

MUNDO OBRERO

Buques de guerra de EEUU en la costa de Corea
EDITORIAL 12

YOUTH ON THE MARCH

■ FIST activism in the South 3

■ UMass students fight racism 3

BATTLING RACISM

6-8

■ Furor over TEXAS DEATH PENALTY

■ TERROR TACTICS against Black voters

■ RICHMOND honoring 'Gabriel's Rebellion'



■ WHITEWASHING Rock and Roll

■ 'GATEKEEPER' border protest

■ LEWIS & CLARK debunked

As Pentagon rains down death Debates stick to pro-war scenario

By Fred Goldstein

The first two debates of the presidential campaign have revealed in bold relief how the current election cannot result in any progressive outcome that would put an end to the brutal occupation of Iraq or the growing poverty and economic insecurity of the workers here.

In the two debates—between President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry last Thursday and between Vice President Dick Cheney and Sen. John Edwards this Tuesday—their much-touted differences over Iraq were all in the past. Kerry and Edwards charged that Bush and Cheney rushed to war on a false basis, and that they did not have a plan or enough international forces to subdue the Iraqi resistance and take over the country after winning the war.

But going forward, Kerry and Edwards vied with Bush and Cheney over who would be more aggressive in making the occupation succeed.

This sleight of hand by the Kerry-Edwards team is calculated to dissociate them from the creation of the U.S. quagmire in Iraq, and thus curry favor with the masses of the electorate, who are increasingly disillusioned and growing angry over the cost of the occupation in lives and money.

Kerry is trying to take advantage of the fact that the reactionary adventure by the Bush administration in Iraq and the deteriorating economic conditions at home have caused a widespread political awakening among the workers.

Record numbers register to vote

Election officials across the country report record numbers of new registrations. According to the lead story in the New York Times of Oct. 4: "A record surge of new voters has swamped boards of elections from Pennsylvania to Oregon, as the biggest of the crucial swing states reach registration deadlines. Election officials have had to add staff and equipment, push well beyond budgets and work around the clock to process registrations."

The Times reported that while there has been a light increase in the Republican suburban areas, "the huge gains have come in areas with minority and low-income populations. In some of those areas in Ohio, new registrations have quadrupled from 2000."

To some extent, this is a result of increased voter registration drives. But those drives are falling on fertile soil. The Times quoted Kurt Saukaitis, who works at an aerospace factory in Montgomery County, Pa., and has never voted before. "I've been too lazy," said Saukaitis, who has two 16-year-old sons. "The thought of the draft is scary.... All that money spent on Iraq, then old people can't buy medicine. Figure that out."

This new awakening is being channeled directly into the Kerry campaign. It is the only alternative within the framework of the two-party, big-business capitalist electoral politics in the U.S. But the contradiction is that Kerry has made it clear that he is just as determined to subdue Iraq and "succeed" with the occupation as Bush is. Both he and Edwards have pro-

CLASS STRUGGLE



■ GET ON THE BUS to MILLION WORKER MARCH 5



■ HOTEL, BUILDING and AIRLINE workers 4



■ SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN on Kerry-Bush debate 2

posed adding 40,000 more troops to the U.S. military and have vowed to "stay the course."

Bloody assaults on Iraqi cities

While these two debates were going on, the Pentagon was carrying out a bloody campaign to try to capture areas of Iraq that have been under the control of the Iraqi resistance. Neither Kerry nor Edwards said a word about the crimes of occupation currently being carried out against the people of Falluja, Samarra, Sadr City and areas south of Baghdad.

Over 3,000 U.S. troops, accompanied by 2,000 puppet Iraqi forces, invaded Samarra on the ground with tanks and armored

Continued on page 9

Subscribe to Workers World

Trial subscription: \$2 for 8 weeks
One year subscription: \$25

NAME _____
PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
Workers World Newspaper
55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011
212-627-2994
www.workers.org read it online

HAITI AFTER THE FLOODS

'Down with Bush, return Aristide!'

11

AMSTERDAM, BERLIN

Workers take to the streets

11

GAZA MASSACRE

EDITORIAL

10

WWP candidates' statement No voice for workers in Bush-Kerry debate

There were no surprises at the first debate between Republican President George W. Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry, on Sept. 30. Though billed as a major clash over foreign policy, it only served to show how little difference there truly is between them.

Both of these candidates of Big Oil and Wall Street repeated their support for the brutal U.S. military occupation of Iraq and continued imperialist aggression worldwide.

War criminal Bush promised to "finish the job" he started of re-colonizing Iraq on behalf of his wealthy cronies and carrying his "unending war" to other countries that dare to assert independence from the U.S. Empire. Fortunately, the heroic Iraqi resistance, backed by the overwhelming majority of the people there, continues to make a hollow mockery of Bush's bluster.

Just days earlier Kerry had finally—FINALLY!—called out Bush for lying about the reasons for launching a preemptive war on Iraq. Yet in the debate, Kerry again stated his determination to "stay the course" and do a better job of dominating Iraq. He called for more ruthless tactics against the popular resistance in Falluja and other cities, prompting right-wing New York Times columnist William Safire to proclaim Kerry the "newest neo-con."

While ever-growing numbers in the United States want the troops brought home now, neither candidate talked about bringing the troops home—now or any time. Kerry made a special point of emphasizing that he, like Bush, wants to "win" in Iraq, not leave. Not a word about civilian casualties in Iraq, which by some estimates are as high as 30,000 dead.

Asked about his position on preemptive war, Kerry replied, "The president always has the right and always has had the right for preemptive strike." He vowed to never surrender this "right" to use the Pentagon's colossal power against sovereign nations.

Kerry actually chided Bush for not being more aggressive toward North Korea for its alleged development of defensive nuclear weapons—just as Navy warships were being sent to threaten the Korean peninsula. But neither Bush nor Kerry had anything to say about Israel's nuclear arsenal or its ongoing slaughter of Palestinians.

They postponed domestic issues to a later debate. But does anyone really expect them to deal with questions of life-and-death importance to workers and oppressed people, like racism, police brutality, jobs, low wages, discrimination against women and lesbian, gay, bi and trans people, immigrant bashing, the scandalous numbers of uninsured people, the dismantling of public housing and privatization of schools?

The so-called debates of the major capitalist candidates are pure theater, scripted and stage-managed in advance, then packaged and sold to the public as meaningful events. This is done with the willing collusion of the major television networks and other corporate-dominated media.

Third-party candidates who might inject real issues or controversy are excluded from these "democratic" forums—especially those who represent working-class, anti-war and socialist views.

We agree wholeheartedly with the organizers of Antiwar 4 the Million Worker March, who wrote: "We need our own voice in the debates! Working people will speak for themselves, in their own voices, on Oct. 17 at the Million Worker March."

The Million Worker March on Washington, D.C.,

launched by International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10 and other militant unionists across the country, is an historic effort to liberate workers from the false idea that politics begins and ends with bought-and-paid-for elections. It seeks to give them a real say where it matters most—uniting their diverse voices in the streets.

The Million Worker March is taking up all the issues Kerry and Bush don't want to talk about. It says clearly and forcefully: Bring the troops home now!

This is not just a one-day event in Washington. This is a movement embracing all workers, employed and unemployed, union members and the unorganized, Black, Latin@, Arab, Asian, Native and white, immigrants and those born here, women and men, lesbian, gay, bi, trans and straight, able-bodied and disabled, young and old. We are proud to embrace this movement and hold it up as the real alternative to two pro-war evils.

Our campaign is carrying this message to people across the country, including third-party debates on Oct. 9 at Washington University in St. Louis, Oct. 15 in Johnson City, Tenn., and Oct. 29 at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania.

John Parker and Teresa Gutierrez
Workers World Party candidates for president and vice-president

LeiLani Dowell
Peace & Freedom Party candidate for Congress



John Parker, Teresa Gutierrez & LeiLani Dowell

WW PHOTOS: LIZA GREEN

CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN STOPS

Workers World Party candidates John Parker for president, Teresa Gutierrez for vice president and LeiLani Dowell for San Francisco congressional representative on Peace & Freedom ticket will be speaking in California on these dates:

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Oct. 9, 4:00 p.m., Workmen's Circle
Mon., Oct. 11, 1:00 p.m., Sunset Hall Senior Center
Call (323) 936-1416 for information.

SAN FRANCISCO

Wed., Oct. 13, 7:00 p.m.,
African American Art & Culture Complex
Call (415) 561-9752 for information.

CHULA VISTA

Thurs., Oct. 14, 11:00 a.m.,
Free Speech Area, Southwestern College

SAN DIEGO

Thur., Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m., San Diego City College
Fri., Oct. 15, 7:00 p.m., San Diego IAC office
Call (619) 692-4496
for Chula Vista & San Diego information.

JOIN US. Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples—Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian, gay, bi, straight, trans, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about WWP, or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

National Office
55 W. 17 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10011
(212) 627-2994;
Fax (212) 675-7869
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
P.O. Box 424,
Atlanta, Ga. 30301
(404) 235-5704

Baltimore
426 E. 31 St.,
Baltimore, Md. 21218
(410) 235-7040
baltimore@workers.org

Boston
284 Armory St., Boston,
Mass. 02130
(617) 983-3835;
Fax (617) 983-3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
P.O. Box 1204
Buffalo NY 14213
(716) 566-1115
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, Ill. 60606
(773) 381-5839;
Fax (773) 761-9330;
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
phone (216) 531-4004
cleveland@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.,
Detroit, Mich. 48202
(313) 831-0750;
detroit@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 130322,
Houston, Texas
77219 (713) 861-5965
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
5274 West Pico Blvd.,
Suite 203
Los Angeles, Calif. 90019
(323) 936-1416
la@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 9202,
Philadelphia, Pa. 19139
(610) 453-0490;
phila@workers.org

Richmond, Va.
P.O. Box 14602,
Richmond, Va. 23221
richmond@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
(585) 436-6458;
rochester@workers.org

San Diego, Calif.
3930 Oregon St.,
Suite 230
San Diego, Calif. 92104
(619) 692-4496

San Francisco
2940 16th St
San Francisco,
Calif. 94103
(415) 561-9752
sf@workers.org

State College, Pa.
100 Grandview Rd.,
State College,
Pa. 16801
(814) 237-8695

Washington, D.C.
P.O. Box 57300,
Washington, DC 20037,
dc@workers.org

This week ...



★ National

- Debates stick to pro-war scenario 1
- WWP candidates: No voice for workers in debate. 2
- Four days, four actions, one FIST 3
- Racist outrage sparks UMass struggle 3
- Dowell: 'Support the struggling hotel workers' 4
- Health care was big issue in 32BJ contract 4
- Airline workers have to fight companies, courts 4
- Million Worker March 5
- S.F. meeting hears about Haiti, MWM 5
- 'Rock and roll' ad campaign omits Black artists 6
- Richmond program honors 'Gabriel's Rebellion' 6
- Executions assailed in Texas county 7
- Police intimidate Black voters in Florida 7
- Protest hits Operation Gatekeeper 8
- Native groups debunk Lewis and Clark 8
- Calif. governor kills anti-racist bill 8
- Brooklyn, N.Y.: 'Jobs and housing, not war' 9

★ International

- Okinawans oppose U.S. naval base 9
- Anti-gay terror in Nazi Germany 10
- Allende, the MIR and Chile 10
- Haiti resistance grows 11
- Amsterdam, Berlin workers protest 11

★ Editorials

- Massacre in Gaza 10

★ Noticias En Español

- Buques de guerra de EEUU en la costa de Corea . . . 12

WW CALENDAR

DETROIT

Sat., Oct. 9
Workers World Meeting.
The Russian school massacre—why did it happen? How the emergence of capitalism meant increased poverty, national oppression. Featured speaker Deirdre Griswold, editor of Workers World. 5 p.m. Dinner will be served. \$5.00 / \$1.00 for students and unemployed. At 5920 Second (at Antoinette).

LOS ANGELES

Sat., Oct. 9
Workers World election campaign rally. Hear presidential candidates, John Parker and Teresa Gutierrez and LeiLani Dowell Peace and Freedom Party candidate 8CD, San Francisco. 4 p.m. At the Workmen's Circle, 1525 S Robertson Blvd. For info (323) 936-1416.

