

WORKERS WORLD

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For Trayvon Martin 'NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!'

By Monica Moorehead

April 10 was declared "National Hoodie Day" and "An International Day for Justice" in honor of Trayvon Martin, the 17-year-old African American who was lynched by a vigilante's bullet in Sanford, Fla.

Thousands of people were expected to protest around the country on what marked the 44th day since George Zimmerman shot to death the unarmed Martin as he was coming home from a store. Zimmerman tried to justify the killing by claiming that Martin looked "suspicious" because he was wearing a hoodie.

The police said they decided not to arrest Zimmerman because he was protected by the "Stand Your Ground" law — a Florida law that upholds an act of self-defense as justification for maiming or even killing the so-called perpetrator without facing prosecution. The Sanford police have a notorious reputation for not arresting anyone accused of assaulting Black men.

On April 9, special prosecutor Angela Corey announced that a grand jury would not be convened to hear testimony on whether Zimmerman should be charged with killing Martin. She added that the investigation would continue. Whether or not Zimmerman will be charged with the killing of Martin is a source of both confusion and anger for the masses, who want to see justice served for Martin and his family.

The main question being asked is why it is taking so long for the Florida authorities to make a decision when all the evidence points to the fact that Martin died solely for "walking while Black" in a gated neighborhood. Some in the media are saying that even if Zimmerman is arrested, he will most likely not be charged with first-degree murder but with manslaughter. Only time will tell.

Resistance, voices of outrage grow

On the same day that Corey made her announcement, six young students — Black, Latino/a and white — locked arms and sat down in front of the Sanford Police Department headquarters, blocking the front entrance. These youth and their supporters sang traditional Civil Rights songs, updating the words to apply to justice for Trayvon. Their actions forced the police to shut down the station for several hours.

On the weekend of April 7-8, 40 college students marched from Daytona Beach to Sanford in support of Martin. Across the country on April 8, motorcyclists of all nationalities, genders and gender expressions mobilized for Trayvon Martin by driving in processions while wearing hoodies. Black motorcycle riders rode together in Durham, Greensboro, Winston-Salem and Charlotte, N.C., to demand justice for Trayvon. Recently in Anchorage, Alaska, the NAACP organized a rally for him during a snowstorm.

More than 300 protesters, mostly African Americans,

Continued on page 7

FIGHT RACISM!

- Cece McDonald trial nears 5
- Trayvon Martin coverage 6-7
- Cops kill heart patient 8
- Anti-racists: Stand your ground EDITORIAL 10

NEW JOBS PLUMMET

No way out? 3

DETROIT

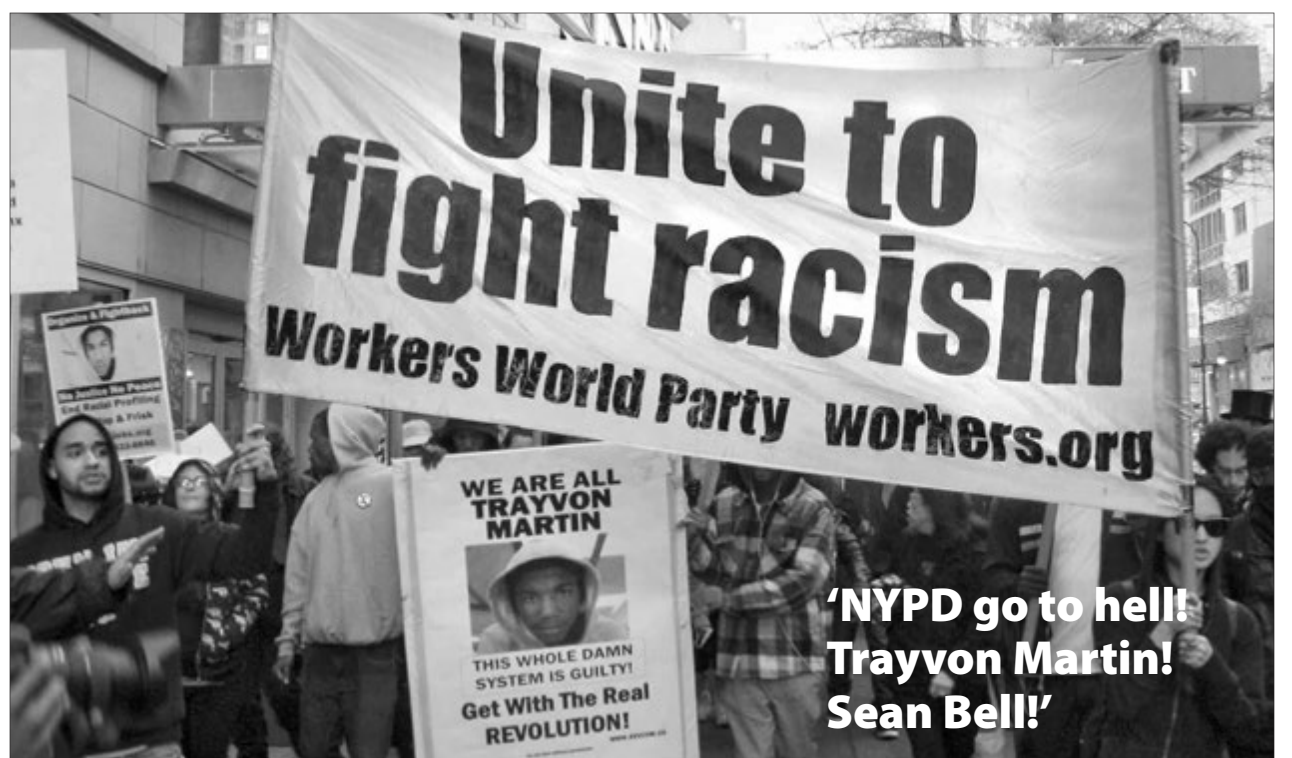
Banks make a grab 3

LATINA CARPENTER

speaks out 4



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



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CHINA Behind the struggle 9

KOREA Kim il Sung 11

'NYPD go to hell!
Trayvon Martin!
Sean Bell!'

Autistics struggle under capitalism

WORKERS WORLD
this week...

By Scott Thomas

Scott Thomas, who prefers to write under a pseudonym, is an Autistic young adult, a member of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network and a candidate member of Workers World Party. Thomas, like the majority of the Autistic community, rejects person-first language and prefers to be called "Autistic" rather than "a person with autism." Autistic is capitalized because being Autistic encompasses more than a diagnosis of autism; there is an Autistic culture and an Autistic community that goes beyond the mere diagnostic criteria for the neurological disability called autism.

Much hype has been generated in the media about a group of diagnoses whose incidence has been greatly increasing over the last 10 years. These diagnoses, widely believed to be genetic in nature, are known collectively as the Autism Spectrum.

Autistics embody a variety of diverse characteristics that constitute the various diagnoses, but most Autistics share the following characteristics in various degrees: intense interests and rituals, repetitive movements, difficulty in social situations, difficulty communicating, and difficulty processing sensory information. While many of these difficulties seem challenging, many of the challenges that Autistics face are precipitated by a society that is unwilling to accommodate a diverse set of needs that humans face.

The increase in diagnosis over the past 10 years is because clinicians are now beginning to accurately diagnose people previously not believed to have a disability. The increase in diagnoses has prompted more accommodations for Autistics, both in the education world and in the workforce. Research indicates that Autism Spectrum Disorders are still greatly underdiagnosed and may affect as many as 1 in 38 people. Invisible disabilities are especially underdiagnosed in women, people of color, and those in dire financial straits who cannot afford the expensive, specialized health care required to receive a diagnosis.

Sometimes anti-Autistic propaganda is set forth by groups that purport to assist people. For example, the charity Autism Speaks promotes the Tragedy Model of Autism, which is the idea that a diagnosis of autism means certain, unbearable, financial and emotional hardship for the family of the Autistic. A promotional video called "Autism Every Day" includes former executive vice president of Autism Speaks, Alison Tepper Singer, voicing her fantasy to drive her daughter and herself off of the George Washington Bridge.

The organization stated that non-Autistic parents of Autistics should embrace these types of feelings rather than flee from them or seek help for them. This propaganda creates an attitude of dehumanization; the message is that we are so devastating to abled peoples' lives that we should be eradicated via whatever means nec-

essary (whether by cure or another method), and that our lives are so miserable they must not be worth living. Sometimes, tragically, this occurs, like the 2006 case of Katie McCarron, a three-year-old Autistic girl in Illinois whose mother was convicted of first-degree murder for suffocating her. People who kill Autistic and other people with disabilities are more likely to be acquitted by sympathetic juries or more lightly sentenced by judges than those who murder non-disabled people. (thisway-offlife.org)

Socialism, disabilities and the 99%

The dehumanization of Autistics and people with other disabilities stems from a fundamental element of the capitalist system. Under capitalism, all things that exist are valued according to their ability to generate profit for the 1%. Even the 99%, who have nothing to sell but their labor, are given value according to their ability to produce profit for the 1%, who make money purely via their ownership of the means of production.

Because of this, those in the 99% are valued according to their ability to work within the profit-producing machine that the 1% engineered. Therefore, the 1% want to give us as little as possible; they attack us with institutionalization, poor education and austerity measures. Because of this devaluation, people with disabilities have been neglected, abused and killed since the dawn of class society.

Despite the many transgressions which capitalist society has carried out against Autistics and other people with disabilities, there is still hope for the future. In Cuba, a country where the 99% rose up and drove out the 1%, people with disabilities are viewed, first and foremost, as people who have something to contribute to society, rather than a burden.

Rather than cut away at education, health care and benefits, as is happening in the U.S. and other capitalist countries, Cuban society provides excellent education free through the university level, free health care, and jobs or income for all.

Cuban schools use a diverse set of educational approaches geared toward helping Autistic children become educated and happy citizens capable of making a contribution to socialist society, rather than being trained to become cogs in the profit machine as in the U.S. People with disabilities who are unable to do the work that most Cubans do are given jobs reading to other workers so that the workers are better able to enjoy the time spent at work. These jobs provide people with disabilities both the income to support themselves and the satisfaction that comes with knowing that one is valuable to society.

Capitalism offers only dehumanization, destitution and even death to people with disabilities. Only by smashing the 1% can people with disabilities have the full freedom to live the most fulfilling lives possible, unhindered by the misdeeds of a system that seeks to destroy us. □

★ In the U.S.

- 'No justice, no peace!' 1
- Autistics struggle under capitalism 2
- 'Financial Stability Agreement' forced on Detroit 3
- Jobs stats point to capitalist dead end 3
- International Women's Day meet in Boston 3
- Group fights discrimination in the construction trades 4
- On the picket line 4
- Support grows for CeCe McDonald as trial date nears 5
- Youth join community in postal workers' struggle 5
- Boston: Occupy the T 5
- When outrage can lead to rebellion 6
- Solidarity can't be 'invisibilized' 6
- The forces behind Trayvon's Martin's death 7
- White Plains cop guns down heart patient in his home 8
- 'Trayvon Martins are in every community' 8
- Activists demand 'schools, not jails' 8
- Gil Noble, ¡presente! 10
- All out for May Day! 10

★ Around the world

- The Chongqing vs. Guangdong models 9
- The spirit of Kim Il Sung lives on 11
- Boston march for Palestine Land Day 11
- Egyptian bus workers settle strike 11

★ Editorials

- Anti-racists – Stand your ground! 10

★ Noticias En Español

- Trayvon Martin 12
- Cuba y el Papa 12

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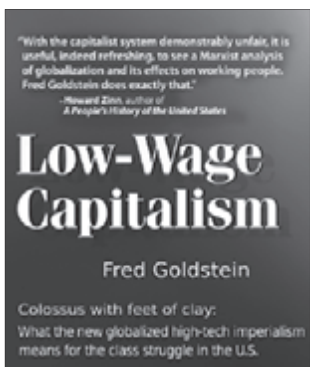
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Time to fight the banks

'Financial Stability Agreement' forced on Detroit

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

April 4 was the 44th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis, Tenn. Dr. King was there to support a sanitation workers' strike led by 1,300 African-American men seeking recognition through the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union.

