a march and rally in the copper-mining town of Magna.

She helped organize activities to tell the truth about the Cuban Revolution. She was part of the international movement that won freedom for the Cuban Five, five revolutionaries unjustly imprisoned in the U.S. for the “crime” of defending their country’s socialist revolution.

In addition to the Steelworkers, García has been a member of the United Transportation Union, United Food and Commercial Workers and United Auto Workers union. She has worked in rail, garment and in a smelter.

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- ☐ I want to get involved! Contact me so I can join in campaigning for the working-class alternative, Socialist Workers Party candidates Alyson Kennedy for president and Osborne Hart for vice president.
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Scalia's death prompts debate on Supreme Court, Bill of Rights

BY MAGGIE TROWE

The Feb. 13 death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia sparked a partisan debate on nominating his replacement and a broader debate about the role of the court and the place of the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Constitution that defend equal protection under the law.

Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders urged President Barack Obama to nominate a liberal replacement rapidly. Republicans demanded Obama decline to make a nomination, leaving it to the next president in 2017.

Scalia was hated by most liberals

COMMENTARY

and leftists for his socially conservative views, but more importantly because he argued the court should base its rulings strictly on the Constitution, rejecting “outcome-driven” decisions that amount to decreeing laws from the bench.

But it's in the interest of the working class that the court uphold the Constitution, especially the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments won in struggle that are protections of the people *against* the government.

In his dissent on last year's ruling legalizing gay marriage, Scalia pointed to the narrowness of the class background of the justices, writing they are “only nine men and women, all of them successful lawyers who studied at Harvard or Yale Law School.”

The justices are all Catholic or Jewish, he pointed out. “Not a single evangelical Christian (a group that comprises about one quarter of Americans), or even a Protestant of any denomination. ... Eight of them grew up in east- and west-coast States.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a long-serving liberal Supreme Court justice, has raised other concerns about what is called judicial activism concerning the court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that decriminalized abortion. “It's not that the judgment was wrong, but it moved too far too fast,” cutting short the political fight needed, she told a

Columbia Law School symposium in 2012. She has also criticized the court for not basing the decision on the 14th Amendment's guarantee to every person of equal protection of the laws, a conquest of the revolutionary struggle that ended slavery.

Liberal supporters of judicial activism and the “living Constitution” say the court should prioritize achieving an outcome they view as positive and progressive, and then find some justification.

Scalia took the opposite approach, insisting on applying the Constitution and its amendments strictly, as limits on government abuse.

For example, in *Kyllo v. U.S.* in 2001, he wrote that the government violated the Fourth Amendment prohibition of unreasonable search and seizure when it used thermal imaging technology without a warrant to detect marijuana cultivation inside a suspect's house.

When the court struck down a St. Paul, Minnesota, “hate-crime” law against racist speech in 1992, Scalia wrote, “Burning a cross in someone's front yard is reprehensible. But St. Paul has sufficient means at its disposal to prevent such behavior without adding the First Amendment to the fire.”

Until working people can build a movement strong enough to overthrow the dictatorship of the capitalist class, we need a Supreme Court that strictly enforces protections we have won in the class struggle and enshrined in the Bill of Rights and other constitutional amendments.

Cuba's role in fighting Ebola highlighted at Book Fair



Inset, Luis Pérez Borrero/Casa Editora Abril

HAVANA — One highlight of this year's Havana International Book Fair, which began Feb. 12, was a presentation of the book *Zona Roja: La experiencia cubana del ébola* (Red Zone: The Cuban Experience with Ebola)

by Cuban journalist Enrique Ubieta, fourth from left. The book tells the story of the 265 volunteer Cuban doctors and nurses who served in West Africa to combat the Ebola crisis. In individual testimonies, many of them describe the conditions created by the imperialist plunder of the region that contributed to the spread of the deadly epidemic. Their accounts also bring to life the selfless internationalist solidarity that has marked the Cuban Revolution from the beginning. A number of doctors and nurses who took part in this effort attended the lively, packed event.

Tens of thousands of Cubans have attended the book fair since it opened. Along with the 188 book exhibits by publishers and institutions from Cuba and 24 other countries, the 10-day cultural festival includes forums, panel discussions, film showings, theater performances and free concerts. Prominent at this year's book fair is a three-day international seminar on slavery in Cuba, marking the 130th anniversary of its abolition.

