

As Bush & Kerry vow to send more troops GI's say 'Bring us home now'

Puppet regime feels hammer of Iraqi resistance

By Dustin Langley

The bloody colonial occupation of Iraq continues to take a heavy toll. Since the June 28 hyped "handover of power," the occupation forces have lost an average of more than two soldiers a day. As of July 21, some 900 U.S. troops and over 11,000 Iraqi civilians had died in Iraq since the U.S. launched the invasion.

The Iraqi resistance is so widespread and has so much support among the Iraqi people that it "cannot be defeated militarily," according to U.S. military analysts cited in a July 9 Associated Press article.

The solution is obvious: to bring the troops home now and end the colonial occupation. This has been the demand of the anti-war movement and it is a demand increasingly being raised by soldiers and military families.

"They're killing us. Enough is enough," wrote Staff Sgt. Ray B. Robinson of the Third Infantry Division.

Master Sgt. C.J. Nouse, a U.S. Army reservist who has spent a total of four months with his family since Sept. 11, 2001, said, "Reserve members can't possibly keep this pace up. With deployments to Bosnia and for homeland defense, our families are continuing to suffer. Does anyone care? This is totally unacceptable. Bring us home or suffer mass exits soon." (Traveling-Soldier online)

As they continue to be the target of daily attacks, it is becoming clearer to the troops that they are only there to serve the interests of big business. One soldier told Intervention Magazine, "We have pressing needs in our country. We are spending money like it's going out of style over there. Companies like Halliburton are gouging the American people over there. We protect them also. Part of our job now is actually to protect Halliburton employees. So, if we really want to cut off the spigot, we need to come home." (March 4)

The Army is "near breaking point," according to a report published by the Army War College's Strategic Studies Institute. Suicide rates are high and according to Reuters, nearly a fifth of U.S. troops returning from the war in Iraq may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health problems.

The cry from the troops and the anti-war movement is "Bring the troops home now!" Neither candidate from the big capitalist parties is listening.

It's no surprise that in every speech George W. Bush has committed to maintaining the colonial occupation at all costs, planning to keep troops in Iraq indefinitely, what he calls "staying the course." Bush and his administration con-

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spired to invade and conquer Iraq, and he is rightly considered a war criminal by much of the world.

John Kerry, the Democratic Party candidate, rather than offering an alternative to the Bush plan, simply argues that he can maintain the colonial occupation more effectively.

Kerry was an early supporter of the war. In a speech on the Senate floor on Oct. 9, 2002, as Bush was seeking support for the

war, Kerry said, "The threat of Saddam Hussein with weapons of mass destruction is real. It is not new. It has been with us since the end of that war, and particularly in the last four years we know after Operation Desert Fox failed to force him to reaccept them, that he has continued to build those weapons."

He went on to say, "I have said publicly for years that weapons of mass destruction in the hands of Saddam Hussein pose a real and grave threat to our security and that of our allies in the Persian Gulf region." His words gave aid and comfort to Bush's war plans.

He has continued to support the occupation, even calling for more U.S. and

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NAACP resolution supports Mumia-Abu Jamal

By Monica Moorehead

The NAACP overwhelmingly passed an emergency resolution on July 15 at its national convention in Philadelphia urging its local chapters to support efforts for a new and fair trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal, and for the overturning of his first-degree murder conviction and death sentence.

This is a significant political development in the case of Abu-Jamal, the world's best-known political prisoner on death row. He is a former Black Panther, a MOVE supporter and an outspoken opponent of racist oppression and imperialist war. The African American revolutionary, known worldwide as the "voice of the voiceless," was railroaded to Pennsylvania's death row in 1982 for the killing of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner.

Abu-Jamal suffered through a sham of a trial in 1981, where evidence proving his innocence was suppressed by a racist judge and prosecutor. It has been legally documented by a white stenographer that Judge Albert Sabo, who presided over the trial, made racial slurs against Abu-Jamal.

The NAACP resolution, entitled "Reaffirming Opposition to the Death Penalty," also called for a moratorium on executions because the use of the death penalty disproportionately targets people of color and poor people.

This resolution was introduced by the Ossining, N.Y., NAACP chapter and supported by International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal. It comes on the heels of a recent U.S. Third Circuit Court ruling that lifted the stay of proceedings on a 2001 federal district ruling which had overturned Mumia's death sentence, but not his murder conviction. This recent ruling asks for a briefing to hear arguments challenging the 2001 ruling.

The passing of this resolution by the oldest mainstream U.S. civil rights organization is a blow to the U.S. government's efforts to legally lynch this political prisoner. It is up to the progressive movement to take full advantage of this resolution to help build broader support that is needed for Mumia Abu-Jamal's struggle to win his long overdue freedom.

To read the NAACP resolution, visit iacenter.org or millions4mumia.org. □



Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!



Free Leonard Peltier!

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Lynne Stewart at IAC

People's attorney faces 'terrorism' frame-up

By John Catalinotto
New York

The packed meeting hall at the International Action Center here on July 13 quieted as Attorney Lynne Stewart explained the latest developments in her case.

Stewart is charged with "materially aiding terrorism." Attorney General John Ashcroft traveled to New York in April 2002 to charge Stewart and three others connected with the defense of Sheikh Abdel Rahman, who had been convicted of conspiring to carry out the 1995 World Trade Center bombing.

It was a blatant attempt to intimidate progressive lawyers from defending demonized defendants at a time when unknown numbers of immigrants from the Middle East or South Asia had been rounded up and imprisoned or deported as part of the "war on terror."

It is easy to see why Ashcroft would target Stewart. She has defended Richard Williams of the underground United Freedom Front. She was also the attorney for Larry Davis, who won acquittal from charges resulting from a shootout with 30 police officers in the Bronx, who Davis said were trying to assassinate him because he tried to quit a drug-running ring with NYPD connections.

She has also represented Arab and Muslim defendants.

Stewart believes Sheikh Rahman was "wrongfully accused and convicted. It would be the same as charging Cardinal O'Connor with conspiracy because he gave a ser-



Lynne Stewart

mon denouncing abortion and some disturbed youth then attacked a women's clinic." The state's attitude is "once your client is found guilty, you should give up," she said, "but I kept on fighting."

Stewart fervently believes every defendant deserves representation. She said that personally, however, "I couldn't bring myself to defend a cop accused of shooting a youth from a community of color or someone accused of abusing a child." The IAC crowd cheered.

Attorney Michael Tigar, who represented Angela Davis and Abbie Hoffman, is defending Stewart. Stewart described, "The prosecution is bringing into the court tapes made of roving wiretaps, Internet reels, all now degraded and disintegrated but digitalized." They can't be used as evidence of fact. The judge allows them to show the "state of mind" of the defendant and convince the jury that Stewart and the others are dangerous.

No jury-trial outcome is guaranteed. To counter the prosecution's attempt to demonize her, Stewart's supporters are mobilizing people to attend the trial, which takes place most Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 40 Foley Square, Courtroom 110, in Manhattan. For more information, see www.lynnestewart.org. □

WW CALENDAR

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Fri., July 23
Celebration of Cuba's Moncada Day. Hear Adrian Garcia report on its significance, followed by a Cuban Film. 7:30 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. \$5 donation, no one turned away for lack of funds. At 5274 W. Pico Blvd. #203. For info (323) 936-7266.

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'Blockade busters' return to U.S. from Cuba

By Leilani Dowell

Dowell, a member of Workers World Party, is running for Congress on the Peace and Freedom ticket in San Francisco (8th District). She recently visited Cuba with the Venceremos Brigade, and participated in the 35th annual travel challenge, returning to the U.S. from Canada on July 19.

An energetic and enthusiastic group of more than 90 people marched across the International Peace Bridge from Fort Erie, Ontario, to Buffalo, N.Y., on July 19 in defiance of the United States' newest attack on Cuba—manifested in heightened restrictions on travel. Representing the Venceremos Brigade, the African Awareness Association and the U.S. Cuba-Labor Exchange, the group waved banners and flags and chanted, "¡Cuba sí, bloqueo no!" and "Who's gonna break the travel ban? WE'RE gonna break the travel ban!"

At the same time, another 100 activists—part of the Pastors for Peace's 15th Friendship Caravan to Cuba—crossed the International Bridge from Mexico to Hildago, Texas.

The caravan this year visited 127 cities in the United States and Canada, picking up 100 tons of material aid along the way to bring to Cuba.

The contingents at both borders represented young and old, Black, Latin@, Arab, Asian and white, lesbian, gay and straight, workers, activists, students and educators, with a range of political viewpoints. They came from the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe. Some had traveled several times to Cuba on travel challenges. For others this was their first time visiting the island.

All were deeply impressed and moved with the gains brought about by the socialist revolution in that country—including in healthcare and education, which are provided to all without cost—despite continuing hostility and sanctions by the U.S. government that have severely limited Cuba's access to basic resources. All vowed to fight the attacks on Cuba, as well as to continue the struggle to free the Cuban Five. The five are behind bars in U.S. prisons for trying to infiltrate and monitor Cuban-American paramilitary groups in Miami.

This year marked the 35th annual travel challenge by the Venceremos Brigade. The Brigade spent a week in Santiago de Cuba and another week in Havana. In the mornings, the Brigade did construction work on schools and a rehabilitation clinic. The rest of the day was filled with solidarity meetings with the families of the Cuban Five, representatives from the Cuban Hip Hop movement, the Federation of Cuban Women and several neighborhood Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. On the last day of the trip, brigadistas had the pleasure of hearing from Cuban parliament speaker Ricardo Alarcon. Some participants had the great fortune to meet with Assata Shakur, former Black Panther leader who sought asylum in Cuba after escaping prison in 1986.

Solidarity was given and received everywhere the delegations went, both within Cuba and at each border crossing. While brigadistas expressed solidarity with the Cuban Revolution, Cubans expressed solidarity with the struggles of oppressed peoples in the United States.

When the delegations were due to return home, activists from all over the U.S. drove hours and flew from great



Crossing the Peace Bridge into Buffalo, N.Y., from Canada on July 19.

WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

distances to provide spirited support rallies at the borders with Mexico and Canada.

Upon arriving in Canada, the Venceremos Brigade and the African Awareness Association were greeted by the Toronto branch of the United Steelworkers of America, who hosted them for the night in their union hall.

The following day, those brigadistas who crossed back into the U.S. across the Canadian border were required to complete a three-page form for "suspected

travelers to Cuba. Brigadistas refused to write down the details about the organizers of the trip, what monies were spent in Cuba and other intrusive questions.

Brigadistas crossing into Hildago, Texas, faced a more hostile situation, confronted with more than 100 law enforcement officers from the Department of Homeland Security, the Treasury Department, Customs, Immigration and Border Patrol. Brigadistas were subjected to extensive searches of each and every piece of their luggage. Books, flags and coffee

that had been given as gifts from the people of Cuba were confiscated and Brigadistas were subjected to hours of interrogation.

In the face of possible prosecution by the U.S. government, returning activists have already organized report-back meetings and forums in their home cities and towns in order to spread the solidarity message from the people of Cuba and to fight for an end to the U.S. blockade. □

See Parker-Gutierrez statement on Cuba in the centerfold.

Coalition protesting Democratic Convention:

'The streets belong to the people!'

Organizers from the Coalition to Protest the Democratic National Convention held a July 19 media conference to keep up the pressure on city authorities. The coalition is demanding a permit for activists to march on Causeway Street in order to bring the demand "Bring the troops home now" right up to the limousines and bigwigs at the Fleet Center—named for Fleet Bank—where the DNC will take place.