It is ironic that on that date this year, the governing bodies of Detroit capitulated to Gov. Rick Snyder and Wall Street by agreeing to a so-called "Financial Stability Agreement" or FSA, which cedes control over the City's finances to a nine-member Financial Advisory Board. This was in lieu of the appointment by the governor of an Emergency Manager with similar authority under Public Act 4.

The purpose of Public Act 4 is to guarantee the banks' continuing robbery of the City of Detroit. According to Snyder's financial review team, this impoverished city paid \$597 million in debt service to the banks in 2010 alone. The City's long-term liability to the banks is \$16.9 billion, including \$4 billion in interest. In 2010, the City's debt-to-net-assets ratio was an amazing 32.64 to 1.

Public Act 4 guarantees the banks "payment in full of the scheduled debt service requirements on all bonds, notes and municipal securities." The same banks that destroyed the neighborhoods of Detroit with their predatory lending practices will be assured to get paid out of the City treasury, while services, jobs and City workers' wages are slashed to the bone.

The Financial Advisory Board will essentially usurp the existing limited authority of the elected City Council and Mayor Dave Bing. While five members of the Council voted to accept this capitulation to the banks, four members rejected the agreement, saying it was illegal and solely designed to overturn the voting rights of residents and labor contracts of union members.

The rush to approve the FSA was to render moot the petition drive that collected 226,000 signatures aimed at nullifying Public Act 4. Had the signatures been certified, Public Act 4 would have been suspended pending a statewide referendum.

The FSA is a union-busting move. In an effort to avoid the imposition of an Emergency Manager, most of the major city unions had negotiated tentative agreements with Mayor Bing that imposed additional concessions on City workers. However, even these concessionary agreements were considered inadequate by Snyder and the banks. They have been tossed out by the FSA in a move meant to humiliate the union leadership.

The FSA is a racist move. All the Michigan cities with a majority of African Americans will now be under either an emergency manager or a financial board.

This essentially nullifies the Black vote throughout Michigan.

Struggle must take on the banks

Among the majority of people in the city, there is serious disappointment and outrage directed at the City Council,

Mayor Bing, Gov. Snyder and the Michigan courts, which hastily threw out the numerous challenges preceding the vote. Hundreds of Detroit residents turned out and testified against the Emergency Manager or FSA at numerous City Council meetings and review team meetings prior to the vote.

The Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs took the lead, pointing the finger directly at the banks as the source of Detroit's financial crisis and demanding a halt to all debt service payments to these same financial institutions. Others have picked up on this theme, including Steve Babson, of the People Before Banks Coalition, and the Rev. David Bullock, leader of Operation Push.

A demonstration downtown at the Rosa Parks Transit Center the same night as the vote represented the first public

response to the imposition of the FSA. The demonstration was organized by the Amalgamated Transit Union workers who drive the City buses. There have already been massive cutbacks in public transportation in Detroit. The FSA means there is bound to be even deeper reduction of services for the city's largely working-class and poor population. This demonstration hopefully signals the beginning of a fightback mobilization by the unions in response to the attack.

City workers and community organizations are ready to move to another level of mass protests. The demand for a moratorium on the payment of debt service will cause even more consternation and fear on the part of the bankers. The struggle in Detroit portends much for the plight of cities throughout the U.S.

Jerry Goldberg contributed to this article.

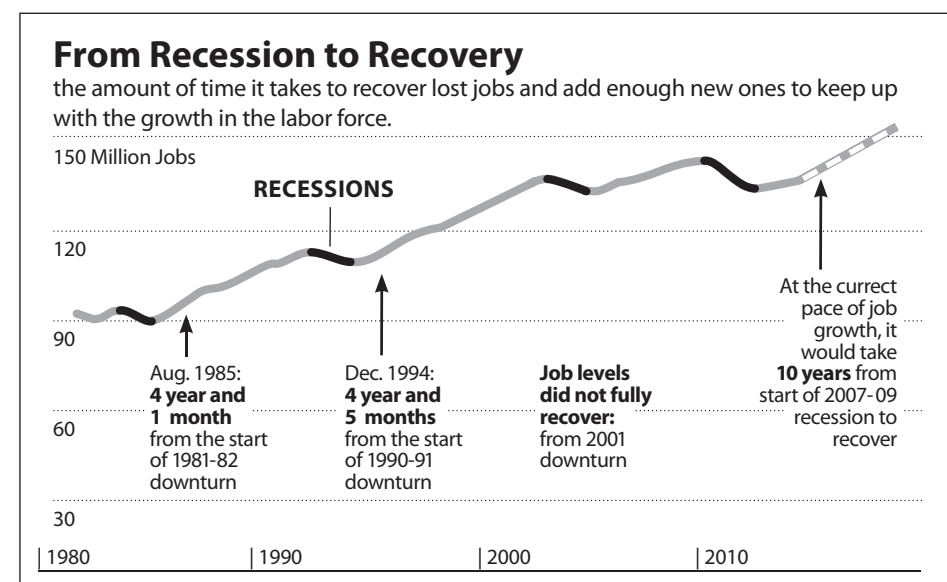
Jobs stats point to capitalist dead end

By Leilani Dowell

The recent report on job statistics affirms that the profound crisis of unemployment in the U.S. is by no means abating. Released on April 6, the report reveals that only 120,000 jobs were created in the month of March. These figures dampen the optimistic outlook of economists who cited the more than 200,000 jobs created in each of the three prior months as an upturn in the economy.

New York Times editorial board member Teresa Tritch notes that even with the gain of 3.6 million jobs since the lowest point in February 2010, the economy still needs to recover nearly 10 million jobs. Tritch cites Economic Policy Institute estimates that even at the rate of 200,000 jobs created per month, it would take at least another five years for the economy to return to the 5 percent pre-recession jobless rate. The graph presents the crawling rate of recovery from the recession of 2007 to 2009, even when compared to the last two slow recoveries. (April 7)

In "Capitalism at a Dead End," Workers World Contributing Editor Fred Goldstein, with the help of the same data as that in the graph, presents in detail his



conclusion that capitalism has entirely lost the ability to produce enough jobs to eliminate the unemployment brought on by the crisis. The new book is available at www.lowwagecapitalism.com.

Goldstein states, "It is extremely important to grasp the profound nature of the present crisis. After pouring in trillions of dollars to stem the crisis, the ruling classes have lost even the temporary control that financial intervention gave them. ...

In the long run, the only road to genuine recovery from the present capitalist crisis, true recovery by the working class and the vast majority of humanity, is to get rid of capitalism altogether and to reorganize society on a socialist basis, where all the forces of production and distribution are operated for human need, and in harmony with nature, not for human greed and profit. The present crisis confirms Marx's analysis and prognosis." □

International Women's Day meeting in Boston

An extraordinary and inspiring salute to women's struggles in history and presently was held on March 31 at the Action Center in Boston, to commemorate International Women's Day.

Rachel Hassinger, a Women's Fightback Network activist, chaired the evening's event. The panelists included Sandra McIntosh, co-chair of the Coalition for Equal Quality Education, who spoke about the struggle for justice for Trayvon Martin; and Jenny Rodriguez, a leader of the Northeastern University Food Service Workers, which is on the threshold of a major Local 26 union recognition victory.

Phebe Eckfeldt, veteran activist and Workers World Party organizer, gave a history of WWP's support for and involvement in women's struggles for reproductive justice — for health services, including abortion and contraceptive services and for medical care programs so that women can have and raise healthy children. She reviewed the important struggles to end racist sterilization abuse



WW PHOTO: STEVAN KRISHBAUM

of women from African-American, Latina and other oppressed communities.

Nancy Kohn raised the worldwide struggle on behalf of the Cuban 5, U.S. political prisoners and the upcoming week

of activities in Washington, D.C., to support them, and Miya X, leader of WFN and Politicin with the Sisters spoke about youth in revolutionary Cuba and the need to build the revolutionary movement here.

activities coming up: May Day and protests against NATO and the G8, and the need to build the independent movement in this year of capitalist electioneering.

— Boston Workers World bureau

Interview with a Latina carpenter

Group fights discrimination in the construction trades

By Joe Piette

Margarita Padín, a Puerto Rican resident of North Philadelphia, has been a member of the Carpenters Union for 23 years. For most construction workers of color in the Philadelphia area, and despite their skills and experience, it can be an uphill battle to find work. Padín, Paul Williams, John Graves and other workers in the building trades recently organized the Fair Hiring Coalition to fight against unfair hiring practices.

WW: How did this struggle begin?

MD: I and other people in the trades were looking for work, soliciting in the hiring halls. We were going into the Driscoll [a major construction management firm in Philadelphia] trailer at the Temple Gateway project to sign up, and I ran into a group of African-American operating engineers who were also out there, and I started talking to them. They were upset because on that site there were 16 white operating engineers. The contractors had overlooked all of the African Americans looking for work. So we started talking about doing something about it jointly because they aren't the only group that's excluded, since females are also excluded and Latinos. We decided to protest. It was a Thursday, so we said on Monday, let's just come out here and protest.

We reached out to other groups we thought would support the issue, like the Occupy Philadelphia Labor Working Group and the Coalition of Labor Union Women. From there came Occupy Temple, and then it spread through word of mouth.

Our message has been — for the eight weeks we've been out there — that the demographics of Philadelphia are not represented on all of Temple's construction projects, and in every trade in these projects. We're contesting the claim that 35 percent minority representation is "good" representation for the job as a whole.

WW: What is the number in the city?

MD: In the city, 42 percent of the population is Black and 42 percent is white. That does not include Latinos or Asians. Then, there is the exclusion of women from the trades. There are seven ZIP codes adjacent to Temple. In ZIP code 19122, where the white population is 35 percent, probably including many students, the number Temple is asking for is inverted. The school should be asking for 65 percent people of color and women workers. In the other ZIP codes around Temple, whites are an even smaller minority.

WW: There are many laws — city, state, and federal — on this issue. Why are most of the high-paying construction jobs still being taken by white men?

We have many laws, but nobody enforces them. You know why: The contractors, developers and agencies don't want to take punitive steps against businesses because they all have the goal of making money. To make things right so that hiring is inclusive, we would have to tell businesses, "You have to share the wealth." Are we taught to share the wealth in this country? I don't think so.

Is there racism? Yes. Is there nepotism? Yes. Is there sexism? Yes. Is it surprising? No.

WW: Please describe the high-paying trades versus the laborers' trades.

MD: Temple has set themselves a contract and a goal with Driscoll for 35 percent minority representation for the job as a whole. It's meaningless. They hire consultants from three or four different companies to help reach these numbers. The 35 percent is usually reached with laborers and cement finishers, who do the hardest work and are paid the least. They are comprised of African Americans and other groupings that are excluded from all the other trades.

So what is accomplished in hiring in just those two trades? It's perpetuating the racism and exclusion from the rest of the trades from which they have always been excluded, if representation of the city's demographics is not required in every trade.

There are 10, 20 or 30 different trades that work on a project, especially of that magnitude, from start to finish: electricians, carpenters, operating engineers, sprinkler fitters, steamfitters, bricklayers, glaziers, drywall finishers, and carpenters. If there are a significant number of African Americans only working as laborers and cement finishers, what is being accomplished by setting 35 percent minority participation for the job as a whole? Not much, because there are still going to be segregated trades.



Part of the Fair Hiring Coalition, after a meeting with Temple officials on March 30. Pictured from left to right: Fermin, Warren Davis, Wilfredo, Paul Llewellyn Prescod, Diane Isser, Paola Alejandra and Margarita Padín.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

In areas where there are few living wage jobs — that pay \$40 to \$60 an hour — the residents in Philadelphia, especially in North Philadelphia, are not hired for these jobs. There are always many construction projects going on all over Philadelphia, but you don't see the city's residents working on them.

Women also want living wage jobs. If they knew they were welcome, there would be a lot more women working in construction than there are now. It's illegal to advertise for males or females in employment, but workers don't apply for jobs where they see they are not welcome.

WW: Why is Paul Williams, one of the members of the Fair Hiring Coalition, working far away?

MD: Many African-American operating engineers are working in jobs way out in the counties for less pay. They end up making nothing because they have to pay to stay in a hotel. Why can't they work in the city where they live?

WW: Who is doing the work in the city?

MD: The people who live in New Jersey and the counties, who are making all the high wages. It shouldn't happen.

Enforcement of the city, state and federal laws is not effective because it depends on workers making a complaint. Seldom will workers file a complaint when they know they will be punitively shut out of employment and will work even less than before.

