

## MUNDO OBRERO

Exitosa Conferencia Nacional de Resistencia se celebra en NYC 12

### DAY OF MOURNING 'Indigenous people have always resisted'



From a talk given by Mahtowin Munro, a co-leader of United American Indians of New England,

at the Nov. 13-14 National Fightback Conference.

Every year since 1970, UAINE has organized a National Day of Mourning in Plymouth, Mass., on Thanksgiving Day. There, we tell the truth about the history of the European invasion of the Western Hemisphere and about what is going on with Native people today. This year's National Day of Mourning will be the 35th year that we bring together hundreds of people from many different struggles who all stand in solidarity with the Native struggle.

At National Day of Mourning in 1997, a massive police force in

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# On post-election trip Bush inflames world tensions

## U.S. imperialism threatens Iran, North Korea and Venezuela

By Fred Goldstein

As the Bush administration prepares for its second term, it is attempting to overshadow its crisis in Iraq and its growing world economic contradictions by escalating international tensions over Iran and North Korea.

Even as the U.S. military was announcing its need for additional forces and the January elections in Iraq were in doubt, assurances by Ahmad Allawi and the puppet government there notwithstanding, Bush was in Latin America at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit promoting his phony "war on terrorism."

Instead of discussing the economic crisis being pushed onto the APEC countries in Latin America and Asia by Wall Street's war of the falling dollar, Bush converted the conference into a platform to denounce Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea) for having nuclear ambitions.

### Powell opens up attack on Iran

It was outgoing Secretary of State Colin Powell who set the stage for Bush's attacks on Iran. He astonished the world, while talking to reporters on his way to Chile, by reenacting the infamous UN Security Council speech in which he had made unsubstantiated and false accusations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction as a run up to the war.

Powell did a repeat, this time about Iran. He repeated unsub-

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stantiated charges, made by a counter-revolutionary group trying to overthrow the Iranian government, that Iran was working on nuclear weapons. The Iranian version of Ahmad Chalabi and the Iraqi National Council, this so-called National Council of Resistance of Iran suddenly turned up with aerial photos allegedly showing a nuclear weapons site. But who has forgotten the aerial photographs of so-called mobile chemical weapons factories in Iraq that Powell displayed at the UN? They turned out to be harmless civilian trucks.

CNN reported from Washington on Nov. 19 that Iran's top

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## SAN FRANCISCO HOTEL WORKERS

# Solidarity pushes back bosses

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Workers march in front of Four Seasons hotel in San Francisco.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA SANDBURG



*This week ...*

# 'Transgender Day' events in 180 cities, 7 countries

By LeiLani Dowell

Nov. 20 was the sixth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. This year's events were held in 180 cities and seven countries worldwide.

In the year since the last event, there have been 21 reported cases of murder against trans persons throughout the world, with 10 of those committed in the United States. Five of the murder victims remain unidentified.

The victims of those brutally violent murders are predominantly trans women of color. Furthermore, most of the crimes receive little attention.

In the six years that the Day of Remembrance has been held, it has grown from a candlelight vigil in San Francisco to events around the world. River Artz-Iffland, organizer for a Kalamazoo, Mich., event honoring Transgender Day of Remembrance, told the Kalamazoo Gazette: "Some are given a place in life where just being who we are, staying alive, requires courage. So we want to commemorate transgender people that have struggled, who have been martyred."

Anti-trans attitudes, often enforced by the state, reinforce this violence. On Nov. 17, a school district in Spurger, Texas, gave up its "The Woman Is Requested to Pay"—or TWIRP—Day. During this day, female students dress in male clothing and vice-versa. A parent brought a lawsuit against the school, saying that the event promoted homo-

sexuality. She asked, "If it's OK to dress like a girl today, then why is it not OK in the future?"

What is now replacing TWIRP Day? "Camo Day." Students—from elementary through high school—were encouraged to don black boots and army camouflage.

And yet, gains are being made in the movement for trans rights as well. Earlier this year, the Sixth District Court ruled in the case of Smith vs. Salem, Ohio, that discrimination against trans people in the work place is unlawful. This case involved a male-to-female transsexual who had worked as a firefighter for seven years before being fired upon transitioning.

On Nov. 17, a judge in Leavenworth, Kan., declared that Sandy Gast, a trans woman, was not guilty of false swearing when she checked boxes marked "female" on a marriage license application earlier this year. Gast's attorney, Pedro Irigonegaray, said, "The state should not have authority to deny [transsexuals] their fundamental rights to marriage."

And a recent article in the Michigan Daily, the University of Michigan's student newspaper, highlighted the contract negotiations of the Graduate Employees Organization. Major issues on the table include fighting discrimination toward international students and health care, with trans-sensitive health plans a main concern.

The lead negotiator this year for the GEO is a trans man, André Wilson. □

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## WW CALENDAR

### NEW YORK

**Sun., Dec. 5**  
Haiti at the Crossroads. Rally. Speakers include Maxine Waters, Ben Dupuy, Ramsey Clark, Maryse Narcisse, Jonas Petit, Pat Chin and others. Music by Troupe Makandal. Premiere of two new videos. 5 p.m. At New York College of Technology, 285 Jay St., Brooklyn. For info phone Fanmi Lavalas (203) 847-5487 (917) 337-6702, Haiti Progres (718) 434-8100, International Action Center (212) 633-6646, ANSWER Coalition (212) 533-0417.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sat., Dec. 4**  
Moving the Struggle Forward. Deirdre Griswold, co-founder of Workers World Party and editor of Workers World newspaper, and John Parker, WWP 2004 presidential candidate, will talk about the current struggle—from the resistance in Iraq to the growing workers' movement in the United States. 4 p.m. At Women's Building, 3543 18th St. (between Valencia & Guerrero). For info phone (415) 561-9752.

# 'Justice for Manuel Chametla!'

By Stephen Millies  
Queens, N.Y.

Rain didn't stop 300 people from marching down Queens Boulevard on Nov. 20 to demand justice for Manuel Chametla. The 18-year old had been killed "accidentally" on Oct. 18 by retired NYPD Detective John Malik while he was working in an Astoria, Queens, grocery store.

Malik hasn't been charged. The ex-cop wasn't even put in handcuffs after the shooting.

Like millions of Mexican workers, Manuel Chametla was forced to come to the United States to provide for his family. His widow and their child are now penniless.

"The police are sending a message that immigrants' lives don't count," said Brian Barraza, president of the Association of Mexican American Workers. "Our immigrant voice has to be heard."

Barraza led a group of marchers carrying a huge Mexican flag to the office of Queens District Attorney Richard Brown to protest the killing.

"My son was just beginning to live his life," said Noe Chametla—Manuel's father—at the rally outside the Queens County Courthouse.

Chametla's father was hugged by Altagracia Mayi. Her son Manuel Mayi was killed by a racist gang in Corona, Queens, in 1991. None of these killers of a Dominican youth went to jail.

"Mexicans are handcuffed just for selling tamales," said



Protesters express outrage against police killing.

WW PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

Andrés Mares of the Human Rights Asociación Tepeyac en NY, which organized the protest along with City Councilperson Hiram Monserrate.

"We are one people," declared Charles Barron, the former Black Panther Party member who represents East New York on the City Council.

"When they shot Amadou Diallo 41 times, they shot my brother. When they shot Manuel Chametla one time, they shot my brother," said Barron. Barron is running a grassroots campaign to become New York mayor in 2005.

Manhattan City Councilperson Margarita Lopez told the crowd, "We know the truth." This lesbian fighter for oppressed people's rights spoke in Spanish to the marchers.

It is rumored that a grand jury is deliberating whether to charge Malik. Only the power of the people can bring justice for Manuel Chametla. □

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.

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**Dec 4 - No Draft No Way** Conference in NYC  
**Dec 5 - Solidarity Rally with Haiti** in New York City  
**Jan 20 - Counterinaugural Demo** in Washington D.C.

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# Raleigh action held against repression

By Yolanda Carrington  
Raleigh, N.C.

The Raleigh chapter of Fight Imperialism—Stand Together and other activists organized a “Defend Free Speech in Raleigh” news conference/demonstration Nov. 19. Media outlets in attendance at the North Carolina State University Memorial Tower included reporters from the Associated Press, the Raleigh News and Observer, the Independent Weekly, and local television stations such as WRAL-5, Disney ABC-11, and WB-22.

The news conference took place during the weekly demonstration of “Honk for Peace” by the Student Peace Action Network at North Carolina State University.

This media event was organized in the aftermath of the Nov. 5 political protest at the North Carolina Republican Party headquarters that resulted in the arrest of three young activists on felony charges. In the wake of that incident, local and federal law enforcement began a campaign of harassment targeting the Raleigh/Triangle activist community.

Participants in the evening’s conference-demonstration felt that this media outreach was important in alerting the general public to the real dangers posed by the intervention of state repression. Elena Everett, chair of the North Carolina Green Party and an NCSU student, said, “The

outcome of the trial, if these three youths are convicted, could set a dangerous precedent for other activists and all political activity in the future.”

Everett played an instrumental role in sending out a national statement to “Defend Free Speech in Raleigh” and in support of the three arrested activists. So far 100 prominent activists and progressive organizations have signed on to this call.

Everett and others say there is no valid evidence tying the youths to the felony charges.

Members of both FIST and SPAN felt that this news conference was necessary to show solidarity with the three young people accused of vandalizing the GOP headquarters and with the North Carolina activist community. Dante Strobino, co-founder of NCSU SPAN and a member of FIST, says: “We are reclaiming the left. We must show solidarity in the face of state repression and harassment.”

He also points out that in the aftermath of the GOP incident, no activist in Raleigh was immune from state scrutiny. Members of both the Joint Terrorism Task Force of the FBI and Raleigh City Police immediately began pumping local activists for information related to the case.

Contributing to this already egregious behavior on the part of law enforcement was an article that appeared in the Nov. 9 edition of *The News and Observer* by writ-

ers Oren Dorell and Barbara Barrett.

Headlined “Man Charged in Courtroom Scrap,” the article attempted to link the incident at the GOP headquarters to the weekly SPAN-sponsored Honk for Peace event held six hours earlier. The article implied that SPAN members were directly involved in the “terrorist act”—FBI’s words—at the GOP office.

This irresponsible oversight prompted an angry email response from Raleigh FIST member Yolanda Carrington to co-author Dorell, castigating him for tainting the public image of both SPAN members and political activists in general.

Many of the people who participated in Friday’s events felt that a show of solidarity with the three young people charged in the case was very important. Most of them were very clear that the youths’ struggle with state repression was everyone’s struggle.

Attempts by reporters at the event to elicit condemnations of the actions of Nov. 5 were met with stiff rebuttals from all activists interviewed. People refused to contribute to the hypocrisy of popular discourse of denouncing an act of petty van-

dalism while the U.S. government continues its vicious military assault against the city of Falluja in Iraq.

Says SPAN’s Strobino, “They [the state] are terrified that power will shift away from them, and we are doing everything we can to fight back and reclaim the message.” Email ealbiston@yahoo.com for more information about the Raleigh 3 case.

Also on Nov. 19, in addition to the news conference and “Honk for Peace,” a mass contingent of bicyclists, including Strobino himself,

participated in Raleigh’s version of Critical Mass, the widely popular international movement of bike riders who take back the streets from motor vehicle traffic. Regularly held during the last Friday of every month in Raleigh, this Critical Mass protest was important and large enough this time out to force police “protection” of the bikers in the form of two Raleigh motorbike cops.

Queeneta “Q” Allen, the leader of Raleigh FIST, said, “The cops have been giving us some trouble lately, but this time they were there to escort us.”

A candlelight vigil honoring the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (1929-2004) was held by the Middle Eastern North African Students Association in the evening of Nov. 19. People observed a brief moment of silence for the long-time freedom fighter, who passed away in early November in a Paris hospital at age 75. The vigil for Arafat, a voice for oppressed peoples everywhere, was a more than fitting end to the historic events of the Friday evening.