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 46, No. 40 • Oct. 14, 2004
Closing date: Oct. 6, 2004

Editor: Deirdre Griswold; Technical Editor: Lal Roohk
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Leslie Feinberg,
Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson; Contributing Editors:
Greg Butterfield, Pat Chin, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez,
Milt Neidenberg; Technical Staff: Shelley Ettinger, Adrian
Garcia, Maggie Vascassenno; Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn,
Berta Joubert-Ceci, Carlos Vargas; Internet: Janet Mayes

Workers World-WW (ISSN-1070-4205) is published weekly except the first week of January by WW Publishers, 55 W. 17 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10011. Phone: (212) 627-2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$25; foreign and institutions: \$35. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.

Selected articles are available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to wwnews-on@wwpublish.com.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Workers World-WW, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor,
New York, N.Y. 10011.



Four days, four actions, one FIST

By Q Allen and Dante Strobino
Raleigh, N.C.

Despite the overwhelming complacency among students at North Carolina State University, Raleigh FIST—Fight Imperialism, Stand Together—has managed to break the chains of silence and refuses to be ignored. The group hosted four powerful events over the course of four days, affected a wide range of people and successfully introduced this new multi-gendered, multinational revolutionary socialist youth group to the South.

Every Wednesday, the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps performs cadet formations in a public space in the middle of N.C. State University's campus. This ritual has met its end.

FIST members arrived early on Sept. 29. Twelve students sat on the ground with signs of dissent, occupying the entire brickyard and effectively blocking the formations.

FIST stands against militarism; its members say they will not allow students to fall for the AFROTC tactics.

This public military display is an obvious recruiting tactic, considering that the AFROTC has an auditorium of its own. Students walk by and watch the formations and enjoy their beautiful, professional appearance. This presents the AFROTC as if it were some benign institution purely of good will, while in reality it is an inherently violent institution. It was AFROTC graduates who bombed Grenada, Basra and countless other civilian populations. Yet they are seen as a kind force in the community.

President George W. Bush's "No Child Left Behind" Act has a military recruitment clause. It requires high school administrators to release every student's contact information to the military or the school's funding will be cut. This is a violation of the tradition that required a parent's consent before presenting children with controversial material such as military recruiting deceptions. FIST members harkened back

to this with their sign that read, "Stop military's invasion of student privacy."

Once the AFROTC cadets arrived in the brickyard, they acted in utter confusion and proved incapable of independent decision making. FIST's Dante Strobino approached Officer Delancey, the cadet leader, looked him in the eye and told him, "We denounce the militarization of our campus."

This was something Delancey was obviously not used to. So he simply frowned and led his group to another, less visible location nearby. The cadets formed with inadequate space and were forced to march into trees and brick walls in obedience to their leader.

FIST members followed them and sat amongst their formations holding placards, further disrupting the cadets' plans.

Eventually the campus police were called. FIST members were forced to stand outside little orange cones placed around the drill formations. With limited space, the cadets frequently walked outside the cones—and FIST members handed them literature.

Several cadets expressed genuine gratification at FIST's presence, and a desire for dialogue. FIST member Hussameldin Eltayeb, from behind his "Military Free Zone" sign, said: "What we did was necessary. They got our point. Now they know there is opposition on campus and where to come for help."

Solidarity with Palestine

The next day FIST, along with the Middle Eastern and North African Student Association—MENASA—built a wall on NCSU's brickyard to represent the apartheid wall currently being built through Palestine.

Sept. 30 was International Refugee Day. As of 2003, there were over 4,055,758 documented refugees from Palestine alone, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Several of the refugee camps are surrounded by Israeli settlements and separated by a 25-foot-high wall. There is often only one road to the outside world, which is usually staffed by an Israeli military unit.

FIST and MENASA's wall, constructed of stacked tables, brought attention to the crisis and to the U.S. Department of Defense's racist funding of Israel in the amount of \$17 million per day. Many students said they had no idea this situation existed.

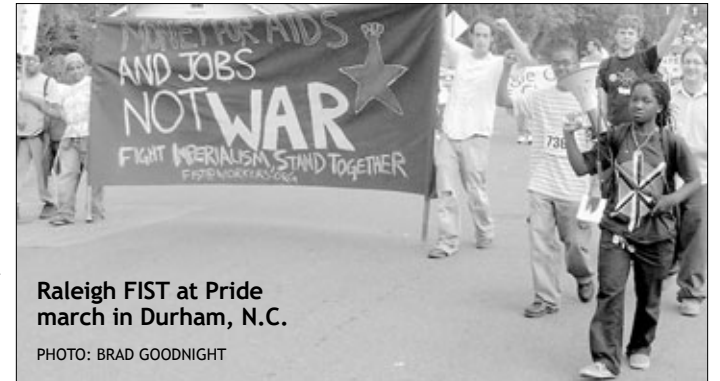
"Hate stems from ignorance and inexperience," said former MENASA President Aseel Elborno. "By building a mock wall we provided experience necessary to understand the strife of a Palestinian living within the occupied territories."

The wall was placed to block students from going to class, with only one hole representing an Israeli checkpoint. All students went out of their way to completely go around the wall but several stopped to talk.

The campus Republicans and Democrats both had tables in the brickyard that same day. So FIST activist Dante Strobino approached their tables with large pictures of mutilated Palestinians and asked them to place the pictures on their tables to explain what the candidates are campaigning for. Unkind and ignorant remarks were the return for this generosity.

The third day, Oct. 1, was N.C. State's homecoming march.

Every Friday NCSU activists host an anti-war demonstration. There is a bus stop nearby, so often workers will walk over and join the demonstration while waiting for the bus. This Friday was particularly special. FIST members stood on the corner of a street where the homecoming march was headed and held a 30-foot-long banner that read, "Stop the war machine."



Raleigh FIST at Pride march in Durham, N.C.

PHOTO: BRAD GOODNIGHT

The bar crowd across the street was entirely supportive. As the various student organizations strolled past, several shouted pro-Bush obscenities or waved "W" signs. However, there was a surprising number of supporters, including little kids on unicycles. The student body president rode by on his float and was emphatically excited about FIST's presence.

FIST activist Yolanda Carrington said, "Most student groups, whether they were conservative or liberal, got to see an anti-capitalist, anti-war message."

This Raleigh tradition was marked for the first time by the presence of a truly revolutionary voice.

Finally, on Oct. 2, the North Carolina Pride Coalition celebrated its 20th year in Durham, N.C. The annual parade brings most spectators—gay, lesbian, straight, transgendered or bisexual—out to the festival. Several thousand people participated this year in what was North Carolina's biggest LGBT Pride march in history.

Raleigh FIST helped bring out the message of equality and anti-LGBT oppression through a banner that read, "Money for AIDS and jobs, not war," and a series of chants that drew a positive response from the spectators and marchers.

Most onlookers were very supportive of the march. People cheered loudly when they saw the connections that FIST made among all types of oppression, whether sexual, military or economic, both at home and abroad. □

Racist outrage sparks UMass struggle

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Amherst, Mass.

The weekend of Sept. 25-26, photographs were distributed via email throughout the University of Massachusetts at Amherst community. The photographs showed nine senior undergraduate student government officials drinking in the student-government-funded Student Center for Educational Research and Advocacy, posing with Ku Klux Klan symbols.

The photos were taken March 29. They were posted to the personal web page of SCERA's student office coordinator, and linked off the organization's website. They were discovered a few days before their circulation by students at the Office of ALANA Affairs. ALANA stands for African, Latino/a, Asian, Pacific Islander and Native American.

One of the photos circulated features Patrick Higgins, former speaker of the undergraduate Student Government Association, dressed as a "Grand Wizard," a burning cross in his hand with a word bubble stating, "I love ALANA." Higgins has since resigned his position in response to massive protest, but neither he nor the other students have been expelled—although the university's student code of conduct states students can be expelled for hate crimes.

In fact, one of the students is still on the ballot vying for an SGA position in elections scheduled for Oct. 6-7. The others

"The Klan is an extra-legal, extra-governmental organ, promoted and maintained by the capitalist state as an instrument of special and exceptional repression under circumstances when the state itself cannot or will not intervene in the struggle against the masses."

—Sam Marcy, "The Klan and the Government: Foes or Allies?"

are still employed by various student-funded organizations.

ALANA students and their allies are mobilizing to defeat the racists in the elections and other arenas.

Administration role in campus climate

Although these nine students must be held accountable, the university administration's role in this is clear when its concerted action in relation to ALANA, lesbian, gay, bi, trans, women and other students is analyzed.

Examples include:

- The vicious and racist treatment directed at Rene Gonzalez, a Puerto Rican graduate student at UMass, last spring when he wrote an opinion piece opposing the hero worship of Pat Tillman, a U.S. Army Green Beret killed in Afghanistan April 22. Gonzalez' column, published in the April 28 undergraduate newspaper *The Daily Collegian*, was denounced on the floor of the Massachusetts State Senate. Gonzalez was the target of a racist diatribe by UMass System President Jack M. Wilson and numerous death threats.



At no time did the UMass Amherst administration denounce the racist attacks against Gonzalez, who eventually decided to leave campus because of the very real, deadly threats against his family and himself.

- Dismantling affirmative action and English as a Second Language programs, removing advising programs for students of color, and under-funding or not funding support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans students and women, among others.

- The seven-month battle the administration waged in an attempt to impose a racist student "fee" on international students to pay for their own surveillance under "Homeland Security."

- The fact that administration officials have not appointed an assistant director for the Office of ALANA Affairs and have worked closely with racists in the SGA to undermine ALANA students' representation in that body.

- A precipitous decline in hiring faculty of color. Tuition and fee increases. Minimal or no recruiting in local communities of color such as Springfield and Holyoke.

And skyrocketing textbook prices after privatizing the university's book store.

These examples and many more show how this hostile administration has given a green light to racists and bigots on campus. The bold KKK celebration and posting the pictures was the most extreme manifestation of this to date.

Before this, on Sept. 19, a campus statue of Native American Chief Metawampe was desecrated. The 500-plus-pound statue stands 5-feet, 8-inches tall and was secured by four bolts on a 5-foot granite pedestal. The statue was pulled from its stand and either dragged or transported to a main campus thoroughfare about 100 yards away, then dropped onto the street. The statue has been recovered and is being repaired by union maintenance workers.

With this type of climate, many students—especially students of color, LGBT students and women—report feeling unsafe walking on campus property.

Progressive student mobilization

Initially, after the KKK pictures were exposed, the administration tried to co-opt and deflect the struggle against the institutional racism and oppression at UMass. The time-honored tactics of a "diversity forum" and a public-relations campaign focusing on the "bad apples" were launched. But they didn't work as effectively as the administration would have liked.

An independent student-led mobiliza-

Continued on page 5

Statement of Dowell for Congress campaign

'Support the struggling hotel workers'

From San Francisco and Los Angeles to Washington, D.C., and Atlantic City, N.J., hotel workers are fighting to keep their health and pension benefits. They are demanding reduced work loads and higher wages. And, knowing that waging the battle together makes the working class stronger, they are fighting for contracts that would expire simultaneously with contracts in other major union hotel

cities, such as New York, Chicago, Toronto, Honolulu and Boston.

Workers in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., have voted overwhelmingly to strike if necessary. Workers walked off the job in more than half of Atlantic City's casinos on Oct. 1.

In San Francisco, workers at four hotels have gone on a two-week strike. Loud picket lines have been set up at all four build-

ings, 24 hours a day. Bosses at 10 other hotels in San Francisco have responded with a lockout of 2,500 workers.

The Dowell for Congress campaign is inspired by and pledges its support to the hotel workers' struggle. These workers are courageously and unashamedly standing up for their rights, and we salute them. Furthermore, we denounce the shameless lockout being carried out in San Francisco.

The hotel workers are fighting for issues that workers in every industry struggle around. At a time when lack of health care has become a national epidemic, hotel owners want to cut the benefits the workers receive. Aurolyn Rush, telecommunications operator at the Grand Hyatt, says: "I was diagnosed with cancer in 1996, six months after I started my job, and I had a recurrence last year. If the hotel's current proposal had been in effect, I would not have gotten the care I need."