The enforcement agencies need to institute some mechanism so that they regularly insist on compliance wherever they go. Every time federal, city or state funds are used, the government agencies must check on those contractors and see what they're doing, not wait for someone to make a complaint.

For 40 years, this wasn't done throughout the conservative administrations. It hasn't been done since before Reagan. It wasn't important to the Republican or the last Democratic administrations. The Obama administration has been hiring inspectors, but they haven't been trained about what to look for at a construction site. Contractors can tell them anything.

These investigators and enforcers should include African Americans, Latinos and women who are experienced in the industry and know what to look for.

WW: Private consultants are hired to oversee enforcement. Why does that not get you what you want?

MD: The developers and the contractors hire private consulting agencies that supposedly do compliance for the projects to make them look like they are actually doing something about diversity. In case somebody comes from the [U.S.] Department of Labor, they can say: "Look. We have hired a consultant. We have our numbers."

It's just a coverup. All they do is compile data. They don't have enforcement powers. They just compile a list of who's being hired for the project, even if it's just for a day, and then the consultants say: "Good job. Here's the paperwork."

These consultants are never going to raise an issue to the developers or contractors who pay them. They will never say, "You guys are not doing what you're supposed to do," because they will never get a contract again. Some consulting companies have gotten subcontracts on compliance in the city for years. They're not going to end their gig.

The contractors will find someone else to tell them they're doing a good job. Ultimately, it's a business decision. The consultants know how to alter the numbers so that the businesses can make the most profits. □

On the Picket Line

By Sue Davis

Chicago janitors vote to strike

Fed up because their wages haven't increased in real dollars in more than a decade, members of Service Employees Local 1 in Chicago voted March 31 to strike. The contract for the 13,000 janitors who clean the buildings and office spaces of some of the richest companies in the world expired April 8. Chicago janitors clean about 33,000 miles of office space every night. In spite of their backbreaking labor, the average Chicago janitor is paid about \$20,000 less than the estimated annual cost of living for a family of four in the Chicago area. With the third highest poverty rate and the highest rate of racial income disparity of any major city in the U.S., Chicago needs a strong, united strike to give a boost to all low-income workers, particularly those who are people of color and immigrants. No wonder the janitors, when kicking off their campaign for higher wages and better benefits on Feb. 27, marched to a Chase Bank. "Chase Bank made \$8.5 billion in profits last year. It would take me, or any Chicago janitor who keeps Chase clean, 31 years to make what Chase [racks up in] profits in just one hour," said janitor Urszula Domaradzki. Stay tuned. (www.seiu1.org, Feb. 27 and March 31)

D.C.-area grocery workers prevent concessions

The 25,000 grocery workers represented by Food & Commercial Workers Local 400 at 126 Safeway and Giant stores in Maryland, northern Virginia and the District of Columbia pushed back hard against the bosses' demands for concessions. "Our members' activism and solidarity [are] why they won one of the best collective bargaining agreements in the supermarket industry," said Tom McNutt, Local 400 president, after the workers ratified the three-year contract on April 3. Being prepared to strike and engaging community support helped Local 400 secure across-the-board wage increases, full funding of health benefits with no increase in members' out-of-pocket costs, and continued retirement security with all current pension benefits maintained for at least the next 10 years. Another key strategy was publicizing how workers create billions in profits for Safeway and Ahold, the Dutch international conglomerate that owns Giant, at the same time these greedy corporations were demanding the introduction of a lower wage tier for new hires, an increase in health care co-payments and treating Sunday as part of the regular workweek. That kind of winning three-prong strategy should be adopted by all workers struggling for better contracts. (Union City, Metro Washington AFL-CIO Council online newsletter, April 4)

Farm Workers inducted into DOL Hall of Honor

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Farm Workers, UFW pioneers were inducted into the Department of Labor's Hall of Honor (formerly the Labor Hall of Fame) on March 26. And the auditorium in the DOL building was dedicated to César Chávez, UFW founder and longtime president. Among hundreds of farmworker, labor and community activists attending the ceremony were UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta, current UFW President Arturo Rodríguez and Paul Chávez, César's middle son and president of the César Chávez Foundation. "My father said that the job of an organizer is to help ordinary people do extraordinary things," Chávez remarked. A special tribute was made to five UFW activists — Nan Freeman, Nagi Daifalla, Juan De La Cruz, Rufino Contreras and René López — who were killed during UFW strikes. Actor Michael Peña, who will portray the historic labor leader in an upcoming movie, was master of ceremonies. (Union City, March 27) □

Young Black trans woman defended herself vs. racist mob

Support grows for CeCe McDonald as trial date nears

By Imani Henry

Tens of thousands of people across the U.S. and around the world have mobilized to demand the arrest of Trayvon Martin's killer, George Zimmerman. Because Zimmerman maintains that he acted in self-defense, he has not been arrested by the Sanford, Fla., police department or charged by the prosecutor.

The legal justification of self-defense in the U.S. has not worked in the same way for most people of color, women and lesbian/gay/bi/trans people, many of whom survive brutal bigoted attacks and then are arrested and convicted for defending themselves. John White, an African-American father living in Long Island, N.Y., was convicted of murder for protecting his son from an angry white mob in 2006. The New Jersey 7, young Black lesbians who defended themselves against a vicious anti-lesbian attack, were arrested and four of them sentenced to from three-and-a-half to 11 years in prison.

This holds true in the case of Chrishaun "CeCe" McDonald, a 23-year-old African-American trans woman who was attacked by patrons of a Minneapolis tavern on June 5 of last year. While McDonald and her friends were on their way to a nearby grocery store, the patrons assaulted them with racist and anti-LGBT slurs. Many of the vicious remarks were directed at McDonald, as a Black trans woman. All of McDonald's friends were people of color and youths, while those who attacked them were all white and older.

Desperate for help and covered in blood from having a glass mug smashed in her face, it was McDonald who first approached police arriving on the scene. The police arrested her and to this day have made no arrests against her attackers. And while there is no physical evidence tying her to the stabbing of Dean Schmitz, one of the men who attacked her, McDonald now faces second-degree murder charges.

As McDonald's April 30 trial date approaches, national outrage has strengthened the political campaign to have the charges dropped.



CeCe McDonald

"Our goal is to deliver a petition with 10,000 signatures on April 24 to Michael Freeman, the Hennepin County attorney, demanding he drop the charges against CeCe," Billy Navarro Jr., an organizer with the CeCe McDonald Support Committee based in Minneapolis, told Workers World. On April 24, McDonald must appear in court for a pre-trial hearing. "Young people from the Trans Youth Support Network have planned a 'dance party' protest right in front of Freeman's office on April 26. [McDonald] is a valued community member, and we want to show that there is support for her not only here but also around the country."

CeCe 'a leader and role model'

"CeCe in many ways is a leader and role model. Back when this happened, the newspapers called her a man and only used her birth name. We all know her as CeCe, so it took a few days before the community sprang into action. It has been hard on our community not having her with us," said Navarro.

McDonald was born in Chicago in 1989 and came out as a trans person at the age of 14. After moving to Minneapolis, she became active in the community, often participating in panels against racism and trans oppression. Talented in fashion design, CeCe had been pursuing her as-

sociate's degree in fashion at a local college for the last two years. She supported herself through a part-time job at a café.

One of McDonald's most important contributions was taking care of younger LGBT youth. According to Navarro: "She was the one with stable housing and finances, so she took in people younger than her so they wouldn't end up on the streets. She created a sense of family for them. ... Some of those young people were forced to go back to living in hostile, anti-gay family situations or are now surfing from couch to couch."

Another thing that has been hard for McDonald is that her birth family lives far away. "CeCe is a fighter and is generally so strong, but this is one thing she really gets emotional about," said Navarro. "She misses her mother and siblings in Chicago so much, and they are really supportive of her. But it is so expensive for them to travel here for her court dates. We are trying to raise money or have miles donated to bring her family here for the trial on April 30."

Growing national campaign

"Since this whole thing started, we have packed the courtroom, the hallway and rallied outside at every court date," said Navarro. "The biggest one drew over 100 supporters. We want to have people from all over the Midwest come out for both the pre-trial hearing on April 24 and the first day of trial on April 30."

The committee is seeking endorsements as well as letters of solidarity to be sent to Freeman from individuals,

unions and political groups. Midwest groups such as OutFront Minnesota, the African-American and African Studies Department of the University of Minnesota, the Trans Youth Support Network, the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department of Macalester College, the Women's Prison Book Project and the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement have joined the effort.

Nationally, groups like the Transgender Gender Variance Intersex Justice Project, the Transgender Law Center in California and Queers for Economic Justice in New York have called for the charges to be dropped. Trans historian and author Leslie Feinberg has begun a call within the labor movement for labor union activists and unions to send solidarity statements. Support committees and activist groups are raising funds and holding events in Brooklyn and Buffalo, N.Y.; Bloomington, Ind.; Chicago; San Francisco and Oakland, Calif.; and Boston.

"We have gotten pictures from the International Women's Day march on March 31 in New York City that carried signs about CeCe, and we have even been in touch with activists in Paris who are building support around CeCe's case," said Navarro. "Between now and April 30, we need events, fundraisers and to get CeCe's name out all over the press. We not only want to free CeCe but we want to take a stand against racist transphobic attacks happening all over the country."

To sign the petition, endorse and organize to free CeCe McDonald, see support-cece.wordpress.com. □

Youth join community in postal workers' struggle



WW PHOTO: MIKE E.

By Workers World New York bureau

Young people occupied a Harlem post office for an hour and a half on the afternoon on April 6 as part of a national action to save 200,000 jobs and community services needed at hundreds of U.S. Postal Service centers set to be closed. Based on the idea of 14-year-old Victoria Pannell, people saved their mail for a week or two and took it to the post office that day to show that the community needs postal services and the workers need their jobs.

The youths first rallied at the office of the National Action Network, the group that called the action, at its center on 145th Street in Harlem. Picture the Homeless, part of the coalition of Community-Labor United for Postal Jobs and Services, CLUPJS organizer Johnnie Stevens and Clarice Torrence, president of the New York Metro Area Postal Union,

spoke at the rally, and Pannell chaired it.

Then the activists marched to the College Station P.O. on 140th Street, which is one of 34 New York City postal offices to be closed. Their chant was "Whose P.O? Our P.O."

About 45 people went into the post office and lined up to mail packages and letters. They explained to the people in the P.O. that they were there to save jobs and community services. They let others go to the front of the line.

The community responded sympathetically. People were friendly throughout the protest, CLUPJS organizer Stevens told Workers World.

"What we saw today was a civil rights movement of youth that embraced the community and workers, demonstrating the need for jobs and services," said Stevens. □

Boston: Occupy the T

By Gerry Scoppettuolo
Boston

This peoples assembly was just one of over 20 coordinated actions across the country organized by many forces, including Occupy and the Amalgamated Transit Union. The ranks of organized labor filled the State House alongside the Occupy the T protesters while speaker after speaker condemned the 23 percent transit fare hikes set to begin this summer.

The fare increases will hurt youth, the elderly and the disabled the most, with some commuter lines being eliminated completely. Fares on "the Ride," that is, services for the disabled, will double.

April 4 was the 44th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination. A solidarity message from President Chad Johnson of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1733, the Memphis, Tenn., sanitation workers union, which King was supporting when he was murdered, was read aloud at the rally. Paul Kilduff, president of the 2,200-member Postal Workers Union Local 100 gave a rousing speech of solidarity.

ATU rank-and-file members at the rally

came wearing their Occupy "We are the 99%" T-shirts. In a statement to the rally, ATU President Larry Hanley wrote, "It's time to fund mass transit now, these are good jobs and we are going to fight to keep them!"

John Lee, president of the ATU Local 589, also addressed the crowd: "The funding problems at the T aren't because of service or workers. The funding problem is the debt that the MBTA was forced to take on by the Legislature a decade ago. You cannot solve this problem with service cuts — you have to cut the debt!"

Donna Kelly, president of the Massachusetts State Nurses Association, representing 23,000 unionized health care workers in Massachusetts, pledged to continue support for Occupy the T. After the State House rally, the crowd poured outside, where Occupy the T members set up an around-the-clock campsite in front of the State House.