Thousands are expected to protest in Boston, starting July 25 at noon on historic Boston Common.

Coalition speakers at the well-attended media conference included Yves Alcindor, New England Human Rights Organization for Haiti; Steve Gillis (shown speaking), president of the Boston School Bus Drivers Union, USWA Local 8751; Sue Kelly, secretary-treasurer of OPEIU Local 334, representing the Women's Fight Back Network; Dustin Langley, Act Now to Stop War & End Racism and an armed services veteran; and Gerry Scoppettuolo from Stonewall Warriors.

The coalition's legal team, represented by John Reinstein, executive director of the Massachusetts American Civil Liberties Union, and Jonathan Shapiro of the National Lawyers Guild, filed for injunctive relief from authorities to let the march go forward as planned. In the words of co-counsel, attorney John Pavlos: "They are trying to repress political speech and the political content of that speech, namely that we want the troops to be brought home now." □



WW PHOTO: SUE KELLY

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ON THE PICKET LINE

By SUE DAVIS

Calif. Fed. of Labor: STOP the occupation now!

The largest federation of labor in the U.S., representing more than 2 million California workers, voted overwhelmingly on July 13 to call upon the AFL-CIO to "demand an immediate end to the U.S. occupation of Iraq and support the repeal of the Patriot Act and the reordering of national priorities toward the human needs of our people."

But it took an amendment to do it. State Labor Federation Vice President Nancy Wohlforth, who is also national secretary-treasurer of the Office and Professional Employees and national leader of Pride at Work, proposed that the anti-war resolution submitted by the San Francisco Labor Council be changed to read an "immediate" end to the occupation. An overwhelming majority of the more than 400 delegates voted for the stronger demand.

A second amendment was introduced to "explore affiliation with and help actively support and promote U.S. Labor Against the War (USLAW)." USLAW is a national network of more than 80 labor organizations opposed to U.S. policy in Iraq. This amendment was also adopted by an overwhelming majority.

Then an even larger majority voted to adopt the resolution as amended.

The California federation also adopted a resolution demanding transparency and accountability in the AFL-CIO's international programs. It urged the AFL-CIO to "exercise extreme caution in seeking or accepting funding from the U.S. government, its agencies and any other institutions which it funds," such as the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), for its work in Iraq or elsewhere. It warned that doing so could "give the appearance, if not the effect, of making the AFL-CIO appear to be an agent of the U.S. government and its foreign policies," which, it warned, "may taint the good reputation of the Federation in the eyes of the labor movements in other countries and draw into question the motivation and true independence of the Federation in its international affairs."

The convention also called upon the AFL-CIO "to fully account for what was done" in Chile, Venezuela and other countries where the AFL-CIO funneled NED funds to opponents of the elected government. Washington backed a military coup in Chile which brought the Pinochet dictatorship to power in 1973, and an unsuccessful overthrow of the government of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in 2003.

The convention called upon the AFL-CIO to "renounce any tie that could compromise our authentic credibility and the trust of workers here and abroad that would make us paid agents of government or of the forces of corporate economic globalization."

Such pressure rising from the ranks of the AFL-CIO is an unusual but welcome development.

Immokalee workers can't be bought off

You'd think a fight over pennies would welcome an unsolicited donation of \$110,000. Not so.

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers

has been fighting for years for one more penny for each pound of tomatoes farmworkers pick. The CIW says that just one penny more per pound in the farmworkers' pockets would raise their wages by about 75 percent. To dramatize their demand, the CIW has been boycotting Taco Bell for four years because the chain is one of Florida's largest buyers of tomatoes.

So why did the CIW return the \$110,000 check from Yum! Brands Inc.? Because Yum! Brands is Taco Bell's parent company.

In a letter that accompanied the check, Yum! spokesman Jonathan Blum urged CIW to end the boycott, saying the \$110,000 was an estimate of a penny per pound of all the Florida tomatoes Taco Bell bought last year. CIW leader Lucas Benitez called the check "a public relations stunt" and vowed the boycott would continue.

The attempted payoff is a glaring admission that the workers are seriously underpaid. Even the June 23 Palm Beach Post editorial agreed: "The remedy isn't a donation but reform of an unfair system."

Show support for Gallo workers by Aug. 4

Gallo of Sonoma farm workers have been laboring without a contract for eight months. Matt and Gina Gallo, of Gallo of Sonoma, refuse to provide health care insurance and other basic benefits to the 75 percent of their workforce supplied by farm labor contractors.

Last December, a California judge ruled Gallo of Sonoma illegally tried to get rid of the United Farm Workers, the union the workers have chosen to represent them. Matt Gallo even told the workers it was the union's fault they didn't have health benefits.

It's vital to show support for these workers before their next negotiation meeting on Aug. 4. The workers' goal is for 25,000 people to sign their "Gallo Unfair" petition by then. So far more than 10,000 people have signed the petition and pledged to boycott all Gallo wines if the Gallos refuse to negotiate a fair UFW contract. To sign the petition go to www.unionvoice.org/campaign/signgallopetition.

Morgan Stanley guilty of sex discrimination

Morgan Stanley, one of the top investment firms on Wall Street, agreed on July 12 to pay 340 women employees \$54 million in order to settle a sex discrimination case and avoid a trial. This is the second-largest case ever filed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The settlement came just minutes before statistical evidence that showed Morgan Stanley systematically denied equal pay and promotions to women was to be presented in court. By agreeing to settle the suit out of court after a two-year negotiation, Morgan Stanley doesn't have to admit to any wrongdoing and cannot legally be declared guilty of sexual discrimination.

But the women who will collect the checks know that's precisely why Morgan Stanley was forced to pay. □



SEIU Local 880 contingent brought together disabled people, family members and personal assistants.

WW PHOTO:
LOU PAULSEN

DISABLED PRIDE

New tradition of celebration, struggle

By Lou Paulsen
Chicago

More than 1,000 people with disabilities, caregivers, assistants, family, and other supporters marched and rolled along Chicago's lakefront on July 18 in the first annual Disability Pride event.

Hundreds of disabled individuals and members of advocacy groups like Access Living, ADAPT, Progress Center for Independent Living, National Disabled Students Union and the American Association of People with Disabilities were joined by large contingents of workers from service organizations, including the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and the Chicago public schools.

Organizers say this is the first event of its kind since the 1990 Disability Pride event in Boston. Very pleased with the turnout, they hope that as Disability Pride becomes an annual tradition and spreads to other cities it will become the kind of central event for the country's 50 million disabled that the annual Pride events have become for the lesbian, gay, bi and trans communities.

The mood of the diverse crowd of all ages, nationalities and orientations was celebratory; but for the disabled community, celebration involves struggle. A week ago, Chicago's Democratic administration "revoked" the permit for the Disability Pride event because of "construction work." Organizers waged a successful legal challenge, while making it clear that they were going to show up—

permit or no permit.

Disability rights are a working-class issue. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, about one person in 10 in the U.S. has a condition that impacts on their major activities, like school or work. But in this capitalist society, in which accessibility is a low priority except where it has been won by the struggle, disability often means unemployment and poverty. As much as 15 to 20 percent of the poorest communities are disabled, while having the least access to adaptive services and technology. Wages for personal assistants are so low that it is often a case of "the poor caring for the poor."

A contingent from Service Employees International Union Local 880 brought together the disabled, family members and personal assistants. Signs and t-shirts read, "Fighting for a living wage," "Proud to be cared for by my union homemaker worker," and "Homemaker workers and the disabled march together for rights."

Local 880 has negotiated a contract for the 20,000 homemaker workers paid by the Illinois Department of Rehabilitative Services that will bring their pay to \$9.35 per hour by 2007. But they still receive no health benefits, and face a long fight for a living wage against the Democratic state government and its crisis budgets—which are a product of the bipartisan federal policy of war.

For more information about the annual event and about disability issues, visit www.disabledandproud.com. □

LGBT groups gear up for ballot battle

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

Lesbian, gay, bi and trans communities and their allies in Michigan are geared up for a big battle. The newly formed Coalition for a Fair Michigan (CFM) is preparing to defeat a reactionary amendment to the state constitution that would not only ban same-sex marriage, but also ban civil unions and domestic partner benefits.

An anti-gay group called Citizens for the Protection of Marriage turned in over 482,000 petition signatures on July 5 to the state's election commission to put the proposed amendment on the November ballot. This group was spearheaded by right-wing Bush administration supporter Marlene Elwell.

Elwell reportedly paid a petitioning business up to \$3 for each signature collected.

The amendment reads: "To secure and preserve the benefits of marriage for our society and for future generations of children, the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose." Domestic partner benefits would be taken away from public sector workers in several municipalities and stripped from workers at some corporations.

LGBT and allied activists are launching a statewide civil rights campaign to defeat the amendment. Member organizations of CFM include the University of Michigan Graduate Employees Organization—AFT Local 3550, the Triangle Foundation, Stonewall Bar Association, Pride at Work Michigan and Workers World Party. For more information visit www.coalitionforfairmichigan.org or call Workers World Party at (313) 831-0750. □

'Labor must speak in its own voice'

East Coast rallies kick off MWM organizing

By Pam Parker and Steven Ceci
Washington, D.C.

A laid-off federal worker jumped to his feet: "I'm with the Million Worker March. I am now unemployed as a result of privatization. We need this fight."

"I was laid off, too, from my city job," added Denise Lowery, an activist from the African American community. "Neither Bush or Kerry care about us. I have a 15-year-old son and the big question for me is stopping the war. It's people like me who are doing the dying."

This spirit of protest and struggle rang out at a kickoff rally for the MWM held here on July 14 and at another the following day in New York. The rallies showed that the planned October march, conceived by Local 10 of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in San Francisco as an event where labor could stand up and speak in its own voice, has now taken on a national presence. Leaders of Local 10 were at both rallies.

Many labor and community activists attended the one here, the largest group coming from the American Federation of Teachers, which was holding its national convention in downtown Washington.

Unionists from the Service Employees attended, as well as Teamsters, United Food and Commercial Workers, the Newspaper Guild of the Communications Workers, and AFSCME. There was Jobs with Justice, the All People's Congress and the International Action Center. From the anti-war movement came Act Now to Stop War & End Racism (ANSWER), U.S. Labor Against the War, D.C. United for Peace and Justice, and Women's Global Strike for Peace.

A recurrent theme was to urge labor participation in the protests at both the Democratic and Republican national conventions as part of the buildup to the Oct. 17 MWM. The national leadership of the AFL-CIO has put out a letter disassociating itself from the MWM, saying labor's resources are needed to defeat Bush in the

election. Nevertheless, serious discussions are going on in the labor movement calling into question labor's attachment to the Democratic Party.

'Labor needs an independent voice'

Clarence Thomas, president of Local 10, and Brenda Stokely, president of AFSCME District Council 1707 in New York, were key speakers at the Washington rally. Both will be featured at the Boston rally July 25 protesting the Democratic National Convention.

In D.C., Thomas explained why labor needs an independent voice. His local has helped formulate a mission statement, resolution and demands that speak to the major needs and rights of workers, from universal health care and funding for education to slashing the military budget.

Local 10 has a distinguished history. It organized support for South African workers and shut down West Coast ports around the issue of apartheid. More recently, Thomas's local honored a picket line outside the Oakland terminals of the Stevedoring Services of America, a major contractor chosen by the Defense Department to rebuild the largest seaport in Iraq. The protest shut the SSA down.