The writer is an organizer of Raleigh FIST. Email FIST at [FIST@workers.org](mailto:FIST@workers.org) or go to FIST’s website [www.fightimperialismstandtogether.org](http://www.fightimperialismstandtogether.org)

## FIST: Youth want change now

From a talk given by Stephanie Nichols to the Nov. 13-14 National Fightback Conference.

More voters overall went to the polls on Nov. 2 than they did four years ago—but only 17 percent of them were young people between the ages of 18 and 29. That was the same percentage as the youth vote in 2000.

The number of young voters increased by only 1.8 percent over the last election. And the youth vote was split, with 54 percent for John Kerry and 44 percent for George W. Bush.

However, when you hit the streets with a radical, militant and politically charged protest such as the Million Worker March, the percentage of youths who come out to fight increases dramatically.

Youth want change. Now. Youth are the most affected by this destructive system. Our futures are being destroyed by imperialism. We are the ones being sent to war. We are the ones being killed by war and globalization, on both sides.

In this country, 39 percent of the homeless population is under the age of 18. At least 1.35 million U.S. children are actually homeless on any given night. The average age of a homeless person in the U.S. is 9 years old. On top of that, the National Network of Runaway and Youth Services estimated that 20 to 40 percent of youths who become homeless each year are lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans.

And what does minimum wage mean for us? Even though youth between the ages of 16 and 24 account for only about 20 percent of all documented workers, they make up about 50 percent of all workers who earn minimum wage. And that’s not counting how many young people are affected by their parents being forced to work low-wage jobs.

Many youths under the age of 16 also work earning minimum wages or below. Child labor under harsh and often deadly conditions still exists in this country. Many are undocumented immigrants sending money home to their families,



Stephanie Nichols

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

often working cheaply in factories and on farms.

So, why should youth join a revolutionary party? What distinguishes our party from other tendencies such as anarchism, which many progressive-minded youths tend to be attracted to?

Young people have always led independent struggles worldwide—from Iraq to Palestine to South Africa to Northern Ireland—everywhere willing to fight, often giving their lives, for what limited rights are gained for the working class and oppressed under the capitalist system.

FIST, Fight Imperialism—Stand Together, is a revolutionary youth movement. Several young members of Workers World Party, including me, formed FIST as a way for youth interested in socialist ideas to get involved in something with solid politics to fight back against the repressive capitalist system as a whole.

In our relatively new existence, there has been a big demand from youth across the country to learn more about FIST, and to get involved and fight with FIST.

Youth need answers. What differentiates us from many other youth groups is that we have the solid politics of a strong socialist party behind us. Workers World Party developed many of its leading revolutionaries through YAWF—Youth Against War and Fascism—during the militant struggles of the 1960s and 1970s.

Our party is a multi-national, multi-gender force because we fight in solidarity with every struggle against racism, sexism and lesbian/gay/bi/trans oppression. This is because we know that all of these things are the results of capitalism and are used to divide the working class in an effort to keep us from uniting together and rising up to demand our human rights to education, health care, a job, housing and a living wage.

We also join the anti-war movement because we know that imperialism not only steals from peoples around the world, but steals from the working class at home as well. The billions of dollars pumped into war are directly stolen from working people. And it is from the poorest and most oppressed youths that the military gathers its cannon fodder.

We have nothing against anarchists. They are a very important part of the movement, with revolutionary potential. But anarchy doesn’t offer any actual solution to this system. It draws in many youths because of its association with direct action and rebellion. But it is just that and only that, a spontaneous reaction to the effects of capitalism, without giving a complete political analysis or understanding of this system or the ruling class.

FIST is here to unite and educate all working-class and oppressed youths through struggle, and through action.

What drew me to Workers World Party is the fact that not only do we fight for the rights of all oppressed and working people, but we offer and fight for the real solution to the exploitation of the working class, racism and national oppression, sexism, LGBT oppression, war, poverty and homelessness. The solution, if you have not already guessed, is socialism.

I sat down next to Bobby T. at my first coalition meeting in early January this year. I leaned over and asked him, “Are you a communist?” He answered, “Yes I am.” “I want to be a communist,” I told him. He said, “Well, you came to the right place.” I’ve been a communist ever since. □

## SPRINGFIELD, MASS.,

### Students fight police brutality

By Bryan G. Pfeifer  
Springfield, Mass.

The vicious beating of an African American school principal by four white cops has ignited anger in this city’s oppressed communities.

Students from Springfield Technical Community College held an anti-police-brutality march and demonstration Nov. 20 because they are “so outraged at what happened to Mr. Greer,” said Andrea Walker, chair of the newly formed Urban Awareness Group at STCC. This is a group primarily of African American students dedicated to promoting anti-racist social and political awareness. The protest was the group’s first public action.

According to Douglas Greer, principal of Robert M. Hughes Academy Charter School, he was viciously beaten by four white cops Nov. 4. Greer, who has diabetes, drove his car into a South End gas station after feeling ill. A worker at the gas station called police after he failed to rouse Greer, who had lapsed into the early stages of a diabetic seizure.

When the police arrived, according to eyewitnesses, they smashed Greer’s window, dragged him through it and beat him unconscious on the pavement. Greer said he repeatedly attempted to tell the cops about his medical condition, but the four officers accused him of being “on drugs” and used this as an excuse to beat him.

Continued on page 5

## SAN FRANCISCO

# Workers force end to hotel lockout

By Brenda Sandburg  
San Francisco

The timing was perfect.

As hundreds of people gathered at a rally in solidarity with San Francisco's locked-out hotel workers, union officials got the hotel bosses to end the 38-day lockout and accept a 60-day cooling-off period.

Tho Do, secretary-treasurer of UNITE HERE Local 2, the union representing the hotel workers, announced the victory at a Nov. 20 rally called by the Million Worker March Committee.

"Last night we went into negotiations and because of your support the company began to show signs of ending the lockout," Do said. "Our workers will return to work in the next couple of days."

Do introduced Vedrange Colas, who has worked at the Westin St. Francis Hotel for 16 years. "Thank you for your support," she told the cheering crowd. "We have to get what we need."

The struggle began Sept. 29 when workers at four hotels went on a two-week strike to force employers to negotiate a favorable contract. The hotel operators retaliated on Oct. 13, locking out the striking workers as well as those at 10 other hotels.

Since then the 4,300 locked-out workers have held loud picket lines at the hotels, chanting from early in the morning into the evening. They have had strong support from other unions and the community, as well as from Mayor Gavin Newsom, who joined the picket line in October when hotel owners refused his request for a 90-day cooling off period.

Two other developments had bolstered the workers. The state of California gave them unemployment compensation, and the three organizations providing their health-care benefits extended coverage through January.

Many businesses and organizations have refused to cross the picket line.



WW PHOTOS: BRENDA SANDBURG

Clarence Thomas and Shane Hoff speak at S.F. rally.

According to a Local 2 representative, more than 90 groups cancelled meetings at the 14 hotels, costing the owners millions of dollars.

"The members of Local 2 are heroic," Clarence Thomas, a leader of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 and co-chair of the Million Worker March Committee, told the crowd. "They deserve

health care. They deserve pensions. They also deserve equal opportunity."

And they need to have a contract that is in sync with those of hotel workers in other cities, Thomas said. "None of this piecemeal two years here, four years there. Local 2 is trying to stop the union from being busted."

### 'Time to stand up'

The length of the contract is a key point in the negotiations.

The union is pushing for a two-year contract that would expire at the same time as contracts in Boston, New York and other major cities, thus giving hotel workers more bargaining power. The hotel bosses want a five-year contract.

Local 2 is also fighting to reduce work loads, raise wages and protect health and pension benefits. The owners want workers to pay hundreds of dollars more per month for health-care coverage.

Trent Willis, newly elected president of ILWU Local 10 and co-chair of the MWM Committee, said workers around the country are in similar struggles. The employers "have taken the posture to lower our wages, take away our health care," Willis said.

"No matter what color, nationality, whatever part of the country or whatever other country you're from, it's time to stand up and say we've had enough."

Representatives from several other unions expressed solidarity with the hotel workers. Keith Shanklin, a member of ILWU Local 34 and secretary-treasurer of the Million Worker March Committee, announced that his local had given \$10,000, plus thousands of dollars' worth of coupons, to the hotel workers. Walter Johnson, former secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Labor Council, called for a million worker march to be held in San Francisco if the hotel workers don't get the contract they want.

Other speakers included a member of Service Employees Local 790, who expressed solidarity on behalf of Bay Area Rapid Transit workers, and Eddie Rosario, vice president of Graphic Communications International Union Local 4N.

Shane Hoff, a member of United Transportation Union Local 1741, said her union's school bus drivers had joined the picket lines three times. Each time, 10 to 20 members drove up in a school bus and disembarked into the picket line.

"We need to build a national fighting movement," Hoff said. "We need to take the offense and build the Million Worker March movement."

Nobel Peace laureate Rigoberta Menchu also sent a statement of solidarity. Menchu was scheduled to speak that day at a meeting of the American Anthropological Association, which moved its meeting from the San Francisco Hilton to Atlanta in solidarity with the locked-out workers.

After a rally at Union Square, the center of San Francisco's shopping district, protesters marched to four of the hotels that had locked out workers: the Four Seasons, Sheraton Palace, Hyatt Regency and the Argent. At the Hyatt people surrounded the hotel in single file. A band joined the march, adding to the jubilant mood.

Local 2 President Mike Casey arrived at the closing rally to offer his gratitude to the Million Worker March Committee for its solidarity.

"We will remember this day because this is the day the Million Worker March rallied and marched for us and this is the day the lockout ended," Casey said. □

# Workers face inflation & debt

By Milt Neidenberg

Now you see it, now you don't. The value of the dollar is vanishing before the eyes of the world.

It has lost over 30 percent of its value against the euro, the currency of the 25-member European Union. Speculators have become magicians manipulating the currency markets.

On Nov. 19, Alan Greenspan, master of mumbo jumbo, told his counterparts at a Bankers Congress in Frankfurt, Germany, that the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, which he chairs, will not intervene to prevent the dollar from sliding further against all other currencies, including the Japanese yen.

Greenspan was backed up by U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow. Speaking in London Nov. 21, Snow lectured European and Japanese leaders about getting their economies in better shape if they want to compete with the United States in world markets.

The imperialist governments are heavily dependent on exports to sustain economic growth. The cheaper dollar makes U.S. exports of goods and services more competitive.

The ultimatums from Greenspan and Snow are signals that the Bush administration has declared economic warfare against its imperialist allies. The president of the European Central Bank, Greenspan's counterpart, has called the shifts in currency exchange rates "brutal."

If the imperialist allies and China decide to cash in the trillions of dollars of U.S. debt that they hold, it would lead to a run on the dollar. The consequences would be earth-shaking for U.S. capitalism.

Forcing a devalued dollar, the world's reserve currency, on U.S. global competitors will cut short their modest economic growth. It will incite the transnational bankers and corporate bosses to intensify their attack on their working classes. Unemployment and cuts in wages and benefits will intensify for European, Asian and Latino workers.

### Profits before people

Lecturing the world to put its economies in order is the height of arrogance and hypocrisy. The U.S. economy is out of control.

The annual U.S. government deficit has gone from zero in 1990 to nearly \$600 billion this year. Congress has just increased

the debt ceiling by over \$800 billion, to an unprecedented \$8.1 trillion.

The specter of inflation has returned. Too many cheaper dollars are flooding the marketplace. The corporate bosses and bankers will be making less profit, following a bountiful four years. To maintain profit margins, prices on food, energy, transportation and other essential services have rocketed upward, exceeding the income of workers and the oppressed.

Inflation has lowered living standards. It takes more dollars to buy the necessities of life and working and oppressed people can't afford the goods and services they produce. So they borrow. Household debt is at an all-time high and interest rates are on the rise.

It won't be long before the worker/consumer will face more bankruptcies and defaults. Wall Street's money-lenders have sucked in over 85 million credit card borrowers, who accumulated a \$2-trillion debt during the last downturn.

The urban work force has been hit hard. New York is a microcosm of what's going on around the country. According to GothamGazette.com, November 2004: "Last year about one in three low-wage full-time workers in this city experienced one or more of these hardships: their gas, phone or electricity was turned off because they couldn't pay the bills; they used a food bank or pantry to avoid going hungry; they couldn't pay the rent; or a prescription cost too much for them to fill it. ... Almost half had no health coverage, with the majority lacking prescription coverage for themselves and ... for family members."