The MBTA owes \$5.5 billion dollars and is scheduled to pay \$2.2 billion in interest alone to enrich big banks like J.P.Morgan and Deutsche Bank, with whom the T Board of directors entered into millions of dollars of credit default swaps. □

When outrage can lead to rebellion

By Larry Holmes

Based on a presentation at a Workers World Party forum in New York on April 6.

Why do some atrocities get a bigger mass response than others?

Hurricane Katrina got some reaction, but not what might be expected from such a devastating event. James Byrd was dragged to his death in Texas. Oscar Grant was killed in the BART transit system in the San Francisco Bay Area. Sean Bell was gunned down in his car in Queens, N.Y. These outrages drew mostly local reactions.

Compare these to the tremendous response that Trayvon Martin's killing has aroused. Not only in Sanford, Fla., but in New York City, Atlanta, Detroit and Los Angeles where thousands came out in protest and in Baltimore where thousands took City Hall. Thousands mobilized wearing hoodies.

Young people see this murder as something they want to identify with. Even professional sports teams were doing it. Former Black Panther Bobby Rush, now in Congress, spoke wearing a hoodie and had to be dragged out of Congress by racists. What accounts for the strong reaction?

Maybe it was because there was no arrest. Even the ruling-class media have brought that up.

Maybe it's because it was so familiar to millions of Black and Brown people, especially to young people. No person of color has grown up in this country and has not been profiled at one time or another. They feel lucky if it's one of the less lethal, but still humiliating forms of profiling.

Someone asking, "Are you lost?" when you're walking in the "wrong" neighborhood. Or "How can I help you?" repeatedly, as you're just looking in a store.

But is there something deeper that's provoking the reaction? It was a young African-American journalist, chief editor of Politic365 website, Krystal High, who is often invited on CNN and MSNBC panels, who said of Martin, "People say, hey, he is our Arab Spring," meaning that the case — the outrage — is a "call to action" for the African-American community.

A lot is at issue now as we approach April 10. This will be a massive national day demanding justice. In New York there are two days of demonstrations in Union

Square on Monday, April 9, and Tuesday, April 10. Martin's family will be there Monday. We have lots of responsibility on Tuesday.

Will the grand jury be convened? If not, will the special prosecutor do something? If there is no arrest, what will be the mass reaction? Might it be a rebellion?

I think we have to be ready for that. It should be uppermost in our minds to be ready to explain, defend and help such a rebellion, should it occur.

In Tunisia a young worker, a street merchant, set himself on fire. That was the catalyst that evoked something deeper, that provoked millions to rise up and then the movement to spread throughout the region. That's what the Arab Spring means to me.

It happened in Britain last August. A London cop killed a person of color, with roots in the West Indies. A rebellion started in London and spread. Outrage started it, but austerity drove the rebellion.

Unemployment is the big issue

What are the issues for working class youth like Trayvon Martin? They are 45-50 million strong. Many young workers, from their teens to their 30s, are unemployed.

There is a war against Black and Brown youth. What is that war? In many cities, more youth are in jail than holding a job. The drug laws, like the Rockefeller law in New York state, have created an assembly line sending people of color to jail.

They face austerity and are deprived of education. The problem is systematic. The big issue is devastating hyper, depression-level unemployment. Officially it's maybe 30 percent, but it's more like 40-70 percent really. Few jobs exist, and most that do are low-paying — jobs with no future.

Unemployment has been around a long time, but no one has been able to make it the big issue. Those benefiting from the capitalist system don't want it to be an issue because unemployment can't be solved under capitalism. Capitalism can't solve it.

The rulers have written off this section of the working class. They are closing schools and eliminating housing. Capitalism can't create a basis for exploiting large sections of the working class, so it has condemned them to social and political death.

What's the question now? How does a section of our class, condemned to social death, fight back? Do they rise up and say "I demand"?

History of struggle

Black people in the United States have a history of hundreds of years of struggle. Ever since the first enslaved people were brought here, they fought back. The struggle against national oppression is constant, deep, but the rulers try to ignore the day-by-day resistance. It needs a rebellion to be noticed.

The Civil Rights movement had an impact because the ruling class was forced to try to buy time by making concessions. Some 45 years ago, it took the 1964 rebellions in Harlem, the 1965 rebellion in Watts in Los Angeles, the big ones in 1967 in Newark and Detroit, and in more than 100 cities in 1968 after Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered to shake up the capitalist ruling class to do something.

Even though underlying the rebellions were bad housing, unemployment and systemic racism, police violence was the catalyst. Repression opened it up, but other things were at the roots of the struggle.

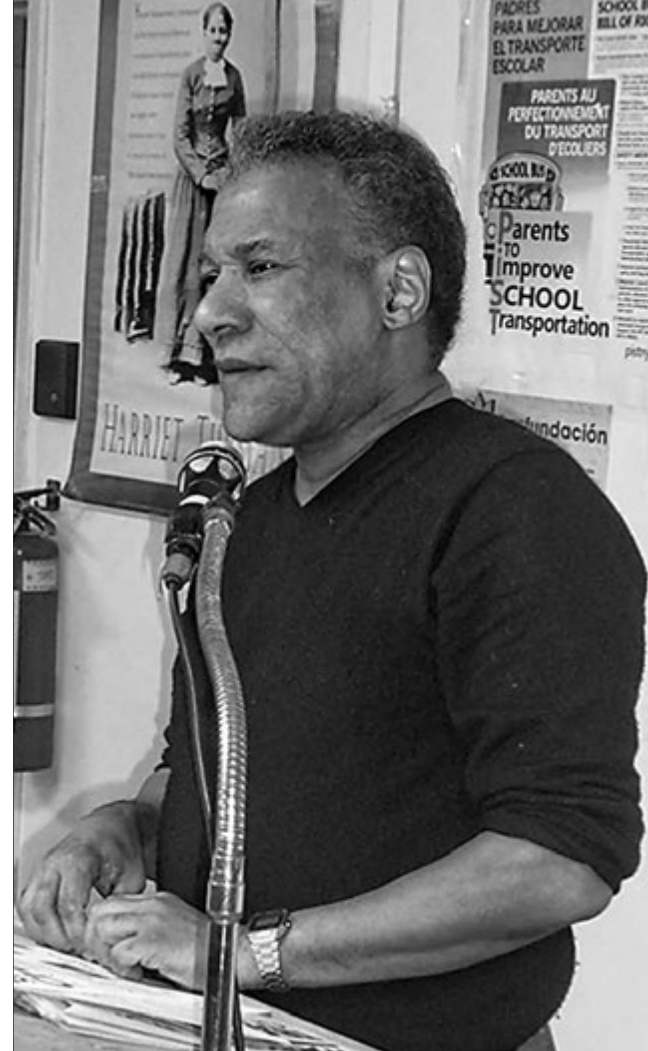
In 2006, the immigrants had their spring. They rose up and held the biggest general strike in 100 years on May Day.

Black and Brown youth are facing not exactly the same conditions, but there are similarities in how extreme the crisis is. Though a generalized rebellion is not guaranteed, we should at least plan a contingency for a big struggle, so we are not taken by surprise.

A cry for revolutionary optimism

If it is an Arab spring — that is, a generalized rebellion of the oppressed — it would be great for the Occupy Wall Street movement. Those activists are in motion, and the Black struggle would push OWS in the direction of solidarity with the oppressed.

Don't think it was a coincidence that Trayvon Martin's family went to Union Square, where OWS had relocated, and



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Larry Holmes

why they're going back there on April 9, where many forces are involved.

I differ with those who say OWS is going away. There's a difference now from the conditions during the Vietnam War when many white activists were propelled into struggle. Then, when the war ended, most went back to their normal lives and back into the system.

Now that option is no longer promised, even for white youth. It doesn't matter how savvy they are, the jobs aren't there. A little while ago they thought they had a future; now they are shocked that it has vanished. The knowledge they have, their education, their savvy — they can only use them for resistance and rebellion.

We know the Arab Spring is filled with contradictions. The imperialists took advantage of the opening to overthrow the government of Libya and are now intervening against Syria. When we talk of the good part of the Arab Spring, of OWS, of the outraged activists in Spain, we mean how they connected Tahrir Square in Cairo to Plaza del Sol in Madrid and to Union Square and Zuccotti Park in New York.

The deepening of the capitalist crisis on a world scale has opened up the possibility of struggle on a world scale. Of course, as revolutionaries, we have to be optimistic. The global capitalist crisis has created conditions for all the forces in the working class to be pushed together in solidarity.

We need to understand that and imagine a synthesis of forces that can come together. Otherwise we base ourselves on experiences where this didn't happen.

We look at the objective process moving the forces. With all the pitfalls of organizing, the ups and downs, the conditions won't go away. We hope they will push forward solidarity and unity in ideology against imperialism.

There is too much at stake to be stuck in old habits. The crisis is pushing us together. This is not clear to all, but it has to be clear to us.

Even if it's a false start, even if there is an outside chance it will develop into a sustained rebellion, we have to respond as revolutionaries to help it go as far as it can.

Holmes is First Secretary of Workers World Party's National Secretariat.

Statement by Latinos for Trayvon Martin

Solidarity can't be 'invisibilized.'

Following are excerpts from a statement by Latinos for Trayvon Martin issued at Hostos Community College in the Bronx, N.Y., on April 5.

We Latinos for Trayvon Martin, a coalition of Hostos professors, administrators and students are gathered [here] today because the history of this Latino institution demands we speak out. Hostos Community College is a college born out of the struggle of Latinos for educational equality and against American racism. Over 40 years after its founding we are called upon to denounce a despicable travesty of justice that has led to the murder of one of our children, uno de nuestros niños, Trayvon Martin.

We call on the Sanford, Fla., police, the Seminole County District Attorney's Office, and the Florida Special Prosecutor's office to expedite their investigations and indict George Zimmerman on felony ho-

micide charges. If the Florida law enforcement cannot meet their obligation to its citizens of color, then we call on the Department of Justice to prosecute this incident as a civil rights violation. We also call on all Americans of good faith to contact their legislators and support the repeal of all "stand your ground" laws now practiced in 21 states.

Does anyone seriously believe that if Trayvon had been a white teenager killed by a Black assailant that assailant would be free? The Martin family have conducted themselves with nobility, but we insist the predator that killed their son be arrested.

Signals have been sent that vigilante-style terror is the call of the day. Zimmerman must be arrested so that we as a nation have some closure to one of the worse incidents of racially motivated violence in recent history.

We are troubled by the specter that

some in the media have chosen to focus on the irrelevant issue of Zimmerman being Latino because of his Peruvian mother. However, the only relevant question is whether there is enough probable cause to indict him for his crimes.

We are also very disturbed by what we perceive as an effort to divide Black and/or Latino communities by implying that Latinos have remained "silent" on Trayvon's killing. Only last week, many Latinos joined their African-American brethren in a march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

We remind the media that major statements have already been issued by the National Council of La Raza, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the National Institute for Latino Policy, and many other groups, yet our views have been ignored. We have not been silent, but we have been "invisibilized." America, are you listening? □

For Trayvon Martin 'NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!'

Continued from page 1

marched to Dudley Square in Roxbury, a neighborhood in Boston, on April 6 to demand justice for Trayvon Martin. There were many youth as well as leaders from the most independent, activist ranks of the community. Speakers at the rally were Tony Van Der Meer, Rosa Parks Human Rights Day Committee founder and professor of Africana Studies at UMass, Boston; Bishop Filipe Teixeira Ofsjc, an immigrant rights leader from Brockton, Mass.; Boston City Councilor Charles Yancey; and Corey Yarborough, executive director of the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition of Boston.

The Rev. Cortly "C. D." Witherspoon, president of the Baltimore Southern Christian Leadership Conference and an organizer of the March 26 Baltimore protest of 10,000 for Trayvon Martin, proclaimed, "Thousands of people came out in the streets of Baltimore to express their outrage and anger. We are turning our attention to organizing our next steps. We, along with the Occupy 4 Jobs Network and the All Peoples Congress, have formed an umbrella committee, Justice 4 Trayvon Martin, Maryland LOC, which is calling for an emergency response if special prosecutor Angela Corey does not indict Zimmerman. If this happens, we have called on people to join us downtown, where we intend, by our sheer numbers and our dedication, to shut business as usual. We occupied City Hall and stopped the evening hearings on March 26; we can occupy Baltimore City's downtown."