Thomas was part of a delegation to Iraq with U.S. Labor Against the War. He has since spoken at numerous events calling for the U.S. to bring the troops home now.

Local 10 has secured the support of all the ILWU West Coast locals for the MWM, and has been gathering endorsers from labor conventions and community meetings across the country. The South Carolina International Longshoreman's Association, known for its defense of the Charleston Five, has also joined the cause of the march.

Stokely emphasized that the march has to be built from the ground up. She pointed out that the majority of workers are not unionized and need to be mobilized. Stokely helped to organize and lead a recent three-day strike of thousands of

Serious discussions are going on in the labor movement calling into question labor's attachment to the Democratic Party.

New York City day care workers who are without a contract.

Stokely, who recently returned from a trip to Venezuela, also proposed that the Million Worker March invite international delegates. This was echoed by a delegate from the AFT.

Stokely is co-convenor of the MWM in New York City, along with Chris Silvera, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Joint Council 808 and president of the Black Caucus of the Teamsters. Silvera spoke in D.C. on the issue of homeland security and attacks on workers' civil rights.

Larry Holmes, national co-coordinator of the International Action Center and a member of ANSWER, brought the audience to its feet when he commended the MWM organizers and explained why a fight to break the labor movement away from the Democratic Party was needed and long overdue. "Your impact can be seen from the recent letter issued by the AFL-CIO field office. There is a major contradiction between Kerry's program and the desire by the membership of the unions, who want and need to bring the troops home now." Holmes mentioned recent resolutions against the war passed at the Service Employees and AFSCME conventions, and pledged to bring support from the anti-war movement to the march.

Ralph Schoenman, co-producer of the Pacifica Radio program "Taking Aim," drew applause and knowing nods as he described the hypocrisy at the top level

of government and the record of the Democratic Party as well as the Bush administration.

Andy Griggs is a soft-spoken and modest organizer who helped win the endorsement for the MWM of the National Educational Association, the largest independent union with a membership of 2.7 million teachers and school support personnel. "When I taught in Watts I had to buy supplies for my students out of my pocket," Griggs said. Other teachers in the audience nodded. "We need to stop the war and fund education."

Teamsters Local 639 President Thomas Rattcliff hosted the rally, held at his union's hall. Sharon Black Ceci, a regional coordinator for the Million Worker March, chaired the panel.

Ceci concluded, "Why should workers' dues go to a politician like Kerry who has refused to promote a real program for workers? What about addressing the issues of the unorganized, unemployed and immigrant workers? Why has the AFL-CIO funneled money to what has amounted to CIA efforts in countries like Venezuela?"

"These debates are beginning to breathe fresh air into the union movement. In every way possible, progressive trade unionists, community organizers and anti-war activists should help to ensure the Million Worker March's success. The struggle to wrestle the people's movement away from the capitalist parties has begun." □

Unions defend right to organize

Card check under attack

By Stephanie Hedgecoke

Yet another attack on workers' rights looms in a decision of the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to review "card check," the process whereby an employer agrees to voluntary recognize a union if a majority of the employees have signed authorization cards. The NLRB plans to review recognition of the United Auto Workers at a Dana plant in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, and a Metaldyne plant in St. Mary's, Pa., after the elections, with a decision probable in 2005.

An overturn of these two union victories would be an attack on the entire working class and a setback of the most basic and oldest workers' rights.

The long history of voluntary recognition of a union by an employer based on a majority of workers in a unit signing cards "goes back to the 19th century," says Communications Workers Executive Vice-President Larry Cohen, and it "pre-dates any labor law in any country."

CWA is just one of the unions that has brought in tens of thousands of new members through card check in recent years. In the last 15 months, CWA successfully reorganized 3,000 New Mexico state workers. Some 5,000 of that state's gov-

ernment workers had had union recognition stripped from them in 1999. CWA is working to organize the 1,500 other eligible New Mexico government workers in a multi-local drive led by a committee of 300 state workers.

In 1999 alone, CWA used card check to win union recognition for workers at Southwestern Bell Wireless in Texas, AT&T local service in Arizona, SBC wireless workers in several states, nurses and technicians in New York, and printing workers in Florida and New York.

Union activists plan a Million Worker March for Oct. 17 in Washington, D.C., to fight for workers' rights and to set back the attacks on union organizing that have characterized every presidential administration since Ronald Reagan.

Reagan's all-out war on the air traffic controllers' union was actually planned by the previous administration of Democrat Jimmy Carter.

Defense of card check and overtime rights are just two of the basic rights of working people that must be fought for in the streets, no matter who wins the election.

Hedgecoke is a member of CWA Local 14156.

Bush confronted at Wis. whistle stops

By Bryan G. Pfeifer

A coalition of labor, environmental, lesbian/gay/bi/trans, women's rights and other progressive organizations led by the Wisconsin AFL-CIO confronted the racist war criminal George W. Bush on his campaign tour of Wisconsin on July 14.

Tommy Thompson, former Wisconsin governor and now Secretary of Health and Human Services, participated in Bush's entourage. Thompson is responsible for the onslaught of the "W-2" attacks on welfare, various school "choice" programs and other draconian state policies in Wisconsin now exported nationally and internationally. Most of these policies were largely written by right-wing groups such as the Heritage Foundation and financed by the Milwaukee-based Bradley Foundation.

At all three stops in Waukesha, Fondulac and Ashwaubenon, Bush was met by hundreds of protesters with banners, placards and chants like "Drop Bush—not

bombs," and "Bring back our jobs."

Wisconsin has lost over 70,000 manufacturing jobs over the past five years alone; the majority were union jobs. Although organized labor's primary focus at these protests was to increase support for Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, other independent class-conscious elements participated.

"As soon as I heard George Bush was going to be here, I knew I was going to be here," said Jason Holt of Green Bay. "I'm not a Democrat. I'd rather see a third party. Someone other than the money mongers and the Democrats." (Green Bay Press Gazette, July 15)

Organizations participating in the protests included Action Wisconsin, AFSCME, the Fondulac Education Association, the Greater Green Bay Labor Council, Independent Media Center—Milwaukee and Madison, NARAL, the Madison Area Peace Coalition, Milwaukee Coalition for a Just Peace, the Waukesha County Labor Council and Wisconsin Citizen Action. □

From the Parker-Gutierrez Campaign

Kerry, Bush work to bar same-sex marriage

The Parker-Gutierrez Campaign applauds the lesbian, gay, bi and trans movement's victory over the bigoted Federal Marriage Amendment, which went down to defeat on July 14 in the U.S. Senate.

Both of us are long-time fighters in the struggle for LGBT liberation—one of us as a lesbian, and the other as an ally who has fought for the rights of LGBT people for his entire political life.

We wholeheartedly support the right to same-sex marriage—it is an important demand that the state end its institutionalized discrimination. And we condemn this attempt to further enshrine hatred in U.S. law by adding a constitutional amendment to make legal only marriage between “a man and a woman.”

We know that the Bush administration pushed the amendment in an attempt to buttress right-wing support for his presi-

dential bid and to force the Democrats to demonstrate their own antipathy towards LGBT rights.

Headlines read, “Democrats kill a measure they derided as presidential politicking.”

But Democrats didn't win this round—the struggle of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and trans people over the past three decades did. Because of that unrelenting fight against injustice and inequality, many working and oppressed people throughout the U.S. oppose legally discriminating against LGBT people. And at a time when the working class and its most impoverished sectors are scrambling to make ends meet, yet see endless funding for “endless war” against the Iraqi people, the FMA ploy wasn't very popular. Some LGBT activists noted that most members of Congress were reluctant to vote for the FMA because now there are so many “out”

LGBT people among their families, friends and co-workers.

However, while the Democrats voted the FMA down, they continued to backpedal as fast as they could away from any support for same-sex marriage, actually arguing that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) could do just as good a job as a constitutional amendment in preventing it.

The very wealthy Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry has actually pledged to get his home state of Massachusetts to amend the state constitution so only heterosexuals can marry there.

That's right—Kerry would like to reverse the victory that makes his state the only one where same-sex marriage is actually legal!

We are running a different kind of presidential campaign—and we want your support.

We are running a campaign of struggle to embolden working and oppressed people to see that their future lies in the grassroots struggle in the streets today.

Not only are we for same-sex marriage rights, we are for:

- health care coverage for all, including LGBT people and partners
 - expanded funding for HIV and AIDS, and for lesbian and women's health issues
 - adoption rights for LGBT people, and an end to loss of custody of their children
 - an end to all workplace and housing discrimination against LGBT people
- Support an independent political movement that will fight for LGBT lives! Together, let's fight this oppressive profit-driven economic system. Let's build socialism—where production is planned to meet the needs and wants of all!

Taking WW election campaign to the streets

By Adrian Garcia

The Workers World presidential campaign was launched in Los Angeles amid a highly spirited and militant street meeting July 17.

A banner reading, “Derechos para inmigrantes! Amnistia Ahora! Immigrant rights! Amnesty now!” sparked the interest of the mostly Latin American immigrants who made their way along the busy intersection of 4th St. and Broadway Blvd.

Rebeca Toledo, a visiting Workers World member from New York, addressed the people in Spanish. She explained, “We have an African American—John Parker—running for president, and a Texan Chicana—Teresa Gutierrez—running for vice-president. They are challenging both the Republican and Democratic parties with a platform for the working people like yourselves.”

Presidential candidate John Parker prompted the curious listeners to join with one another's struggles against this rotten system. “Be it against police brutality directed at Black youths, fighting for equal marriage rights, or stopping INS terrorism against the immigrant community, we ask you to join us, the candidates of the working class and the poor, in fighting



WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN

against this system that only cares about profits.”

People, mostly Spanish-speaking and of color, felt compelled to approach Workers

World Party members to inquire further about the campaign, obtain literature and sign up to receive information and campaign updates. □

Support the Workers World Party Election Campaign

Isn't it time workers spoke for themselves?

Every four years it's the same story. Millionaire/billionaire politicians funded by Big Business pose as friends of workers. But after the elections, no matter who wins, the results are the same: more war, more union busting, more racism and bigotry, more hardship for poor and working people.

The choice between Republican and Democrat this year is a choice between the greater evil and the lesser evil. Certainly when it comes to the interests of the workers and oppressed worldwide, the answer to the bosses' evil is not to vote for Bush, author of the bloody war and occupation of Iraq—nor vote for Kerry, who wants to increase the number of troops in Iraq and declares, “failure is not an option.”

Workers World Party runs in the elections, too. But we're not in it to play the warmongers' game. We're here to crash the elections. And we have great candidates—John Parker for president and Teresa Gutierrez for vice president. People of color. Workers. Anti-war activists. Longtime working-class fighters.