Pensions are also being slashed across the United States. Over the past 25 years, according to the AFL-CIO, the number of private-sector workers covered by a pension has dropped from 37 percent to just 21 percent. And according to the Economic Policy Institute, while productivity nationwide has increased 11.1 percent since 2001, wages and benefits have only increased 3.4 percent, less than one-third the productivity growth rate.

Morena Hernandez, housekeeper at the Hyatt West Hollywood, says: "Management does not take into consideration the work housekeepers like myself do at the hotel. Many of us often skip our lunch break to finish the work on time."

At the same time, workers across the nation are finding that the answer lies in

unity. As Annie Sinkler, a Baltimore hotel banquet server, says: "The big companies don't want us to stick together. But that's how we're going to get equality and justice. That's something worth fighting for!"

John Boardman, president of UNITE HERE Local 25 in Washington, D.C., says: "Our members are committed to this fight. ... We know we have the support of our brothers and sisters throughout North America. With that kind of support, there's no way these corporations are going to be able to keep us down."

Solidarity actions have occurred in hotels in Anchorage, Alaska; Baltimore; Boston; Chicago; Detroit; Las Vegas; Miami; New Haven, Conn.; New York; Oakland, Sacramento, San Diego and San Jose, Calif.; Seattle; Providence, R.I.; several locations in Hawaii; and Toronto, Ontario, in Canada. In Atlantic City, dozens of iron workers refused to cross the picket lines.

As union members, nonunion workers and the unemployed gear up to arrive in Washington, D.C., for the Million Worker March on Oct. 17, we will not be staying in the 14 hotels where management continues to stall contract bargaining by either not showing up or walking out on negotiations.

The gains the working class has made over the years—the eight-hour day, the right to a union and more—were won through struggles against the owners of big business, just like this current struggle. As capitalism works to take these hard-earned victories away—while bringing death and destruction the world over—more and more are becoming aware that it's the entire system that needs to go. We will be ever vigilant—on the picket line, in the streets, on Oct. 17 and beyond. □



PHOTO: LOCAL 32BJ

Workers march through midtown Manhattan after Sept. 23 strike authorization vote.

Building service workers were ready to strike

Health care was big issue in 32BJ contract

By Art Rosen
New York

Negotiations for a new labor contract between Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), representing the maintenance workers in the commercial buildings of New York City, and the Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations (RAB), representing the building owners, were a real cliff-hanger.

With the active and enthusiastic backing of its membership, the union threatened to strike if a satisfactory contract were not signed before the 12:01 a.m. Oct. 1 deadline. One hour past the deadline, the union's bargaining committee announced a tentative contract had been reached.

The full text of the new contract along with a ratification ballot is in the process of being mailed out to the 32BJ membership. Tabulation of the votes for or against the contract is scheduled to take place on Oct. 28.

Claiming a contract victory, Local 32BJ has provided its members with a one-page summary of the contract negotiations. It highlights the various points in dispute.

The most bitterly fought issue was the demand by the building owners that the 32BJ workers begin to assume a part of the cost of their own health insurance. Under the terms of the old contract, medical benefits were fully paid by the employers. On this point the union's bargaining committee refused to budge. The tentative agreement that was reached, which covers the 26,000 commercial building workers in New York City, maintains fully-paid employee health coverage. It also provides a 5-percent pay increase over the 3-year life of the contract and a secure pension.

Undoubtedly, a big influence on the contract negotiations, which had begun in

earnest on Sept. 28 at the Hilton Hotel in Manhattan, was the strike authorization vote five days earlier that had brought out 15,000 union members of 32BJ, who then marched across town and held a rally opposite the Empire State Building. That splendid display of militancy and determination was repeated a week later on Oct. 1, when 1,000 building service workers from 32BJ descended on the Hilton Hotel and picketed while negotiations were in progress.

These actions by the union rank and file prompted 32BJ Executive Vice President Kevin Doyle to comment: "People are obviously nervous. To go on strike in this day and age isn't something that people relish. But I think there is a real sense of determination" among the workers.

The real estate moguls of New York have not forgotten the strike that took place in January 1996. The workers of 32BJ stayed out for 31 days during a very snowy winter season and tied up the city's commerce.

A matter about which several workers expressed some misgivings was the wage freeze in the first year of the 3-year contract.

However, health care was the main issue. According to a press release issued by Local 32BJ, "... employers will provide an additional \$475 million in health care coverage—a 64-percent increase from the previous contract. The new commercial contract takes on added significance because any agreement on health care automatically applies to Local 32BJ's 28,000 residential building service workers."

Local 32BJ President Mike Fishman said the agreement reached with the building owners "deals a serious setback to employers who are trying to shift the burden of health care costs to workers." □

As more airlines file for bankruptcy

Workers have to fight companies

By Milt Neidenberg

On Sept. 12, for the second time in two years, US Airways, the seventh-largest U.S. airline, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Responding to the refusal of the airline unions to allow cuts of \$800 million per year, they asked permission to default on a \$110-million pension payment due a few days later.

In August 2002, the company had sought the protection of the bankruptcy court in the Eastern District of Virginia to force the airline unions to give them more than \$1 billion in wage concessions.

US Airways' collusion with the bankruptcy court to force huge cuts in wages and benefits, primarily pensions and health care, is a critical issue facing the entire labor movement. When United Airlines, the second-largest in the U.S., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in December 2002, it forced the union to give back billions of dollars that had been guaranteed by then-existing management-union contracts.

The bankruptcy court is a tool of corporations—in widespread use—to break existing contracts and lower their labor costs. Steel companies that went into bankruptcy had a field day as they defaulted on pension and health-care liability. This anti-union weapon has been used by many other corporations to get concessions.

The labor movement needs to recognize that a company in Chapter 11 bankruptcy does not legally own its assets. It is a

"debtor in possession" that seeks the protection of the court to abrogate its debt and force concessions on the unions and workers, allowing management to reorganize the company. They cannot issue one check without the approval of a court-appointed trustee.

The combined power of the labor movement could fight to force the bankruptcy courts to recognize that the unions are the principal creditors, based on the accumulation of accrued benefits—pensions, severance, health care, back wages, and so on. Plus, it is the value of the workers' labor power that keeps the corporation running.

The workers must mobilize to exercise their rights to be the trustees of the bankrupt company in order to defend their contracts and, as trustees, to seek remedies from deep-pocket sources such as banks and other lenders. Otherwise the unions find themselves between a rock and a hard place.

The following report to Workers World newspaper from David Dixon in Charlotte, N.C., shows the difficult situation in which U.S. Airways pilots find themselves right now:

Pilots angry at cuts

By David Dixon
Charlotte, N.C.

On Oct. 1, US Airways and the pilots' union, Air Line Pilots Association, reached a tentative agreement that would slash

Build the **MILLION WORKER MARCH!**

'The civil rights movement of our time'

By Leslie Feinberg

"We have called on the anti-war and peace movements to join us on Oct. 17 and they are coming by the tens of thousands," Million Worker March leader Clarence Thomas explains, "because the war in Iraq, just like the Vietnam War of Dr. King's time, is destroying people and precious resources that should be used for health insurance, jobs, housing and education."

Thomas is a member of the San Francisco-based ILWU Local 10—which has earned its reputation as a fighting, militant union. Local 10 first issued the call for

UMass struggle

Continued from page 3

tion, albeit in embryonic form, has been forged.

A rally against racism with the main slogan "Stop the attacks, increase support," is scheduled for Oct. 6. It has received broad support from ALANA, other students under siege and progressives in the campus community.

"We pledge our unity and solidarity and stand with ALANA, LGBT, women and all students fighting the UMass administration's attacks on all progressive organizations and struggles," declared a Sept. 28 statement by the Western Mass. International Action Center.

Speakers at the rally also plan to raise various tactics to move forward. They will stress that the UMass administration's character is but one example of a right-wing mobilization on campuses across the country. □

and courts

salaries 18 percent, instead of the 23 percent asked for in bankruptcy court last week. However, union leaders were divided late in the day on sending the agreement to their 3,200 members for a vote.

At the meeting in Charlotte between the company and union officials, angry pilots showed their anger towards union acceptance of the cuts. "You're taking down our f— jobs, you loser!" one pilot told union rep Von Barga. Mike Castlen, a 737 captain from Charlotte, said he'd vote against the proposal. "That's my hard-earned money that I worked 20-some years for," he said." (Charlotte Observer, Oct. 2)

Union negotiators met again the next day with the union's management council and about 80 pilots, but remained undecided on whether to recommend that members accept the deal. Another meeting is planned for Oct. 5.

If these cuts are agreed to, it will put more pressure on the other unions representing flight attendants, ticket agents and mechanics to accept concessions. Leaders of these major unions say the pilots' deal will not deter their demands to keep their pay. Also at stake are the workers' retirement benefits.

Three locals within the Transport Workers Union have reached accords with the bosses accepting pay cuts.

A court date is set for Oct. 7, when US Airways will ask for 23-percent pay cuts if consensual agreements with the other unions have not been reached by then. □

a Million Worker March more than six months ago.

Thomas stresses, "A big part of the Million Worker March message is that war and occupation are the enemies of working people, and we have to bring the troops home right now."

An Oct. 5 MWM news release reports that "On Oct. 17 buses full of unionized workers and workers who want to be in unions will be rolling in to the capital to rally at the Lincoln Monument for guaranteed health insurance, a raise in workers' wages, and a dramatic expansion of workers' rights."

Organizing efforts continue to build as the date nears.

"This rally, 'The Million Worker March,' proudly taking its inspiration from a rally in Washington nine years ago, has amassed the support of hundreds of local unions, and several national trade unions including the American Postal Workers Union, the National Education Association, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and the National Teamsters Black Caucus," adds the release. "Some major regional labor powerhouses such as the Health and Hospital Workers Local 1199 SEIU, and AFSCME District Council 37 in

New York have added their names as well as commitments to send busloads of workers to the event.

"Actor and activist Danny Glover, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and comedian and human rights campaigner Dick Gregory are scheduled to address a sea of workers and anti-war protesters from the exact spot on the steps of the Lincoln Monument where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to the famous 1963 civil rights rally."

MWM Committee Treasurer Keith Shanklen, a member of ILWU Local 10, says that following in the footsteps of Dr. King is the right thing to do because, "in this time of profit-mad globalization, all one needs do is look at the silent catastrophe of lost jobs, dwindling wages, lost healthcare along with one abuse and indignity after another that is the plight of your average worker, and you have to conclude that the struggle for workers' rights is the new civil rights movement of our time."

Organizers meet with park officials

MWM organizers on Oct. 4 met for the third time with officials from the National Parks Department, which has jurisdiction over the Lincoln Monument, and Metro Police to finalize permit agreements for the

rally, which will begin at 12 noon, after pre-rally entertainment beginning at 11 a.m.

"After meeting at the Parks Department offices, Shank and his team of event coordinators and technicians surveyed the sight of the rally, going over everything, from where sound system speakers would be placed, and where elevated platforms would be constructed for the media, to where portable restrooms would be placed," the news release continues.

"A few important things are yet to be finalized, such as where the hundreds of buses full of marchers will drop their passengers off. Metro Police prefer that buses drop people off long distances away from the rally site, while Million Worker March organizers want the buses to bring passengers directly to, or at least near the Lincoln Monument.

"Organizers are also making contingent plans for a solidarity march to one of the unionized hotels in downtown D.C., either in the event of a hotel workers' strike, or if contract talks between Local 25 of Unite HERE and hotel owners have not been resolved."

For more information about the Million Worker March, call (202) 232-0057 or visit www.MillionWorkerMarch.org. □

Building international solidarity

Meeting hears about Haiti and MWM

By Brenda Sandburg
San Francisco

As the U.S. government tightens its tentacles around Haiti, it is also striking out at working and unemployed people in this country. And while the Haitian people fiercely resist the occupation of their land, the people in this country are standing up for their rights and for those of their brothers and sisters around the world. A group of leading activists discussed these two battlefronts—the struggle for Haiti's independence and the upcoming Million Worker March—at a meeting here Oct. 1.

The dynamic event, sponsored by the San Francisco AntiWar 4 the Million Worker March Committee, was taped by KPOO radio, a local African American station.

Pierre Labossiere, co-founder of Haiti Action Committee, told those gathered that the United States is responsible for the death squads, murders and violence that have engulfed Haiti since the U.S.-backed coup and kidnapping of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. On Sept. 30, he reported, about 15,000 people took to the streets in Port-au-Prince to call for Aristide's return on the anniversary of the first coup against him.