Sharon Black, Baltimore All Peoples Congress organizer and representative of the local Occupy 4 Jobs, stated, "We have been inspired by the Dream Defenders and are planning a Trayvon Martin march to Washington, D.C., walking 41 miles to the Justice Department to join the Occupy and Mumia movement on April 24."

The legendary retired basketball player Earvin "Magic" Johnson said on CNN on April 10 that many players in the National Basketball Association can relate to the Trayvon Martin case because they come from similar socioeconomic backgrounds. Johnson also called for the arrest of Zimmerman.

Demonstrations along with teach-ins, prayer vigils and civil disobedience have mushroomed around the country for the past three weeks once this case gained national attention on Twitter, Facebook and other social media. Million Hoodie Marches took place during the latter part of March in dozens of cities. International demonstrations have taken place in London, Paris, Australia, India and elsewhere.

Racist backlash & capitalism

The fact that the police have allowed Zimmerman to remain free has not only evoked an anti-racist response of outrage but has also emboldened racist reaction. The senseless murder of Trayvon Martin has helped to rip off the facade of a "post-racial" society that many believed the election of U.S. President Barack Obama signaled. Even Obama, who carries out the interests of Wall Street and the Pentagon, has received death threats from the ultra-racist right-wing since he has been in office. As the global capitalist economic crisis accelerates, notwithstanding some temporary ebbs and flows, so does racist repression.

Racist graffiti praising Zimmerman's actions was spray painted on a wall of the Ohio State University building where the



Police station sit-in Sanford, Fla

Black Student Union has its office. A racial slur against Martin was seen on a neon sign off a major interstate near Dearborn, Mich. When five graffiti artists created a mural in tribute to Martin in Elmswood Park, N.J., local officials forced them to remove it, claiming that the mural "promoted a gang mentality."

An eighth-grade teacher of color, Brooke Harris, was fired at a non-unionized charter school last month in Pontiac, Mich., for promoting a fundraiser for Martin's family, which grew out of classroom discussions with her students about the killing. Harris, a two-time Teacher of the Year recipient, stated that many of her students, a majority of whom are African-American, expressed that what happened to Trayvon could also happen to them. Her class was also planning to organize a "wear-a-hoodie day" in memory of Trayvon. The school administration charged that Harris' actions were a "distraction" from the students' academic studies. A petition demanding her reinstatement can be found at change.org.

The police killing of African-American U.S. Marine veteran Kenneth Chamberlain Sr. in White Plains, N.Y., this past Nov. 19; the random shootings of five Black people, resulting in three deaths, in Tulsa, Okla., by neo-Nazis on April 7; the police killing of Michael Lumbard in Newburgh, N.Y., on March 7; and now the Trayvon Martin killing are just recent examples of how Black lives in the capitalist U.S. are viewed as expendable, like trash. Both Chamberlain and Lumbard were shot multiple times by the police in their homes. In both instances, there were no arrests.

Vigilantes like Zimmerman and the Tulsa neo-Nazis are given the green light to carry out their extra-legal murderous assaults. Neo-Nazis were reported by ABC News to be roaming the streets of Sanford, threatening the Black community. The police as a deadly force are given carte blanche by pro-rich laws to unleash their legal terror on the masses, especially if they are Black and Brown. It is just a matter of time before the frustrated masses decide there is no other recourse but to rebel, when justice is denied them by the courts and the police.

No matter how the Trayvon Martin case or the other individual cases of heinous injustice play out, the masses are more and more waking up to the fact that this capitalist system not only denies them any real justice, but also cannot provide



Boston Protest

WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

them quality jobs, education and other human needs. The killing of Trayvon Martin has helped to kick the door wide open for a burgeoning new movement. The key is to keep this door permanently open until a new society, based on providing equality and opportunities for all,

arises out of the ashes of this rotten, capitalist system that relies on the doctrine of white supremacy and protecting the private property of the 1%.

Gerry Scoppettuolo of Boston contributed to this article.

The forces behind Trayvon's death

By Betsey Piette

What do Koch Industries, Verizon Communications Inc., Coors Brewing Co., Wal-Mart, the Altria Group (Philip Morris' parent company), PhRMA, the American Bail Coalition and BellSouth Corp. have to do with the murder of Trayvon Martin?

These major corporations and industry groups have provided the bulk of funding to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the power behind Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law. This law has provided the justification for Martin's killer, George Zimmerman, to walk free. Officers of these and other corporations have also served on ALEC's Private Enterprise Board.

ALEC has channeled variations of this "shoot first" bill into legislatures in Florida and at least 23 other states. After Florida passed its Stand Your Ground law in 2005, ALEC's Criminal Justice Task Force and board of directors adopted a copycat legislation model — the Castle Doctrine Act — and began promoting it through a nationwide network of right-wing state legislators. (Media Matters for America, March 28)

The National Rifle Association, a long-time ALEC funder, played a key role in the passage of Florida's law. Florida state senator, Durrell Peaden, an ALEC member, introduced the bill that Gov. Jeb Bush signed into law in April 2005.

ALEC was founded in 1973 by Paul Weyrich, co-founder of the Heritage Foundation; former Illinois Republican Rep. Henry Hyde; and conservative activist Lou Barnette. PR Watch's Brendan Fischer reported that ALEC bills disproportionately affect communities of color.

The Nation magazine's John Nichols pointed out that ALEC's work has focused on cutting tax rates for corporations and wealthy individuals, privatization, deregulation, and legislation designed to weaken, if not eliminate unions, including Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's attack on public workers in 2011. (AlterNet, March 25)

While ALEC has managed to stay out of the spotlight since its founding, the role of Florida's Stand Your Ground in the shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin has shown a spotlight on this ultraright organization. Along with George Zimmerman, the entire board of this reprehensible organization should be made to stand trial for Martin's murder. □

White Plains cop guns down heart patient in his home

By LeiLani Dowell

Yet another killing of an innocent Black man by police — this time, the very man the police had been called to assist — exposes the racist criminality of the entire police state in the U.S. As communities of color and anti-racist activists mobilize for marches on April 9 and April 10, demands for justice for Trayvon Martin are augmented by cries for justice for Kenneth Chamberlain Sr.

Chamberlain, a 68-year-old African-American Marine veteran with a heart condition, wore a pendant that notified the LifeAid medical alert system if he was having heart problems. On Nov. 19, that

pendant was accidentally triggered, presumably as Chamberlain was sleeping. When a LifeAid operator tried to contact Chamberlain to see if he was O.K. and received no response, the operator contacted the police and requested that they check on him at his apartment in a White Plains public housing project.

Perhaps Chamberlain's experience as a 20-year veteran of the Westchester County Department of Corrections gave him some added insight as to how cops treat people of color. Whatever the case may be, when police arrived at his apartment, he refused to open the door, telling them that he was fine and that they should go away. The cops wouldn't back off.

In the days following the incident, the police claimed that they heard banging in the apartment and were concerned that someone was being hurt. However, an audio recording device had been installed in Chamberlain's home as part of the medical alert system, and the entire interaction between Chamberlain and the cops was recorded.

Cops taunt man before lynching him

Rather than show concern for anyone's safety, the racist mob of cops can be heard taunting the 68-year-old man, laughing at his service in the Marines and joking that they had to get into his apartment to use the bathroom. When Chamberlain told

cops that he was "a sick old man," one cop responded, "We don't give a f—k, n—."

As more police cars arrived at the housing complex and cops drew their guns in front of Chamberlain's door, Chamberlain's niece — who lives in an apartment in the same building as Chamberlain — offered to intervene. The LifeAid operator, who had called in the cops in the first place and was now listening to the exchange as it was happening, called the White Plains police and tried desperately to cancel the call for emergency help. Both requests were ignored.

A video recorded by a camera mounted on a Taser gun provides further documentation of the night. According to the family's lawyer Mayo Bartlett, who viewed the recording at the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, cops used a special device to tear down Chamberlain's door. As the door falls, the video shows Chamberlain standing in the apartment, with his hands down and empty. He is wearing nothing but boxer shorts.

Bartlett recounted to reporters: "The minute they got into the house, they didn't even give him one command. They never mentioned, 'Put your hands up.' They never told him to lay down on the bed. They never did any of that. The first thing they did, as soon as that door was finally broken off the hinges, you could see the Taser light up, and it was charged, and you could see it going directly toward him." The tape ends with someone telling the cop holding the Taser to turn the camera off. (New York Daily News, April 4)

Cops claim at that point Chamberlain wielded a knife at them, requiring them to shoot in self-defense. That's after the infirm Chamberlain had already been hit with a high-voltage Taser. Cops then fired and hit him with two 40-caliber rounds. Chamberlain died from his wounds several hours later.

After an initial cover-up, in which the White Plains public safety commissioner declared that all the police officers' actions were justified, the city was forced to convene a grand jury investigation and reveal the names of the cops involved as outrage grew and a petition for justice garnered some 200,000 signatures. A New York grand jury is set to meet on April 11.

Progressive reporter Juan Gonzalez dug up the cops' names, more than four months after the November killing, and exposed that one of them, named as the shooter, already faces charges over allegations of excessive force and Civil Rights violations. Officer Anthony Carelli is being sued, along with six other police officers, by twin brothers Jereis Hatter and Salameh Hatter, who assert that cops handcuffed them to a pole at a White Plains police station and savagely beat and kicked them. The twins, who are Jordanian immigrants, say Carelli was the most vicious of the cops and called them "ragheads." (NY Daily News, April 6)

However, the killing of Chamberlain, along with the killings of so many other men of color at the hands of police and racist vigilantes empowered by the police, shows that the problem is not one of a few "bad apples" in police departments around the country. The entire police system is racist to the core, criminalizing people of color simply for existing.

The wholesale incarceration of people of color in the prison-industrial complex, the daily harassment of Black and Brown youth by cops on the streets, and the outright killing of innocent people of color demands justice and an end to the racist police state as a whole. □

RALEIGH, N.C.

'Trayvon Martins are in every community'

By Monica Moorehead
Raleigh, N.C.

Black Workers for Justice held its 29th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Banquet on April 7 at the North Carolina Association of Educators building in Raleigh, N.C. BWFJ has a rich history of anti-racist, pro-worker fightback in the U.S. South and especially in North Carolina, which remains the least unionized state in the country. North Carolina's public sector workers continue to fight for the right to collective bargaining.

BWFJ grew out of a struggle led by Black women workers at a Kmart store in Rocky Mount, N.C., in 1981, against racist and sexist discrimination by the bosses. These courageous women organized a boycott against Kmart that culminated with BWFJ becoming a statewide organization in 1982.

BWFJ's political program includes fighting for democratic unions of rank-and-file workers; the equality of nationalities and sexes; health and safety on the job; and the liberation of Black people and other oppressed nationalities. BWFJ stands against wars and military spending; unemployment, plant closings and runaway



Larry Hamm, Monica Moorehead & Saladin Muhammad, April 7.

WWW PHOTO: DANTE STROBINO

shops; and the exploitation of all workers.

The keynote speaker at this year's banquet was Larry Hamm, chairperson of People's Organization for Progress, based in Newark, N.J. POP has been in the forefront of organizing African Americans for several decades to fight for social justice on many fronts. Evoking the legacy of Dr. King throughout his electrifying speech, Hamm announced his organization's 381-day campaign to mark the anniversary of the historic Montgomery bus boycott. The campaign encourages POP's allies to organize one demonstration each day in Newark.

Dr. King came to national prominence

during the the Black community's mass boycott, which began in 1955, against the local Montgomery bus company's racist policy of forcing Black people to sit in the back of the bus. The segregationist law was scrapped 381 days after the boycott began.

Hamm told the audience that 175 organizations have endorsed POP's year-long call, which includes demands such as a federally funded national jobs program; an increase in wages, including the minimum wage; an end to wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya; a moratorium on foreclosures; an end to the privatization of public education; preserving workers' rights and collective bargaining; an end to spying on Muslim communities; and more.

Hamm explained the successful struggle to stop the eviction of an elderly Black woman, Susie Johnson, from her home in Newark, when POP members blocked the police from putting her belongings out on the street.