Joining Ubieta on the platform at the Feb. 12 event on Cuba's leading role in the fight against Ebola were, from left, Drs. Juan Carlos Dupuy, Carlos Manuel Castro, and Jorge Delgado, heads of the Cuban medical brigades in Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone, respectively, where the epidemic took hold. Speaking with mic is Abel Prieto, adviser to Cuban president Raúl Castro. On the far right is Javier Dueñas, director of Casa Editora Abril, which published the book.

— RÓGER CALERO AND JONATHAN SILBERMAN

Fight government frame-up of Oregon ranchers

Continued from front page

which were vindictively revoked after their frame-up conviction for two controlled fires.

The tension between the Hammonds — and other ranchers — and government agents goes back decades.

In the 1970s nearly all the ranches in that area were bought up by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to expand the Malheur refuge. But the Hammonds, who had permits to graze their herd on federal land since they bought their ranch in 1964, refused to sell.

In August 1994 Dwight Hammond was arrested and charged with interfering with federal officers after he allegedly tried to prevent the Fish and Wildlife Service from fencing off a watering hole his cattle had used for 30 years.

The *Oregonian* reported that “more than 450 ranchers, loggers and sawmill workers turned out” at a public meeting to support the Hammonds and demand the charges be dropped.

In the latest attack, Dwight and Steven Hammond were sentenced to prison twice on the same arson charge, the second time with an extended sentence under federal mandatory-minimum terms required by the 1996 Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act.

“Setting controlled fires is a common practice here,” Danielsen said. Not only ranchers, but the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies often set fires to get rid of invasive plants or to prevent the spread of wildfires caused by lightning.

“This is the first time anyone has been charged for this under the Antiterrorism law,” Danielsen notes. “In other cases if there's any charges at all it's usually just probation and a fine.”

The frame-up of the Hammonds takes place in the context of a decades-long shift in U.S. policy, marked by the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Forest Management Act, passed under the banner of protecting the environment.

Increases in grazing fees; restrictions on grazing and planting hay; bans on harvesting fallen trees — a big issue because it increases the fuel load for fires; and pressure to sell ranch land became common in government regulators' efforts to cobble together wildlife refuges and to save “endangered species” at the expense of local ranchers.

With some 50 percent of all land in the western United States owned by the federal government these are life-and-death questions for ranchers.

“It's the smaller ranchers who get hurt the most,” Merlin Rupp, 80, who calls himself a retired buckaroo, said by phone from Burns, Oregon. “It's criminal what they did to the Hammonds.”

“If you've got a ranch you're not going to destroy the land, you want to make it better,” Rupp said, referring to claims that cattle grazing destroys the land.

“I worked in logging when I was younger,” Larry Lent, a retired ranch hand and meatpacker, told the *Militant* from John Day, Oregon. “Back then the log crews all stopped what they did and

put out fires. Now if there's a lightning strike and you put it out without their permission you can get fined or jailed.”

Many ranchers say that government red tape and rules affect both large capitalist ranches and small family run ones. “But if it was Ted Turner who did a back burn, do you think he'd be in jail like the Hammonds?” said Lent. “Hell no!”

Fight to free the Hammonds

Danielsen is working with the Hammond family to ask President Barack Obama to commute their sentence. She encourages people to send letters to Obama asking they be freed.

Letters can be sent to the Hammonds in prison at: FCI Terminal Island, 1299 Seaside Ave, San Pedro, CA 90731. Dwight Hammond #59886-065 and Steven Hammond #60061-065.

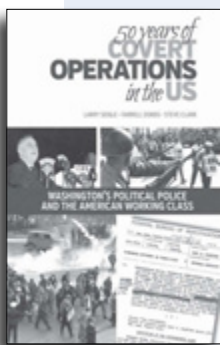
While support for the Hammonds is widespread in the region, the wisdom of the occupation of the wildlife refuge is still hotly debated.

Federal prosecutors have charged 25 people with conspiracy to “impede officers of the United States” for their role in the refuge occupation, including leaders Ammon and Ryan Bundy. The FBI arrested their father, Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, when he flew to Portland, Oregon, Feb. 10 to visit his sons in jail. He was charged with six felony counts stemming from a 2014 confrontation in Nevada with federal agents when they attempted to confiscate 1,000 of his cattle they said were illegally grazing on federal land.