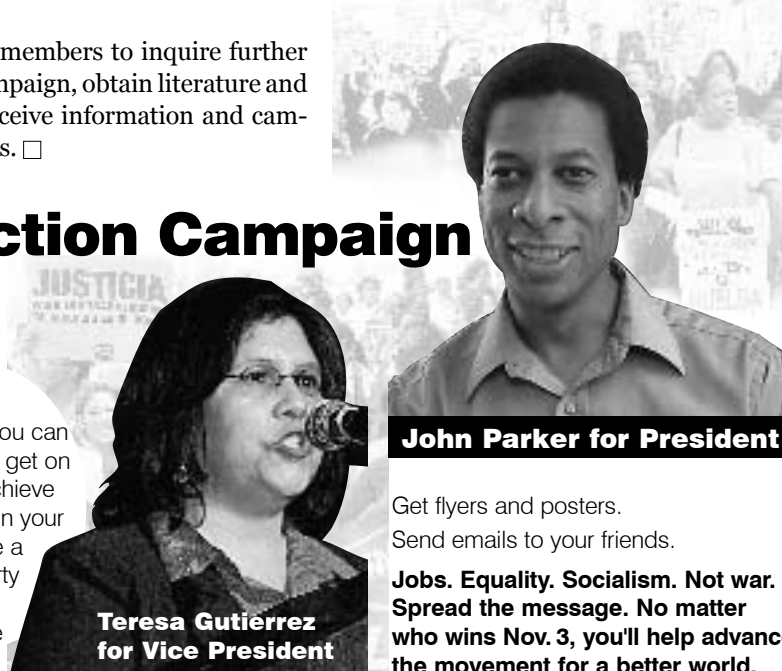
Our goal is to reach tens of thousands, if not millions, of people with a message they will not hear anywhere else: Bring the troops home now. Real social change happens through class struggles, not elections. Workers need their own party to represent their interests. United in solidarity, we can organize an independent movement to fight for a society that puts people's needs before profit and global conquest.

We know many workers are eager to hear this refreshing message. The candidates are ready to crisscross the country joining picket lines and demonstrations, visiting community centers, union halls and schools. But they need your help.

Travel expenses, printing literature, getting on the ballot—it all costs a lot of money. The folks who attend \$10,000-a-plate soirees for Bush and Kerry aren't going to contribute to the Parker-Gutierrez campaign.

So please give generously.

There's more you can do. Help WWP get on the ballot or achieve write-in status in your state. Organize a fundraising party or a house meeting for the candidates.



John Parker for President

Get flyers and posters. Send emails to your friends.

Jobs. Equality. Socialism. Not war. Spread the message. No matter who wins Nov. 3, you'll help advance the movement for a better world.

Teresa Gutierrez for Vice President



LeiLani Dowell
Peace & Freedom Party candidate in the 8th Congressional District, in San Francisco.

I want to help the Parker-Gutierrez election campaign!

- Here's my contribution of \$10 \$25 I can organize a fundraiser
 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other _____ I can organize a house party or meeting for the campaign
 I can help WWP get on the ballot or get write-in status Please send me campaign literature

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

SEND TO: **WORKERS WORLD PARTY Presidential Campaign Committee**
55 W. 17 St., 5th fl. New York, N.Y. 10011 (212) 627-2994 vote4workers@workers.org

Shows way out of lesser-evil trap

WWP campaign inspires struggle against war, racism

By Fred Goldstein

There is a standard saying in the “anybody but Bush” movement that a third-party vote is a vote for Bush. This is both an expression of panic and an attempt to intimidate or scare into voting for John Kerry those who want to take an independent course.

But a third-party vote should be viewed as a refusal to vote for the establishment candidates, both of whom are for war and occupation. A refusal to endorse colonial conquest is entirely justified, without any qualification needed.

And a third-party vote can be even more meaningful if it is a vote for a socialist ticket in which the candidates are not just opposed to the war policies of both candidates, but are opposed to the millionaires and billionaires behind the big-business candidates and their parties. Exposing the capitalist system which breeds war in the first place is a vital way of using the present election campaign to undermine the U.S. war drive and the occupation of Iraq.

It is for the purpose of carrying out an anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist educational campaign of exposures, as well as to fan the flames of mass anti-war resistance and to promote the struggle against capitalist oppression and exploitation, that candidates John Parker and Teresa Gutierrez are running for president and vice president, respectively, on the Workers World Party ticket. They are joined by LeiLani Dowell, a member of WWP who is running on the Peace and Freedom ticket in the 8th Congressional District in San Francisco. (Vote4Workers.org)

They are projecting as their main slogans “Bring the troops home now. Money for jobs, not for war.” And the general slogan of their campaign is “People’s needs before profits: for socialism, against capitalism.” Parker, Gutierrez and Dowell also have a whole host of demands to meet the immediate, day-to-day needs of the workers, poor communities, those battling racism and national oppression, women, lesbian, gay, bi and trans people and all who suffer under the profit system.

Using the election campaign to expose capitalism and all the politics championed by the big business media is a vital task in the struggle against war and oppression. That is because ideological and political hegemony over the workers in this country is the greatest source of strength for the U.S. ruling class. Racism and national chauvinism are pillars of ideological domination.

For example, the indoctrination of the people with super-patriotic chauvinism is what ultimately underlies the power of the Pentagon. The workers from the U.S. who are killing and being killed in Iraq are doing so not merely because they are forced to do it. The fact is that they can be forced to do something they wish they did not have to do only because they believe in this system and/or they see no other alternative. They lack a class understanding of capitalist society.

At present most workers in this country do not recognize that the same big corporations that are laying them off, cutting their wages, taking away their health care, and destroying all their social services are the real forces behind the war and the occupation. If the soldiers were able to see beyond the 24-hour-a-day universal propaganda machine financed and run by big corporations that use the Pentagon to

make the world safe for U.S. capitalist investment, they would never stand for it.

In truth, the U.S. soldiers in Iraq, who are mostly workers in uniform and predominantly people of color, have far more in common with the workers and poor of Iraq than they do with corporate oil barons, the billionaire owners of the transnational corporations, and the politicians and generals who sent them over there. Once they understood this, they would revolt against being put in the line of fire; they would rebel against being forced to carry out war crimes. They would no longer be passive and obedient to the brass. They would organize. They would resist. That resistance would paralyze the Pentagon. And that would be the beginning of the end of Washington’s ability to wage wars of conquest.

But the workers have had the world view of the imperialists force-fed to them from the cradle on up. Before the war against terrorism it was a war to make the U.S. safe; a war for democracy; a war against dictatorship, etc., etc., ad nauseum.

If all the working class families whose relatives have been killed or maimed on the battlefield, or have been sent to terrorize and brutalize the Iraqi people, could see that it is the desire for vast profits that motivated the U.S. ruling class to invade Iraq, they would turn on the greedy war-makers.

Thus a vote for Parker and Gutierrez must not be viewed as a vote for Bush. On the contrary, it is a refusal to vote for sending 40,000 more U.S. troops to Iraq—a figure taken from John Kerry’s web site and from his speeches. (johnkerry.com)

It is a refusal to vote for a candidate who wants to “stay the course” in Iraq, who wants to find a way to pull in other imperialist powers, through NATO, to help the Pentagon crush the Iraqi resistance and train the puppet forces there—all to keep Iraq, its oil, and its strategic locations astride the Persian Gulf for U.S. imperialism.

Voting for the Workers World Party ticket represents a refusal to vote for an “opposition” candidate who supports Bush’s “road map” to subdue the Palestinian national movement. It is a refusal to support a senator who voted for the Patriot Act and the \$400-billion military budget; who voted the authorization for Bush to implement his preemptive strike strategy against Iraq—and has tried to deny it.

What is wrong with refusing to vote for a candidate who says, “It is up to Democrats to understand and prepare for Fourth Generation Warfare—fighting unconventional force unconventional ways—so our nation can be better prepared to wage and win the new war.” Kerry wants “a modern military” with more versatile equipment; better intelligence; advanced communications; long-range air power; and highly mobile forces.” (See Kerry website.) In what way is Kerry’s program for the military different from Rumsfeld’s “military transformation”?

Vote for what you believe in

But more importantly, a vote for Parker and Gutierrez goes way beyond a refusal to choose between a reactionary Republican or a Democratic candidate. It is more than just a general anti-establishment gesture. It is a statement that capitalism is the cause of war and that the profit system must be replaced by socialism—an

economy owned and controlled by the working class and operated for human need.

The WWP program is to “abolish the Pentagon” and use the money for “housing, childcare and human needs, not occupations in Iraq, Haiti, Palestine and Afghanistan.” This is an uncompromising anti-militarist, anti-imperialist position. Parker, Gutierrez and Dowell demand full rights for immigrants, the repeal of the Patriot Act and an end to the persecution of Arabs and Muslims.

Parker and Gutierrez demand a minimum wage of \$15 an hour and jobs instead of jails for youth. Their program calls for union jobs or guaranteed income. They are for universal health care and full reproductive rights for women. They demand an end to racism, police brutality and the death penalty; reparations for people of color and colonized nations. They declare that education is a right and that affirmative action must be restored.

The Workers World Party ticket proudly affirms the right to same-sex marriage, full equality for lesbians and gays, bi and transgender people. They demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier, the Cuban 5 and all political prisoners. And they are for taxing the rich and making the corporate polluters pay to clean up the environment.

But in addition to all these demands that they make upon the capitalist class, they stand for the abolition of the capitalist class itself, which is the bedrock of imperialism and war and can only survive as a system by expanding exploitation and plunder at home and abroad.

From the Parker-Gutierrez Campaign

Workers have a right to see Cuba; we won't let Bush take it away

The Parker-Gutierrez Campaign is in total solidarity with the more than 200 U.S. activists who are challenging the blockade of Cuba today. In fact, two of Workers World Party’s candidates—Teresa Gutierrez for vice president and LeiLani Dowell for Congress in San Francisco—are among those returning to the U.S. from Cuba on July 19 after participating in solidarity events there.

The U.S. government, under both Republican and Democratic administrations, has tried to isolate Cuba and break its economy ever since its 1959 revolution freed the island from imperialist domination.

The groups returning from Cuba—IFCO/Pastors for Peace, African Awareness Association and the Venceremos Brigade—are defying the latest efforts of the Bush administration to tighten the blockade. Washington has imposed new restrictions on travel to Cuba, including by Cuban-Americans with family members there, and holds heavy fines over the heads of anyone who visits the socialist island without getting a special license.

Why are the reactionaries so afraid of Cuba? Why don’t they want us to see for ourselves what it is like?

The Cuban Revolution transformed the lives of the working people. The rich owners of casinos and sugar plantations, who

Compare this program and the record of these three people of color, these working-class candidates—two of them lesbian women—with the demagoguery of the two white male multi-millionaires running to get control of the capitalist government. Parker, Gutierrez and Dowell have spent their entire adult lives organizing, demonstrating and fighting in a hundred ways for the interests of the workers and oppressed, in this country and around the world.

The candidates have no illusions that voting for them will bring about any significant changes for the better in the lives of the people. On the contrary, they will carry the message that any basic change in this society, with its vast poverty, racism, oppression and militarism, will only come about by the independent struggle of the workers and the oppressed.

The Democrats and the Republicans have been tied by a thousand threads to the corporate rulers of this country—the big oil and banking interests, the military-industrial complex, and the 40,000 corporate lobbyists that have a lock on Washington.

Parker, Gutierrez and Dowell will show that the only way to break this stranglehold is through militant mass mobilization and class combat. Explaining this to the workers and the oppressed and fighting to bring it about is the only way out of the electoral trap of the lesser-of-two-evils system of capitalist politics that has dominated this country for two centuries. □

stayed in power through the bloody U.S.-backed Batista dictatorship, are gone. (Many went to Miami, where they have become a political base of the far right.) The Cuban people now own everything, enjoy free, universal health care and education, and have continued to develop their economy despite every attempt from Washington to crush them.

Cuba’s medical prowess is remarkable, especially for a small country. It has the lowest infant mortality rate of any developing country in the whole world—proving its overall success in keeping the people healthy. It has developed new vaccines so effective in fighting cancer that U.S. pharmaceuticals are right now scrambling for the contracts to develop and market them here.