Hamm also spoke eloquently on the racist violence that is intensifying as the economic crisis worsens. "Trayvon Martins are in every community across the country," Hamm stated in reference to the 17-year-old, African-American, unarmed youth fatally shot on Feb. 26 in Sanford, Fla. The shooter, George Zimmerman, has not been arrested or charged for the murder. Black and Latino/a youth face racial profiling from the police and vigilantes like Zimmerman on a daily basis.

Hamm stated that militant tactics are called for to help realize Dr. King's call for "a radical redistribution of wealth and power" from the 1% to the 99%. Hamm brought everyone to their feet in a standing ovation when he declared that no matter who gets elected to the White House on Nov. 6, the people must be back in the streets on Nov. 7.

Hamm was introduced by Saladin Muhammad, a long-time leader of BWFJ. □

Philadelphia

Activists demand 'schools, not jails'

Community activists in Philadelphia marched through Center City streets on April 5 to demand, "Build communities, not prisons!" They began at Gov. Tom Corbett's office, where they criticized Pennsylvania's \$680 million budget for prisons and the construction of two new prisons, while at the same time funds for education are slashed. The next stop was the Criminal Justice Center — where true justice is a stranger — to condemn a system that imprisons youth and people of color for minor nonviolent crimes.

The last stop was Love Park, "to break ground on the kinds of communities we want to build," said Hannah Zellman, "with quality schools, jobs with job training, access to health care, community based re-entry programs, housing, access to healthy foods, and a restorative system of justice instead of the punitive system we have today." Short statements were given by representatives from about a dozen of the 70 community groups throughout Pennsylvania that have en-



Jamila Wilson and Iresha Picot.

dorsed Decarcerate PA's platform.

"Tear down the jailhouse! Build up the schoolhouse!" was the most popular chant of the day.

— Report and photo by Joe Piette

China's inner-party struggle

The Chongqing vs. Guangdong models

By Fred Goldstein

The ouster of Bo Xilai as Communist Party Secretary of Chongqing comes at a juncture of intensifying contradictions, pressures and antagonisms in China. They reflect three decades of a steadily advancing encroachment of the capitalist mode of production and a dangerous erosion of the socialist framework established by the great Chinese Revolution of 1949.

The Chinese Communist Party leadership is rent with conflict. On the one hand are pressures from China's growing internal capitalist and middle classes, as well as from the imperialist banks, represented by the World Bank. On the other hand is the growing discontent of millions of workers and peasants.

Furthermore, as the state-owned sector of the economy grows, the capitalist side is also expanding. Capital expands automatically through the accumulation of profits. The state sector, however, expands as a matter of conscious policy and the absolute growth of the economy. Its growth reflects the magnitude of tasks the state-owned banks and enterprises are called upon to perform.

The struggle to control the planned development of society while retaining sovereignty over the Chinese economy inevitably collides with the growth of the internal contradictions of capitalist development and the infectious influence of global finance capital.

The CCP leaders are trying to plan high-speed railroads, advanced communications, hospitals, health centers and aid for rural development to close the gap between the highly developed east and the underdeveloped west. They are introducing more ecologically sound technology and other strategic industries while improving the social security system for 1.3 billion people. At the same time, they have to worry about the development of inflation, real estate bubbles, the global capitalist economic crisis, mounting inequality of wealth, and a clamor by the bourgeois elements for so-called democratic reforms — which would be a channel for open political organizing of the capitalist class and its middle-class supporters.

As these contradictions and antagonisms mature, the question of which way forward for China becomes more and more pressing.

Chongqing versus Guangdong

In the recent period, differences in the leadership have surfaced in the controversy over the so-called Chongqing model versus the Guangdong model. Bo Xilai has been identified with the Chongqing model, which has come under heavy fire since his ouster.

Chongqing is the largest municipality in China and perhaps the world. It has a population of 33 million and is located inland in western China. It is one of China's four centrally ruled municipalities, the others being Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin. It has a rural area of 23 million farmers and an urban population of 10 million. Millions of farmers are employed as migrant workers in the city.

Guangdong is the largest province in China, with 104 million people. One-third of the population, 36 million, are migrant workers. It is on the east coast and is the site of the Pearl River delta, where the turn toward market reforms and "open-

ing up" first allowed the establishment of special economic zones. Overseas capitalists from the imperialist countries as well as Hong Kong, Taiwan and south Korea are heavily invested there, and have created a large, low-wage manufacturing industry geared toward exports.

Bo Xilai became the party secretary of Chongqing in 2007. He initiated a policy of emphasizing the dominant role of the state in the economy alongside the capitalist market. Under his regime half of the budget of Chongqing was spent on health care, housing, pensions, education and other public services. ("One or Two Chinese Models?" European Council on Foreign Relations, Asia Centre, November 2011) Some 87 percent of its recent growth was in the state sector.

The government has undertaken to build 800,000 units of low-income housing with rents at 40 percent below market rates and a low-income limit for eligibility. (Bloomberg Businessweek, March 22) The apartments can be owned after five years, but cannot be thrown on the market. The units are built in the center of the city, near higher-income housing to prevent ghettoizing.

The government in Chongqing is also spending 300 billion yuan (\$47.6 billion) for rural education, health care and housing. In addition, it has developed a policy to allow and encourage the rural population to migrate to the city, but at the same time balances that with a policy to develop new agricultural areas. In China's so-called "hukou" system of residency permits, everyone has either a rural hukou or an urban hukou. Urban residents are entitled to social benefits like health care and education at government-subsidized prices.

Chongqing was the first city in China to develop this rural-to-urban program. Its goal is to allow 10 million farmers to get urban permits. ("Bo Xilai and the Chongqing Model," East Asian Institute, Vol. 1, No. 3)

'Red culture' versus more 'opening up'

Politically, Bo initiated what he termed "red culture." This included encouraging and organizing the singing of songs from the Mao era and performances of operas from the period of the Cultural Revolution. He stopped commercials on the local television station, replacing them with Maoist and other readings and performances. He had Mao sayings tweeted to cell phone users in the city. And he took a 1,000-member singing troupe to Beijing to sing Maoist songs.

Bo recommended that students and government workers spend time in rural areas to get experience with the life of the masses.

Bo initiated a crackdown on gangsters and corrupt party and government officials. And he initiated this by calling on the masses to submit "letters of denunciation."

The Guangdong model, on the other hand, emphasizes the capitalist market as the dominant force in development. Shenzhen is the city that Deng Xiaoping visited in 1992 when he declared "opening up" China to foreign investment. It was the first special economic zone. Since then the province has been known as the area where the capitalist market prevails over state enterprises and planning.

The present party secretary in Guangdong, Wang Yang, was appointed in 2007. He had been in Chongqing, but Bo Xilai took his place. Wang has openly advocat-

PART 3



ed the superiority of the capitalist market in allocating resources. He has called for "small government." (Wall Street Journal, March 14) Wang's policy is for further "opening up" and "reforms."

Guangdong has been the site of numerous workers' strikes and rebellions. Some 200-plus strikes took place in the Pearl River delta last year, beginning in May with Honda workers near Guangzhou. (The Economist, Nov. 26, 2011)

Wang preaches democracy, but the class orientation of his democracy was illustrated by an experimental local election he authorized in the city of Dudan last September. As The Economist reported, fewer than 7,000 local inhabitants were allowed to vote, while 60,000 sweatshop workers who had come from other provinces were disenfranchised.

'Red GDP'

Before Bo was ousted, he and Wang were both candidates for the nine-member Standing Committee of the CCP's Politburo. There was open struggle between them. Bo called for a "red GDP," meaning economic development had to be subordinate to the well-being of the masses. Their differences emerged publicly in a famous controversy shrouded in an analogy called "cutting the cake." The "cake" was a metaphor for the GDP — the country's total production of goods and services.

On July 10 of last year, Bo said that a "better division of the cake" takes priority over "making the cake bigger." The next day Wang answered with "to make the cake bigger, we must still concentrate on economic development." In other words, overcoming inequality takes a backseat to production and profits. ("Bo Xilai and Wang Yang: China's Future Leaders?" Jeffrey Hays, factsanddetails.com, updated March 2012)

The political left in China has rallied to the cause of Bo, and had great hopes for his ascendancy to the Standing Committee. In the wake of his ouster, many web sites of the left have been shut down for a month. The struggle is shrouded in secrecy, and it is very hard for the masses or revolutionaries and progressives inside China, as well as outside, to get any kind of accurate picture.

But it is clear that the Bo forces favoring the Chongqing model are oriented to blocking further inroads of capitalism in China and reversing it, if possible. The forces that side with Wang and the Guangdong model are for widening the capitalist road.

Center-right bloc against Bo

The immediate task in the present struggle is to push back against the right and the counterrevolution. However, by lining up against Bo, the party center is in a bloc with the right. The center is fearful of the Maoist revival and the leftist mood. The fear is that this could merge with the mass discontent down below and take the form of not just an economic struggle against inequality, but a political struggle against the capitalist road. (Last year China reported 180,000 "incidents" — protests, strikes and rebellions.) But the right wing is counterrevolutionary and wants to go all the way in bringing the capitalist

class to power.

In truth, the Chongqing model, while certainly preferable to free-market capitalism and the political reaction of the Guangdong model, is only a stop-gap measure at best. It still retains the capitalist market as a significant force. And capital grows through the accumulation of profits. Furthermore, 93 of Fortune 500 global corporations are operating in Chongqing.

Reviving Maoist culture is a step in the right direction. Fighting inequality is also a step in the right direction. But what is more to the point is to revive the spirit of workers' struggle that was advocated and led by Mao.

Cultural Revolution model

Before Bo was ousted, Premier Wen Jiabao attacked Bo and warned of the "horrors of the Cultural Revolution." What precisely were these "horrors"? The essence of the Cultural Revolution was to mobilize and empower the workers to run socialist society, in the spirit of the Paris Commune. The goal was to oust privileged officials from their comfortable positions of authority and establish a revolutionary dictatorship under the direct authority of the proletariat. Of course, excesses were committed during that period. But the excesses were not the essence of what took place. The essence was the attempt to "storm the heavens," as Marx referred to the goal of the Paris communards. The essence was for the Chinese workers to rule directly and take their destiny into their own hands. No amount of vilification of the Cultural Revolution can erase that.

No one could suppose for a moment that such a development is in the offing. But everyone in China who stands for the working class and Marxism must be asking themselves, which way back? How do the Chinese workers and peasants get back to the socialist model they once had?

Deng Xiaoping and his political descendants in China justified their program of so-called "market socialism" on the ground that China needed the capitalist market and capitalist technology to develop. Leaving aside the validity of that assertion, the fact is that China has developed enormously. It is now the second-largest economy in the world. The working class has gone from 30 million to more than 450 million. China is competing with imperialism in cutting-edge technology.

All justification for needing capitalism to further develop has been undermined by China's economic advances. The interests of the workers have been mercilessly sacrificed, counterpoising them to the need for development. The task now is to find the way back. When casting about for models to take China back on the socialist road, the road of the Cultural Revolution is a glorious one. It's not necessary to retain the same name or make it a carbon copy of the original. What is important is to revive its revolutionary essence.

To be continued.

Goldstein is author of "Low-Wage Capitalism" and "Capitalism at a Dead End." For more information about both books and to purchase them, visit www.lowwagecapitalism.com. Goldstein may be reached at fgoldstein@workers.org.

Anti-racists – Stand your ground!

Racism has reared its head in a very ugly way in the United States over the past few months. Everyone in the working-class movement, all progressive people must call this racism out loud and clear, and organize in solidarity with African Americans and all people of color.

This is especially important now. The corporate media have closed ranks against oppressed peoples. They have been purposely spreading disinformation in an attempt to break up the embryonic solidarity that was developing in reaction to the obviously racist killing of Trayvon Martin.

For at least four centuries racism has been a weapon in the hands of the ruling class that settled in what became the United States. From the times of open chattel slavery to today's imperialism, racism has been a tool both to super-exploit Black labor and to break up working-class solidarity by misleading and miseducating white workers. Racism must be smashed.

The most typical example is racist police violence directed against Black people. Last November, White Plains, N.Y., cops broke down the door of an unarmed heart patient they were supposed to be rescuing, 68-year-old Kenneth Chamberlain Sr., and instead gunned him down (see article, p. 8). The cops killed him without even a pretext.