50 Years of Covert Operations in the U.S.

Washington's Political Police and the American Working Class

BY LARRY SEIGLE, STEVE CLARK, FARRELL DOBBS



The 15-year political campaign of the Socialist Workers Party to expose decades of spying and disruption by the FBI and other federal cop agencies. Traces the origins of bipartisan efforts to expand presidential

powers and build the “national security” state essential to maintaining capitalist rule. \$12

PATHFINDERPRESS.COM

Malcolm X: ‘Capitalism today is more like a vulture’

Malcolm X was assassinated on Feb. 21, 1965, at the age of 39. In the last year of his life he emerged as the outstanding leader of the struggle for Black liberation in the United States. “Malcolm X challenged American capitalism from right inside,” notes Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party. “He was living proof for our generation of revolutionists that it can and will happen here.”

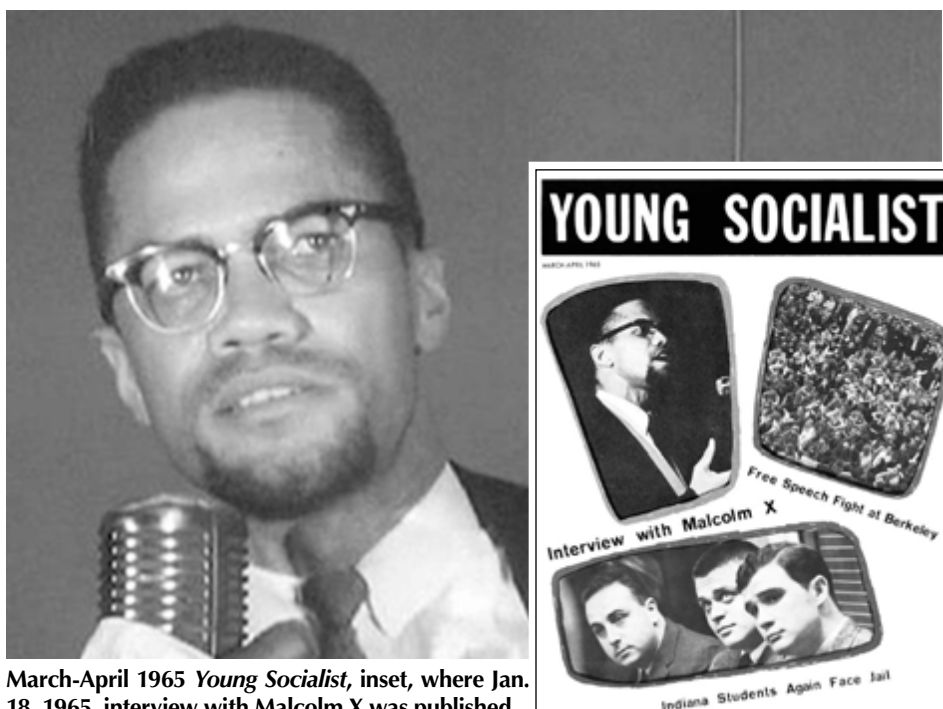
Today the main sources of “information” about Malcolm come from the *Autobiography of Malcolm X* prepared by Alex Haley or from the 1992 “Malcolm X” movie by Spike Lee. But both freeze

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Malcolm X’s political trajectory in April 1964 when he made the hajj to Mecca, only a month after his public break with the Nation of Islam. “Malcolm’s experiences and the political conclusions he drew didn’t stop there,” Barnes notes. “In fact, he had barely begun.”

As Malcolm X saw more clearly the need to advance the “global rebellion of the oppressed against the oppressor, the exploited against the exploiter,” his political attraction to the Cuban Revolution grew.

Pathfinder Press publishes numerous books of Malcolm X’s speeches and interviews so that new generations of fighters can learn from his example. The selection below is from a Jan. 18, 1965,



March-April 1965 *Young Socialist*, inset, where Jan. 18, 1965, interview with Malcolm X was published.

interview by Jack Barnes and Barry Sheppard, published in the March-April 1965 *Young Socialist* and reprinted in *By Any Means Necessary*, one of February’s Books of the Month. Copyright © 1970 by Betty Shabazz and Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



QUESTION: What image of you has been projected by the press?

MALCOLM X: Well, the press has purposely and skillfully projected me in the image of a racist, a race supremacist, and an extremist.