Labossiere noted that Aristide had instituted a hurricane preparedness program that moved people to safer ground and brought supplies to them. Since the coup, he said, many in these teams have been killed, jailed or dispersed, so when the recent hurricanes hit, there was no one to help people. That's why so many died in the storms.

Others, he said, have been shot down by Haitian forces aided by the U.S. military. "Armed civilians came out with the police and shot into the crowd," Labossiere said. The exact death toll is unknown because "some bodies were picked up so there was no trace" of them.

Labossiere said the Haitian people compare the brutal Duvalier regime of Papa Doc and Baby Doc to that of the two Bush administrations. At the time of the first coup against Aristide in 1991, "Papa

Bush was in office and now Baby Bush" is in charge, Labossiere said.

LeiLani Dowell, a member of Workers World Party running for Congress in California, talked about what has happened in Haiti since the "coup-napping"—the term Haitians use for the kidnapping of Aristide by U.S. forces. Last month Dowell went on a fact-finding delegation to Haiti led by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark during which she met with about 35 political prisoners, including several members of Aristide's government.

"There have been more beatings, forced exiles and rapes, targeted mainly at supporters of Aristide's Lavalas Party," Dowell said. Many people have been arrested, released and re-arrested several times, she noted.

U.S. human rights groups have helped perpetuate the violations, while U.S. corporations have been complicit in inflicting economic hardships on the Haitian people, she stressed. "Aristide raised the minimum wage from \$1 to \$2.40 per day," Dowell said, while the new interim "prime minister" is allowing corporations to skip paying taxes for three years.

The next step in the struggle is not the Nov. 2 election in the U.S., Dowell explained, but the Million Worker March. She pointed out that youth are organizing for the march, and have much to gain from it since 39 percent of the U.S. homeless population is under the age of 18, youth of color accounted for 62 percent of juveniles in custody in 1991, and half of all new AIDS infections worldwide are people under the age of 25.

The Million Worker March taking place in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 17 is calling on workers—organized and unorganized—to open up an independent fight for everything from universal health care to a living wage to an end to racism. It has also



WW PHOTO: SHANE HOFF

Willis, Labossiere and Dowell.

joined forces with the anti-war movement, calling for an end to the U.S. war against Iraq and the occupations of Iraq and Haiti.

Trent Willis, co-chair of the Million Worker March Committee in San Francisco and former business agent of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10, which initiated the march, said it is intended to bring solidarity to working people around the world. "Making a change in the United States will make it easier for change in Haiti and Iraq," he said.

Willis said the Million Worker March is being organized in the spirit of the poor people's march that Martin Luther King Jr. called for in 1968 before he was assassinated. "It's not about an election but about a resurrection. It's not about a candidate but a mandate," Willis emphasized. "We are demanding that workers be represented and an end be put to repression against unions, organizing and workers and the unemployed."

Willis said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney has told locals that now is not the time to march on Washington and demand workers' rights. Dowell recalled that in a letter from Birmingham jail, Martin Luther King had answered people who told him now was not the time to protest for civil rights. Waiting, he said, "Most often means never."

Judy Greenspan of Workers World Party and California Prison Focus chaired the meeting. □

Executions assailed in Texas county as

Scandal grows over false and hidden evidence

By Gloria Rubac
Houston

The death penalty in the United States has come under intense scrutiny in the last few years—and for good reason. The number of people who have been exonerated and freed from death rows across the country now stands at 116.

Collectively, they spent over 1,000 years locked up for crimes they did not commit.

More than one-half of these exonerations occurred in the South, the region that accounts for most executions in the United States. Sixty-one per cent of those exonerated were people of color.

As the pace of executions has increased in recent years, death sentences around the country have dropped by 50 percent. Public opinion is almost evenly split between life without parole and the death penalty.

But innocence is not the only reason the death penalty is wrong.

On March 31, the International Court of Justice ruled in favor of Mexico, finding that the United States violated the rights of most of the 51 Mexican citizens on U.S. death rows. The Vienna convention on consular relations, which the United States has ratified, says that foreign citizens have the right to speak with diplomatic officials upon arrest.

The ICJ said the United States must review the convictions and sentences in each case.

The death penalty is used against juveniles in defiance of international laws. It is used against the mentally disabled, who desperately need health care and not lethal injection. It is racist.

Those who kill whites are six times more likely to get the death penalty than those who kill African Americans or Latinos.

In the landmark Atkins case in 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed the executions of people with mental disabilities. On Oct. 13, the court will hear oral arguments in Roper vs. Williams, a case that could eliminate the execution of those who were juveniles at the time of the crime.

The cops and the courts that arrest and try working-class people and people of color are racist. They are absolutely biased against the poor. The cops and prosecutors lie, conspire, conceal evidence, and allow witnesses to lie—all in order to get a conviction.

The Houston Police Crime Lab is now notorious for presenting totally false evidence in court that

sent innocent people to prison.

In 2002, an audit of the lab turned up so many irregularities that countless convictions are now in doubt. The DNA and blood division was shut down.

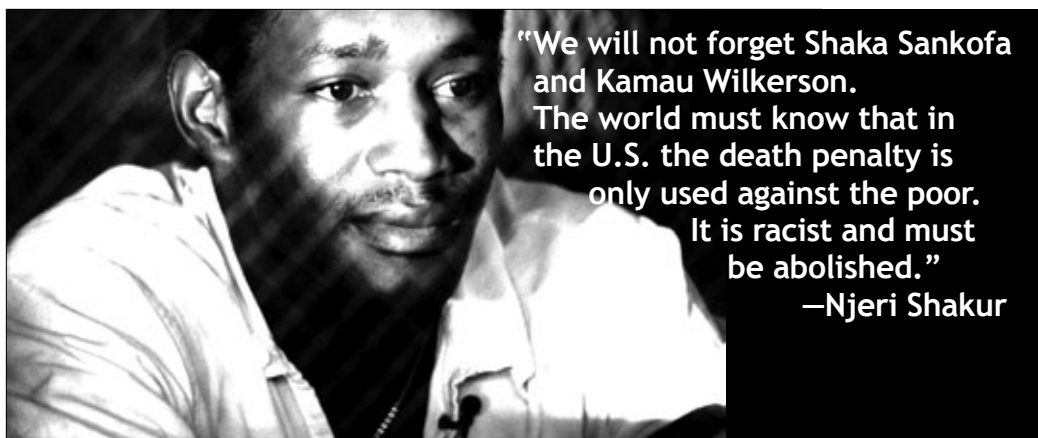
Josiah Sutton was released last year after spending over four years in prison. An African American, he was arrested at age 16 for a rape it is now proven he did not commit.

Now, in another case with questionable scientific evidence, George Rodriguez, a Houston man who has served 17 years for rape, moved a step closer to freedom after Harris County District Attorney Chuck Rosenthal said new tests showed that another suspect had been improperly ruled out by “unfounded and inaccurate testimony.” The district attorney is not opposing bail for Rodriguez, but has said he might still retry him.

165 on death row in just one county!

There are 165 persons from Harris County on death row in Texas. Execution dates have been set for nine of them.

Houston Police Chief Harold Hurtt, two state senators and a former Texas governor have signed a letter to George W. Bush's successor, Texas Gov. Rick Perry,



Richmond program to honor 'Gabriel's Rebellion'

By Phil Wilayto
Richmond, Va.

When the remnants of Tropical Storm Gaston rolled over Central Virginia this past summer, meteorologists predicted it would quickly pass through the region. Instead it hung over Richmond, pounding the state's capital with sheets of driving rain.

By the time it moved on, Gaston had caused eight deaths and \$62 million in damages, devastating the business area in Richmond's historic valley known as Shockoe Bottom.

This happened on Aug. 30. Ironically, that was the date in 1800 when a similar storm disrupted plans for what came to be known as Gabriel's Rebellion.

Thousands of enslaved Black people, led by a 24-year-old blacksmith named Gabriel, had planned to march into Richmond and seize the capitol and governor in a bid to end slavery in Virginia.

Delayed by the storm and then betrayed by two of their fellow slaves, at least 26 of

the conspirators paid for their courageous effort with their lives.

Gabriel was the last to be executed, on Oct. 10, 1800, at the city gallows in Shockoe Bottom.

This Oct. 10, a Richmond organization called the Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality will unveil a state historical highway marker at the site of the gallows.

Titled “Gabriel's Execution,” the marker will be Richmond's first official physical recognition of Gabriel's Rebellion. This in a city littered with monuments to slavery-defending Confederate generals.

The marker also notes that the gallows stood in the “Burial Ground for Negroes,” a Black cemetery more than two centuries old that today lies unrecognized and nearly forgotten under a privately owned parking lot.

Shockoe Bottom, now struggling with its recovery, has been in the local news for much of this year. It's where a group of wealthy investors wants to build a commercial baseball stadium, ignoring local preservationists' pleas that the Bottom

was where the city was formally established in 1737.

But Shockoe Bottom has another, deeper significance: As much as any other area, it's where people from many different African cultures were forged into a new nation, one bearing a common oppression and a common history of resistance.

As the United States approached the end of the 18th century, the hideous system of slavery came under increasing attack. Then the invention of the cotton gin in the mid-1790s renewed the demand for super-cheap agricultural labor.

In 1803, France, deeply shaken by the recent successful slave revolt in its former colony of Haiti, sold its vast holdings in North America to the United States, spurring the development of huge new plantations in the Deep South.

But the new plantation owners soon had a problem: U.S. involvement in the trans-Atlantic slave trade was banned by a bitterly divided Congress in 1807.

Virginia slaveholders, faced with failing soil and an expanding slave population, sensed a business opportunity. Already the state with the most slaves, Virginia became a “breeder” state, where human beings were literally grown as a cash crop.

And one of the biggest markets was located in Richmond's Shockoe Bottom.

Between 1808 and the end of the Civil War, some 300,000-350,000 people of African descent were sold out of the valley's auction houses. By 1865, the Black population in the United States numbered about 4 million. That means that millions of African-Americans today can trace at least part of their ancestry to this small piece of real estate in Richmond.

In a sense, Shockoe Bottom is the Goree

Island of the United States.

That story is seldom told in Richmond, or anywhere else, and never in its entirety. Until now.

On Oct. 10, before the marker unveiling, the Defenders will host a seminar titled “Slavery in Virginia, Richmond's Role in the Slave Trade and Gabriel's Rebellion.”

Scheduled presenters include Dr. Haskell Bingham, a former Virginia State University official and a great-great-grandson of Gabriel; Elvatrice Belsches, an author who lectures on Richmond's slave-trading history; Dr. Douglas Egerton, author of “Gabriel's Rebellion: The Virginia Slave Conspiracies of 1800 and 1802”; and Dr. Michael Blakey, a former Howard University anthropologist who directed the study of the African Burial Ground in New York City.

Participants will then march to the site of the marker unveiling in what organizers are calling “a symbolic reenactment of Gabriel's planned march into Richmond.”

One of the seminar organizers and participants is Ana Edwards, a Defender whose own ancestors include two women sold out of Shockoe Bottom.

“We hope to make some small contribution to setting straight this important part of Richmond's history,” Edwards said. “I was born in Los Angeles, but my ancestors were sold from Shockoe Bottom during the 1840s, the height of Richmond's exportation period. This area is important to Black people all over the country and we intend to make it crystal clear that no baseball stadium will be built on this sacred land.”

For more information about the Oct. 10 program, visit the Defenders' Web site at: DefendersFJE.tripod.com. □

A VOICE from HARPER'S FERRY 1859

By Osborne P. Anderson, a Black revolutionary who was there. With an essay on 'The Unfinished Revolution' by Vince Copeland & new prefaces by Mumia Abu-Jamal and Monica Moorehead. 128 pp, photographs. WORLD VIEW FORUM, 55 W. 17th St., 5th Fl., N.Y., N.Y. 10011 \$18 (15% discount at www.leftbooks.com)

One person, one vote?

asking him to halt executions of all prisoners from Harris County until the Houston Police Department can examine evidence recently found in a storage room that could be connected to death penalty cases.

Perry has rejected all calls for a delay of executions.