In an even more typical case, Newburgh, N.Y., cops chased 22-year-old Michael Lembhard into his family home March 7, broke down the door and shot him dead. Despite family protests, so far the authorities have refused to bring charges against the cops, who made a feeble accusation that Lembhard attacked them.

A six-year-old case of outrageous police brutality surrounding the Katrina Hurricane disaster came to a conclusion on April 4. Five cops had fired shots at a family trying to cross the Danziger

Bridge to reach dry land. The case ended with the very unusual conviction of the cops and prison sentences of 38 to 65 years for the shooters and six years for a cop who tried to cover up the murders.

It was not official cops who killed Trayvon Martin. But so far the cops and courts have covered up the role of and brought no charges against auxiliary cop George Zimmerman, who stalked and gunned down the 17-year-old.

A final example is the killings of three African Americans in Tulsa, Okla., shot to death by racist killers with an apparent KKK mentality. Since Tulsa was home to the mass slaughter of African Americans in 1921, the murders recalled the nightmare of lynching throughout U.S. history. Here there was a less typical quick arrest; the two suspects are already reported to have confessed.

These recent examples spell out a clear message. There are racist assaults against people of color through institutions, the cops and the state. There are KKK-like assaults backed by the ideological racism of the ruling-class media that dominate U.S. society. There are assaults driven by the organized racism of ruling-class reactionary groups like the American Legislative Exchange Council, which promoted the "Stand Your Ground" law that allowed Zimmerman to kill Martin and — so far — get away with it.

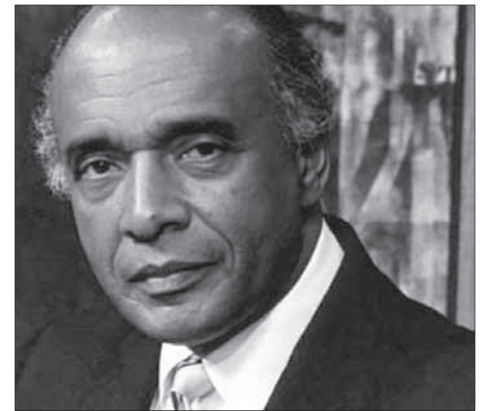
Most of the time, the racists get off free. In a few rare cases, the state punishes them. But whichever the result, for those who feel solidarity with those attacked by racism, and especially for those who are not the direct victims themselves, the only honest response to this assault is to stand up directly to it. As individuals, speak up loudly in solidarity with the victims. Join the marches. Wear the hoodies. And build a strong organization uniting all nationalities that can stand its ground against both ideological racism and street racism. □

Gil Noble, ¡presente!

Gil Noble, the host of the New York City-based "Like It Is" TV show, passed away on April 5 from complications from the stroke he suffered last year. Noble was 80 years old. "Like It Is," which has been on the air since 1968, reflects the many struggles impacting the African diaspora inside the U.S. and abroad from an anti-racist perspective. Noble had been the host of the show since 1975.

An article in tribute to Gil Noble will appear in a future issue of WW.

— Monica Moorehead



Union Square rings to: All out for May Day!



Organizers of the May 1st Coalition for Worker & Immigrant Rights held a press conference in New York's Union Square on April 5 to announce that they'd be back there on May Day, along with other groups, for a demonstration of thousands demanding jobs, legalization and no deportations of immigrant workers. Successful negotiations have brought about agreement among the May 1st Coalition, the Occupy Wall Street movement, and the Alliance for Labor & Immigrant Rights & Jobs for All to have a united

march and rally. The May 1st Coalition is asking people to come to the square at noon and participate in many actions throughout the day. At 4 p.m., the united march and rally will begin. May Day falls on a Tuesday this year, so organizers are calling on everyone to honor this international workers' holiday with "No work, no shopping, no housework and no school!" For more details, visit www.may1.info or call 212-633-6646.

— Report & photo
by Anne Pruden

5 Days for the Cuban 5 in Washington, D.C.

Friday, April 20 'OBAMA GIVE ME FIVE'

Public Event, Festival Center, 1640 Columbia Rd., NW. Beginning at 6 p.m. with the traveling exhibit "Humor from My Pen," the political cartoons of Gerardo Hernandez. Meeting begins at 7 p.m.

Topics include: 1) Lift the blockade of Cuba, 2) End the travel ban, 3) Free the Cuban Five, 4) Remove Cuba from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism, 5) Return Guantanamo to Cuba.

SPEAKERS:

Danny Glover, noted actor/activist

Dolores Huerta, founder of the United Farmworkers Union

Mavis Anderson, Sr. Assoc. at Latin America Working Group (LAWG).

James Early, Dir., Cultural Heritage Policy, Center for Folklife & Cultural Heritage.

Salim Lamrani, Lecturer at Paris Sorbonne, Paris IV University & Paris-Est Marne-la-Vallée University and French journalist, specialist on relations between Cuba & the U.S.

Saul Landau, Emmy award-winner for his film produced with filmmakers Haskell Wexler, Paul Jacobs & the Nuclear Gang (1980). His most recent documentary is "Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up."

Wayne Smith, Senior Fellow, Center for Int'l Policy and former Chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana.

Jose Pertierra, immigration attorney, who represents the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the case of Luis Posada Carriles's extradition.

Poetry readings by invited guest Nancy Morejón, one of Cuba's major authors and poets, and Washington D.C. local artist Abayomi Huria.

U.S. & international guests: Cindy Sheehan (U.S.), Norman Paech (Germany), Arnold August (Quebec), Stephen Kimber & Brian Gordon Sinclair (Canada), Katrien Demuyne (Belgium), Salim Lamrani (France), Juan Manuel Morales Iglesias & actor Willy Toledo (Spain). Ambassadors of ALBA countries invited.



Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez and Fernando González Llort. Rene González Sehwerert, while recently released, is still being forced to remain in the U.S. against his will.

Saturday, April 21

1 p.m. picket/rally at the White House.

People will be coming from D.C. and cities all over the country, including buses from NYC that will travel to D.C. under the slogan 'Freedom ride for the Cuban 5.' We are urging everyone to bring their own signs and banners to send a strong message to President Obama.

Sponsored by International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5
For more information, visit www.thecuban5.org

RESERVE A SEAT ON BUSES FROM NEW YORK

Be a "Freedom Rider for the Five" and get on the bus to Washington, D.C. Freedom Riders round-trip cost \$5. Bring lunch, water will be provided. Freedom Buses leave 6 a.m., return 4 p.m. Freedom Bus locations for participating boroughs to be announced.

For more information, to become a sponsor and reserve your seat today, call 917-887-8710 or email casadelasamericas@unacuba.org (www.unacuba.org) or info@july26coalition.org (www.july26coalition.org).

100 years after his birth

The spirit of Kim Il Sung lives on

By Deirdre Griswold

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Kim Il Sung, an amazing revolutionary who for more than 60 years led the Korean people's struggle against imperialist domination.

His life began in April 1912, shortly after Japan had formally annexed Korea as its colony. His political development included years of anti-colonial struggle and the building of an anti-imperialist armed guerrilla force that finally achieved liberation of the north in 1945.

Kim Il Sung had to reorient the struggle after the defeat of Japan, when the United States sent troops to occupy the southern half of Korea and tried to roll back the socialist revolution in the north. The Korean people knew from direct and bitter experience what Japanese colonial rule had meant. But they were to discover that U.S. imperialism was just as brutal and just as intent on controlling and exploiting Korea, albeit under the name of "democracy."

We cannot do justice in one small article to all that Kim Il Sung accomplished for the Korean struggle and the world movement for socialism. In this piece, we will focus on why Kim became a commu-

nist, as explained in his autobiographical series of books entitled "Reminiscences with the Century." (Foreign Languages Publishing House, Pyongyang)

Kim came from a family of poor farmers who sacrificed much to give their children an education. His family was proud of having fought foreign aggressors: "When the U.S. imperialist aggressors' ship General Sherman sailed up the River Taedong and anchored at Turu Islet, my great-grandfather, together with some other villagers, collected ropes from all the houses and stretched them across the river ... to block the way of the pirate ship." The ship opened fire on the people of Pyongyang, but the villagers set it ablaze and it sank with all hands aboard. This struggle in 1866 resonated in the Kim family for generations.

Kim Il Sung described his father, who died at the early age of 31, as "a pioneer of our country's national liberation movement." His father was an early organizer for the Korean National Association, which was building resistance to the "living hell" created by Japanese imperialism. One of Kim's first political memories was, at the age of six, visiting his father in a Japanese-run prison. The next year, during an uprising for independence, he saw for the first time the killing of a Ko-



Kim Il Sung as a young revolutionary.

rean by troops of the colonial regime.

In this period, many Korean patriots fled to China and Siberia, where there were large Korean communities. After the 1917 Russian Revolution, "when the combined forces of imperialism and the internal enemy who followed their dictates pounced upon the Soviet Union ... thousands of Korean young people gave their blood and lives with arms in hand either in the guerrilla ranks or in the Red Army in order to defend the socialist system," Kim wrote.

Inspired by the proletarian revolution

This revolution of the workers and peasants in Russia inspired the anti-imperialist movement in neighboring Korea. Kim remembered his father explaining his idea of the proletarian revolution "as the building of a new society which would provide rice to those who had no food and ... clothes to those who had no clothing ... [and thus] he awakened the workers, peasants and other working masses to a progressive idea and united them into one revolutionary force."

The Korean Communist Party had been founded in 1925 but "ended its existence as an organized force in 1928 owing to the

cruel suppression on the part of the Japanese imperialists and the factional strife in its highest circles," Kim wrote.

While still in his teens, Kim Il Sung became immersed in the political debates roiling the Korean exile community in Manchuria, a province of China. The Korean nationalist movement and the communist movement often were in struggle with each other, and Kim looked for ways to bring the best of them together.

The Korean revolutionaries in China also had to respect the fact that they were in another country and had important relations with the Chinese Communist Party, which itself suffered big setbacks in 1927.

Different groups of communists vied for recognition from the Comintern, based in Moscow, which dissolved the Korean Communist Party in 1928. It was in this period that Kim began developing the view that later became known as "Juche," or self-reliance. Of his group of young revolutionaries, he wrote, "We came to the conclusion that it would be impossible to found a revolutionary party by rebuilding the party that had been dissolved or by relying on the existing generation that was infected with the vicious habit of factional strife."

Rather than being discouraged by these problems, the new generation of revolutionaries in 1930 formed the Society for Rallying Comrades, in which "the communists from among the new generation overcame the mistakes made by the communists of the preceding generations and pioneered a new way of winning over the masses and employing the art of leadership. The heroic fighting spirit and the revolutionary fighting traits displayed by the communists of the new generation became the motive force enabling us to defeat the Japanese imperialist aggressors."

The leadership of the DPRK today is imbued with this spirit of resistance to foreign domination and reliance on the masses of people to build a socialist society. It is this spirit that has enabled the Korean Revolution to endure despite a century of Japanese and later U.S. imperialist aggression. □

'Global march to Jerusalem'

Boston march for Palestine Land Day



WWW PHOTO: STEVE KIRSCHBAUM

By Frank Neisser
Boston

Hundreds of activists, led by young Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims, took to the streets of Boston on March 30 as part of the Global March to Jerusalem, marking Palestine Land Day. The main demands were Free Palestine! No war on Iran or Syria! and Boycott Israel!

The demonstration was sponsored by the Boston Coalition for Palestinian Rights; the Boston United National Antiwar Coalition; the International Action Center; the Palestine Task Force of United for Justice with Peace; Boston University Students for Justice in Palestine; and Veterans for Peace, Chapter 9, Smedley Butler Brigade. It was supported by the Decolonize Boston, Anti-Oppression and People of Color working groups of Occupy Boston, who called for Indigenous rights from the Americas to Palestine.

The protest gathered in Copley Square and was opened by Salma Abu Ayyash, who spoke of the history of Palestine Land Day, commemorating the March 30, 1976, Palestinian general strike, protest and resistance against massive Israeli expropriation of Palestinian land, and the worldwide movement today to end Israeli apartheid and ethnic cleansing. Kade Crockford, a militant young lesbian

and Boycott, Divest and Sanctions activist, condemned Israel for cynically trying to use lesbian/gay/bi/trans rights to posture as democratic while carrying out genocidal attacks on Gaza.