Bush plans to worsen these intolerable conditions to pay for his permanent tax relief for the wealthiest 1 percent. The increase in military spending for the Iraq War to \$5.8 billion a month from \$4 billion has diverted \$200 billion overall that could be used to restore social services so desperately needed.

In Chile, at the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, thousands of protesters braved tear gas and water cannons to confront Bush and U.S. neoliberal policies. They denounced Bush's genocidal war on Iraq and his designs on Latin America. Opposed to U.S. globalization policies that export cheap dollars (capital) to privatize their land, they carried banners and pro-Cuba flags. This show of international solidarity and resistance to U.S. imperialism is a splendid example for advancing the class struggle at home. □

## DETROIT

# Fight brews over cuts

By Cheryl LaBash  
Detroit

Angry student and community demonstrators forced the state-appointed Detroit School Board to cancel its meeting Nov. 17. The issue was 4,000 proposed layoffs and 40 school closings announced Nov. 15 by the state-appointed board—even though Detroit voters on Nov. 2 had resoundingly rejected this board's right to run the city's schools.

Demonstrators called for the appointed board to resign, and for immediate election of a community board to fight for more state funding.

The struggle for quality education for the majority African-American youth is a key part of the crisis facing Detroiters. Detroit schools have suffered underfunding for decades. The Detroit district receives only \$6,584 per pupil while wealthier districts receive as much as \$11,378 per student.

In the five years since the state takeover of Detroit's schools, the appointed board ran through a budget surplus and a \$1.5 billion bond issue.

On election day, Detroit voters overwhelmingly rejected continuing the so-called reform board. They voted by 65 percent to establish an elected school board equal to the other 249 Michigan school districts.

The massive campaign to restore an elected Detroit school board was led by the NAACP, the Council of Baptist Pastors, By Any Means Necessary student coalition and most Detroit elected officials.

Although Detroiters won back the right to select their school board, Detroit News columnist Nolan Findlay raised the threat of state receivership if the city administration doesn't cut 2,000 to 4,000 jobs: "Changing the way the city sees its role requires strong leadership. If the leadership isn't there, there's no way Detroit can

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# Marxism and the right to self-determination

From a talk by Gloria Verdieu at the Nov. 13-14 National Fightback Conference.

Why is it the duty of a Marxist party to defend the right of self-determination for oppressed nationalities?

Since Workers World Party's founding in 1959, it has supported the struggles of all oppressed peoples. It has recognized the right of nations to self-determination, including the nationally oppressed peoples inside the United States.

Self-determination means recognizing that the people of oppressed nationalities must have the power to decide for themselves what is best for them. We cannot go into an oppressed community and tell it what to do.

Forty percent of nationally oppressed working families in the U.S. are low income, compared to 20 percent of white working families.

These statistics come from a report that defines low income as a family of four earning less than \$37,000 a year. It defines poverty as a family of four earning less than \$18,000 a year.

In California, almost 40 percent of nationally oppressed working families are low income, compared to less than 14 percent of white families. Forty-two percent of low-income working families have one



Gloria Verdieu

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

or both parents without health insurance.

We support and defend affirmative action as a step toward addressing the problem of inequality. Let's look at education in California.

In October, the California Department of Education released its 2004 Standardized Testing and Reporting Program Data and Accountability Progress Report.

In the category of English Language Arts, 25 percent of African American and 21 percent of Latin@ students were at the proficient or advanced level, compared to 61 percent of white students.

In mathematics, 18 percent of African American and 21 percent of Latin@ stu-

dents were at the proficient or advanced level, compared to 46 percent of white students.

What is the composition of the public school population in California? The ethnic breakdown is 67 percent non-white, 48 percent economically disadvantaged, 25 percent non-native-English speakers, and 10 percent Special Education students.

Looking at this breakdown, the overwhelming majority of the students in the public schools come from nationally oppressed families. Many of these children have special needs.

We support organizations in oppressed communities that call for creating programs that address the specific educational needs of these communities. These communities need more doctors, more teachers, more scientists, more engineers, etc.

Shouldn't the schools that train young people in these professions be located in these communities for the convenience of the people? Shouldn't these communities decide how the schools are run, what is taught and who does the teaching? This is all part of national self-determination for oppressed people.

## Racism & Three Strikes Law

Let's move on to the so-called justice system.

In 2003, 44 percent of state and federal prisoners were Black, 19 percent were Latin@, 2 percent were other nationalities of color, and 35 percent were white. When prisoners of all nationally oppressed groups are combined, we constitute 65 percent of the state and federal prison population. Yet we are less than 30 percent of the total population of the country.

In California, nationally oppressed communities constitute 39 percent of the total population. But nationally oppressed prisoners constitute 66 percent of the state prison population.

California's prison population is escalating. A lot of it is due to the Three Strikes Law that has been in effect for 10 years now. A report examining the effect of the Three Strikes Law on African Americans and Latin@s was released last month. It revealed that African Americans and Latin@s are imprisoned under Three Strikes at a far higher rate than whites.

Black people account for 22 percent of first-strike felony arrests, compared with almost 36 percent for whites. With second strike arrests, however, the percentages are almost reversed. Thirty-six percent of second strike arrests are of Black people, compared with 26 percent for whites.

With third strike arrests, the percentage for Blacks increases to almost 45 percent. For whites, the percentage decreases to 25. So who does the Three Strikes law target?

The statistics make it very clear that this is a racist law. People of oppressed nationalities make up 70 percent of third strikers.

In the last election, there was a California ballot proposition that purported to

"fix" the Three Strikes Law. If passed, Prop. 66 might have meant the re-sentencing and possible release of up to 4,000 out of more than 7,000 third strike prisoners, including many Black and Latin@ prisoners. The measure was defeated.

But who would have benefited most from the revision of the law? Who would have qualified for re-sentencing? Who would have been able to come up with the money for a new trial?

We support the struggles of prisoners and their families for justice. We didn't discourage anyone from voting for Prop. 66. But we went to the Prop. 66 meetings and presented the facts. Three Strikes is a brutal, inhuman, racist and unjust law. It cannot be amended or fixed to make it right. The only fix for Three Strikes is to abolish it.

Twenty-one other states have similar laws. Abolishing Three Strikes in California could set the stage for similar movements elsewhere. All these laws need to be abolished.

Instead, the capitalist government is determined to convince the public that the only solution is to continue to lock people up. The big-business media offer the same solution.

## A different view

We have a different view. We support the struggle to shut down the prison-industrial complex and release all political prisoners.

We believe that in an important sense, all prisoners in the U.S. are political prisoners. When the power to imprison is in the hands of the working class and the oppressed communities, the people may decide that crimes of survival and crimes driven by oppressive conditions are not really crimes at all.

The people of these communities are perfectly capable of deciding what constitutes a danger to society. We think they may conclude that greedy landlords, racist bosses and lazy capitalists are much more deserving of incarceration than people who steal to eat or use drugs to ease the pain of poverty.

And what about killer cops? We support the struggles of oppressed people against police brutality and police terror. The tremendous revolutionary potential of the oppressed communities in this country haunts the ruling class. It uses the cops in a non-stop war of terror to try to keep these communities unorganized, beaten down and in constant fear.

We need class unity if we are to win the struggle for social and economic justice. White workers need to understand that the racism that divides our class is the bosses' most powerful weapon against us all.

When white workers stand shoulder to shoulder with workers of oppressed nationalities and take up the struggles of oppressed workers as their own, the victory of our class is assured. □

## SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

# Students fight police brutality

Continued from page 3

Greer needed 18 stitches to close lacerations in his head. The police report on the incident claims Greer became violent and they had to use pepper spray. They also claim that while police were subduing Greer, he smashed his own head on the pavement. This, say various eyewitnesses, is not true.

One of the four officers is Jeffrey Asher, a white cop who was suspended from the police force for a year in 1997 after a Springfield resident disseminated a videotape showing Asher kicking an African American man.

James Shewchuck, another police officer involved in the Greer beating, has been accused of organizing a "welcome back" party for the cop who shot and killed Ben Schoolfield, an unarmed African American, during a traffic stop in 1994. This police murder resulted in massive demonstrations and national news coverage.

Greer has filed assault charges against the officers. He is exploring legal and other avenues of resistance with Springfield's Nation of Islam, among others.

The president of the Urban League of Springfield has requested that the U.S. Department of Justice conduct an independent investigation into the Greer case.

Attempting to quell a possible rebellion, Springfield Mayor Charlie Ryan requested the state-appointed Finance Control Board to place the four cops on administrative leave. This happened on Nov. 15. The so-called police union is claiming that Ryan, who is a member of the board, used the board to circumvent disciplinary procedures in the police officers' contract with the city.

Ryan and the city's ruling class may be using the Greer case as an opportunity for union busting and privatizing services, which could threaten public-sector unions. Consider the state law language governing the control board: The board has the power "notwithstanding the charter or any city ordinance to the contrary, to appoint, remove, supervise and control all city employees and have control over all personnel matters."

The Nov. 20 march began at STCC. Marchers went to the main Springfield police station three blocks away. There a speak-out took place.

Community member Ishmael Ali and others presented a citizens' complaint about the Greer beating.

The multinational group of protesters, who came from throughout western Massachusetts, faced the police station from a traffic island, chanting, "No justice, no peace" and other slogans. Banners and placards declared: "Jobs for youth: Not jail," "Stop racism, police brutality and racial profiling," "Lynch law is no law," and "Stop police violence."

Protesters spontaneously decided to march from the station to State Street, a main thoroughfare to the heart of the oppressed community. Here another speak-out took place where speakers denounced police home invasions and the criminalization of the poor and oppressed, the disabled, mentally ill, addicts and the homeless.

Protesters stood on adjacent street corners and traffic islands with placards as many passersby honked car horns in support.

Members of Arise for Social Justice, the American Friends Service Committee, Springfield Copwatch, the Graduate Employee Organization, UAW Local 2322, the Industrial Workers of the World, the Nation of Islam, Western Mass International Action Center and Workers World Party took part in the protest.

The STCC students stress that this is the first of what they hope are many fightback actions, including a possible people's commission to investigate and protest police brutality and police occupations of oppressed communities in the city.

Urban Awareness Group member William Russell connected the U.S. war in Iraq with the war on the working class and oppressed domestically.

"We have to do something to make some kind of change."

Nick Camerota and Catherine Donaghy of the Western Mass International Action Center contributed to this report.

## Detroit fight over cutbacks

Continued from page 4

avoid receivership. A state-appointed receiver will be free of politics and will cut without mercy until the budget balances."

Also on Nov. 17, City of Detroit union representatives met with City Council members to discuss the city's budget deficit, which is nearing \$300 million. The president of one union local proposed a national conference of municipal unions and city governments to demand funds for the cities and human needs, not the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

The crisis of jobs, municipal services and infrastructure is not isolated to Detroit. Every major metropolitan area

and state government is slashing jobs and benefits to solve budget deficits.

Twelve hundred people swamped a Michigan Welfare Rights Organizers meeting on utility shut-offs on Nov. 18. If these people were polled on whether money should be used to fund human needs, not a war in Iraq, the vote would be a thunderous, "Yes!"

Maureen Taylor, a MWRO leader, predicted that within a month, just as happens every year, a Detroiter will die in a house fire resulting from using kerosene or candles for heat or light. Taylor reported that an estimated 50,000 people are now without water service. □



# What drives imperialism, from Iran to the Philippines

From a talk given by Sako Sefiani, an Iranian member of Workers World Party, at the Nov. 13-14 National Fightback Conference.

People everywhere are awed and shocked at the shamelessness and brazenness of the U.S. ruling class as it razes Iraqi hospitals to the ground, slaughters thousands of civilians, drops one- or even two-ton bombs on population centers—and shamelessly brags about it all.

Some believe that imperialism is a misguided and aggressive policy, that we can have capitalism without imperialism and without wars. What they fail to understand is that imperialism is inseparable from capitalism. In fact, imperialism is capitalism in a certain stage of its development.