A month ago, the police chief announced that investigators had found almost 300 boxes of lost evidence, including a fetus and body parts, involving as many as 8,000 Houston cases. The boxes were mislabeled and improperly stored.

Activists with the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement have issued a news release stating in part: "We agree with the chief on his call for a halt of Harris County executions, but we also call for an independent investigation of all 165 cases of those from Houston currently on death row. We know of cases where police witnesses have either presented false testimony in court or have lied in court. No one knows how many from Harris County have been sent to death row based on flawed police lab work."

Two cases the Abolition Movement has called attention to are those of Nanon Williams and Johnnie Bernal. Both were sentenced to death based on the testimony of the Crime Lab's ballistics examiner, Robert Baldwin. Both were also juveniles when arrested.

In each of the two cases, Baldwin used methods that other experts say are unsound. In Williams' case, the lab's initial ballistics findings were later retracted by Baldwin himself.

Robert Rosenberg, an appeals lawyer for Johnnie Bernal, says: "In these cases we have an examiner who is not following any recognized set of standards, and he didn't have any problem taking the stand to get convictions. Why should we trust him or anyone else in the department who is reviewing his work?"

Other firearms examiners have said these cases suggest more than just DNA problems at the HPD Crime Lab. Attorney Morris Moon, who represents Williams, has filed an appeal in the Federal District Court in Houston and hopes to have an evidentiary hearing soon.

The Abolition Movement also questions the Houston Police Department examination of clothing worn by Frances Newton, who was sentenced to death for killing her husband and children. Newton is scheduled to be killed on Dec. 1. The Texas Innocence Network at the University of Houston Law School is working on her appeal.

"There are just too many questions about the veracity of the HPD Crime Lab's testimony in death row cases. Everyone on death row from Harris County should have their cases re-examined," activist Njeri Shakur said. "The scandal of the Houston Police Crime Lab is just one more reason the death penalty should be abolished.

"There is now one person released from U.S. death rows for every eight executed. With this high percentage of wrongful convictions, we must determine that capital punishment is too fraught with error to be continued.

"On Oct. 30 the Abolition Movement will be participating in the Fifth Annual March to Stop Executions, in Austin. We will raise all these issues about the crimes of the Houston Police Crime Lab, about innocence, about juveniles.

"We will not forget Shaka Sankofa and Kamau Wilkerson. The world must know that in the U.S. the death penalty is only used against the poor. It is racist and must be abolished immediately," Shakur said. □

Police intimidate Black voters in Fla.

By Monica Moorehead

The "one person, one vote" struggle, raised decades ago by the civil rights movement, continues in both urban and rural areas, north, south, east and west. But more often than not, those who are systematically denied this right in disproportionate numbers are located in the Deep South.

The main battleground for this ongoing struggle happens to be none other than Florida, the state where, in the year 2000, thousands of Black voters and others had their votes stolen so George W. Bush could get to the White House. This scandal took place with no serious intervention from white leaders in the Democratic Party, including then-presidential candidate Al Gore.

Not too much has changed in four years and may, in fact, have gotten worse. Several months ago, it was reported that Florida officials—especially Glenda Hood, who replaced the infamous Katherine Harris as secretary of state—had used fraudulent methods to remove former felons from the voting rolls.

Florida leads the country in barring convicted felons, the majority of whom are Black and usually vote Democrat in that state, from the right to vote. Felons who served out their prison terms and eventu-

ally won back their right to vote through an appeals process were still illegally kept off the voting registration rolls.

In a series of columns, Bob Herbert of the New York Times reports that Florida police, acting hand in hand with state officials, have been carrying out a systematic campaign of intimidating elderly Black voters, especially in Orlando.

The police visited members of the Orlando League of Voters, using the excuse that they were investigating "absentee ballot fraud" during the mayoral election in Orlando in March. State troopers went into the homes of these active voters and then purposely took off their jackets to expose their weapons while asking insinuating questions.

Herbert wrote on a discussion he had with Geo Morales from the Department of Law Enforcement about this investigation. "I asked Mr. Morales in a telephone conversation to tell me what criminal activity had taken place. 'I can't talk about that,' he said. I asked if all the people interrogated were black. 'Well, mainly it was a black neighborhood we were looking at—yes,' he said. ... 'Most of them were elderly.'

"When I asked why, he said, 'That's just the people we selected out of a random sample to interview.'" (New York Times, Aug. 16)

This past May, says Herbert, the same

department admitted that there was no basis for conducting this allegation of fraud. This admission was too little, too late, since the fear of being arrested had been instilled within many of these same voters by the police. (Aug. 20, "Voting While Black") This type of racist terror by the police will surely have an impact on the Florida vote on Nov. 2 and beyond.

Elections by themselves don't change material conditions; only mass movements have achieved better living conditions for working and poor people, including raising political consciousness.

However, with the presidential elections less than a month away, the "Anybody But Bush" phenomenon continues to momentarily put the brake on mass organizing around many important issues—most notably the anti-war struggle to get the U.S. out of Iraq.

But workers from all over the country will be descending on Washington, D.C., on Oct. 17 to support the demands of the Million Worker March, including those who will eventually hold their noses and cast their vote for the "lesser evil" candidate, John Kerry.

The MWM will be a welcome breath of fresh air, with its timely and correct call to build an independent workers' movement and its call to bring the troops home now. □

'Rock and roll' ad campaign omits Black artists

By Donatien Bukuba and Monica Moorehead

This past August, Miller Brewing Company and Rolling Stone magazine announced a special ad campaign to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of rock and roll music by selecting eight artists to put on Miller Lite's beer labels.

These artists are supposed to represent the cream of the crop of rock and roll performers.

Which artists did Miller and Rolling Stone decide to nominate? According to blackvoiceneeds.com, they were Elvis Presley, Willie Nelson, Blondie, Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, Alice Cooper, Eric Clapton and Joe Walsh.

These nominations have rightfully created great anger and furor within the Black community. No African American artists were selected.

There is general consensus that rock

and roll—like gospel, jazz and blues—has its roots predominantly within the African American experience. So why wasn't even one Black artist included in this campaign?

If you asked former Beatle Ringo Starr, or Jerry Lee Lewis, or, if he were alive, Elvis Presley, a known racist, which artists most influenced their style of music, they would more than likely mention one or more of the legendary Black artists such as Chuck Berry, Little Richard or Fats Domino.

Famous and not-so-famous Black artists were known to teach white artists how to perform rock and roll. While many of these white artists went on to gain fame and fortune, many more Black musicians either faded away into obscurity and/or passed away penniless.

This lack of recognition of Black rock and roll artists emanates from the fact that during Jim Crow segregation, many white-

owned radio stations, South and North, refused to play the music of Black artists.

When Black musicians played rock and roll, it was negatively branded as "race music." When white musicians played the same music, it was praised by music critics, resulting in millions of records sold and lucrative contracts signed.

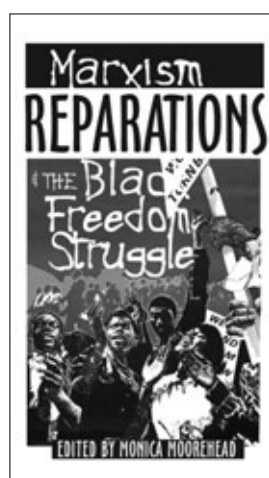
Miller Lite and Rolling Stone are promoting cultural genocide that has helped to enrich the profits of the white-dominated music industry. This includes attempting to put a white face on music that creatively expresses the struggle for survival of a nationally oppressed people living under capitalism.

On Sept. 18, a news conference was held in front of Rolling Stone's building in New York to protest this injustice. Participants who spoke included representatives of Black singers Dionne Warwick and Chuck Jackson and activists with the Brooklyn-based December 12 Movement and the Harlem-based Artists and Activists United for Peace. The main theme of the news conference was "No to racism and exploitation of Black music."

The participants at the news conference also called for a boycott of Miller Lite and of Roseland Ballroom, where the rock and roll selections were announced.

It bears mentioning that the new owners of the Miller Brewing Co. include white South Africans.

Nana Soul of Black Waxx Recordings told WW: "Even today most progressive musicians have to struggle to sell, produce and market their work. ... African-American musicians need to be more independent and control their talent creations, from the blues to hip-hop and rhythm and blues." □



\$4.50 at
Leftbooks.com

- ◆ Racism, national oppression & the right to self-determination *Larry Holmes*
- ◆ Black labor from chattel slavery to wage slavery *Sam Marcy*
- ◆ Reparations & Black Liberation *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Harriet Tubman: woman warrior *Mumia Abu-Jamal (Guest Commentary)*
- ◆ Black labor & the fight for reparations *Bill Cecil*
- ◆ Alabama's Black Belt: Legacy of slavery, sharecropping and segregation *By Consuela Lee (Guest commentary)*
- ◆ Black farmers demand justice *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Greetings from Mumia Abu-Jamal to the 3rd UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia & Related Intolerance
- ◆ Nigerian women take over Chevron Texaco *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Nigerian women's takeover ends in victory *Monica Moorehead*
- ◆ Causes of turmoil in Jamaica PART I PART II PART III *Pat Chin*
- ◆ The driving force behind the land seizures *Monica Moorehead*

At Mexican border

Protest hits Operation Gatekeeper

By Ruth Vela
San Ysidro, Calif.

Nearly 1,000 workers, mothers, students, and children took to the streets of San Ysidro this Oct. 2 in a march against Operation Gatekeeper. Their message was clear: "¡Tres mil muertos no se olvidaran! Three thousand dead will not be forgotten!"

This important protest was organized by the Raza Rights Coalition and the American Friends Service Committee, and supported by hundreds of groups and individuals, both locally and from as far away as Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and San Francisco in California, and



Sign says "No more deaths."

Tucson, Ariz.

Activists with the International Action Center carried a banner reading, "¡La batalla de los obreros no tiene fronteras! There are no borders in the workers' struggle!"

Operation Gatekeeper is the ongoing, unnecessary militarization of the U.S./Mexico border that was launched by the Immigration and Nationalization Service under the Clinton administration, which argued that it was necessary for the "war on drugs."

Since the program's inception on Oct. 1, 1994, the government has spent over \$10 billion in an effort to seal off the traditional crossing sector between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, Calif. The number of border patrol agents has increased from 980 to over 9,000.

They are now supplied with motion and sound detectors, infrared telescopes, stadium lighting and military-style helicopters.

New and reinforced fencing has also been part of sealing the border. Before Gatekeeper there were roughly 19 miles of 10-foot-high steel fencing in San Diego. Now there are over 50 miles of triple fencing that runs from the base of the Otay Mountains all the way into the Pacific Ocean.

The urban areas that workers are attempting to reach are those most heavily guarded. This pushes immigrants into more remote locations where extreme temperatures and harsh conditions claim lives.

The current death toll in Southern California is over 3,000, but this figure does not take into account bodies still

undiscovered in the desolate desert and dangerous mountainous areas these immigrants have been forced into.

Droves of people risk drowning, freezing to death, dying of dehydration and being shot by immigration police—"La Migra"—just so they can look for work. The NAFTA trade agreement has driven Mexican farmers off their lands and into tax-free factories along the border called maquiladoras, which also produce profits for U.S. imperialists. Foreign-owned factories in Tijuana on average pay workers 450 pesos—roughly \$40—a week.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government has the audacity to insist upon barring the free movement of labor while trying to increase the free movement of capital.

For the past 10 years, people trying to cross the border have been dying at the rate of one per day. Stores are built at what seems the same rate in the strip mall that now stands less than a quarter of a mile from the border on the California side.

The mass mobilization that took place Oct. 2 was more than a march on the border. It was a demand for an end to the deaths, a tribute and memorial to those lives lost, a public outcry for justice, and a reminder that there are no borders in the workers' struggle. □



Gatekeeper started here. Ten years later 3,000 are dead.

Native groups debunk Lewis and Clark

By Stephanie Hedgecoke

Reenactors of the 1803-1806 Lewis and Clark "Discovery" expedition traveling up the Missouri River in replica boats met with the first of several planned confrontations by Native communities on Sept. 18. When the reenactors docked their boats at a park in Chamberlain, S.D., Indigenous people were there to meet them. Lakota organizer Alex White Plume from Pine Ridge said, "We want you to turn around and go home."