QUESTION: What’s wrong with this image? What do you really stand for?

MALCOLM: First, I’m not a racist. I’m against every form of racism and segregation, every form of discrimination. I believe in human beings, and that all human beings should be respected as such, regardless of their color. ...

QUESTION: How do you define Black nationalism, with which you have been identified?

MALCOLM: I used to define Black nationalism as the idea that the Black man should control the economy of his community, the politics of his community, and so forth. But, when I was in Africa in May, in Ghana, I was speaking with the Algerian ambassador, who is extremely militant and is a revolutionary in the true sense of the word (and has his credentials as such for having carried on a successful revolution against oppression in his country). When I told him that my political, social, and economic philosophy was Black nationalism, he asked me

very frankly, well, where did that leave him? Because he was white. He was an African, but he was Algerian, and to all appearances, he was a white man. And he said if I define my objective as the victory of Black nationalism, where does that leave him? Where does that leave revolutionaries in Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania? So he showed me where I was alienating people who were true revolutionaries dedicated to overturning the system of exploitation that exists on this earth by any means necessary. So, I had to do a lot of thinking and reappraising of my definition of Black nationalism. Can we sum up the solution to the problems confronting our people as Black nationalism? And if you notice, I haven’t been using the expression for several months. But I still would be hard pressed to give a specific definition of the overall philosophy which I think is necessary for the liberation of the Black people in this country.

QUESTION: Is it true, as is often said, that you favor violence?

MALCOLM: I don’t favor violence. If we could bring about recognition and respect of our people by peaceful means, well and good. Everybody would like to reach his objectives peacefully. But I’m also a realist. The only people in this country who are asked to be nonviolent are Black people. I’ve never heard anybody go to the Ku Klux Klan and teach them nonviolence, or to the Birch Society and other right-wing elements. Nonviolence is only preached to Black Americans and I don’t go along with anyone who wants to teach our

people nonviolence until someone at the same time is teaching our enemy to be nonviolent. I believe we should protect ourselves by any means necessary when we are attacked by racists. ...

QUESTION: What do you think of the murder of the three civil rights workers and what’s happened to their killers?

MALCOLM: It shows that the society we live in is not actually what it tries to represent itself as to the rest of the world. This was murder and the federal government is helpless because the case involves Negroes. Even the whites involved, were involved in helping Negroes. And concerning anything in this society involved in helping Negroes, the federal government shows an inability to function. But it can function in South Vietnam, in the Congo, in Berlin and in other places where it has no business. But it can’t function in Mississippi. ...

QUESTION: What is your opinion of the Democratic Party?

MALCOLM: The Democratic Party is responsible for the racism that exists in this country, along with the Republican Party. The leading racists in this country are Democrats. Goldwater isn’t the leading racist — he’s a racist but not the leading racist. The racists who have influence in Washington, D.C., are Democrats. If you check, whenever any kind of legislation is suggested to mitigate the injustices that Negroes suffer in this country, you will find that the people who line up against it are members of Lyndon B. Johnson’s party. The Dixiecrats are Democrats. The Dixiecrats are only a subdivision of the Democratic Party, and the same man over the Democrats is over the Dixiecrats. ...

QUESTION: What is your opinion of the worldwide struggle now going on between capitalism and socialism?

MALCOLM: It is impossible for capitalism to survive, primarily because the system of capitalism needs some blood to suck. Capitalism used to be like an eagle, but now it’s more like a vulture. It used to be strong enough to go and suck anybody’s blood whether they were strong or not. But now it has become more cowardly, like the vulture, and it can only suck the blood of the helpless. As the nations of the world free themselves, then capitalism has less victims, less to suck, and it becomes weaker and weaker. It’s only a matter of time in my opinion before it will collapse completely.

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Support the SWP 2016 campaign!

The *Militant* urges its readers to join Alyson Kennedy and Osborne Hart, Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice president, Eleanor García, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in California, and more SWP candidates to come, in fighting alongside workers in city and countryside to defend ourselves against attacks on our wages and working conditions as the slow-burning capitalist crisis deepens.

The Socialist Workers Party campaign fights for a working-class way forward out of the dog-eat-dog capitalist system and the depression conditions it imposes on workers and our allies. Capitalist contraction and resulting attacks on workers in industry and on the land mark every part of the world.