Concentrated capital needs to be invested for even more profit. When the capitalists cannot find it domestically, they cross the borders into other countries. Making profits at any cost is unmistakably the single unshakable obsession of capitalism. One can trace all actions and reactions of capitalism in general and imperialism in this particular epoch to the unrelenting preoccupation with that obsession.

However, people do not like to give up their freedom and resources without a fight. Imperialism has a simple solution for that: war.

Thus, war stems not from the policies of bellicose and war-mongering politicians, but from the very nature of capitalism.

This is why the U.S. has gone to war under both Republicans and Democrats. To expect otherwise is like expecting the scorpion not to bite the frog. War is not something they want to do—it is something they must do to continue to make profits.

Making profits is what it is all about; war is just a tool. If, in pursuit of profits, they can subdue a nation without war, they do it.

By the time U.S. imperialism passed its imperialist rivals in military and economic strength at the end of World War II, years of colonial domination, oppression, looting of natural resources and devastating wars by imperialist states had engendered anti-colonial and nationalistic sentiments throughout the developing world. The Middle East was basically divided between Britain and France.

Prior to 1953, a British company was taking Iranian oil practically for free—they paid more taxes for it to the British government than they paid to Iran for taking it. A nationalist and popular prime minister in Iran, Dr. Mossadegh, nationalized oil in defiance of British threats and pressures. Consequently, the U.S. did its first regime change, installing the hated shah, who with the help of Washington ruled with a brutal dictatorship for the

Sako Sefiani, fourth from the left.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



next 25 years.

Imperialism needs a corrupt client state that will sell out its people, and oppressive conditions to keep workers in check and wages low. In the name of freedom and democracy, the U.S. has done more to undermine freedom and democracy than any other country.

The shah suppressed and silenced any voice of freedom, democracy and justice in Iran for the benefit of U.S. multinational corporations. Together with the Zionist state of Israel, he acted as the U.S. police against national liberation movements in the region—which Israel continues to do to this day.

The creation of the Zionist state in the Middle East was the best thing that ever

happened for U.S. imperialism. Through Israel, it has been able to keep Arab nations in check and put down numerous democratic and anti-imperialist movements. Considering what Israel does for U.S. imperialism, the billions of dollars Washington gives it are quite cheap.

Needless to say, losing the shah in the 1979 Iranian revolution was a major setback for imperialism. Which explains why the U.S. government has continued to undermine the revolution. It imposed sanctions on Iran right after the revolution simply because the Iranian people had the audacity to fight for and win their freedom. Now it has decided that is not enough. It wants to weaken Iran. All the talk of nuclear weapons is just an excuse

for accomplishing that goal.

When the U.S. attacked and occupied the Philippines in 1898, the Filipino people were dumbfounded to see so much anger and hatred in American troops. What they did not understand was their deeply rooted racism. We see that not only in the U.S. cities, but wherever they occupy. You cannot shoot and kill an unarmed, wounded person without it. You cannot humiliate people, like they did in Abu Ghraib, without it. Back on the streets of America, you cannot empty 42 bullets into someone without it. It is fitting that Washington's "closest ally" is a racist apartheid regime that considers Palestinians sub-human.

Like war, racism is perpetuated by cap-

## LA forum asks:

# Can you feel the draft?

By Adrian Garcia  
Los Angeles

On Nov. 19, the Los Angeles office of the International Action Center hosted a forum on the prospects for a military draft in the near future. Among the evening's speakers were United Teachers of Los Angeles Human Rights Committee member Andy Griggs, artist and activist Sally Marr, IAC organizer John Parker, and Support Network for an Armed Forces Union founder and New York IAC organizer Dustin Langley.

Griggs spoke about the Opt Out Program he has been organizing for as an effort to counter aggressive military recruitment of high school students, especially from communities of color.

Marr presented footage of anti-war film material she has screened before high school students throughout the state. Marr said her efforts have prompted students to rethink their views about enlisting in the military. Peter Dudar assisted her by reading some of the students' heartfelt testimonials.



Dustin Langley speaks at IAC meeting Nov. 19

WW PHOTO: J. LA RIVA

Parker asked for unity in the resurging anti-war movement following the successful Nov. 6 demonstration against the occupation of Iraq in Los Angeles. He presented plans for a week of resistance from Dec. 3 to Dec. 11, and asked for people to become involved.

Langley gave a highly informative and spirited talk on the likelihood of a draft.

He challenged the Bush administration's claims that there will be no draft.

"He's a man of his word," Langley sarcastically commented, in reference to Bush's lies concerning Iraq's possession of chemical and biological weapons.

Langley also addressed the "poverty draft" that has long been in existence for working-class youths, especially those from the most oppressed communities in this country. "Where education and jobs are denied, people feel like they have no options," he remarked.

In addressing the highly aggressive, desperate methods military recruiters are using because of the low level of troop recruitment and the military's need for more troops to continue the illegal occupation of Iraq, Langley said the Selective Service is preparing itself to remobilize the draft system as early as March 2005.

Langley encouraged the crowd to become part of the resistance movement to bring the war against Iraq to an end by taking their message to the streets and opposing a military draft. He ended with a thunderous, "Long live Falluja!" □

## Joint protest against U.S. military

By Cheryl LaBash  
Detroit

The lights and wreaths twinkled, but on Nov. 19 anti-war protesters did not take a holiday—not in Detroit or Lansing, Mich., nor in Windsor, Canada. Despite a persistent rain, sign-toting crowds gathered at both ends of the Detroit-Windsor tunnel demanding an end to the U.S. siege of Falluja and murderous occupation of Iraq. Rush-hour drivers honked in support.

The Pan-African Newswire reported,

"Earlier in the state capital of Lansing, there was a vigil and later a march to express outrage over the mass killings in Falluja carried out by the American military."

The demonstration at the tunnel was called by the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice. Earlier in the week members of the Detroit Area Peace and Justice Network picketed the federal courthouse to protest the attack on Falluja.

Abayomi Azikiwe of MECAWI said: "In

Detroit on Jan. 17, there will be a mass demonstration through downtown in honor of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to acknowledge his anti-war and social-justice legacy. This date is the annual commemoration of the slain civil-rights leader's life, who was assassinated in Memphis in 1968 while working to win a contract for striking sanitation workers."

Additional anti-war activities including participation in Stop the War Week will be planned at the MECAWI meetings announced at [www.mecawi.org](http://www.mecawi.org). □

italism and will end with the death of capitalism.

But an imperialist war of conquest affects the working people of the imperialist country, as well, making cannon fodder of them and their children and making them pay for the cannons, too. Workers and their children are sent to foreign lands to fight their class brothers and sisters so the capitalists can get wealthier while they get poorer. Herein lies the logic and historical necessity for workers and oppressed peoples of the world to unite to fight the common enemy.

War is nothing new to U.S. imperialism. Why suddenly all this hysterical chest pounding and lashing out like there is no tomorrow? Because the imperialists feel like there actually is no tomorrow.

Imperialism is not in its early stages when it could easily enslave millions of people and steal their resources. Imperialism has to find new sources of profit, but it is literally running out of places to invade and peoples to enslave. Right about now, imperialism must be wishing there would be life in other planets.

Long live the solidarity among workers and oppressed peoples of the world, now needed more urgently than ever. □

# Pentagon wants more troops for Iraq

By John Catalinotto

Lt. Gen. Lance Smith told a Pentagon news conference on Nov. 19 that U.S. commanders were considering boosting their troop levels in Iraq by up to 5,000.

Just the day before, a Marine commander in Iraq, Lt. Gen. John Sattler, announced that the offensive in Falluja had “broken the back of the insurgency.” This arrogant statement sounded like George W. Bush’s “Mission accomplished!” speech on May Day 2003. In both cases, the Iraqi insurgency exploded the lie.

According to a Nov. 18 AFP dispatch, “Marine intelligence officials have issued a report warning that any significant withdrawal of troops from the Iraqi city of Falluja would strengthen the insurgency.” U.S. forces use the word “insurgent” to describe those fighting to defend their country against foreign occupiers.

A Nov. 22 New York Times editorial draws the conclusion that U.S. troop lev-

els in Iraq should be increased, not by a mere 5,000, but by 40,000. The editorial suggests that this be done without using a draft, but it does not spell out just how that is to be done.

The Nov. 22 Washington Post quotes an unnamed “senior military intelligence officer” as saying, “Our assessment is that the insurgency remains viable. One of the things we see the insurgents doing is moving to areas where we don’t have a lot of presence.” This means all across the central part of Iraq.

According to a recent report by Inter Press Service correspondent Dahr Jamail, “the Iraqi resistance now controls large areas of Ramadi, Samarra, Haditha, Baquba, Hiyt, Qaim, Latifiya, Taji, Khal-diya, and Baghdad, along with fighting in the holy city of Kerbala.”

And daily reports of the killing of U.S.-trained Iraqi troops by resistance fighters and attacks on occupation convoys demonstrates that the Iraqi insurgents, as

guerrillas frequently do when facing a heavily armed occupation army, are retreating and then striking where the enemy is weaker.

## U.S. atrocities reflect a criminal war

Although the Pentagon claims military success in Falluja and says that the U.S. has completely occupied the city, other reports contradict this.

Defenders of Falluja are controlling 60 percent of the city and are encircling dozens of U.S. soldiers in the Jolan neighborhood, according to eyewitnesses who managed to sneak out. They say the southern part of Falluja is still under the control of the resistance. (Xinhua, Nov. 21)

Dahr Jamail in Baghdad, Al Jazeera and resistance sources also confirm continued fighting in Falluja itself.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has continued to lose “hearts and minds” of the Iraqis by committing war crimes and other atrocities.

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# Bush inflames world tensions

*Continued from page 1*

nuclear negotiator, Hussein Moussavian, responded, “This allegation is timed to coincide with the next meeting of the board of governors of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]. And every time just before the meeting there are these kind of allegations either from the United States or terrorist groups. And every time these allegations have proven to be false.”

The Iranian government recently announced it had suspended its refinement of nuclear fuel in accordance with an agreement with the IAEA negotiated by France, Germany and Russia. Bush then demanded that the suspension be verified. The Bush administration has been trying to get the IAEA to put sanctions on Iran. This agreement to suspend the refinement of nuclear fuel avoided the sanctions, to the chagrin of Washington.

Much of the APEC conference in Chile was turned against the DPRK. After consulting separately with the heads of state of China, Russia, Japan and South Korea, Bush tried to give the talks a spin of unity against the North Koreans. He told the North Koreans to “get rid of your nuclear weapons.”

However, according to a Nov. 22 United Press Service dispatch, Chinese President

Hu Jintao and South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun “have not backed down from their strong opposition to a harder line” towards the DPRK. Roh told an audience in Los Angeles, according to UPS, that a hard-line policy over North Korea’s nuclear weapons would have “grave repercussions,” adding, “There is no alternative in dealing with this issue except dialogue.”

Roh is considered by the Bush-Cheney forces and the right-wing “regime change” advocates in and close to the administration as the head of the “appeasement” faction of the Liberal Democratic Party in South Korea. Washington is seeking to bolster hard-line elements that will support its policy of undermining socialist North Korea.

## Assassination in Venezuela smells of CIA

Another major development as the Bush administration approaches its second term is the assassination on Nov. 18 of Danilo Anderson, a Venezuelan attorney who was investigating the signers of the April 2002 coup declaration against President Hugo Chávez.

This assassination has political significance not only for Venezuela but for all of Latin America and the world. It was undoubtedly the work of the CIA. And it

comes as Bush loyalist Porter Goss takes over the CIA with a vow to wage a more risky, aggressive espionage and operations campaign.

The assassination of Anderson has its roots in Miami, home of the CIA-supported counter-revolutionaries of Latin America, where F-4 commandos from Venezuela are openly training assassins and contras and where Chávez opponents have openly called for his murder on Miami’s Channel 23. (Granma, Nov. 22)

This assassination has echoes of a previous CIA assassination in Chile. Gen. Rene Schneider was killed in October 1970, just before elections which Salvador Allende, a socialist and head of the Popular Unity coalition, was expected to win. The assassination was a death warning to Allende from the U.S. government, carried out on the orders of Henry Kissinger and executed by the CIA and the Chilean military.