Lakota families drove four hours from Pine Ridge Reservation to protest the reenactment of the "Dawn of Genocide."

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark had carried out Thomas Jefferson's original "Manifest Destiny" plan of reconnaissance on the territories of Native Nations between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans.

That expedition laid the groundwork for years of genocidal war against Indigenous people as the U.S. settler state penetrated territory after territory to conduct a series of genocidal wars. U.S. troops often attacked peaceful sleeping villages of women, children and elders at dawn. Newspapers propagandized against Native people, characterizing them as "savage" and "primitive." The federal government guaranteed homestead land to settlers to help destroy the buffalo and other food sources in their drive to steal the lands all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

American Indian Movement activist Carter Camp (Ponca nation), said to those celebrating the expedition, "You are reenacting something ugly, evil and hateful. You are reenacting the coming of death to our people." Camp added that Lewis and Clark knew what had already happened to the great Indigenous Nations in the eastern regions of "Great Turtle Island," the Indigenous name for this continent. Camp said they knew that missionaries followed the soldiers, and the people of those great Native nations had been decimated and driven from their homes.

Lewis and Clark, said Camp, "had no honor. They came with the American lie. They murdered 60 million people. Come to your senses. Take those silly clothes off. And take your [expletive] boat and go back down the river!"

Lakota elder Floyd Hand said, "We are

the descendants of [famous Lakota leaders] Red Cloud and Crazy Horse. I didn't come here in peace." He said that they would not smoke the pipe with the expedition. "We want you to turn around and go home."

Alfred Bone Shirt of Rosebud Reservation told them, "This is disgusting. This is a slap in the face." Bone Shirt described the racist character of South Dakota towns, including Chamberlain. "Our prisons are full, our children are being taken away." Bone Shirt asked if there would next be a reenactment of Bush and Cheney invading Iraq.

White Plume told them, "The whole West is drying up. The Earth should be a priority and not your own personal needs." He added, "If you continue the journey, we will harass you every inch of the way."

Deb White Plume presented Peyton Clark, the great, great, great-grandson of Clark, with a blanket. "Smallpox," she said. "Have it back." And she chastised their celebration of genocide: "I have [only] two sons because your government sterilized me."

Pointing out that they were surrounded by cops, she said police always surround Lakota. "Your government fought my family with guns and I survived and I am here to tell you about it. You are here with no respect."

The reenactment had received funding of \$85 million to play out a cover story that the expedition had "minimal or negligible impact" on the Native Nations. Official and academic events have been held to put a facade of "reconciliation" on the reenactment, and some Bureau of Indian Affairs governments welcomed the reenactment without the approval of the reservation communities they are supposed to represent.

Lakota people caravanned to Ft. Pierre, S.D., the following weekend to protest the "Dawn of Genocide" events there. Organizers are calling on all Native peoples to "decolonize their viewpoints" on this issue and join the protests to stop the reenactment.

Quotes taken from organizers' press release, *UN Observer and International Report*, and *Daily Republic of Mitchell, S.D.*

Calif. governor kills anti-racist bill

By Brenda Sandburg
San Francisco

California State Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg wanted to stop California public schools from using terms derogatory to Native Nations as their team names. Goldberg originally introduced a bill that would have banished "Indians," "Braves," "Chiefs," "Apaches," "Comanches," "Papooses," and other references to Native people as school mascots. But when the measure failed to pass, she watered it down to outlaw one term: "Redskins."

In a major victory against racism, the bill cleared the legislature and was set to go into effect at the beginning of 2006. But in September, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger stepped in. He vetoed the measure.

"Decisions regarding athletic teams names, nicknames or mascots should be retained at the local level," Schwarzenegger said. "Adding another non-academic state administrative requirement for schools to comply with takes more focus away from getting kids to learn at the highest levels."

The governor doesn't really care about educating children. The bill, in fact, would have given kids an opportunity to learn about racism and the U.S. government's genocidal campaign against Native Nations.

The term "Redskins" is the most offensive of all words used against Native people. In the 1700s and 1800s, the U.S. gov-

ernment offered to pay colonists a bounty for the scalps of Native people, which were brought in as evidence they had been killed.

"The trappers would bring in Indian scalps," along with bearskins and deerskins, said Tina Holder, who is part Blackfoot, Cherokee and Choctaw, in a news article posted on BET.com.

"The term came from the bloody mess that one saw when looking at the scalp," Holder said. "When we see or hear that term ... we don't see a football team ... we see the bloody pieces of scalps that were hacked off of our men, women and even our children ... we hear the screams as our people were killed ... and 'skinned' just like animals."

Goldberg's bill is the most recent effort to do away with team names derogatory to Native peoples. In 1999 a group of Native people led by Suzan Shown Harjo successfully petitioned the Patent and Trademark Office's appeals board to revoke the "Washington Redskins" and "Redskins" trademarks owned by Pro-Football Inc. But a federal judge overturned the PTO's decision.

According to the PTO's Web site, there are 17 active "Redskin" trademarks. A few companies have dropped their marks over the years. These include Advance Bag & Paper Co., which received a "Redskin" trademark in 1926, and Milton Bradley Co., which registered the mark for Artists' Finger Paints in 1950. The struggle continues, and one day surely the mark will fade from football teams as well. □

As Pentagon rains down death Debates stick to pro-war scenario

Continued from page 1

personnel carriers while the city was bombed from the air.

"Iraqi government and U.S. forces declared yesterday," reported the London Independent of Oct. 4, "that they had 'pacified' the rebel stronghold of Samarra, and stated that other 'no-go' enclaves such as Falluja would be recaptured before national elections due in January. The Americans insisted that the estimated 125 people killed in the storming of the city were all insurgents. Doctors and local people reported women, children and the elderly among the dead, and that bodies were still being brought into hospitals."

People in Samarra "claimed that many of the 1,000 insurgents the Americans were targeting had escaped before the attack, and civilians had borne the brunt of the casualties. Of 70 bodies brought into Samarra General Hospital, 23 were children and 18 women, said Abdul-Nasser Hamed Yassin, a hospital administrator. There were also 23 women among the 160 wounded."

Mohammed Ali Amin told the Independent, "There were American snipers on rooftops who were shooting people trying to get to their homes. Even at the hospital the Americans arrested injured boys of 15 saying they were insurgents."

The article continued: "CNN television was told by one man that his sister-in-law and her six daughters were killed when the vehicle they were traveling in was hit by a U.S. air strike. Aid organizations said there was acute concern about continuing lack of water and electricity in Samarra and the difficulties faced by people attempting to seek medical treatment."

Similar atrocities have been carried out against Falluja. Al-Jazeera reported on Oct. 4 that U.S. air forces had launched new air strikes on Falluja, destroying two houses and killing at least 11 people, most of whom were women and children, according to hospital sources.

"This is the tenth U.S. raid on Falluja in one month," said the Arab network. "As usual the U.S. military claims that the raids were targeting followers of Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. One strike in the central al-Jumhuriyah area killed nine people, among which were three women and four children, said Dr. Adil Khamis of Falluja General Hospital."

These latest atrocities come against a background of the torture regime that was uncovered in Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and Afghanistan. None of these crimes were ever mentioned, let alone protested, by Kerry or Edwards.

On the contrary, Kerry has tried to

counter the Bush administration's charges of being soft on so-called "national defense" by saying he wants to build up the military to be more flexible, with more modern weapons, more special forces, in addition to adding troops. Edwards rebutted "soft on defense" charges made by Cheney with the rejoinder that Kerry had voted for "the biggest military appropriations in the country's history."

Kerry supports huge Pentagon buildup

Buried in the business section of the New York Times on Oct. 1 was a revealing article about Kerry and the Pentagon's military buildup.

"Amid the greatest military spending increases in history, the Pentagon is starved for cash." Why? "The Pentagon says it has 77 major weapons programs under development. They include the \$200 billion Joint Strike Fighter ... a \$112 billion Army program to create networks of weapons and communications systems, and an experimental Navy destroyer, the world's first \$10 billion warship.

"Those 77 arms systems have a collective price tag of \$1.3 trillion."

From a political point of view, the working class should know what the Times forecasts about Kerry versus Bush, when it comes to planning for futuristic weapons systems designed to strengthen Washington and Wall Street's world domination.

"The accelerating pace of arms spending is unlikely to slow noticeably no matter who wins the election on Nov. 2. President Bush supports all 77 major weapons systems now under development; Senator John Kerry has said he would cut back on one, missile defense, which costs \$10 billion a year, and use the money for more troops."

This speaks volumes about the thoroughly imperialist character of the Kerry camp. They are 100 percent committed to strengthening the capability for U.S. intimidation and aggression around the world, let alone enriching the military-industrial complex.

Furthermore, this information helps to expose the demagogic lies by Kerry and Edwards about fixing the economy and relieving the economic condition of the people. Spending a trillion dollars on military systems is in direct contradiction to the vast social overhaul that would be necessary under capitalism to begin to relieve the mounting burden on the people.

They claim they have a plan to solve the health care crisis. But compared to spending a trillion dollars on the military, Kerry's great plan to give 45 million people health care, including all children, is to

give a \$1,000 tax credit for health care costs. His plan leaves the health care of the masses in the hands of the medical-industrial complex—that is, the insurance companies, the HMOs, the drug companies and the hospital corporations. It would not begin to deal with the health insurance crisis.

As for the low-wage, underemployment and unemployment crisis of the workers, Kerry proposes closing a couple of tax loopholes for the rich. Six to 10 million people are unemployed—and this is during a capitalist expansion. The number of people living in poverty has increased by 4 million in the last three years, and an equal number of people have lost their health care. Wages are going down. The only way to deal with this is for the government to give people assistance of all types—housing, childcare, education—as well as give them jobs and raises. The corporations aren't going to do it.

Kerry is proposing petty tax subsidies to the bosses. That is not a jobs program. A jobs program gives jobs.

More importantly, the poverty and unemployment crisis is an automatic and inevitable product of capitalism, the system of production for profit. It is not Bush's fault, although he would do nothing to relieve it. And it will not be Kerry's fault. It is capitalism's fault. And that is what no capitalist candidate will say.

The current situation in Iraq and the growing economic hardship in the U.S. is stoking a renewed political consciousness. But it is first taking place within the framework of bourgeois political thought.

It is for that reason that the masses who want to get rid of Bush so badly, because he is such a reactionary, are flocking to Kerry, despite his calls for a military buildup and his false economic program.

Neither Kerry nor Edwards has come out against racism, the racist death penalty, the massive imprisonment of Black and Latino youth and the growth of the prison system along with the decline of education and jobs, the epidemic of police brutality or the growth of repression in general. They both voted for the Patriot Act. They may want to reduce some of its "excesses," but have not come out against the repression leveled against people of Middle Eastern and South Asian origin. In general, they both stand for the right of repression by the capitalist state.

The debates so far should prove, with a little reflection, that the only course for the workers and the oppressed is the course of independent struggle and politics. Capitalist electoral politics is a dead end.

The choice between an extreme reactionary imperialist politician such as George W. Bush and a more traditional reactionary politician such as John Kerry is no choice at all for the working class. □

'Jobs and housing, not war!'



Special to Workers World
Brooklyn, N.Y.

"Jobs, not war! Bring the troops home now!" rang through the streets of Brooklyn at an Oct. 2 demonstration calling for change and community development.

At the action organized by the Bedford-Stuyvesant Coalition for Peace, protesters

demanding an end to war and occupation everywhere—from Iraq to Palestine to Haiti. They called for taking the huge sums of money now being sucked from the community to wage war and spending it instead on social programs.

Portia Waldon of Buddhists for Peace chaired the gathering in Von King Park, which followed the spirited peace walk through Bedford-Stuyvesant. Speakers included well-known jazz bassist Buster Williams, health activist Ulysses Kilgore and others.

Cultural workers on the program included a Native American dancer, members of a steel band, and an African drummer and a dancer.

Pat Chin, an organizer for the International Action Center, stressed the importance of staying "mobilized and in the streets no matter who wins the upcoming presidential elections." She called on people to join the Million Worker March set for Oct. 17 in Washington, D.C.