Workers here, too, deserve:

- universal, free health care;
- free, quality education at all levels;
- jobs, not jails;
- affirmative action to erase centuries of racism;
- solidarity with the world’s peoples, not a blockade of Cuba or a war against Iraq.

The Parker-Gutierrez Campaign says: End the blockade of Cuba! Fight to change the U.S. from an exploiting imperialist superpower to a workers’ powerhouse of progress and equality! □

Occupied Haiti

Masses continue to resist U.S. coup

By Pat Chin

Leaders of CARICOM, the association of Caribbean nations, at a July 6 meeting, refused to recognize the Washington-installed government of Haitian Prime Minister Gerard Latortue. Under tremendous pressure from the Bush administration, however, a CARICOM delegation is meeting in Port-au-Prince for talks aimed at restoring future diplomatic ties with Haiti.

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's government was overthrown on Feb. 29 by U.S.- and French-backed mercenaries working in collusion with sectors of the Haitian bourgeoisie and non-governmental organizations funded by the Ronald Reagan-created International Republican Institute. The U.S. spent millions to topple Aristide, a popular leader who had been overwhelmingly re-elected in 2000.

As of now, the Organization of American States still plans to execute CARICOM's request for an investigation into Aristide's forced departure from Haiti, following the United Nations' failure to do so.

Meanwhile, the neocolonial takeover of Haiti has been given a Latin Americanized makeover. While U.S., French and Canadian troops remain in Haiti in reduced numbers, on June 25 the new UN mission

MINUSTAH took over, formally headed by a Brazilian. Argentina and Chile are also playing leading roles. This has sparked criticism of these "progressive" Latin American governments for collaborating with the occupation. Other countries, including Sri Lanka and Pakistan, also plan to send troops and police.

Not many Haitians have been fooled by the new façade and resistance continues, led by the National Popular Party (PPN) and other grassroots groups.

Threatening to rebel

On June 29, residents of Cayes-Jacmel protested the lack of court services.

In Grand-Goave on June 28, according to Haiti Progres newspaper, "Traffic was paralyzed for several hours ... where burning barricades were placed across the road."

In Cap-Haitien on June 25, people threatened a rebellion if the government didn't respond to their needs.

In Labory, they also demanded "the authorities take action to deal with the lack of drinking water ... electricity ... proper sanitation and drainage." (Vision 2000)

Weeks earlier, despite the repression, thousands had rallied in Port-au-Prince for Aristide's return and an end to the occupation.

Haiti Progres newspaper, the only

openly critical news medium, continues to publish. The anti-war movement should stand ready to defend this courageous act of resistance should the U.S.-installed regime attempt to close it down.

Under the new imperialist-installed puppet regime, Haiti has become a cauldron of repression against the popular movement. An estimated 3,000 Haitians have been killed in Washington's bid to make the country more sweatshop- and privatization-compliant for capitalist super-exploitation.

Deposed Prime Minister Yvon Neptune went underground in March to avoid assassination. After coming out of hiding he was arrested on June 27 and will face trial on spurious charges. Neptune is the highest-ranking Lavalas official to be taken in. Many Aristide supporters and members of his Lavalas Family Party have also been arrested since the coup. Others have fled into hiding or exile.

"This," said former Aristide spokesperson Mario Dupuy, "confirms, for those who still had doubts, the hideous and revolting character of this tropical fascism." ("Haiti in Chains," www.blackcommentator.com, July 8)

U.S. engineered bloody rampage

Haiti's merchant class allied itself with the big landowners and others to topple Aristide. The U.S.-engineered campaign included a bloody rampage of terror by heavily armed former members of the brutal disbanded military and paramilitary death squads, masquerading as "freedom fighters." They violently seized a broad swath of Haitian territory and threatened Port-au-Prince just prior to Aristide's being forced on a plane into exile by U.S. Marines.

Aristide had implemented sections of the International Monetary Fund's privatizing "death plan" for Haiti, which cost him some popular support. This was particularly true among rice farmers who couldn't compete with rice imported from the U.S. But Aristide had also initiated social programs aimed at helping Haiti's poor majority, who have grown even more impoverished since the coup and devastating floods that have caused widespread

death and destruction in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Despite making concessions to the IMF, Aristide was not viewed by the imperialists as being sufficiently corporate friendly. Moreover, he remained popular among the poor masses who resist, through popular organizations and other means, domination by foreign capital.

After Aristide's re-election, the Bush administration had immediately blocked more than \$500 million in international loans and aid to Haiti. Randall Robinson, founder of TransAfrica, retorted: "There may not be the bullet-ridden bodies ... but there are the nameless, faceless poor, who buckle under the weight of an embargo that—incredibly—denies their elected government already-approved loans for safe drinking water, literacy programs, and health care." (Quoted in "The U.S. War Against Haiti Hidden from the Headlines," Haiti Action Committee)

Since Aristide's kidnapping and exile, thousands of people have been killed or jailed.

In "In Defense of the Disinherited," Jamaican columnist John Maxwell calls on progressives to come to Haiti's aid:

"The Haitians have managed to survive in the face of the most long-lasting and purposeful genocidal campaign in history," he said. "They suffered because they helped Bolivar ... because they understood the indivisibility of freedom and liberty. They suffer because they defeated and repudiated slavery. Had they been Europeans, their valor and nobility would be celebrated in song and story, in legend and myth." (www.jamaicaobserver.com, July 3)

Huge numbers of Haitians in the U.S. will participate in protests around the July Democratic National Convention in Boston. The ANSWER Coalition has joined with Haitian groups in this mass effort that will demand an end to colonial occupation of Iraq, Palestine and Haiti, among other important issues.

For further information, e-mail the Haitian Lawyers Leadership Network at Erzilidanto@aol.com, or call (917) 337-6702. Boston ANSWER can be reached at (617) 522-6626, or info@answerboston.org. □

BOSTON

'Lavalas is Haitian nation-building tool'

On July 10, over 200 people heard leaders of Fanmi Lavalas, the Haitian mass movement, at a fundraising rally. The audience was predominantly Haitian along with supporters. The event was held at the union hall of Steelworkers Local 8751, the Boston School Bus Drivers Union. The program was chaired by Jesue Renaud of Fanmi Lavalas in Boston. Solidarity statements came from Congressman Maxine Waters, who spoke by phone hookup; Boston City Councilor Chuck Turner; Local 8751 President Steve Gillis; and Stephanie Nichols of Workers World Party. The program featured Farrah Juste, Fanmi Lavalas coordinator for Florida and the Bahamas, who sang the Haitian national anthem and gave a stirring account of the current struggle in Haiti. Juste explained how the U.S.-led occupation is currently one big jail for Fanmi Lavalas supporters, including Yvon Neptune, prime minister in the Aristide government, and famous singer and Lavalas activist Annette Auguste (So Anne). Their lives are now in danger. Haitian poet and lawyer Marguerite Laurent expressed that Black



Jonas Petit



Farrah Juste



Mario Dupuy

WWW PHOTOS: MIKE SHAW

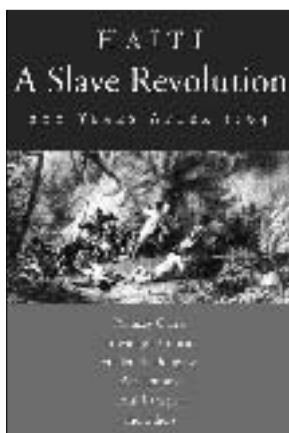
means liberty, stillness, struggle and survival in Haiti. Mario Dupuy, secretary of state of Fanmi Lavalas, spoke of the Lavalas struggle to give priority to the poor, providing food for the children, constructing schools, providing doctors and electricity, and how this is being undone since the Feb. 29 U.S.-backed coup. Jonas Petit, national representative of Fanmi Lavalas, described how Lavalas is the tool the Haitian people have for building their nation. He spoke of Aristide, the coup and the charter of Lavalas that calls for all Haitians to develop in equality and dignity. The meeting was cosponsored by Fanmi Lavalas, Local 8751, the New England Human Rights Organization for Haiti, and the Boston chapter of Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER). □

HAITI A SLAVE REVOLUTION

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Bangkok Int'l AIDS Conference

'Bush lies, millions die!'

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

Chanting "Bush lies, millions die," protesters at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok on July 14 shouted down Randall Tobias, the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and the former CEO of pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly & Co.

An estimated 1,000 activists staged a sit-down protest outside the conference. Some 30 people also stormed the main speaking area with banners that read "Patient rights, not patent rights," and stopped a speech by the head of the drug company colossus, Pfizer.

The focus of their outrage is a deadly and hypocritical U.S. AIDS policy that promises help and delivers nothing.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cut the number of U.S. representatives to the Bangkok conference to 60, drastically down from the 236 people who attended the 2002 International AIDS Conference in Barcelona.

Because of the cuts, seven Centers for Disease Control scientists scheduled to

speak on studies about "men who have sex with men" were stopped from attending, and of the hundreds of other papers, organizers could only name four sessions that addressed gay and bisexual men.

This is the first time the International AIDS Conference has been held in an Asian developing country. China sent more than 500 delegates to the forum, 10 times more than the U.S. delegation. (Al-Jazeera)

Millions die

AIDS is exponentially increasing into a global health catastrophe. As many as 38 million people worldwide are HIV-infected, with 25 million of those in Sub-Saharan Africa and more than 7 million in Asia. (Al-Jazeera)

The pandemic has already claimed more than 28 million lives since AIDS was identified in 1981.

People can expect to live, on average, less than 40 years if they are born today in one of seven African countries with a high

Continued on page 11

Filipinos force troop withdrawal from Iraq

By Lydia Bayoneta

Editor's note: Angelo de la Cruz was released on July 20.

Under enormous pressure from the Filipino people, President Gloria Arroyo has withdrawn the Philippine military contingent from Iraq. She also froze the further deployment of Filipino civilian workers to that country.

The decision of the Philippine government to withdraw from the so-called "Coalition of the Willing" grew out of a crisis sparked by the kidnapping and threatened beheading of Angelo de la Cruz by Iraqi insurgents. De la Cruz is an overseas Filipino worker (OFW), the father of eight, from a desperately poor village in central Luzon. He is one of 3,800 Filipino civilian workers in Iraq.

The Iraqi resistance fighters demanded that the Filipino government withdraw its troops by July 31.

From the time the kidnapping became known, a growing wave of resistance swept the Philippines, denouncing Filipino involvement in the U.S. occupation and demanding that the Philippine government act to save de la Cruz's life.

Large and militant demonstrations and protests broke out, not only in Manila, but nationwide and even internationally. There were pitched battles with police.

The government attempt to crush the resistance went so far as virtually kidnapping de la Cruz's wife and immediate family, hoping to keep them from making statements to the press.

But it was unsuccessful on all fronts. Despite her previous assurances to the U.S. that she would "hold firm," Arroyo's government finally announced that the Philippine troops would be coming home.

"Keep in mind that prior to this, she was a staunch supporter of the United States. The only logical explanation for this change in her policy and her willingness to risk disappointing the United States, is

to tame the protests at home," said Teodoro Casino, a congressperson of the progressive political party Bayan Muna.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chairperson of the Philippine Senate committee on national defense and security, revealed the dilemma of the Arroyo government: This crisis "is not just about the life of one Filipino," he said. A "competing need" is to maintain political stability. "Maintaining stability is more compelling than our need to cooperate [with the U.S.] in this confused war," he added.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan responded to U.S. critics of the decision bluntly: "The Philippines cannot hope to keep its commitments to the international efforts in Iraq if it is unable to marshal critical support back home."