Goss has undoubtedly executed the orders of the Bush-Cheney regime, timed for Bush’s visit to Chile and just before Chávez was scheduled to go to the Ibero-American summit, as well as to Iran and Russia.

Unlike Allende in Chile, who restrained the masses in their struggle and who was a civilian, Chávez has mobilized the mas-

ses and also is a military officer who has struggled with counter-revolutionary forces on many fronts. Following the assassination of Anderson, Chávez made a lengthy speech to the people from the presidential palace in which he said: “The groups who have their material and intellectual actors here, and we are certain out of the country also, have sent us a message and we have received it, but not how they, the assassins, would have liked for us to receive it. They have misjudged us again.” (vheadline.com)

Another sign of the hard line Bush is taking in Latin America was his meeting while at the APEC summit with Colombian President Manuel Uribe. It signaled the administration’s intention to continue funding “Plan Colombia,” the huge military package aimed against the FARC and other revolutionaries who for decades have fought against Colombia’s oligarchy and its death-squad government.

## Self-delusion of imperialist ‘moderates’

The capitalist media have been rife with speculation over the direction the new Bush regime will take. In the face of the makeover of the administration to the right, with the ouster of Powell and the

*Continued on page 10*

# World says no to Bush attack on Falluja

By John Catalinotto

President George W. Bush can’t set foot in a foreign capital without thousands of people coming into the streets to confront him. And the brutal assault on Falluja, Iraq, has doubled worldwide anger. Even when Bush stays in Washington, D.C., or Texas, people around the world look for occasions to target the U.S. president and his war policies.

Tens of thousands of people came out in Santiago, Chile, Nov. 19 and 20 to condemn the Asian-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum—and especially to condemn the U.S. occupation of Iraq. It was one of the biggest protests since the end of the Pinochet regime.

Police attacked protesters with tear gas and water cannons. Some demonstrators

fought back with stones and gasoline bombs.

Along with the anti-globalization protests of the APEC summit, demonstrators chanted, “U.S. out of Iraq,” and “Terrorist Bush.”

According to organizers, 30,000 were out on Nov. 19, and 70,000 on Nov. 20.

Bush’s next visit is scheduled for Nov. 30 in Ottawa, Canada’s capital. The anti-war movement in Canada and Quebec considers Bush a war criminal for his actions in Iraq. They are organizing buses from all nearby cities to go to Ottawa to protest. There will be simultaneous demonstration in Montreal and far-off Vancouver.

In Greece, Nov. 17 is the anniversary of a massive student protest against the ruling junta in 1973. From 1967 to 1974,

colonels that took over Greece in a NATO-backed coup ruled the country. This is traditionally a day of protest.

This year the protest was directed at Bush and the U.S. assault on Falluja. Some 20,000 people marched down the streets of Athens, according to organizers.

In cities all over the United States in the first week of the destruction of Falluja, demonstrations of from a few dozen to a few thousand took place. In Britain on the weekend of Nov. 20-21, local demonstrations were set for at least six cities.

Demonstrations have also taken place in Italy, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Belgium and Turkey, although they were not as big as those that took place before Washington launched the invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

Conditions have changed since those

days, when many hoped the Bush administration could still be dissuaded from invading Iraq. Not only did Europe’s workers oppose the war. But big sections of the European ruling class and even some governments believed they had nothing to gain and much to lose from a U.S. military occupation of Iraq.

Now, to be against the occupation means to be in solidarity with the Iraqi people, and thus in solidarity with the Iraqi resistance. No major section of the imperialist ruling class supports the liberation of Iraq by the Iraqi resistance. That means the protests require an anti-imperialist alliance between the working-class anti-war movements in the imperialist countries and the people fighting for liberation from occupation. □

## As Koreans seek to reunify

# Bush ratchets up war threats

From a talk given by Yoomi Jeong, deputy secretary general of the Korea Truth Commission, to the Nov. 13-14 National Fightback Conference.

I thank you for the opportunity to share the Koreans' struggle against Bush's agenda.

Even though most of us in the Korean movement didn't place much significance on the outcome of the U.S. presidential election, we, like the rest of the world, were dismayed and disappointed by the election result.

For we knew that as soon as Iraq is not the hot issue, the North Korean nuclear issue would become a top priority for U.S. foreign policy makers, and that we may face a similar situation to that of the Iraqi people: another war waged upon us by the United States.

What do four more years of George Bush mean to security, peace and reunification—the three most critical issues for Koreans?

The last four years of Korea-U.S. relations have been grim. Bush put North Korea in his "Axis of Evil," making it a target for preemptive nuclear strikes. He dismissed the "Sunshine Policy," a reunification policy outlined by former South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung. Economic sanctions against North Korea continued. U.S. military occupation continued in South Korea. It continues to position arms on and around the peninsula, targeting North Korea.



Yoomi Jeong

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

For victims of the crimes committed by U.S. soldiers, we rarely receive a fair trial, as we have witnessed through the case of Shim Hyo-Soon and Shin Mi-Son. The soldiers walked free even though these two victims were killed by their armored vehicle.

Internally, the U.S. Congress passed the North Korean Human Rights Act in an obvious attempt to destabilize North Korea.

We believe Bush will use his so-called mandate to continue to strangulate North Korea and manipulate and dominate South Korea.

Designating NK as a "rogue nation" and demonizing NK leadership are quite useful in furthering the U.S. agenda in East Asia.

What is the biggest U.S. agenda in East Asia in the 21st century?

It's containment of China. As China becomes a global economic and political powerhouse, it will become an important power that can challenge U.S. domination.

In an effort to control and dominate, the U.S. has been playing off Japan, China and South Korea against each other so that these countries cannot build a mutual alliance among themselves for a peaceful Asia.

Maintaining a propaganda "threat from rogue state" is an excuse to militarize East Asia, which also translates into increased U.S. arms sales, a great market for the U.S. defense industry.

One of the most important issues concerning the Korean peninsula today is the nuclear issue between the NK and the U.S.

It is a product of over half a century of a hostile U.S. policy on North Korea.

The NK is left with no other option but to possess a nuclear deterrent as a legitimate self-defensive measure to counter the U.S. open attempt for a regime change. I believe calling any nation an "Axis of Evil" and a target of preemptive nuclear strikes should be considered an outright open aggression.

North Korea has promised to freeze all nuclear-weapon-related facilities and output if the U.S. abandons its hostile policy. It wants a peace treaty with the U.S., the lifting of the economic sanctions and blockade, and for Washington to remove it from its list of "sponsors of terrorism."

But the U.S. has continued its policy of hostility against NK, even as the six-party talks were taking place, announcing there would be no "reward" for the freeze and dismantlement of the nuclear facilities.

Meanwhile the U.S. is not honoring any

of its obligations, and instead it stepped up the threats against the North.

Of course NK learned the Iraq lesson. They will not give in to anything that will impinge upon their sovereignty. They will do whatever they can not to fall into the U.S. trap.

Just yesterday, South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun, at the World Affairs Council meeting in Los Angeles, stated that since 1987 there is no evidence that NK supported or has ties to terrorist organizations, with regard to de-listing NK from "terrorist-sponsoring nations." He added that NK has a legitimate reason to have nuclear deterrents, and that it would freeze its nuclear plan if its security is guaranteed by the U.S.

Despite U.S. threats, the reunification effort between North and South continues. Last year alone, 88,000 South Koreans visited the North and over 1,000 North Koreans visited the South. Railways and roads have been reconnected. There is an increase in joint economic development and cooperation. They marched together at the Olympics in Athens this fall.

The SK movement has made the ending of U.S. occupation, repeal of the repressive National Security Law, and the reunification of Korea its top priority in 2005.

We expect a fierce people's struggle in Korea for peace, sovereignty and reunification. And your support and solidarity will be greatly appreciated. And we will be there for our common joint struggle to end U.S. imperialism. □

## Iraq resistance

# A public humiliation to U.S. imperialism

From a talk by WWP Secretariat member Sara Flounders to the Nov. 13-14 National Fightback Conference.

The U.S. siege of Falluja represents in the starkest and the most brutal terms the problems of U.S. imperialism and the potential for mobilized people's resistance in this period.

The U.S. war machine makes it clear that they have the massive high-tech firepower to overwhelm any possible opponent. Yet their own think tanks are telling them that they cannot win the continuing war in Iraq.

This does not mean U.S. imperialism can or will decide to leave Iraq any time soon. These are the irrational and unsolvable contradictions that can tear the imperialist ruling class apart and inflame a global movement.

Falluja was to be an example of how the 22 other cities the occupation has lost control of would be reconquered in order to orchestrate an election. The offensive there began with the destruction of two hospitals and occupation of the largest hospital. Al Jazeera and other Arab news media were shut down to try to control images of destruction comparable to the Nazi bombing of Guernica in Spain or the Warsaw Ghetto in Poland.

The media have reported use of white phosphorous, napalm, depleted uranium rounds, giant bunker busters and even poison gas. Based on the U.S. claim that mosques were a center of resistance, over 60 mosques were directly targeted. The destruction is horrendous.

But the U.S. military machine is facing guerrilla warfare tactics that have taken a page from Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh, from Che Guevara and Hezbollah in Lebanon, and adapted them to an urban

and desert setting.

Pentagon spokespeople are bragging that Falluja is under control and the resistance is defeated. Yet U.S. forces continue to suffer daily casualties.

Meanwhile hundreds of armed resisters have regained control of Ramadi. In Mosul, the major city of north Iraq, they stormed a half-dozen police stations. The U.S.-trained Iraqi police disappeared. Stations were stripped of weapons, ammunition, body armor, uniforms and even generators.

Whole sections of Baghdad are totally out of U.S. control for the first time since U.S. occupation forces rolled in April 2003.

Iraqi Railway workers have announced they will refuse to move all supplies to U.S. troops. They will only carry United Nations food for Iraqi people.

The coalition of collaborators is in a meltdown. The only Sunni political party and the Association of Muslim Scholars have just announced an official boycott of the January elections.

### Planning for people's resistance

From Iraq three weeks before the U.S. invasion began, I reported in the pages of Workers World newspaper about the public training of the entire Iraqi adult population—both men and women—in urban warfare tactics. It was no secret. Weapons, ammunition and months of food supplies were publicly distributed to the entire population. Images of the heroic Palestinian resistance reminded the Iraqis that it is possible for a whole people to resist for more than 50 years against overwhelming force.

The shock and awe of massive bombing was calculated to totally overwhelm and demoralize the entire population. But the Pentagon, Rumsfeld, the whole U.S. rul-



Sara Flounders

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

ing class made a historic miscalculation. They are so drunk with the power of their high-tech weapons that they don't consider that this higher technical level is now a world phenomenon.

Their weapons are only one aspect of high tech. Millions of workers who make this technology also must be trained to understand and use it. The technology enters the capitalist marketplace in the form of millions of cheap gadgets.

No isolated, illiterate peasantry, the Iraqi workers are technically sophisticated and conscious of the aims of colonial occupation. They are well aware of the massive world movement that mobilized in the streets to oppose the U.S. war.

Thousands of engineers, scientists, technicians, and mechanics are able to rig thousands of cell phones and remote-control doorbells to set off ambushes and booby traps.

The working class today, as Marx predicted 150 years ago, is educated, technically sophisticated and truly a world class. When millions of jobs and work days are configured around global time zones, workers themselves begin to understand this.

### The whole world is watching

U.S. imperialism's biggest problem—greater than an insurgency that they can't seem to defeat—is that this is happening in a floodlight of world attention.

Instant information and communication seems so powerful when marines can call in deadly strikes via satellite phones to jets far overhead. But instant communication is an entirely different political phenomenon when throughout the Arab world, and in Pakistan, the Philippines, Venezuela and South Korea, workers can go into an Internet café and scroll through thousands of images of Iraqi resistance fighters.

Instant communication takes on a different character when a U.S. platoon, which refused a direct military order to drive a convoy of trucks, was able to contact their families and contact the media in Jackson, Miss., before the top brass in the Green Zone had even heard of the mutiny.