"This activity is just the beginning of future rallies and forums aimed at unifying the community around demands for health care, jobs and housing," coalition member Beverly Morgan told Workers World. "We invite all progressive organizations to join with us." □

Okinawans oppose U.S. naval base

Some 3,500 residents of Okinawa rallied and then marched Oct. 2 in Naha City to protest the decision to build a new U.S. naval base on the sea in the Henoko neighborhood of Nago City. The demonstrators also protested the use of anti-guerrilla training facilities in Igei. In the waters near Henoko, residents went out in boats and canoes to block ships of the Defense Facilities Administration Bureau from surveying for construction.

—Story and photos by the Anti-War Joint Action Committee, Japan





Massacre in Gaza

The Israeli state occupies Palestine. That's the most important point to start with when you evaluate the latest slaughter in Gaza. The Israeli army's murder of 82 Palestinians in the week after Sept. 28; Ariel Sharon's unleashing of artillery and rockets on civilian areas; the U.S. veto at the United Nations backing Sharon's massacres; the position of the Kerry-Edwards campaign—all must be looked at in the light of the ongoing occupation.

An extraordinary number of Palestinians have been killed since Sept. 28. But the battle did not start on that date. The struggle of the Palestinian people for self-determination against the Israeli state has been going on, with varying level of intensity, since that state was established in 1948.

Because the Israeli state occupies the territory, because the Israeli state acts as an outpost of imperialism in the Middle East, this is not simply a battle between two peoples who differ in language and religion. The Israeli state is a settler state and an oppressor. The Palestinians are fighting for their liberation. They are an oppressed people.

That is why the Palestinian people have the solidarity of the great majority of the people of the world. The world looks at the U.S.-armed Israeli settler state not much differently than it did at the apartheid settler state in South Africa, and with good reason. That is why most people in the world support a Palestinian state, at least as a first step toward self-determination.

The latest Israeli invasion of the northern end of occupied Gaza shows once again that the Sharon government is unwilling to allow even the smallest steps toward a Palestinian state. It has directed its fire at any organization of the Palestinians.

Right now Israel claims to be firing at the Hamas organization, calling its members "terrorists," just as the Bush government calls anyone in the Iraqi resistance "terrorists." Israel's attacks kill many civilians, along with some Hamas fighters. In the not-too-distant past the Israelis fired on the Palestine Liberation Organization and even on the Palestinian Authority.

Washington has made it clear that it supports this Israeli offensive. The Bush administration, in an attack on Yasser Arafat, says the Israelis have no negotiating "partner." With equal belligerence, John Kerry and John Edwards say the Israelis have the right to fight against "terrorists," meaning Palestinians.

But against all the hostility from Washington, and even with the leaders of their organizations jailed or murdered, the Palestinians have been carrying on a liberation struggle against Israeli rule for decades. Despite their relatively small number, they have been a central factor in the struggle for the liberation of the people of the Middle East. They continue to inspire others to struggle.

Washington treats Israel as a strategic ally. When the U.S. wants to intimidate Iran, Israel threatens to bomb its nuclear facilities. Yet Israel has developed its own nuclear bombs without penalty or even criticism from Washington. That is why the U.S. representative in the United Nations Security Council vetoed a resolution, supported by every other country on the council, that condemned the latest Israeli raid in Gaza. And because that raid was so much like the U.S. invasion of Samarra, in Iraq.

Neither will be effective in stopping the resistance to occupation, in Iraq or in Palestine. □

Allende, the MIR and Chile

Miguel Enriquez, leader of Chile's Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), died 30 years ago, on Oct. 5, 1974, fighting the fascist military that had overthrown the Allende government there. We reprint below excerpts from an article by Naomi Cohen in the Workers World of March 2, 1972, entitled "Time Is Running Out in Chile."

Ever since the election of President Allende in 1970, revolutionaries all over the world have been watching Chile closely in the hope that the proletariat will be able to successfully seize power. It is generally recognized that nowhere in the world has the proletariat come to power by the kind of parliamentary road that the Popular Unity (PU) regime in Chile is taking. Nevertheless, it was hoped that the working class and peasantry would be able to organize for the inevitable confrontation between the classes.

The hour of decision now seems to be approaching in Chile. The question that is being posed with greater and greater urgency is: which course will Chile take—revolution or counterrevolution?

As of now the PU coalition of socialist, communist, and left bourgeois parties

that back Allende only holds office. The bourgeoisie—with its control of the army, police, courts, legislature, the press, and most industry—still holds political power and is doing everything it can to sabotage the work of the PU. This pressure, along with the economic squeeze being applied by Washington and Wall Street for repayment of debts to nationalized U.S. copper companies, is confronting Allende with a situation in which hesitation to act may be fatal.

The national director of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) summed up the situation by warning recently, "To not organize, to not mobilize, to not fight is to open the door to fascism." MIR, a militant organization that is not part of the PU government, supports the Allende regime against the right-wing, but has criticized it for trying to conciliate with the Christian Democrats, the largest bourgeois party in Chile. ...

Fidel Castro aptly pointed out in his final speech in Santiago in December that "Throughout history, every social system that has been attacked has defended itself and has defended itself with violence. No social system has dissolved of its own free will. No social system has resigned in favor of the revolutionaries." □

Anti-gay terror in Nazi Germany

By Leslie Feinberg

When it came to turning around prejudices and discrimination against same-sex love, the newly formed German Democratic Republic had to clean up the toxic waste dump of centuries of class prejudice.

The GDR faced particularly huge obstacles in carrying out this onerous task.

The Nazi state had been defeated in 1945 not in a revolution from below but by the advancing Soviet Red Army. The German population as a whole had been fed 12 years of Nazi propaganda, including demonizing and dehumanizing cant about homosexual men and women. After the war, Germany was partitioned by the Allied powers. In the eastern sector, after four years of Soviet occupation in which not only the Nazis but the bourgeois class behind them were removed from power, the German Democratic Republic was established in 1949 and began to construct a socialist economy.

The mass German Homosexual Emancipation Movement had been crushed during the rise of fascism. Many thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans activists had perished in the death camps.

The Soviet Union was in the grip of its own political regression concerning male homosexuality. As the leader of the Communist International, the Soviet Union's political retreat had an impact on the world movement and the positions it took on gay rights.

The revolutionary struggles in Germany and Russia were intrinsically connected. The crushing of the November 1918 Revolution in Germany had dealt a blow to the young Soviet workers' state, which had hoped that class solidarity, material aid and economic cooperation from a more technologically developed socialist country would soon be on its way.

The face of counter-revolution

After years of economic crisis and the growth of a large but divided workers' movement, Hitler's party got the support of the big German capitalists in 1933 to crush any resistance to their rule. In the violent repression that followed, aimed first at the Communists and the left generally, both anti-Semitism and anti-homosexual terror were raised to heights not seen in Europe since the feudal Inquisition.

Once he became second in command in the Nazi Party, Heinrich Himmler—chief of the SS stormtroopers as well as the police—on June 17, 1936, created the Federal Security Office for Combating Abortion and Homosexuality. Himmler had included homosexuality as one of four illnesses that threatened the existence of Germany. He vowed: "[L]ike stinging nettles we will rip them out, throw them on a heap, and burn them. Otherwise, without being able to fight it, we'll see the end of Germany, the end of the Germanic world."

Today the pink triangle has become recognized around the world as the emblem that those labeled homosexual were forced to wear in German concentration camps. Some were gay, others were accused of same-sex fantasies or fell victim to trumped-up charges by opponents. Estimates of the total number of prison-

ers forced to wear the pink triangle on their uniforms in Nazi concentration camps range from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands.

German historian Richard Plant, in his now-classic book "The Pink Triangle: The Nazi War Against Homosexuals," estimated that between 50,000 and 63,000 males were convicted of violating Paragraph 175—the Prussian anti-homosexual law—from 1933 to 1944. More than 25,000 youths were convicted between 1933 and 1940. Some 3,976 were between 14 and 18 years old.

Plant, who fled Frankfurt am Main on Feb. 27, 1933—the day the Reichstag burned to the ground and several weeks after the arrest of his Jewish Socialist father—wrote that "from 1935 on, every gay German man knew that if he was caught he risked being shipped to a con-

centration camp. There, disease, degradation and almost certain death awaited him."

Those who survived faced castration.

Although Himmler made no known statements railing against lesbians, Plant added, "Nevertheless, some—albeit very few—German lesbians were caught in the machinery of the secret police."

He noted that "The major campaign against Germany's homosexuals, which began after the Roehm purge, lasted until about 1939 or 1940, when most German men joined the armed forces. Because Himmler's Gestapo agents had no jurisdiction over the military, it offered a relatively safe refuge for most homosexuals of military age."

As the German military machine rolled over national boundaries in Europe, gays in Alsace-Lorraine and Holland—lands expected to become part of the new Reich—also faced death if captured. All German laws were applied to the people of Alsace-Lorraine, including the newly amended Paragraph 175.

However, the anti-homosexual rampage and violent targeting of the German Homosexual Emancipation Movement was mainly an internal campaign aimed at Germans. It was part and parcel of the domestic counter-revolution that smashed the organization of millions of communists, socialists and progressives, crushing the trade unions and all vehicles of working-class organization.

German capital, which controlled few colonies, had to take over new markets, extract raw materials of new territories and super-exploit a vast labor force. Like all its competitors, it had to expand or die. The German industrialists and financiers thought that the Nazis had both the will and the means to carry out this military expansion: rocket technology, a strong air force and Panzer tank divisions, and a military-industrial complex.

But by the end of the war, imperial Germany lay devastated and defeated, a significant part of its territory under the control of its mortal enemies, the communists. The workers' state in the east now had to pick up the pieces and change social relations.

And in the struggle to build new social relations in the workers' state, gays and lesbians made great strides.

Next: Concrete gains of East German lesbians, gays

Lesbian ♦ gay ♦ bi
and trans
PRIDE

SERIES
PART
17

Haiti under occupation

Resistance grows in wake of flood disaster

By G. Dunkel

Opposition in Haiti to the U.S.-installed regime of Gérard Latortue has grown more intense with the severe crisis caused by recent deadly flooding from Hurricane Jeanne.

Shouting "Down with Bush! Up with democracy! Return Aristide!," thousands of Haitians from the poorest neighborhoods of Port-au-Prince took to the streets for three days, beginning Sept. 30. They were demanding the return of popularly elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from U.S.-imposed exile. A group affiliated with Fanmi Lavalas, Aristide's political party, organized the demonstrations.

Sept. 30 is the anniversary of the first coup against Aristide in 1991.

Previous demonstrations called by Fanmi Lavalas have generally been peaceful, though militant. These were different. Demonstrators threw rocks, blocked the streets with barricades of burning tires, and exchanged gunfire with the cops. At least 14 people were killed, including four cops, according to various press reports.

Then on Saturday, Oct. 2, Port-au-Prince was shut down in a general strike called by the leaders of the earlier protests.

While the general strike was going on, Sen. Yvon Feuillé, Sen. Gérard Gilles and Deputy Rudy Hérivaux, all members of Fanmi Lavalas elected to the legislature, were arrested while speaking on Radio Caribe in Port-au-Prince about the violence which had broken out on Thursday. Evans Paul and Himmler Rébu were also present, giving the government's side. They are both prominent supporters of Latortue, the puppet prime minister put in place by Washington.

Shortly after the program began, cops and heavily armed SWAT teams surrounded the station, saying they had come to arrest Feuillé, Gilles and Hérivaux for criticizing the government. After a six-hour standoff, they broke the station's locks and took the critics off to jail—without a warrant, despite their parliamentary immunity to arrest and the freedom of speech guaranteed in Haiti's constitution. Even Paul and Rébu complained that the cops "overreacted."

Firing from Cité Soleil, a very poor neighborhood in the northern part of the city, still could be heard on Sunday night, Oct. 3. (Associated Press)

Tension in Haiti, already high, is sharpened by the failure of Latortue's government to do anything significant for the people of Gonaïves and northern Haiti, who were overwhelmed by Tropical Storm Jeanne in mid-September.

Some 200,000 people in Gonaïves—80 percent of the population—were still homeless two weeks after Jeanne struck Haiti. People are drawing their water out of pools filled with the carcasses of dead

animals. Mud still fills the streets. The hospital in Gonaïves was destroyed in the floods following Jeanne; the only medical care is provided by a team of UN doctors, mainly from Argentina, and 66 medical workers from Cuba. The United Nations, which currently holds the mantle of the occupying power in Haiti, has managed to provide food and water to only 25,000 people—10 percent of the people living there.