Alireza Doostdar, an Iranian Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University, called on all to stand fast against the war threats against Iran. Rami Abumasmah, M.D., from a Rhode Island mosque community, spoke about the unjust situation for Muslims accessing Jerusalem. Noam Lekach, a Brandeis University student, declared there is nothing Jewish about apartheid, occupation and ethnic cleansing. He condemned and exposed the lie of labeling anti-Zionism as anti-Semitism. Puerto Rican activist Ricardo Ortiz called on everyone to oppose colonialism and occupation from Puerto Rico to Palestine.

Activists marched through downtown Boston chanting, "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!" and "Long live the Intifada!"

At a final rally at Park Street, Steve Kirschbaum of the IAC described how Israel would not last a day without massive U.S. aid and how it functioned as an unsinkable aircraft carrier for U.S. oil interests in the Middle East. Other anti-war activists spoke, including Bob Funke from Veterans for Peace and Marilyn Levin from UNAC. □

After militant protests

Egyptian bus workers settle strike

By G. Dunkel

Bus drivers, mechanics and conductors all over Egypt started walking off their jobs in late February, angry about low salaries, long hours and poorly maintained buses. According to *Le Egyptien Progrès*, these workers settled with the Public Transportation Authority on March 27, with retiring workers getting a bonus of two months pay for every year they have worked. Their other demands are to be met later.

Al-Ahram cited one driver who said that the officials on the PTA board "all belong to the former regime. They do not want to meet our needs, they do not represent us, they should be chosen among us, and they are nothing but corrupt officials." He concluded, "We will strike again if the government breaks its promises."

The PTA lost about \$160,000 a day during the strike, and the 50 army buses they managed to scrape up couldn't really provide the service that Cairo needs to move.

According to a Real Television News

video, in a very militant picket line held in front of the Parliament in Cairo — so militant that security closed the metal shutters on the building — workers chanted: "Listen up lords and ladies! A kilo of meat is \$1.60!" "Who are they and who are we? They're the ones who travel by plane while we die on the buses!" "They're all dressed in the latest fashion! And we're living 10 to a room!" and "Listen up money men! You're a bunch of thieves!"

One of the strikers explains in the video that basic pay is 343 Egyptian pounds — less than \$25 — a month. "What can you do with 343 pounds?" he asks. "A month's rent is 200 pounds, which leaves less than 150. How can you feed a family on that?"

Beyond the transportation workers, who have a very strategic impact on the economy of Egypt, significant numbers of both public and private workers in Egypt have been challenging their bosses.

Workers interviewed on the streets have been quick to point out that it was a general strike that sealed the end of ex-President Hosni Mubarak's regime. □

EDITORIAL: Cuba y el Papa

El Papa Benedicto XVI viajó a Cuba, hizo unos discursos y salió. La visita fue una victoria para Cuba socialista de muchas maneras.

Lo que reveló, una vez más, fue que la revolución cubana y sus dirigentes son fuertes porque tienen el apoyo de las masas de gente. La asistencia para ver al Papa fue respetable pero no abrumadora. Incluso la prensa estadounidense tuvo que señalar antes de la visita que el catolicismo no es una religión arraigada en Cuba; y que la Santería es más popular, especialmente entre los Afro-Cubanos/as.

El problema principal en Cuba no es con el catolicismo. El problema es con el imperialismo norteamericano, que ha intentado — y fallado — hace más de 50 años derribar la revolución a través de una invasión directa, años de sabotaje y asesinato contra sus dirigentes, un bloqueo que pretende destruir la economía de la isla, y el cultivo de un pequeño grupo de disidentes con lazos mafiosos en Miami y otros restos de la dictadura de Fulgencio Batista despreciada — una marioneta de EE.UU. Si alguna vez hubo uno.

El mayor problema para la clase dirigente de EE.UU. es que el pueblo cubano entiende todo esto. Saben que sus líderes están verdaderamente de su lado, y se han sacrificado junto a ellos cuando la situación ha sido dura. Las personas se niegan a ser compradas con falsas promesas de lo que obtendrían si se volvieron contra el sistema que les ha dado un magnífico establecimiento educativo, la mejor atención de salud en el hemisferio y un bono de solidaridad con todos los pueblos que luchan en todo del mundo. “Vende patria” — alguien que vende su país — es lo peor se le puede llamar a un cubano.

Los cubanos sólo han atravesado un largo proceso de revisión y actualización de su estructura jurídica y política. Propuestas sobre todas las cuestiones fueron llevadas a la gente, en sus lugares de trabajo, sus escuelas, sus barrios — para que pudieran debatir, criticar, aceptar, rechazar, modificar y mejorar las nuevas leyes. Así es como la democracia cubana funciona, y es infinitamente mejor que el comprado-y-pagado-sistema electoral en los países capitalistas que siempre da el mismo resultado: la regla de los banqueros y jefes sobre las masas del pueblo.

Sin embargo, el departamento de Estado y la Casa Blanca estaban esperando convertir la visita del Papa en un bombardeo de propaganda contra la revolución cubana. Querían que el Papa pidiera la liberación de su agente pagado, Alan Gross. Querían que se reuniera con las llamadas damas de blanco, un grupo cuya política hace eco del departamento de Estado. Y no querían que dijera nada negativo sobre el bloqueo — los Estados Unidos lo llama un embargo — que no sólo evita que las empresas estadounidenses entablen relaciones comerciales normales con Cuba pero castiga incluso a otros países que lo hacen.

El Papa tenía toda América Latina para pensar. Sabía que Cuba es muy popular allí, y que si él accedía a las exigencias de Washington perdería permanente lo que es en muchos sentidos el último bastión de la Iglesia Católica. Al final nada dijo acerca de Gross, no se reunió con las damas de blanco y lamentó públicamente el embargo — igual que lo lamenta el 99 por ciento de los países en el mundo cada año cuando la Asamblea General de la ONU vota sobre este tema.

Felicitemos a Cuba por cómo fue manejada la visita del Papa. Los líderes mostraban confianza en la madurez política del pueblo cubano y el pueblo mostró que merecen confianza. □

TRAYVON MARTIN La indignación crece

Por Monica Moorehead

El 3 de abril: Cada día que pasa sin la detención del asesino de Trayvon Martin, George Zimmerman, la ira y la indignación de todo el país entre las masas populares aumenta diez veces. Hace ya 37 días desde que Martin, un afroamericano de 17 años de edad fue herido mortalmente el 26 de febrero en Sanford, Florida, cuando regresaba de comprar té helado y una bolsa de caramelos Skittles. Un vigilante de barrio llamado Zimmerman había acechado al adolescente desarmado con una pistola de 9 mm, luego le disparó en el pecho mientras Martin gritaba pidiendo ayuda. La “excusa” de Zimmerman de atacar a Martin fue que el joven se veía “sospechoso” porque vestía con una sudadera con capucha.

Zimmerman dijo que le disparó a Martin en defensa propia porque el joven le atacó, saltó sobre él, le golpeó la cabeza contra la acera y le rompió la nariz. Esos reclamos fueron desacreditados cuando una cinta de vigilancia policial surgió varios días después demostrando que Zimmerman no tenía lesiones cuando fue llevado a la interrogación tras el tiroteo.

La policía no presentó cargos ni detuvo a Zimmerman por el asesinato basado en la ley de Florida “Stand Your Ground”, la cual establece que toda persona que se siente amenazada puede defenderse, incluyendo matar a alguien, sin temor a las represalias legales.

Tras el tiroteo el cuerpo de Martin, y no el de Zimmerman, fue cateado en busca de drogas.

Richard Kurtz, el director funerario de Miami quien preparó el cuerpo de Martin para el entierro, declaró públicamente: “El cuerpo de Trayvon Martin no mostró señales de una pelea violenta”. Él continuó diciendo, “en cuanto a sus manos y nudillos, no vi ninguna evidencia de que había estado luchando con nadie”. (www.cnn.com, 28 de marzo)

Zimmerman también alegó que los gritos de ayuda escuchados en una cinta de audio 911, que documentó lo que condujo a los disparos, fueron realizados por Zimmerman. Sin embargo, expertos forenses han informado que esos gritos no podrían provenir de Zimmerman. Una fiscal especial, Angela Corey, ha sido asignada por la Oficina del fiscal del estado de Florida para decidir si se señalarán los cargos contra Zimmerman. Se espera que Corey dé su anuncio el 10 de abril.

Lo que la muerte de Trayvon Martin simboliza

Los africanos-americanos han estado en la vanguardia de las muchas manifestaciones alrededor del país desde las circunstancias que rodean la muerte de Martin. La falta de un arresto rompió en medios de comunicación social tres semanas después del asesinato el 26 de febrero. Los padres de Trayvon Martin, Tracy Martin



Sanford, Fla., 31 de Marzo.

y Sybrina Fulton, han jugado un papel muy visible en poner atención a lo que sucedió a su hijo.

La muerte trágica de Martin ha destrozado completamente el mito que dice que una sociedad no racial ha surgido en los Estados Unidos desde la elección presidencial del 2008 de Barack Obama.

La muerte de Martin ha hecho más que cualquier otro asesinato reciente para exponer la creciente epidemia de perfiles raciales de la juventud de color, especialmente los jóvenes hombres negros y latinos. La muerte de Martin está ayudando a elevar los casos locales de jóvenes negros en todo el país que han tenido sus vidas trágicamente interrumpidas por la policía o el vigilantismo racista.

En muchos de estos casos, el asesinato de carácter de la víctima es promovido por la policía y los medios de comunicación como una manera de justificar un asesinato o una paliza brutal. En este caso, el hecho de que Martin fue una vez suspendido de la escuela por tener residuos de drogas en su mochila estudiantil se utilizó para intentar demonizarlo y distraer la atención de la verdadera cuestión de que Martin fue asesinado porque era negro.

Las manifestaciones han sido de gran escala en Florida y especialmente en Sanford, donde Martin fue asesinado mientras visitaba a su padre. En la más reciente manifestación allí el 31 de marzo, manifestantes marcharon a la comisaría de Sanford. Miles y miles de personas, la mayoría de ellos afroamericanos pero también Latinos/as y blancos, marcharon y coreaban, “justicia para Trayvon Martin! Que detengan a George Zimmerman!”

Los estudiantes han organizado paros desde sus escuelas especialmente en Miami, donde Martin asistió a la escuela. Muchos han afirmado que lo que sucedió a Trayvon podría ocurrir fácilmente a ellos si camina-

ran o condujeran por el mero hecho de ser negros. Otros han afirmado que si Martin hubiera sido el tirador y la víctima hubiera sido blanca, la ley de no rendirse no habría aplicado a él en los ojos de la policía. Muchos de los manifestantes llevan sudaderas y una bolsa de dulces y té helado.

En Indianápolis el 1 de abril, feligreses negros protestando en solidaridad con Trayvon Martin decidieron bloquear el tráfico durante 45 minutos. Trece de ellos se negaron a dispersarse cuando la policía les pidió hacerlo, y fueron detenidos. Campus universitarios están organizando mítines demandando justicia para Trayvon Martin alrededor del país.

Celebridades están expresando su indignación por el manejo del caso de Martin, incluyendo el futbolista Ray Lewis; cantantes populares Prince, Chaka Khan, Betty Wright y los Red Hot Chili Peppers; los jugadores del equipo de baloncesto Miami Heat; otros jugadores pro-basketball, Will Bynum, Greg Monroe y Steve Nash. Un grupo de lesbianas, gays, bisexuales, transgéneros/as emitieron una declaración conjunta pidiendo justicia para Trayvon Martin. Se puede leer la declaración en <http://www.workers.org>.

Protestas en solidaridad con Trayvon Martin también están creciendo en otras partes del mundo, incluyendo Toronto, París y Sydney, Australia. En Londres, miles esperan asistir hoy a una protesta. El verano pasado, una rebelión generalizada estalló en Londres cuando un joven de color fue fatalmente baleado por la policía. Un periódico de Londres afirmó que mientras que el asesinato fue una chispa, el problema real detrás de la rebelión era la falta de empleos para los jóvenes.

Una situación similar podría salir fácilmente en los Estados Unidos, dada la alarmante tasa de encarcelamiento y desempleo de los jóvenes, especialmente si son Negro y Latino. □