Although some in the U.S. have tried to downplay the Philippine withdrawal, Filipinos believe the decision has dealt a blow to the U.S.-led international contingent in Iraq, already weakened by Spain's pullout. Thailand has also announced the withdrawal of 451 troops, ignoring an appeal by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The U.S. government was quite harsh in its criticism. On July 14, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell publicly criticized the Manila government, while a U.S. diplomat stationed in Manila described Arroyo's move as "very serious and damaging" to Manila's relationship with Washington. He said the U.S. did not expect this from Arroyo, who is widely considered the strongest supporter of the U.S. in Southeast Asia, and who has received by far the biggest military aid in the region.

The plight of Filipino workers

Demands for the withdrawal of Philippine troops from Iraq came not only from their homeland but from the millions of Filipino workers laboring overseas.

The Saudi Arabia chapter of Migrant International sent a petition to the Philip-



Growing wave of resistance swept Philippines.

pine government calling for the pullout of Filipino troops from Iraq to save the life of Angelo de la Cruz. It stated that OFW "community leaders in Riyadh not only call for the unconditional pullout of Philippine troops from Iraq" but also for the Philippine government "to caution itself against giving out statements that openly support the U.S. occupation in Iraq."

Filipino community leaders representing 26 organizations signed the petition.

Over 940,000 Filipino workers are working in Saudi Arabia alone. OFWs now number 10 million in many other countries across the globe. These workers account for half the Philippine's annual Gross Domestic Product.

The large number of overseas workers is accounted for by the desperate poverty which exists in the Philippine homeland. Battered by neocolonial policies, a staggering debt, restrictions by the IMF and World Bank, and the "most severe unemployment crisis this country has recorded," Filipino workers face a tragic choice: to starve at home or risk abuse, injury and even death overseas.

One Baghdad-bound woman angrily told reporters at the Manila airport: "If I

die in Iraq at least I'm sure my three children will get something out of my death. If I remained here we will die hungry."

According to the Philippine National Wages and Productivity Commission, the family living wage in metro Manila is pegged at \$319.41 a month to meet minimum food and non-food requirements. For those who can get a job, the minimum wage is \$118.30 a month. Filipino workers in Iraq are paid about \$800 per month, although this often means overtime with no pay and no days off. It is worth noting, however, that employers in Iraq, like the notorious Haliburton company, are paying Filipinos less than the U.S. minimum wage.

Angelo de la Cruz has been portrayed by the U.S. government and press as a "victim of terrorism." It is clear that, in reality, de la Cruz and millions like him are victims of the U.S. war of conquest in Iraq and of imperialist exploitation in the Philippines and around the world. By forcing the Philippine government to withdraw its contingent, the Filipino people have struck a blow at the real terrorists.

Sources for this article include *Bulatlat.com*, *Philippine Star* and *People First*.

Eyewitness Colombia: Unions develop strategy against death squads

Special to Workers World
New York

Four participants in the June International Caravan to Save the Lives of Colombian Workers gave first-hand accounts of their trip at a Workers World meeting here on July 16. They spoke about the repression and resistance in Colombia, urging solidarity from the U.S. anti-war movement and labor unions.

The International Caravan to Colombia was hosted by SINALTRAINAL, the Colombian Coca-Cola workers' union, which has been heroically challenging the Coca-Cola Corporation's collusion with Colombian paramilitaries. July 22 is the one-year anniversary of an international boycott of Coca-Cola products.

The delegates reported on their meetings with labor leaders, hospital workers, political prisoners, and groups representing women, Indigenous people, African-Colombians and youth. Throughout their trip, they said, they heard moving testimony by victims of government and paramilitary repression and were inspired by the tremendous level of resistance in the face of such danger.

"Plan Colombia is really the military

arm of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), scheduled to start in 2005," said caravan participant Betsey Piette, from the Philadelphia branch of Workers World Party. "The U.S. used the 'War on Drugs' as a cover to train paramilitary forces to use against a growing resistance movement. Thousands of U.S. military advisors are spread out over 19 bases in Colombia, the second-largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid after Israel. Libraries, healthcare centers, recreation centers and fire stations are being closed in Philadelphia and other U.S. cities for lack of funds, while the U.S. government has poured \$3 billion into Colombia to repress the workers' movement."

A smaller delegation met with U.S. Ambassador William Wood at the well-fortified U.S. Embassy in Bogota. The group challenged Wood's advocacy of aerial spraying of highly toxic defoliants, used to drive Indigenous people off their land, particularly in oil-rich areas like Arauca, near Venezuela. Oil companies like Harken Energy, with Bush family connections, and Occidental Petroleum, with Gore connections, are reportedly using paramilitaries to repress oil company workers.

Jorge Zamora, a Colombian living in New York, told the meeting here, "Over 3.5 million peasants have been displaced to make way for development by the U.S. and other multinationals." Colombia is the seventh-largest supplier of oil to the U.S. and much of its oil reserves are untapped. In addition, Zamora explained, Colombia has one of the world's largest fresh water supplies, and is one of the richest areas in the world for biodiversity.

Dominican activist Taina Lara of the International Action Center had set up a meeting between caravan members and women political prisoners, including Indigenous political activist Luz Perly Cordoba.

Lara described conditions at the prison's maximum security wing, where 94 women crowded into a facility with only 36 beds take turns sleeping on cold, concrete floors. "Colombia's new repressive criminal codes allow for imprisonment for four months without charges," Lara explained, "but women have been held 10 months or more with no hearings. Often the same few 'witnesses' allege the charges against all the prisoners. Family members who visit the prison are subjected to systematic harassment, intimidation and out-



right threats. Some of this we experienced firsthand in our visit. We must do something for these women. These are our mothers, our sisters, our daughters!"

Gavrielle Gemma, organizer with the Monmouth County Committee in Solidarity with Immigrant Workers in New Jersey, concluded, "The level of resistance by the Colombian unions is truly inspiring. Colombia is the most dangerous place in the world for unionists, yet they are carrying out heroic struggles against privatization, union busting and death-squad terror. What happens to the struggle against globalization in Colombia will have an impact on workers in the rest of the world, including the United States. That's why the resistance in Colombia is so important and why international solidarity is so essential."

In the discussion period, a SINALTRAINAL member living in exile in the U.S. urged solidarity between unionists, anti-war activists and Colombian activists in the U.S. in order to build a broader movement in solidarity with the Colombian resistance. □



The UN and the Israeli wall

There's attitude. Then there is action. The two aren't always connected. That's one lesson from the United Nations General Assembly's 150-6 vote to demand Israel remove its wall from the West Bank. The UN vote seconds an earlier World Court decision calling the wall "in breach of international law" and a "de facto annexation." The 20-foot-high concrete and steel blocks, barbed wire and trenches separate Palestinians from their jobs, their families, their hospitals and even their ancestors' graves.

But the General Assembly vote expresses only an attitude—a non-binding mandate. And it also shows again how the very structure of the United Nations guarantees U.S. imperialism's ability to dictate its terms to the world. Because for the UN to take action, a Security Council decision is needed—and there the U.S. veto has always prevented any sanctions against the Israeli state. Despite the almost universal hatred of this "Apartheid Wall," the U.S. representative was one of the six to vote against the resolution condemning it, along with Israel,

Australia, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau. Japan and all the West European imperialist powers voted for it.

Once more the Bush administration has demonstrated its utter hostility to the struggle for Palestinian self-determination and its contempt for the Arab people who—with good reason—denounce the Israeli state as a criminal intruder on a never-ending land grab. The U.S. ruling class is in agreement on this policy, as John Kerry's support for the Israeli wall demonstrates.

The Free Palestine Alliance, a member organization of the ANSWER steering committee, has announced a series of three sets of two-day actions to protest the wall. The group plans to set up tents in public spaces and hold hunger strikes on July 24-25, on the eve of the Democratic National Convention; on Aug. 28-29, leading up to the Republican National Convention; and on Jan. 19-20, 2005, leading up to the presidential inauguration.

To turn attitude to action, join these protests. □

Hands off Korea

U.S. imperialism's invasion of Iraq was a world-class crime. To limit its damage, working people here and especially the anti-war movement must learn its lessons and apply them elsewhere. For example, Korea.

U.S. politicians, pundits and media are calling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea—North Korea—a nuclear threat; it is a charter member of Bush's "axis of evil." They also slander and demonize the DPRK's leader, Kim Jong Il. Those who preside over the most destructive arsenal the world has ever seen describe the DPRK's concern over its security as "paranoia" and act shocked when it arms to defend itself.

Sound familiar? Maybe like Iraq in 2002. This alone should put everyone on the alert. It should make people question the authorities here, and look for alternate sources of news every time an avalanche of media attacks falls on the DPRK or its leaders.

Washington keeps over 30,000 troops in South Korea 51 years after a war in which the Pentagon bombed the north flat. Washington has refused to even talk about a peace agreement with the north

for all these years. Only a cease-fire exists. Socialist North Korea also faces U.S. economic sanctions.

Right now Bush's Iraq policy is under fire. Genuine opposition to the occupation comes from the grassroots, but leading Democrats criticize how the war was conducted even as they pledge to "stay the course."

In order to still appeal to the military-minded, they are bundling their criticism of Bush's handling of Iraq with warnings that the "real danger" is from North Korea. Bill Clinton was just in the Netherlands promoting his book; he called the DPRK "a bigger threat than Iraq." John Kerry agrees. These pronouncements shouldn't be seen only as bluster. In February 2003, as the Pentagon was preparing to invade Iraq, it also readied 24 long-range B-52 and B-1 bombers targeted on the DPRK. (Sydney Morning Herald, Feb. 5, 2003)

The DPRK has indicated it would fight like hell should the U.S. attack. This seems the only way to keep the rapacious Pentagon off balance, and the anti-war forces here should understand that. □

Demand fair fight for Milosevic

Conquering a new colony, the Roman legions drag the defeated chieftain back to the Colosseum. They offer a final challenge: "We will bury you up to your neck in sand and set the lion on you. If you defeat him, you will be set free."

As the lion leaps on him, the chieftain ducks and then bites the lion in the groin. The lion bleeds to death. "Now you must fight me," he says.

"Not so fast," counters a Legionnaire. "You didn't fight fair."

For those who follow the case of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, this enraging old "joke" hits

home. Yugoslavia's imperialist conquerors dragged the defeated leader to NATO's court in The Hague, which spent tens of millions of dollars, prepared for a year, put on 295 prosecution witnesses over two years and proved nothing.

That's the reason most people have probably heard little of what was supposed to be the "war crimes trial of the century."

Ill much of the time, Milosevic worked with the aid of a handful of supporters and little money before hostile judges who make up the rules as they go along. He still demolished the prosecution by exposing "witnesses" as stool pigeons and

Naysayers pooh-pooh Bolshevik gains

By Leslie Feinberg

Simon Karlinsky, a Berkeley professor of Russian literature and drama, pooh-poohs the decriminalization of same-sex love by the young Russian workers' state in October 1917. "The revolutions of 1905 and of February 1917," he writes, "which brought unprecedented new freedom of expression for Russian gay and lesbian writers, are all too often conflated in Western minds with the Bolshevik-led October Revolution, routinely credited with the sexual liberation achieved by the two earlier revolutions." ("Gay Literature")

Karlinsky offers details about the public articulation of same-sex love in Russia's literary Golden Age in the late 19th century and its Silver Age in the early 20th century. He focuses in particular on the flowering of what today would be called "gay" and "lesbian" literature between 1905 and 1917.