It took 750 UN troops to provide the security for the distributions that have taken place. People are desperate. They realize that if they don't get what is being handed out, they and their families can starve or get sick from filthy water.

There is another reason for such heavy security. The armed gangs, mainly former Haitian soldiers, who have controlled Gonaïves with the blessing and praise of Latortue—he takes his cue from Washington and calls them "courageous free-

dom fighters"—want their cut of anything that is distributed. That's why they showed up, first with 150 men in uniform and arms, then with 20 or so more with just a few weapons, in front of the UN's warehouses. They could pretend they were providing "security" while pressing their case for a payoff and checking out which local residents received aid.

These armed gangs control most of the small, heavily populated villages and cities that spread out from Gonaïves to the Dominican border. No one knows how badly they have been affected, though Haitians in New York with relatives in that area report numerous deaths and disappearances. The figures of 2,000 people known dead in Gonaïves, and 900 missing and presumed dead, is likely to go much higher.

The Civil Protection Office (CPO) set up under Aristide was disbanded by Latortue in his hunt for Lavalas supporters. This disaster preparedness agency had stock-

piled supplies and warned communities about approaching storms.

Cuba has equivalent organizations that worked very effectively when the eye of Hurricane Ivan—the area of most intense wind and rain—passed over Cuba. Nobody was killed there, a handful were injured and 1,500 homes had been rebuilt just two weeks after the storm.

The United States and France bear much of the responsibility for the disaster in Gonaïves. They allowed the CPO to be disbanded, their troops on the ground didn't disarm the gangs that control the city and most of northern Haiti—gangs which they organized, supplied and trained—and they replaced a democratically elected president with one they selected.

Latortue must be replaced with someone the people have chosen. Aristide must return to Haiti before a similar disaster, with much graver consequences, strikes Port-au-Prince. □

In Amsterdam and Berlin

Workers unite to protest social service cuts

By John Catalinotto

In the largest trade-union demonstration in Netherlands history, a quarter-million workers marched in Amsterdam Oct. 2 to protest cuts in social programs, including pensions, and an increase in the retirement age. The three major union confederations—FNV, CNV and MHP—together called for the action, which hundreds of smaller organizations and political parties also supported.

According to reports in Manifest, the newspaper of the New Communist Party of the Netherlands, police diverted 10,000 demonstrators who had arrived in Amsterdam from marching to the Museum Square, saying it was so crowded it was dangerous. Tens of thousands of others on the march never reached the square.

The Netherlands' government is led by right-wing Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende. He has introduced a series of cuts amounting to \$23 billion since 2003, the biggest in Dutch history.

Balkenende, like Tony Blair in Britain and Silvio Berlusconi in Italy, has also lined up with U.S. President George W. Bush by participating in the occupation of Iraq. Some placards condemned Balkenende for being a tool of Bush.

A song popular with the demonstrators went something like this: "Where is Balkenende now? He isn't there, he isn't here. He's with Bush the murderer."

Dutch trade unions have 1.75 million members. The Netherlands population of 16 million live in an area about twice the



Unions gather in Amsterdam's Museum Square.

size of New Jersey.

Social programs there, up until these latest cuts, have been among the best in Western Europe. Since the collapse of the USSR in 1991, the West European ruling classes have begun to chip away at and finally openly attack all the social gains of the workers. Their goal is to reduce wages and social benefits to improve the profits for big capital.

A series of union demonstrations had built up to this high point in Amsterdam. Before Oct. 2, the largest protest was in Rotterdam, where 60,000 workers demonstrated on Sept. 20 and strikes stopped all public transportation, closing the biggest maritime port in the world.

The Manifest article on this historic demonstration pointed out that trade unionism is still alive in the Netherlands. What the ruling class is really afraid of, it continued, is united strike and other job actions by the 1.75 million organized workers.

70,000 protest in Berlin

A national protest in Berlin the same day drew 70,000 people from trade unions, community organizations and the anti-globalization group ATTAC-Germany to protest the social service cuts known as Hartz IV. This is the fourth round of social service cuts.

In Germany it is not a rightist govern-

ment that is imposing the cuts, but the Social-Democratic/Green government under Chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

For weeks now workers have been demonstrating every Monday against these cuts. Participation has been strongest in the eastern part of Germany, the part that until 1989 was the socialist German Democratic Republic.

Hartz IV cuts unemployment benefits, which up to now have been much better than similar benefits in the U.S. Now, instead of getting nearly the same take-home pay for years after a layoff, German workers will more quickly be reduced to real poverty. With unemployment at over 8 percent overall, and over 15 percent in the East, this is an important issue.

In some Western European countries, openly right-wing or right-center governments are in office. In others a combination of social democratic and centrist parties is at the helm. No matter which, they have attacked the gains made by working people since the end of World War II, trying to reduce the cost of labor.

In the face of this willful plan by big capital, no one can expect that even massive symbolic demonstrations will by themselves reverse the attacks. They will have to be combined with widespread and successful strikes and a political offensive to win over more layers of the population to the struggle. □

SPECIAL TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION

\$2 for eight weeks (new subscription) \$25 for one year

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Workers World Newspaper 55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011 (212) 627-2994

Or use a credit card and subscribe online at:

www.workers.org/orders/subscribe.php

EDITORIAL

Alerta: Buques de guerra de EEUU en la costa de Corea

Mientras que la atención del movimiento antiguerra sigue fijada en la violencia de la ocupación colonial de los Estados Unidos en Irak, el peligro de confrontación militar involucrando al Pentágono en el norte de Asia ha incrementado súbitamente.

Barcos de la 7ª Armada estadounidense estaban por llegar a las aguas del este de la República Democrática Popular de Corea —Corea del Norte— el 1º de octubre como una provocación que amenaza la existencia misma de ese país. La flotilla incluye buques de clase destructora equipados con cohetes Aegis y aparatos para “monitorear y rastrear misiles balísticos lanzados por cualquier ‘país hostil’”. (navytimes.com)

El Misil Balístico Defensivo Aegis, a pesar de su nombre es parte de un nuevo sistema ofensivo que comenzó luego de que la administración Bush abandonara el Tratado Antimisiles Balísticos en 2001. Ese tratado, firmado por la administración de Nixon y la URSS en 1972, consideraba un sistema defensor contra misiles como uno realmente ofensivo, por razón de que podría conducir a una situación donde un país que lo posea se sentiría suficientemente invulnerable y podría lanzar un ataque de misiles con impunidad.

Cuando Bush se retiró del tratado, Tom Daschle, el líder Demócrata en el Senado, dijo que le preocupaba que esto pudiera “ocasionar una ruptura de relaciones con países claves alrededor del mundo” y provocar serias interrogantes sobre futuras carreras armamen-

tistas involucrando a otros países. Pero desde entonces él ha mantenido silencio sobre el asunto.

Esta es la primera vez desde que Washington se retiró del tratado que barcos de la Marina de Guerra de los EEUU han sido desplegados para “defensa contra misiles”.

Los misiles Aegis son solo uno entre otros proyectos de la recién creada Agencia Defensora de Misiles (ADM), cuyo presupuesto se ha duplicado durante los últimos cuatro años. La asignación para la agencia el próximo año es de \$10 mil millones, casi dos veces la de la Guardia Costanera de los EEUU. La ADM estima que sus programas costarán \$53 mil millones hasta el año 2009, “pero en el pasado ha subestimado los costos”. (The New Yorker, oct. 4)

Contratos lucrativos han sido firmados con Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, Orbital Sciences Corp., Northrop Grumman y EADS Space Transportation, entre otras empresas favorecidas.

Este enorme desembolso de dinero y recursos por el gobierno de los EEUU, es supuestamente en respuesta a la “amenaza nuclear” creada por Corea del norte e Irán, principalmente, pero esto es totalmente un fraude.

No existe una amenaza militar para los Estados Unidos. Todo lo contrario. La mayoría de la humanidad reconoce que la amenaza de guerra proviene de los EEUU, que tiene una capacidad destructiva más grande que la fuerza combinada de la mayoría de los países del mundo.

Corea del Norte—la República Democrática Popular de Corea—en particular tiene razón para temer una agresión por parte de los EEUU. Millones de coreanos murieron después de que EEUU invadiera la península coreana a principios de los años 1950. Corea se mantiene dividida porque más de 30.000 tropas estadounidenses ocupan el sur.

EEUU nunca ha firmado un tratado de paz para terminar oficialmente con la Guerra de Corea. Esto significa que hay una constante amenaza de que la Casa Blanca pueda ordenar un ataque contra la RDPC. Ni siquiera requeriría de legislación especial. Y la administración de Bush ha declarado que la RDPC es una “nación terrorista”, un “país hostil” y parte de un “eje del mal”. Todo esto es propaganda de guerra para preparar a la población para un acto de agresión en contra de la RDPC.

El Partido Demócrata es, si acaso, aún más beligerante que la administración Bush respecto Corea. Una y otra vez durante la campaña electoral, John Kerry ha criticado a Bush por estar demasiado preocupado con Iraq y no ser suficientemente duro con Corea del Norte.

Además, la administración de Bush ha declarado su derecho a tomar “acción preventiva” si considera que existe una amenaza. Fue precisamente tal excusa la que utilizó para lanzar la guerra contra Irak, supuestamente sobre armas de destrucción masiva que ahora todo el mundo sabe que no existían. Puede hacerlo de nuevo respecto a lo que llama la “amenaza

nuclear” de Corea.

¿Tiene la RDPC armas nucleares? Posiblemente. El Vicecanciller Choe Su Hon, durante su estadía en Nueva York para asistir a la Asamblea General de la ONU, según la Prensa Asociada, dijo a periodistas el 27 de septiembre que la RDPC había “reprocesado 8.000 varas de combustible nucleares gastados de plantas eléctricas nucleares y las había convertido en armas”. Él dijo que estas armas existían para “servir como una fuerza de disuasión contra un posible ataque nuclear por parte de los EEUU”.

Choe dijo “la creciente política hostil de los EEUU, y los experimentos clandestinos relacionados con energía nuclear divulgados recientemente en Corea del Sur constituyen grandes obstáculos”, e imposibilitan que Corea del Norte participe en la continuación de negociaciones entre seis naciones sobre su programa nuclear.

Esta declaración por un oficial de alto rango de la RDPC recibió poca atención en los medios de comunicación, los que están aparentemente esperando ver lo que va a hacer la administración de Bush. ¿Va a perpetrar una “Sorpresa en octubre” atacando a la RDPC para parecer fuerte y firme antes de las elecciones? Cualquier cosa es posible, y esto lo debe saber bien la RPDC.

Entonces, parece que la RPDC es una nación más en vías de desarrollo que ha tenido que desviar sus escasos recursos para construir armas nucleares por la amenaza constante de un ataque por los EEUU. Cuando aliados de los EEUU como Israel o Sudáfrica—durante la época del apartheid—logran obtener estas armas, no hay ninguna queja. Pero cuando un país que los EEUU ha tratado de destruir por décadas, intenta hacer algo semejante, se presenta por los medios de comunicación corporativos como una amenaza grave a la humanidad.

El movimiento en contra de la globalización ha popularizado el lema “Otro mundo es posible”. Un mundo donde la cooperación reemplace a la confrontación, donde todas las naciones pueden sentarse juntas, discutir y resolver los tremendos problemas causados por la tecnología moderna, sobre una base de igualdad y respeto mutuo. Es la única esperanza. Pero el primer paso para cambiar el mundo es reconocer dónde está el problema.

No está con aquellos que han estado oprimidos, invadidos, colonizados y explotados. El problema es las clases dominantes imperialistas que están listas a desatar los lobos de guerra para proteger su aferramiento de las riquezas del mundo.

Los progresistas tenemos que levantarnos y oponer resistencia a la demonización de los iraquíes hoy, de los coreanos mañana, y de los iraníes después. Decimos no a la guerra imperialista y la agresión y extendemos una mano de amistad a todos aquellos que están bajo ataque. □

Necesitamos una marcha....

DE UN MILLON DE TRABAJADORES

porque....

NECESITAMOS EMPLEOS ¡NO UNA GUERRA!



LINCOLN MEMORIAL En Washington, DC

EL 17 DE OCTUBRE