Kennedy and Hart address what workers know: real unemployment in the U.S. is far higher than the 5 percent claimed by government officials, who don't count the "discouraged" worker, retirees, students, disabled workers or stay-at-home parents. Propertied rulers squander the productive capacity of millions and condemn them to isolation and demoralization. A workers and farmers government will recognize the humanity and dignity of every worker and draw

on the capacities of all — so that learning, producing and creating can be lifelong activities to advance humanity.

The Socialist Workers Party candidates and campaigners join and help build labor and social fights today — from demonstrations against police killings in Chicago to rallies by Los Angeles warehouse workers fighting for safer working conditions and representation by the Teamsters union. As they fight shoulder to shoulder with fellow workers, they point to the need for unions to act as tribunes of the whole working class, and all oppressed and exploited allies.

As these struggles grow, workers gain confidence and class-consciousness, becoming more competent, more capable of leading a struggle to overthrow the dictatorship of capital.

The Cuban Revolution provides living inspiring proof that ordinary workers and farmers are capable of making a thorough-going revolution and, in the process, become what Che Guevara called new men and women, capable of building a society based on relations of human solidarity and internationalism.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

Boston SWP — A long, proud history

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Members of the Socialist Workers Party in Boston have redeployed to other cities to help strengthen the party in 2016.

In recent years a small number of party members have maintained a local headquarters, participated in union struggles and fights for Black rights, and run in election campaigns. The effort in Boston could no longer be sustained, and to maximize the strongest national presence of the party today and take advantage of political openings nationwide members of the party in Boston moved elsewhere.

"The Socialist Workers Party has a long, proud history in Boston," John Studer, SWP national campaign director and editor of the *Militant*, said at an Oct. 24 meeting there on party perspectives and moves to prepare for deeper participation in class struggle openings today.

"Working people face slow-burn depression conditions as the contraction in capitalist production and trade continues and the bosses and their government attack our wages, jobs and safety conditions, seeking to put the burden for their crisis on our backs," Studer said.

"This has sparked deep interest in what can be done to meet these attacks, what are the roots of the crisis and, as the 2016 presidential campaign unfolds, what workers should do to advance their class interests," he said.

The meeting of two dozen people, including long-time supporters of the SWP in Boston, celebrated the party's political accomplishments there over the years, including highlighting two major fights in the U.S. class struggle that the SWP in Boston was right in the center of.

GE strike and fight against Vietnam War

In 1969 workers in 13 unions at General Electric went on a 101-day strike at 280 of its plants nationwide. Boston SWP members walked the picket lines and built solidarity for the strike. Party members explained to participants in the anti-war movement the importance of supporting this labor battle as part of the fight against Washington's imperialist war against the Vietnamese Revolution. General Electric produced jet engines for U.S. war planes and profited immensely from the Indochina war.

Leaders of the SWP and Young Socialist Alliance helped lead the Student Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam in building support for the walkout and organizing protests against GE recruiting at area universities.

"The SWP advanced this perspective in the anti-Vietnam War movement in Boston and elsewhere to win young fighters to see the power of the working class and the union movement," Studer said. "Organizing the strategy and tactics of the fight against the war to maximize winning the working class — on the

job and in uniform — was decisive."

Gains were made in the fight against Washington's war through the SMC's work supporting the strikers. "GE workers are fighting this billion dollar corporation with their weapon of withholding labor," union leaders wrote in a December 1969 letter of thanks. "They are deeply appreciative of all the assistance they get in this struggle."

Through these struggles, and others like them, cadres in Boston helped the party win new generations of young fighters to the communist movement.

Mobilizations beat back school segregation

Between 1974 and 1976, a pitched battle raged in Boston over a federal court ruling ordering city officials to desegregate the schools.

More than a decade after the victorious mass working-class fight to end Jim Crow, Democratic Party officials in the Boston City Council organized a violent racist campaign to defy the order. Black students, parents and their supporters took up the fight for implementation of the order and against racist attacks by supporters of segregation. The Socialist Workers Party helped lead this fight. Party members joined in organizing the National Student Coalition Against Racism, which worked with the NAACP to organize thousands in street protest actions to "keep the buses rolling" and to defend Black youth riding on them.

"SWP members across the country joined other defenders of Black rights to build the protests and increase pressure on Boston's propertied rulers," Studer said. New recruits were won to the SWP and YSA.