The most famous, of course, was the novel "Wings" by Mikhail Kuzmin (1872-1936) that swept the imagination of the male homosexual population because it was the first "gay" novel in European literature to end happily.

Between 1905 and 1910, the publication of Lydia Zinovieva-Annibal's novel "Thirty-three Freaks" and her collection of stories "The Tragic Zoo" also electrified the public in general and "lesbians" in particular.

The celebrated writer Nikolai Kliuev, leader of the "peasant poets"—named for their class origin and for the theme of their writing—was also openly "gay."

Using quotation marks around the words "lesbian" and "gay" is a reminder that modern identities are relative and not precisely adaptable to other historical periods, regions, nationalities and classes. Russians have used different concepts to describe same-sex attraction, like "blue" or "pink," or "people of the moonlight"—the title of a book by Vasily Rozanov in 1913.

From all this, Karlinsky concludes—and so do other anti-communist historians—that the revolution should have stopped in February 1917. "Constantly sabotaged by the monarchists on the right and the Bolsheviks on the left, the regime managed to promote human rights and freedoms on a scale not experienced in Russia before or since. That was when women and minorities were given full civil and political rights, including the vote. Freedom of religion, speech, press, labor unions, and strikes became a reality, the

prominent feminist Sophia Panina was given a cabinet-level post, and all vestiges of censorship were abolished."

Karlinsky concludes, "The seizure of power by Lenin and Trotsky in October 1917 was hailed by many then (and is still often regarded) as an enhancement of the rights gained by the revolutions of 1905 and February 1917. But as far as rights (including gay rights) and personal freedoms are concerned, the October Revolution was actually a reversal and a negation of the two earlier revolutions rather than their continuation."

Is that true?

Those who wax eloquent about the bourgeois democracy that briefly flourished in 1905 and again in 1917 focus on the political freedoms incorporated in the laws of that time.

But they omit that, while political debate emerged and strikes may have become legal, millions of bellies were still growling for bread. Backs were bowed by dawn-to-dusk toil in fields and factories. Women were dragged by the hair to their patriarchal family roles. Young men and women, looking for same-sex love, lived invisible lives, ended up being marketed for someone else's profits or forced to pay extortionists from their own pockets. Jews were forced to fight or to flee from pogroms.

Even after the February revolution, all this continued to be exacerbated by Russia's participation in the war, whose killing fields were drenched with the blood of millions of Russian and German laborers.

The February 1917 Provisional Government, headed by Kerensky, was hoisted to political power by a groundswell of workers and peasants who yearned to throw off the yoke of class exploitation by rich landowners and factory bosses.

They hungered for bread, land and peace. But the Provisional Government was tied to Russia's weak capitalist class. They wouldn't give up the territorial claims that kept Russia in the war. They weren't for expropriating the bosses. They couldn't even carry out land reform.

All that required another revolution—one that suppressed the landlords and capitalists. It came in October, under the leadership of the Bolsheviks.

The communist revolution had to carry out the tasks that the capitalists and their government could not complete.

In December 1917, only weeks after seizing state power, the Bolsheviks abolished the tsarist anti-gay law, legalized abortion, provided maternity leave, lifted the onerous restrictions on divorce, and legally recognized children born outside of marriage.

This act of expunging the super-structure of egregious laws was of a political character. It demonstrated the revolutionary direction and goals of the Bolsheviks under Lenin's leadership.

However, these tsarist laws had been a codification of the inequality that was institutionalized in the semi-feudal, semi-imperial class relationships in the economy and in society. So the revolutionary work of transforming the social structure had just begun. And that work was not unimpeded. It was carried out under fire from invading imperialist powers on 14 fronts.

Next: 'People of the moonlight' in the dawn of revolution



The phenomenon of **FAHRENHEIT 9/11**

After countless imperialist wars, is a sea-change coming?

By Deirdre Griswold

Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" has made it out of the art theaters and become a huge box office hit, even though the Disney Corp. did everything it could to torpedo the documentary. This alone makes it important to evaluate the film and try to understand why it has penetrated what is commonly called "popular culture"—which 99 percent of the time is in a politically conservative mold shaped by giant corporate institutions.

Across the country—and, indeed, in much of the world—this film seems to have fallen like rain on a cultural landscape thirsting for the unvarnished truth. People are clamoring to see it—from Joplin, Mo., to Crawford, Texas, to cities in Australia and U.S. Army bases in South Korea.

Go to Google News and type in "Fahrenheit 9/11" and you will read reviews from hundreds of small-town newspapers across the U.S. Most report a standing ovation and cheers when the film ends. Audiences laugh and cry, and few are unmoved.

In Joplin, Mo., 60 people signed a petition to their local theater demanding it be shown. In Crawford, Texas—where Bush has his "ranch"—nearby movie houses are afraid to offend the don, but local peace activists intend to show it outdoors, on the side of a barn. They don't have a building large enough for the expected crowd.

Audiences go far beyond those already opposed to Bush and the war. Dale Earnhardt Jr., the NASCAR racing-car icon, took his crew to see the movie. It is especially popular in towns near military bases. Republicans are being offered free admission in some areas to test their faith in Bush.

The last time a cultural work evoked this much interest and passion from the "silent majority" in the U.S. was the 1850s, when Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was published and soon began outselling the Bible. In 1856, 2 million copies of this anti-slavery novel were sold. Families gathered at the end of the day on farms and in cities in the U.S. North, reading it aloud and weeping. The book was banned in the South—just to have a copy was illegal. It was soon translated into 13 languages. Its impact on the people of Britain is said to have helped deter London from entering the Civil War on the

side of the Confederacy.

As with Moore's film, one can be highly critical of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"—especially today, when its stereotypes of African Americans and women, as well as its religiosity and sentimentality, are so jarring. But africaonline.com makes this very thoughtful and objective summary of the book: "The cry that Stowe had hoped to sound about African Americans was indeed heard, and while Uncle Tom's Cabin did perpetuate cultural stereotypes of African Americans, it also turned the tide of public opinion against slavery in the United States."

When he finally met her in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln is reported to have called Stowe "the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war." Of course, the freedom struggle of Black people over generations is completely ignored in Lincoln's patronizing phrase.

"Fahrenheit 9/11" is also stamped with many of the prejudices and misconceptions of the present day. Like Stowe's book, it too seems to address itself primarily to whites and be most interested in their consciousness. We can safely assume that Michael Moore, also author of the highly successful book "Stupid White Men," knowingly panders to prejudices to get his message across to this audience. He recently wrote an opinion piece urging the anti-war movement to wrap itself in the U.S. flag: "For too long now we have abandoned our flag to those who see it as a symbol of war and dominance, as a way to crush dissent at home." ("The Patriot's Act," Los Angeles Times, July 4)

But the flag IS the symbol of the U.S. state. And the U.S. IS an imperialist country that has run roughshod over much of the world. That's why burning the U.S. flag has become commonplace. Nothing short of a revolution to overturn capitalist exploitation and oppression will change this—and the revolution will have its own flag.

Perhaps the film's biggest flaw is in how it treats the relationship between the Bushes and the Saudi rulers. It presents a real "wag the dog" interpretation of history. The implication is that the Saudis, with their oil wealth, run U.S. foreign policy—especially through the Bush family. Of course, this is very popular among millions of people who are hearing of the Bush-Saudi connection for the first time. They have been manipulated to see Iraqis as the "evil ones" responsible for 9/11, the

Iraq war and lots more. Now, absolutely shocked to hear that Iraqis weren't responsible for all the deaths and suffering, they can angrily blame other Arabs, the Saudis—as manipulators of the Bush political dynasty.

This explanation may help John Kerry get elected in November, but it doesn't enlighten people about the wiles of the imperialists. The U.S. population has much to learn about how the super-rich right here—not in Saudi Arabia—are adept at creating governments and then pretending not to control them. Which, of course, is going on in Iraq right now. It's the immensely powerful and wealthy U.S. ruling class, with some help from its British allies, that runs Saudi Arabia, and not vice versa.

But, these and other flaws aside, Moore's film has touched a nerve that had seemed to be dead. For, underneath all the details, isn't the real issue the fact that ordinary working people here and in other imperialist countries, who have for the most part gone along with imperialism's conquests, are growing ever more sick and horrified at its effects?

Back in Stowe's time, Northern whites were finding they couldn't escape the horrors of chattel slavery. Under the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, African Americans who had managed to escape from the South, some helped by the Underground Railway, were pursued and dragged back to a ghastly fate. Battles erupted in Northern cities as the Abolitionists, some former slaves themselves, fought the bounty hunters in the streets.

At the same time, slavery was a potent threat to free workers trying to earn a living wage. In his famous trilogy "Capital," Karl Marx addressed these workers with the warning: "Labor with a white skin cannot emancipate itself where labor with a

black skin is branded." The workers' organizations in Europe that he helped found strongly supported the anti-slavery struggle in the United States, and some of his followers even came here to fight for the Union in the Civil War.

Today, workers in the developed imperialist countries find that, in this now thoroughly global economy, they have to compete with the starvation wages prevalent in countries caught in the coils of modern-day slavery: capitalist imperialism, the global rule of the huge banks and corporations.

At the same time, those here fighting hardest against sweatshops and poverty wages often come from countries where intolerable conditions created by these same corporations are forcing millions to emigrate. They are today's fugitive slaves, and they are now living all over this country.

All this is going on while imperialist wars are raging in Iraq and Afghanistan and young workers here have to choose between dead-end jobs, prison or the military.

At some point, there must be a sea-change in the attitude of the more conservative workers here, a realization that their enemies are not abroad but are in the boardrooms and mansions at home. Moore's film may not draw out all the right lessons, but its immense popularity shows that anger and distrust of the rich and powerful, personified by the Bush-Cheney gang, are reaching the boiling point.

The millionaires are starting to realize this, too, and are now throwing their money at Kerry. But since he'd be the richest president ever, and one pledged to continuing and even escalating the occupation of Iraq, his election would be unlikely to do more than delay the inevitable: an all-out revolt against the modern-day slavemasters. □

Bangkok Int'l AIDS Conference

Continued from page 8

rate of HIV infection, including Swaziland, Lesotho, Zambia, Malawi, the Central African Republic and Mozambique.

In Zimbabwe, life expectancy has dropped more than 40 percent since 1990, to 33.9 years. In South Africa, the continent's economic powerhouse, the average is 48.8 years. (UN Development Program Report, 2004)

HIV infection is growing at record rates in women and young people under 25, who represent over one-third of people living with HIV and AIDS worldwide. Women are currently 48 percent of HIV cases.

In the Asia Pacific region, a large increase is occurring in women aged 15 to 29 whose husbands have become infected. (Gay City News, July 15)

Bush lies—for profits

The Bush administration pledged \$15 billion in 2003 to combat AIDS for the following five years in Vietnam plus 14 countries in Africa and the Caribbean.

One-third of the 2003 U.S. funding for HIV prevention must be spent on abstinence-only programs. Bush has set the official U.S. health policy response to AIDS as an "ABC" approach. In a recent speech in a Philadelphia church, he defined this as: "Abstain, be faithful in marriage, and, when appropriate, use condoms." But a Columbia University study of

12,000 teenagers refuted the claim that this approach can effectively stop sexually transmitted diseases. The study found that those who pledged to abstain from sex until marriage became infected at the same rate as non-pledgers.

Money from the Bush AIDS package also mandates that funds can only be spent to provide and administer drugs already approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and marketed by U.S. drug companies. The FDA has not approved any cheaper generic AIDS drugs, which have been okayed by the World Health Organization.