Officers now worry that GIs can record and photograph illegal orders and war crimes with their cell phones.

All of this technology takes on a different character when you can google in the words "rights in the military" or "anti-war" or "struggle against racism" or "Mumia" or hundreds of other resistance words and web sites that activists have connected to us or that we help to maintain pop up.

All of these web sites, like all of our printed literature, have a consistent theme of resistance to imperialist war and racism, solidarity with all peoples under attack, and promoting the power of working people when they organize.

A generation ago there was a song: "The revolution will not be televised." Maybe it still won't be televised, but we can be sure to catch it on the Internet. □



# Haitian struggle at crossroads

By Pat Chin

Rebellion in Haiti reached a pivotal stage on Oct. 24, when a well-organized group of guerrillas attacked the police station in the northwestern town of Gros Morne. They successfully overcame the police there and seized weapons. (Haiti Progres newspaper, Nov. 10-16)

Before leaving, they spray-painted slogans on the station and other buildings, denouncing the occupation and the former soldiers who want to reconstitute the murderous Haitian army. "Down with the Macoutes," they also said.

Next to a red star was written, "The Dessalinien Army of National Liberation (ADLN)."

In 1804 Gen. Jean-Jacques Dessalines declared independence from France after defeating the once mighty French colonial army, sent in 1802 to restore slavery in Haiti. Two hundred years later, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was kidnapped in a U.S.-backed coup and forced into exile.

Aristide was Haiti's first democratically elected president. He was overthrown for failing to fully implement International Monetary Fund and World Bank demands to privatize state-owned industries, among other Draconian capitalist measures. If implemented, the dictates of these imperialist financial institutions would benefit a few but further impoverish the majority of the people, already the poorest in the Western Hemisphere.

Since the Feb. 29 coup, the Bush-White-House-installed regime of Prime Minister Gerard Latortue has unleashed a wave of murderous repression against Aristide's supporters. Even Amnesty International was forced on Nov. 12 to condemn "summary executions by police, serious human rights abuses and an alarming number of illegal detentions in Haiti." (Reuters, Nov. 12)

Resistance to Aristide's overthrow and foreign occupation has grown so much that Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin was forced to concede, at a Nov. 14 meeting in Haiti, that Aristide's Fanmi Lavalas Party must be allowed to participate in elections. (Reuters, Nov. 14) Canadian troops were part of the first

occupation force that invaded Haiti after Aristide's ouster.

Popular resistance escalated after police killed two pro-Aristide protesters on Sept. 29. Since then, casualties and deaths have mounted. The guerrilla attack in Gros Morne is a natural consequence of the brutal repression against Haiti's popular movement—aided by the occupation forces—that the capitalist media have been covering up.

At a Nov. 8-9 meeting in Trinidad and Tobago's Port-of-Spain, leaders of the 15-member Caribbean Community once again held off renewing ties with the coup regime. They declared "no compromise on the fundamental principles of respect for human rights, due process and good governance...." (CARICOM Press

Release, Nov 10)

Grenadian Prime Minister Keith Mitchell also called for an end to "the harassment of the political opposition." (Associated Press, Nov. 10)

Haiti's Electoral Council is charged with organizing elections for late next year. But on Nov. 8 council chairwoman Roselor Julien called it quits. She warned that other panel members were trying to rig the vote in favor of groups that formed the bourgeois opposition to Aristide.

"I am not ready to condone an electoral farce," she asserted even after receiving death threats. "Nor am I ready to support an imposture." (Haitian Times, Nov. 10)

Latin American leaders of the 19-nation Rio Group recently announced an initiative in Brazil that aims to reduce civil

unrest and promote economic development in Haiti. It includes meeting with Aristide in South Africa, although he won't have much say. Latortue's response was to announce that he's seeking Aristide's arrest based on an international warrant the coup regime's Justice Ministry is expected to issue for alleged political crimes and fraud.

Soldiers from Brazil, Chile and Argentina now make up the majority of United Nations occupation troops operating in Haiti to suppress a popular movement that won't be stopped.

To learn more about mounting resistance, join Haitians and their supporters at a giant rally on Dec. 5 in Brooklyn. See calendar listing on page 2 for further information. □

## Venezuelan official assassinated

# Rebuffed in elections, contras turn to terror

By Berta Joubert-Ceci

Sheltered by darkness and cowardly tactics, unknown assassins placed 250 grams of the powerful plastic C-4 explosive under the car of Venezuelan prosecutor Danilo Anderson on the night of Nov. 18. The explosion killed him 15 minutes after he started to drive his vehicle.

Anderson, 38, was the principal figure working on several cases of violent crimes against Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution, particularly the events surrounding the 2002 coup attempt against democratically elected President Hugo Chávez, who was kidnapped by the opposition.

Pedro Carmona, head of the business association FEDECAMARAS, had then been sworn in as president of Venezuela in the Miraflores Palace on April 12, 2002. That ceremony was attended by the leadership of the opposition, who came from the business and banking oligarchy, the military, the Catholic Church, leaders of

the corrupt Venezuelan Workers Confederation, and corporate media. Carmona then ordered the suspension of the National Assembly and the Constitution, among other counterrevolutionary rulings and actions. But an uprising of the people ended the coup and rescued Chávez.

Since then, the government has repaid that trust by directing much of the income from Venezuela's rich oil industry into housing, food and education for the people.

To bring those responsible for the coup to justice, Anderson in October had begun subpoenaing 400 of the people whose signatures appeared on that day's attendance book for the palace.

Anderson also brought charges against the former Caracas metropolitan mayor, Alfredo Peña, for conspiracy to commit homicide, based on testimonies of eight former metropolitan police now in prison. They are accused of shooting civilians during the April 11, 2002, counter-revolutionary actions in Puente Llaguno, where 20

people died and 87 were wounded. Peña and others in the police department leadership also face prosecution. They are now prohibited from leaving the country.

Anderson was also investigating the leaders of SÚMATE, the opposition organization that has worked to overthrow Chávez with funds from the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy (NED). He was working jointly with Luisa Ortega, another national prosecutor who was kidnapped but escaped, suffering injuries in the process. Several other cases stemming from counter-revolutionary actions were in the process of being taken to the courts as well.

Anderson also prosecuted the former mayor of Baruta, Henrique Capriles Radonski, because of his role in an attack on the Cuban Embassy during the April 2002 coup. The embassy had been surrounded by dozens of counter-revolutionaries who destroyed its vehicles and cut

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# Bush inflames world tensions

*Continued from page 7*

almost complete monopolization of key positions by the Bush-Cheney hard-line loyalists, the hope of the moderate imperialists in the establishment for a shift towards the center are fading fast.

But the moderates, seeing their right-wing opponents filling post after post, have found a straw to grasp onto. David Sanger, one of the New York Times's top political reporters, wrote a lead story in the Sunday, Nov. 21, Week in Review section entitled "Hawk Sightings Could Be Premature."

While duly noting that things could move to the right, Sanger offers the thought that "it has been quite a while since the words 'Axis of Evil' sprang from the president's lips. And during the election campaign, it was clear from the president's words and actions that the limits on American power had begun to sink in on this White House."

To bolster his sense of relaxation, Sanger points out that "Iraq has made it harder to be hawkish in this White House, not because desires to act have changed, but because it has tied down American combat troops and magnified the need to juggle scarce military resources.

"With roughly 130,000 troops sta-

tioned in Iraq for a while—and hundreds of thousands more supplying them, training to replace them, or just coming off duty there—Mr. Bush and Ms. [Condoleezza] Rice lack the kind of flexibility to deal with crises around the world that they had four years ago."

This is the kind of thinking that should be summarily dismissed by the anti-war and working class movements. Never has such a right-wing, militaristic grouping of the ruling class establishment had such a complete grip on the capitalist state. And to rely on the alleged "rationality" of the right-wing cabal in Washington to act as a restraint on new foreign adventures would be the height of folly.

Indeed, Harry Truman launched the adventure against North Korea in 1950 and he was a moderate. Lyndon Johnson was a moderate Democrat and he launched the vast escalation of the adventure in Vietnam after supreme militarist Gen. Douglas MacArthur had warned the U.S. military never to fight a land war in Asia. Jimmy Carter launched a failed adventure against the Iranian Revolution at its height, and he was a Democrat and a moderate.

It would be the worst case of hiding

one's head in the sand to rely on the existence of unfavorable circumstances as a barrier to new military adventures.

U.S. imperialism, in its struggle to feed its economic domination of the world and the capitalist lust for profit, has acquired a mighty military machine and cannot for long refrain from using it to seek military domination and conquest. That is its history. Its utilization of its productive economic machine for expanded exploitation requires new resources, new markets, new wage slaves. It is adventurist by nature.

The resistance of the Iraqi people, along with the steadfastness of the North Korean and Iranian governments in resisting the intimidation and bullying of Washington, has posed enormous obstacles to the Bush administration's original intentions of overthrowing those governments.

At the end of May last year, when the Pentagon generals met, all smiles, as conquerors in the Republican Palace in Baghdad, they projected that by September of 2003 they would reduce their troop strength in Iraq to 30,000 and begin the gradual complete phaseout as they moved a puppet government smoothly into place. They thought they had successfully overthrown the first gov-

ernment in Bush's "Axis of Evil." Rumsfeld, Cheney and Wolfowitz were patting themselves on the back and undoubtedly looking forward to the next campaigns of "regime change." It was clear that the Iranian and North Korean governments were on the hit list of the Bush administration.

The Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld cabal actually represent objectively the deepest aspirations of the U.S. ruling class when they exert all their efforts, under the guise of preventing nuclear proliferation, to overthrowing the Iranian and the North Korean revolutions and bringing about "regime change." Both revolutions—the first bourgeois nationalist, the other socialist—committed the same offense that the Iraqi government committed: they kicked out their colonial rulers and established sovereign states independent of imperialism.

The anti-war and working class movements must do everything in their power to stop these right-wing adventurers from expanding their aggression. Mass mobilization against the representatives of the exploiters in the White House, the Pentagon and Wall Street is the only way to stop them. □

## The real bad apples

An Israeli officer is charged with “illegal” use of his weapon after pumping bullets into a 13-year-old wounded Palestinian girl, Iyman Hams, to make sure she was dead. She was on her way to school when she was shot approaching an Israeli checkpoint. Palestinian hospital officials said the girl was shot at least 15 times.

The U.S. Department of Defense opens a criminal investigation after televised reports show a U.S. Marine killing a wounded, unarmed Iraqi inside a mosque in Falluja. An investigation continues into the tortures and humiliations at Abu Ghraib prison, which now are known to the world.

The discussion these events spark in the media is bizarre. It is all about how restrained the U.S. and Israeli military are, how they go by the book. The conclusion is that these are either accidents or just the result of a few bad apples. And so, on with the wars.

Meanwhile, around the world conscious humanity regards the wars themselves as a monumental crime.

The problem isn't a few individuals going berserk in the heat of battle. The problem is policies made by very calm individuals inside cabinet and situation rooms.

These are both wars of occupation—that is, imposing your will on someone else's land in order to get what you want. What an imperialist power like the U.S. wants isn't hard to figure out. This country is run by fabulously rich corporations and banks. The oil companies, the “defense” industries, the investment banks have determined U.S. foreign policy for over a century. The people in key government positions always come from these corporate backgrounds and/or from the military. They order the soldiers into situations where they are hated by the whole population and fear everyone. So the soldiers shoot whatever moves.

Slapping charges on a few soldiers will do nothing to stop war atrocities. What's needed is to end the wars themselves, get the troops out, and let the Iraqi and Palestinian peoples have their lands back. □

## House arrest?

Those who had hoped an electoral victory by Sen. John Kerry would in and of itself protect women's reproductive rights had forgotten the lesson of the Clinton era. During that administration, with Democrats in the White House, a war of terror was unleashed against abortion providers. It included assassinations, arson and other violent forms of intimidation.

During this last election, many women feared that a second Bush administration would usher in the appointment of Supreme Court justices hostile to women's right to choose abortion and might actually overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, resulting in making abortions illegal once again.