Boston was one of the founding units of the communist movement in the U.S. and of the Socialist Workers Party.

Studer explained that the SWP in Boston traces its continuity to the founding of the communist party in the U.S., emulating the example of the Russian Revolution of 1917 led by V.I. Lenin and the Bolsheviks. Antoinette Konikow, a Russian-born Marxist who immigrated to Boston in 1893, was a founding member of the new Communist Party here. She was expelled from the CP in 1928, as were James P. Cannon and other party leaders in New York and elsewhere, for supporting Russian revolutionary leader Leon Trotsky's fight to maintain the continuity of Lenin against a counterrevolution led by Joseph Stalin.

Recruits in Boston were won and became the Boston branch of the SWP at its founding in 1938. Konikow remained active building the party until her death at the age of 77 in July 1946.

"SWP members will continue to take part in working-class politics in Boston and the region, coming from New York and other branches," Studer said, "and, given the pace of political developments today, we're certain we'll be rebuilding the party branch here." A number of supporters of the SWP remain in the area to help the party in its work.

Syria catastrophe

Continued from front page

"our focus really is to defeat ISIL [Islamic State], so that's where our focus remains."

At Washington's initiative, President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin consulted Feb. 14 and agreed they would work in even "closer collaboration" on efforts to achieve a cease-fire. At the same time, both Moscow and Tehran said they had no intention of stopping military operations against "terrorists," meaning opponents of Assad's regime.

A Russian military official told the *Wall Street Journal* that Moscow would step up use of heavy weaponry to take Aleppo. "How do you clear out your enemy" he said. "You level the city mostly with artillery."

While the Obama administration cries crocodile tears over Aleppo in public, in fact they see Moscow's moves to reinforce the Assad regime as increasing the chance of stability there. Washington rules out any possibility of its forces conducting a ground war in Syria or Iraq.

The disastrous toll on working people in Syria from bombs, starvation sieges and murderous assaults by the regime and its allies was released Feb. 11 by the Syrian Center for Policy Research. It documents that the death toll in the war is nearly half a million people, not the 250,000 that has been repeated for some time since the United Nations "stopped counting."

Of the 470,000 Syrians who have died, some 400,000 perished from the violent war itself; the rest as a result of malnutrition and disease in the absence of health care, food and sanitation. Nearly 1.9 million Syrians have been injured, meaning that 10 percent of Syrians have been killed or injured.

Life expectancy dropped from 70.5 years in 2010 to 55.4 in 2015. Nearly 70 percent of Syrians now subsist in extreme poverty.

The war began in 2011 when mass protests by working people against the Assad dictatorship were met with bloody military retaliation. The working class, lacking any leadership capable of organizing an independent fight to take political power, was pushed aside as a range of capitalist opposition groups — from former figures of Assad's Baathist Party to Islamists of different stripes — formed armed groups to combat Assad and in some cases each other.

The vacuum of working-class leadership is a product of decades of betrayals of workers' and farmers' struggles by bourgeois nationalist forces like Assad's Baathist Party and subservience to it in the interests of Moscow by the Stalinist Communist Party of Syria. This also opened the door for the emergence of Islamic State and its seizure of territory in both Syria and Iraq.

Place of Kurdish fighters

In the midst of Moscow's bombings, Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) forces, backed by Arab combatants, captured the Mannagh air base near Syria's Turkish border from Islamist anti-Assad forces Feb. 10 and moved fighters into position to target Islamic State to the east of Azaz.

Ankara, which is determined to keep Kurds in Syria and some 20 million Kurds within its own borders from any moves towards an independent Kurdistan, fired across the border at YPG units. Washington pressed Ankara to stop the shelling and called on the Kurds to halt efforts to expand the area they control.

Ankara, as well as Riyadh, opponents of both Assad and Tehran, have been decades-long allies of Washington. But today Turkish and Saudi rulers feel they are being pushed aside as Washington works more closely with Moscow and Tehran. The Turkish and Saudi rulers seek to reassert their place in swirling developments in the Middle East, defending their own special interests.

Another casualty of the war is the population of Syrian Turkmens, a people with a language and culture related to Turkish, who have lived in the region for centuries. Most oppose Assad, who banned them from writing or publishing in their language, and some are in armed groups. Now thousands are fleeing Aleppo province to Turkey.

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