FDA-approved drugs usually cost \$700 per person per year. Generic drugs can cost as little as \$150, according to Joia Mukherjee, with Partners in Health in Haiti. The higher-priced, anti-retroviral patented drugs, which can cut AIDS deaths, are unaffordable in developing nations.

French President Jacques Chirac issued a written statement to the July 14 Bangkok conference charging that the Bush administration has pressured developing countries to stop production of generic HIV drugs in exchange for free-trade agreements.

Richard Parker, chair of the Department of Socio-Medical Sciences at Columbia University, said: "The U.S. has got a bad reputation all over the world as not defending the interest of vulnerable people and communities, but instead of big business." (New York Blade, July 16) □

GI's say: 'Bring us home now'

Continued from page 1

allied troops. In an article on his website, "A Strategy for Success in Iraq," he writes, "We must supply our military commanders with the additional troops they have requested."

Kerry said that he would expand the active-duty Army by 40,000 soldiers, including a doubling of U.S. Special Forces.

For anti-war activists, military families, members of the military, and all who oppose the war, John Kerry is no alternative. He can't be, because he represents the same corporate interests that back Bush and who profit from U.S. domination and colonial occupation. Corporate contributions to Kerry have even outpaced those to

Bush this year.

Whichever one is president, the Pentagon has announced plans to construct 14 permanent bases in Iraq.

The record shows that only by organizing independently of the two capitalist candidates can the anti-war forces end the occupation and stop new wars. The Democratic and Republican national conventions provide excellent opportunities to build this independent opposition.

Boston, July 25-29. New York, Aug. 26-Sept. 3. Protest the policies of both war parties.

Dustin Langley is an organizer of the anti-war GI and veterans group, SNAFU.

¡PROLETARIOS Y OPRIMIDOS DE TODOS LOS PAÍSES, UNIDOS!

MUNDO OBRERO

¿Va esta super potencia hacia un colapso?

Por Milt Neidenberg

¿Se acerca el fin de la fiebre de ruletas que han tenido los negociantes?

Después de la decisión tomada por el Buró de la Reserva Federal (BRF) de aumentar la tasa de interés al 1.25%, ¿cómo responderá la América empresarial y Wall Street? Y, ¿qué significa todo esto para la fuerza multinacional y para las comunidades oprimidas?

Mientras que la visión hacia un futuro lleno de mucho dinero desaparece, ¿la explosión económica capitalista de los dos o tres últimos años se tornarán en un estancamiento?

Históricamente, esa fase se ha dado a conocer como estancamiento-inflación, una fase en el ciclo capitalista que lo lleva hacia un colapso.

Pocos días después del anuncio de la Reserva, un artículo en el periódico financiero, Wall Street Journal, del 6 de julio trató de dar respuesta a algunas de estas preguntas. El título del artículo decía, "El ascenso en la tasa de interés y la decadencia en la demanda agudiza preocupaciones en [Wall] Street." El artículo notaba: "La [cadena de] tiendas Wal-Mart, bajó sus expectativas de ventas para el mes de junio, al igual que Target. El jueves, los fabricantes de automóviles de los Estados Unidos reportaron grandes declives en la venta de automóviles en los Estados Unidos para el mes de junio."

Y esto, muy importante para los trabajadores: "El salario por hora de muchos trabajadores cayó más bajo de la inflación en 5 de los últimos 6 meses en mayo." Esto confirmó el hecho que, aún antes del incremento en la tasa de intereses por la Reserva Federal, la inflación se había afianzado firmemente. Las ordenes en las fábricas cayeron en los dos últimos meses, tanto en el área de la defensa como en las otras.

La esperanza en el futuro del mercado laboral se ve muy turbia y preocupante. Sólo unos 112 mil empleos nuevos fueron creados en junio, mucho más bajo de lo que se necesita para mantener una fuerza laboral creciente. "El crecimiento en empleos en los Estados Unidos para Junio muestra un declive agudo," fue el título de un artículo en el periódico The New York Times, del 3 de julio. La semana promedio trabajada bajó a 33.6 horas en junio.

La fuerza laboral multinacional y las nacionalidades oprimidas están aún más pobres y más explotadas. "El mes pasado 8.2 millones de personas se quedaron desempleadas y casi un 22% de todas las obreras desempleadas han estado sin

trabajo por 27 semanas o más." El ingreso por hogar ha decaído y las hipotecas, las deudas de tarjetas de crédito y otras están más altas que nunca.

Un incremento sin precedente en la productividad a raíz del "speedup", las privatizaciones, la reestructuración y las innovaciones tecnológicas ha forzado a las obreras a tomar empleos con menos paga o a la calle, particularmente a la gente de color. El cambio en la fuerza laboral industrial entre las firmas más grandes es la causa de la caída que ha bajado también los salarios.

Hace tres años, Wal-Mart con 1.4 millones de trabajador@s desplazó a la General Motors como la compañía con más emplead@s. La General Motors, donde las obreras están sindicalizadas, paga a un/a ensamblador/a más de tres veces el salario recibido por un/a trabajador/a sin sindicalizar de Wal-Mart. Y esto no incluye los beneficios de salud, los cuales son inaccesibles para las emplead@s de Wal-Mart.

¿Los días felices han llegado de nuevo?

¿Cómo Wall Street, el presidente de la Reserva Federal, Alan Greenspan y la administración de Bush ven la crisis que se desarrolla? El Wall Street Journal eligió a 55 analistas optimistas de Wall Street, esperando aplacar las ansiedades de millones de inversionistas. Dianne Swonk, principal economista del Bank One Corp., habló sobre este grupo de optimistas y resumió su predicciones de mejores tiempos así: "Récord en ganancias, récord en el flujo de efectivo, crecimiento del ingreso de primera y muchas ordenes. No se puede pedir por más." (Wall Street Journal, Julio 1)

Greenspan dijo lo mismo. "La evidencia acumulada... indica que la producción continúa expandiéndose a paso sólido y las condiciones del mercado laboral se han mejorado... con una inflación que se espera se mantenga relativamente baja."

Y la administración de Bush dijo: "Al crecer la economía y crearse empleos.. yo creo que siempre se espera que un aumento en la tasa de interés sea parte del fortalecimiento de la economía." (New York Times, 1 de julio)

Greenspan y la Reserva Federal se supone que estén sobre las políticas partidistas e independientes de Wall Street, pero sus declaraciones fueron un esfuerzo para calmar las aguas inquietas, calculadas a ayudar a la administración Bush en este año de elecciones.

Es cierto que una vez los días felices prevalecieron. Los bancos y otras institu-

ciones financieras gozaron mucho en los últimos cuatro años, cuando la tasa de descuentos que se les cobró a los bancos por la Reserva Federal era del 1%, lo más bajo en 45 años. Un reporte por el World Watch Report, recopilado por la Merrill Lynch, reportó que el "número de millonarios en los Estados Unidos subió en un 14%." Un vocero de la Reserva Federal dijo que "el 1% más rico de la nación es dueño de \$2.3 trillones de acciones." (Wall Street Journal. 15 de junio). El reporte no incluyó cuántos millonarios se hicieron multimillonarios.

Una súper potencia enterrada en deudas

Nunca ha habido un prestatario, incluyendo al gobierno, que no enviara la deuda hacia niveles sin precedentes. Bush hasta robó equidad del Seguro Social, dejando miles de pagarés en su lugar. Esta acumulación obscura de riqueza está llevando a una crisis capitalista que ha forzado a la Reserva Federal y Alan Greenspan a apretar al crédito. Es muy tarde y muy poco.

El Reloj de la Deuda Nacional de los Estados Unidos sigue su marcha. El primero de julio, la deuda pública era de \$7 trillones de dólares, \$218 mil millones, \$337 millones y miles en cambio. La deuda está creciendo a una velocidad de \$1.58 mil millones de dólares al día. El gobierno no puede pagar esto. Tiene un déficit presupuestario de \$144.9 mil millones, igual al 5.1% del Producto Bruto Doméstico del primer cuarto del 2004, gracias en parte a los miles de millones en recortes de impuestos regalados a los pertenecientes al 1%.

El Congreso ha impuesto un límite en la deuda de \$6.4 trillones, menos que la actual deuda de \$7 trillones. El Secretario del Tesoro, John Snow, debería recomendar a la administración Bush que declare al gobierno en bancarrota o por lo menos en morosidad.

El creciente déficit en la actual cuenta de los Estados Unidos tiene serias implicaciones en los mercados globales. Esta amplia medida de comercio en productos y servicios, más algunas transferencias financieras, son de gran preocupación para otros gobiernos que tienen estas grandísimas deudas en sus arcas bancarias. Los inversionistas internacionales, los comerciantes de moneda y otros envueltos en los \$1.2 trillones de dólares que al día se mueven en los mercados globales exteriores están también preocupados.

El balance de comercio de los Estados Unidos mantiene a miles de millones en el rojo, a pesar que un dólar más barato

debería ayudar sus exportaciones. ¿Continuarán lo inversionistas extranjeros manteniendo esta grandísima deuda a través de la compra de acciones y bonos, préstamos bancarios u otras formas de préstamos?

La inflación se ha aferrado. Los precios del petróleo rondan cerca de los \$40 por barril y los precios de los alimentos y otras necesidades suben. Hay muchos dólares en busca de pocos productos y servicios a pesar de un alza en la productividad. Los obreros no pueden comprar lo que producen, a la vez que la sobre producción inunda los mercados. Dos tercios del Producto Nacional Bruto son determinados por el gasto de los consumidores.

¿Viene otra recesión?

Históricamente, la explosión de dinero fácil usualmente lleva a un colapso. La situación en Irak es un factor significativo en esta posibilidad. El gasto de casi \$200 mil millones por esta aventura imperialista-y más se está considerando-está mermando los recursos durante esta crisis deficitaria. Wall Street sabe que las inversiones en Irak no están pagando en ingresos de petróleo o en mano de obra barata. Los \$400 mil millones en el presupuesto militar para el próximo año agravará la crisis.

Los economistas están pronosticando un déficit presupuestario de \$3.4 trillones en la próxima década, no importa quien gane las elecciones.

Hay una creciente división en la clase gobernante, una parte de esta está convencida de que la administración de Bush está llevando a la potencia estadounidense por un mal camino. Entre las obreras multinacionales y las nacionalidades oprimidas, hay un creciente consenso de finalizar la ocupación y retirar las tropas inmediatamente. Las encuestas confirman este sentimiento, reflejando una gran necesidad de empleos, cuidado de la salud, educación y viviendas. Una encuesta tomada en mayo muestra que sólo el 29% de la población calificó a la economía como buena.

La encuesta confirma que el estado de la economía se ha convertido en algo inaceptable para la mayoría de las obreras.

La lucha de clases se agudiza y continuará así en los próximos meses y años. Las huelgas y las movilizaciones son muchas para enumerar. Hay una convergencia de una creciente oposición contra las interminables guerras y la guerra aquí en este país contra las obreras multinacionales, oprimidas y pobres.

Esto no es un asunto de Republicanos contra Demócratas. Kerry como máximo, ha propuesto un incremento en el salario mínimo de \$5.15 a \$7 en los próximos dos años y su posición sobre Irak es de aumentarla.

Ambos candidatos representan una situación de pérdida para las obreras y oprimidas-algo que se ve cada día más claro. Una lucha independiente por la única clase en la sociedad que produce la riqueza y provee los servicios se está presentando. Ésta podría mejorar la vida. □

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