There is no question that the right wing will be emboldened to demand that reproductive rights be curtailed as a quid pro quo for its successful electoral support of the Bush-Cheney ticket. But progressive women and their supporters can push back from the left—not only to hold off further erosion of abortion rights, but to widen all women's access to health care.

The anti-abortion rider on the \$388 billion spending bill in Congress is an example of where the battle can be fought with bold and bodacious organizing efforts that take a page out of women's liberation struggles of decades ago.

The provision in the bill would bar federal, state and local agencies from refusing to release taxpayer funds from health-care providers that bar abortions, abortion counseling or referrals. This rotten rider is tucked into a package that lumps together funding for the FBI and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Lawmakers in the House and Senate were set to vote the legislation on Nov. 20. And then they were eager to break for vacation.

Remember the million women and their supporters who rallied for reproductive rights on April 25 in Washington, D.C.? And the tens of thousands who marched across the Brooklyn Bridge in Manhattan to press for those rights during the Republican National Convention in August?

Imagine if these forces converged on Capitol Hill, and held legislators under virtual “House” arrest until they removed that rotten rider? And think for a moment how the ranks of this protest would swell if its leaders called on the anti-war forces to join them, demanding, “Money for health care, not for war!”

And if the call went out for those who are building the Million Worker March movement to join forces, demanding, “Jobs, not jails!” Then the politicians would most certainly have to accede to the “filibuster” on their doorstep.

*Roe vs. Wade* was a legal decision made by nine robed Supreme Court justices, most of them Republican-appointed, who also heard the thunderous demand for women's rights rising in the streets.

That's the paved road that leads to victories. □

## Indigenous people resist

*Continued from page 1*

Plymouth pepper-sprayed and brutalized hundreds of people for the crime of attempting to have a peaceful march. Twenty-five of us were arrested on charges ranging from misdemeanors to assault and battery on a police officer.

By attacking us, the state thought that they could dissolve and isolate U.A.I.N.E and the Native struggle. Instead, thousands of people nationally and internationally signed petitions, sent faxes, made telephone calls and wrote letters supporting our struggle for justice. We organized a successful tourist boycott of Plymouth.

This popular support forced Plymouth to drop the frame-up charges against all 25. Furthermore, Plymouth had to donate more than \$100,000 for a Native educational project and to erect historical markers in the town with words that we wrote. Finally, Plymouth was forced to recognize our right to have National Day of

Mourning every year and to march without a permit.

We have had other victories in the Native struggle in recent years—whether in Quebec or British Columbia or Minnesota. Every victory in Indian country is also a triumph for the entire progressive movement. And in every single case that I can think of, these victories were achieved at least in part because we were able to unite with and gain support from non-Native people.

But in this period of protracted reaction, we have encountered many setbacks, as well.

We have spent many years trying to get our brother Leonard Peltier released from captivity. Leonard Peltier was framed by the FBI and has been falsely imprisoned by the U.S. government since 1976.

And the economic reality of Native people remains grim. We live in the most impoverished conditions on the reservations, but it is important to understand

## More troops for Iraq

*Continued from page 7*

ties. The Pentagon claims it has killed 1,600 “insurgents” in Falluja. But many are civilians.

In Baghdad on Nov. 18, during Moslem Friday prayers, about 50 U.S. and 20 Iraqi puppet troops in five Humvees and several trucks raided the Abu Hanifa mosque. The troops killed four people and wounded from nine to 20 more.

Someone called Jamail from the mosque. “They are holding our heads to the ground, and everyone is in chaos,” he said over a cell phone. “They cannot see me talking to you. They are roughing up a blind man now.” ([dahrjamailiraq.com](http://dahrjamailiraq.com))

This was the first time the U.S. had raided a mosque in Iraq during prayers.

There continue to be repercussions and questions regarding the video of a U.S. Marine shooting a wounded and helpless Iraqi. Right-wing web sites in the United States have tried to portray the reporter, Kevin Sites, as some sort of anti-war activist who somehow sneaked into the front lines. Sites has reported receiving threats.

A look at Sites's blog, [kevinsites.net](http://kevinsites.net), makes it obvious that the reporter bends over backward to try to present the young Marine's point of view, while still giving a thorough description of combat condi-

tions in Falluja.

This is Sites's message to the Marine: “So here, ultimately, is how it all plays out: when the Iraqi man in the mosque posed a threat, he was your enemy; when he was subdued he was your responsibility; when he was killed in front of my eyes and my camera—the story of his death became my responsibility.”

Neither Sites nor his ultra-right critics nor the military brass draw some other obvious conclusions: When Bush ordered the invasion of Iraq, he was committing a crime against peace, the greatest war crime. When the U.S. occupied Iraq illegally, this inevitably aroused a popular resistance. When the brass order troops to make war on the people of Iraq, U.S. troops will start to consider every Iraqi their enemy. They will fear the Iraqis. And some will inevitably commit atrocities, exactly as they did in Vietnam.

The Times wants the Pentagon to recruit more youth—if not by directly drafting them, then probably by enticing poor youth with better pay than they could get in dead-end jobs in civilian life. But Falluja is teaching young people here that joining the military means risking your life, risking your limbs and risking becoming a war criminal. □

## Venezuela, contras turn to terror

*Continued from page 9*

the water and electricity supply to the building, where women, children and men were inside.

Because of the gravity of all these cases and Anderson's resolve to bring justice in the name of the Venezuelan people, he had been threatened numerous times and even attacked in a shopping mall in Caracas.

### U.S. tries to destabilize Venezuela

The assassination of Danilo Anderson is seen both in Venezuela and beyond as an escalation of Washington's plan to destabilize the Bolivarian Revolution. It is felt that the opposition and their U.S. masters are desperate. The elections have decisively gone against them. Chávez was reaffirmed as president in an August referendum; supporters of the Bolivarian Revolution swept the national and local elections in October.

Also fueling the opposition's desperation is Chávez's popularity among the masses worldwide, but particularly in Latin America, where U.S. plans for “free trade” agreements are finding growing

resistance. Conversely, trade and aid agreements between Venezuela and other countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia are a great worry to the U.S., whose dollar and exports are declining.

The Venezuelan oligarchy is not working alone, as the NED and other U.S. funding agencies fuel money and resources ONLY to the opposition. It is a sign of danger for the Revolution.

This murder comes on the heels of other violent actions and attempts—like the discovery that a farm owned by a Cuban-Spaniard in the municipality of Baruta, near Caracas, was being used to train 100 Colombian paramilitaries to assassinate President Chávez.

The not-so-invisible hand of the U.S. government and the connection among Colombian paramilitaries, right-wing Cuban exiles and the Venezuelan opposition has been exposed both by Venezuelan government officials and analysts and intellectuals outside the country.

Vice President José Vicente Rangel has demanded an explanation from the U.S. for allowing death threats against Chávez

and the training of terrorists on U.S. soil, particularly in Florida. He mentioned as an example the call for attempts against the life of President Chávez by actor Orlando Urdaneta during a Miami television program.

Venezuelan Communication Minister Andrés Izarra also denounced the terrorist camp F-4 Commands, headquartered in Miami, where the Venezuelan opposition is trained militarily with the support of the government of the U.S.

But the clearest proof comes directly from U.S. government officials. For example, Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, recently said that Chávez is “a real problem,” adding that “the key there is to mobilize the region to both watch him and be vigilant about him and to pressure him when he makes moves in one direction or another. We can't do it alone.”

The people of Venezuela, together with their president, are defending and deepening their revolution. The active support of the international movement, especially in the U.S., is also needed to defend Venezuela from imperialist attack. □

that well over half of us do not live on reservations.

Indigenous people in the U.S. continue to lag far behind in virtually every measure of economic well-being, whether income, housing, level of education, or health. About one-third of Native people live below the federal poverty line, and many live in substandard housing. We are four times as likely to die of alcoholism, three times as likely to die of tuberculosis, nearly twice as likely to die of diabetes.

Fully one-third of Native people are children, and they suffer the consequences of poverty and racism the most. Approximately one in five Native youth will attempt suicide.

One of the bitter fruits of our economic oppression has been the fact that such a high percentage of young Native women and men go into the U.S. military. It is a tremendous irony that we are so disproportionately represented fighting for a government that oppresses dozens of nations abroad as well as our own Native nations here.

The U.S. Department of Defense routinely scavenges through Native heritage to give names to its tools of death and destruction: "Apache," "Iroquois," "Cayuse," "Black Hawk" and "Kiowa." There is the "Tomahawk" cruise missile. Naming these weapons of destruction and intimidation after Native warriors and nations is an insult.

The U.S. says that it names its weapons after Native people and nations to be frightening or intimidating. Maybe instead they should name their weapons after scary people such as George Bush or John Kerry or Donald Trump.

The focal point of our struggle is always the land. This is key to understanding our lives, just as this wrenching experience is key to understanding the lives of our Palestinian sisters and brothers. The government of the United States will go to any lengths to keep control or wrest control of our land and resources and to deny us our right to political and economic self-determination and sovereignty.

For Native women, every attempt has been made by the U.S. and the other occupying governments in this hemisphere to strip us of our leadership role as women and clan mothers. We have had our children literally stolen from our families. We have endured a government-sponsored campaign of forced sterilizations.

We rarely appear in books and media except as stereotyped images. Hundreds of sports teams around the country refuse to stop using racist names and refuse to stop using racist team mascots. Another way in which this society tries to silence us is to insist that we exist only as exotic bearers of cultural diversity. But we are discouraged from speaking about issues such as freedom for political prisoner Leonard Peltier, or about genocide past and present.

I want to stress that Indigenous people have always resisted. Our struggle is not just for individual survival but for the survival of our people and our nations.

The map of the world is colored with the patterns of our ancestors' spilled blood. I believe that someday we can make a new map of the world together. Ultimately we will take back everything that is rightfully ours, everything that was stolen from us and built by the blood and sweat of our ancestors.

But in order to do that, we must stand together. The ruling class knows perfectly well how to join ranks against us. The threats to life in this country and around the globe demand from all of us a new way of thinking, acting and being. What is required is a new movement of unity, solidarity and resistance in all parts of the world.

This is OUR world. Let's work together to take it back!

Free Leonard! Free Mumia! Ho! □

## East Germany

# Forming of gay groups ignites church struggle

By Leslie Feinberg

In January 1982, in East Germany, the Evangelical Academy Berlin-Brandenburg held a conference titled, "Can One Speak About It? Homosexuality as a Question for Theology and Pastoral Care."

Lesbians and gay men took part in the conference. The agenda reportedly focused on how to use insights of modern sexology to reduce prejudice and harmful concepts about homosexuality, and how to provide a structure for lesbians and gay men to get together and discuss their own issues.

This conference generated a public forum about same-sex love.

Later that year, some gay and lesbian activists in Berlin and Leipzig formed the Homosexual Working Group within the Youth Section of the Lutheran Church.

The group quickly spread to more than 20 cities, not just the big urban areas like Magdeburg, Chemnitz and Rostock, but in small towns like Zwickau, Plauen and Neustrelitz. The Leipzig and Dresden groups were founded by theologians who had been denied ordination because they were an out gay man and an out lesbian woman.

Buried in that last fact is a reminder that organizing by lesbians and gays continued to face opposition from the Protestant hierarchy, even if tactically it was a useful political tool for the church.

Like the Catholic Church in the Polish workers' state, the Protestant Church battled the socialist German state. Raelynn J. Hillhouse stated that during the early years of the GDR, "the church and state often were in an undeclared war in which neither expected the other to survive. Because of its close relations with the West German church, the East German church was seen by the state as a foreign institution." (Slavic Review 49, 1990)

The East German church had close ties to the hierarchy in the capitalist West.

While the young workers' state curtailed the church's social role, it did not seize church property and continued to use public funds for pastoral training. In concessions to the church in the early 1960s and in 1978, the state signed

accords which opened the door for the church to expand its outreach.

As a result, close to 200 groups formed under the organizational umbrella of the church. These included lesbian and gay, environmental, disabled—and the dubiously vague category of "human rights."

Specifically, the objectives of the gay groups—offering support and counseling and educating parishioners about homosexuality—was not political in nature. However, the goal of addressing social problems, while vague, did open the door to criticisms of the socialist state.

The overall coalescing of more than 200 organizations under their aegis gave the church hierarchs a wider social base from which to pursue their anti-communist opposition to the workers' state.

### Struggle broke out within church

Not everyone at the top of the church ladder was so happy about allowing lesbians and gays into the fold under any circumstances.

Hillhouse observed in her 1990 article on sexual politics and social change in the GDR that, "The presence of lesbian and gay organizations has brought about a major controversy both within the church, which has customarily condemned homosexuality, and among gays and lesbians, who have traditionally been persecuted by the church."

She explained that in 1986, based on the results of a church-commissioned study, a bishops' conference did conclude that biblical condemnations of same-sex love should no longer be used as justification for discrimination. However, she stressed, "Although the bishops settled one controversy by officially allowing gay and lesbian groups to meet within the church, they refused to take a clear position on the ordination of homosexuals. The church has, however, demonstrated the limits to its acceptance of homosexuals in its repeated denial of ordination of Eduard Stapel, the director for homosexual work of the Magdeburg city mission, because he lives

in a homosexual partnership."

Denis M. Sweet, a researcher quite unsympathetic to the socialist state, did note the hostility to gays within the church. "These working groups did not advance without concerted resistance from within certain well-situated Lutheran and charismatic factions within the church, particularly from the south of the GDR with its own traditions of theology and piety—so much so that the church authorities in Saxony felt obliged to append within the territory of their administration a publication that countered the largely positive and tolerant brochure *Homosexuelle in der Kirche?* (Homosexuals in the Church?) issued in 1984 by the central office of theological study of the East German Church (Theolo-

g i s c h e  
Studienabteilung  
der Evangelischen  
Kirchen.  
"This Saxon alternative brochure warned about 'militant homosexuals' forcing an entry into the church to advance the 'ideology of homosexual emancipation.'" (Sexual History of the Political Left)

Lesbian ♦ gay ♦ bi  
and trans  
PRIDE  
SERIES  
PART  
21

And lesbians and gay men were not so thrilled about working under the auspices of the church, either. John Parsons made this point sharply: "Of course, many homosexuals, including those who were members of the Communist Party, were not comfortable with the church and did not find this association helpful." (OUT/LOOK 1989)

Hillhouse added, "As was the case with groups from the other social movements within the church, the gay and lesbian associations were not entirely religious: Perhaps as few as 10 percent of the members identified themselves as Christians."

But a new and dramatic development was emerging in the mid-1980s that allowed the lesbian and gay movement to burgeon. The GDR workers' state opened up a widespread secular campaign to combat prejudice and discrimination against same-sex love.

Next: *Unprecedented gains*

# Students, activists rally for the Cuban 5

Special to Workers World  
New York

Over 150 students and activists packed a lecture hall at John Jay College Nov. 20 to learn about the case of the Cuban Five political prisoners.

The conference was sponsored by the Puerto Rican/Latin American Studies Department of John Jay and the New York Committee to Free the Cuban 5.

Students and others at the opening plenary listened intently to noted attorneys Leonard Weinglass and Linda Backiel. The two are part of the legal team working on the case.

"One of the most important victories of this first Cuba 5 teach-in in New York," said Teresa Gutierrez, one of the event's organizers, "was that a whole new layer of people learned for the first time not only about the Cuban 5, but about Cuba."

This is important because of current U.S.-Cuba tensions. Weinglass noted that

there is a "gathering storm" with regard to Bush policies against Cuba. He said the case of the five has to be seen in this context.

Students and activists participated and listened throughout the day-long event. Among others, they heard presentations about Cuba by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and the Rev. Lucius Walker, both staunch defenders of the five and the Cuban Revolution.

Clark and Walker moved the crowds with their stirring calls to do everything possible to defend Cuba and the Cuban 5.

All the speakers put a human face on the comrades who are held prisoner in five federal prisons throughout the United States.

The Rev. Luis Barrios, a John Jay College professor and one of the event's sponsors, brought down the house when he challenged everyone to see the five "as one of our brothers, sons, lovers, husbands, friends" and do everything to

bring them home to Cuba.

Barrios made a significant contribution to the case of the five by making sure that a lot of students came to the event to learn about the case.

At the end of the conference, organizers presented Barrios with a Cuba 5 t-shirt and buttons.

Julie Fry from the New York Committee to Free the Five told Workers World: "All the Cuba solidarity organizations helped organize for this teach-in, and helped to organize important workshops such as one on the campaign to win visas for the families to visit the prisoners. The U.S.-Cuba relations workshop," she noted, "was very well attended, indicating great interest about Cuba among the novices attending the conference."

Fry concluded at the end of the conference "that the five will be sent home—of that we are confident." □



## Conferencia Nacional de Resistencia

# Trabajador@s, jóvenes, y organizador@s de grupos antiguerra se reúnen

Por Deirdre Griswold  
Nueva York

Una cosa es reunirse y discutir estrategias de resistencia contra la reacción política cuando todo el mundo lo está haciendo. Pero otra cosa es cuando una buena parte del movimiento progresista todavía se siente deprimida después de haber dedicado tantos esfuerzos inútiles en el intento de derrotar a la administración de Bush en las urnas electorales.

Las cientos de personas que se reunieron en el Auditorio Chelsea aquí el 13 y 14 de noviembre en una Conferencia Nacional de Resistencia auspiciada por el Partido Mundo Obrero (Workers World Party, WWP) estaban muy conscientes de la emoción prevaleciente. Los discursos, talleres y grupos de debate bregaron con las luchas internas que surgieron en el movimiento sindical cuando la campaña electoral hizo desviar los recursos de los esfuerzos organizativos sindicales; con la feroz ofensiva lanzada por el Pentágono contra Faluya; y con las tácticas de los derechistas de provocar fanatismo contra lesbianas, homosexuales, gente bisexual y trasgénera durante la campaña electoral. En otras palabras, la gente que asistió a esta conferencia vive plenamente en el mundo real.

Pero esto no impidió a l@s participantes demostrar en cada momento que creen que la respuesta es luchar y no retroceder. Su entusiasmo se desbordó una y otra vez en ovaciones, vitoreo y en intervenciones apasionadas pero a la vez bien pensadas, basadas en la experiencia, expresando confianza en la capacidad de la clase trabajadora de organizarse y resistir la ofensiva de los millonarios tanto doméstica como internacionalmente. Todos los grupos oprimidos de la clase trabajadora de los Estados Unidos, multinacional y diversa, estuvieron bien representados en el podio al igual que en el auditorio.

La conferencia realmente tuvo una presencia nacional. De California participaron personas desde San Francisco, Berkeley, Los Angeles y San Diego. Impresionantes delegaciones mayormente de jóvenes vinieron de los estados sureños, en avión desde Georgia y Carolina del Sur, y en carro desde Carolina del Norte, Virginia y Virginia del Oeste.

## Aviso al movimiento

La secretaria del Partido Mundo Obrero / Workers World Party cree que es necesario publicar la siguiente clarificación con respecto a cambios del personal:

El 16 de Mayo de 2004, cuatro miembr@s del Partido Mundo Obrero que a menudo eran identificad@s públicamente como líderes del PMO/WWP—Brian Becker de Nueva York, Richard Becker y Gloria la Riva de San Francisco y Preston Wood de Los Ángeles—dimitieron del PMO/WWP y de todas las posiciones que ocupaban en la dirección del partido. En su carta de renuncia enfatizaron quejas organizativas y críticas de los líderes del par-

Desde la parte central industrial del Medio Oeste del país donde los sindicatos han sido atacados duramente, vinieron gente de Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh y Buffalo.

La mayoría de los participantes vinieron del corredor intensamente poblado de los estados del Noreste que pasa de Boston, Rhode Island, Connecticut y el área metropolitana de Nueva York, hacia Nueva Jersey y Filadelfia, llegando a Baltimore y a Washington, D.C. Trabajador@s negr@s, blanc@s, latin@s, indígenas, árabes y de otras nacionalidades oprimidas vinieron de todas estas áreas.

Además, activistas que querían fortalecer sus redes de comunicación con aliados antiguerra vinieron desde ciudades como Tucson, Arizona, y Denver, Colorado del área inmensa al oeste del Río Misisipi donde el complejo industrial militar todo lo permea.

Larry Holmes, miembro del secretariado del WWP que trabajó estrechamente con l@s líderes de la Marcha del Millón de Trabajador@s que tuvo lugar el 17 de octubre en Washington, D.C., abrió la conferencia con un excitante discurso. Habló del apoyo a la resistencia palestina e iraquí, e hizo un análisis de cómo la dependencia en el Partido Demócrata ha retardado el desarrollo del movimiento sindical en los Estados Unidos, resultando en una crisis en los sindicatos.

Sobre las elecciones, Holmes dijo, “Si lo mejor que puede ofrecer la burguesía a las masas es reacción y fanatismo, entonces esto es una indicación de la decadencia del sistema. Cuando atacan a nuestras hermanas y hermanos lesbianas, gays, bisexuales y trasgéner@s, cuando atacan a l@s inmigrantes, cuando atacan a los pueblos negros, latinos y asiáticos, significa que tenemos que resistir, tenemos que combatir ideas reaccionarias con ideas y tácticas revolucionarias”.

Al discurso de Holmes le siguió un debate sobre cómo reconstruir el movimiento antiguerra, que ha estado debilitado por la atención excesiva a las elecciones. Organizador@s del Centro de Acción Internacional y del grupo de apoyo a la resistencia entre las tropas de las Fuerzas Armadas de los EEUU, SNAFU, se unieron a miembr@s del WWP para hablar de la importancia de organizar una

tido como sus razones para dimitir.

Desde mediados de mayo de 2004, las cuatro personas nombradas arriba han dejado de representar al PMO/WWP en su trabajo político y en cualquiera de las organizaciones que hayan continuado trabajando activamente.

En una discusión del comité nacional del PMO/WWP sobre estas renuncias, se observó que en este tiempo, cuando la clase obrera y el movimiento antiimperialista tienen la responsabilidad de conducir una lucha contra la guerra imperialista, es muy desafortunado que cualquier/a camarada divida nuestras fuerzas. □

Semana de Alto a la Guerra, entre el 3 y el 11 de diciembre, y comenzar movilizándose junto a otros grupos para la protesta en contra de la inauguración del presidente Bush en enero y para el día mundial de acciones antiguerra en marzo en el aniversario del ataque de los EEUU contra Irak.

Otr@s líderes del Partido y candidat@s en las recientes elecciones hablaron durante el día, incluyendo al candidato presidencial John Parker, la candidata para la vice presidencia Teresa Gutiérrez, la candidata congresional LeiLani Dowell, y l@s miembr@s del Secretariado Sara Flounders, Fred Goldstein, Deirdre Griswold, Gutiérrez y Mónica Moorehead. Versiones breves de sus charlas aparecerán en el periódico Workers World/Mundo Obrero, a partir de esta edición, y en el portal del periódico, www.workers.org.

### Líder de la MMT dice “Fue sólo el principio”

L@s miembr@s del Partido Mundo Obrero WWP/PMO estuvieron acompañad@s en el podio por vari@s invitad@s representantes de muchas luchas. Un discurso particularmente importante y muy bien recibido fue el que dio Brenda Stokely, líder de la Marcha del Millón Trabajador@s y, como presidenta del Concilio Distrital 1707 de AFSCME, representante de miles de trabajador@s que reciben sueldo mínimo en Nueva York.

Hablando en el panel “Fomentando la solidaridad de la clase obrera”, Stokely le expresó su agradecimiento al Partido Mundo Obrero (WWP/PMO) por “toda la ayuda política y material que ayudó a hacer realidad la Marcha del Millón de Trabajador@s”. Stokely también criticó a los que en el movimiento “se quedaron a la orilla y no hicieron nada” y dijo que era una pérdida de tiempo polemizar con ellos. En cuanto a la MMT, dijo que fue “no sólo una marcha—esto es el principio de un movimiento de gran importancia”. Comparó al WWP/PMO con aquellos que creen que los políticos millonarios pueden hablar por las uniones y sus trabajador@s. “Ustedes respetan el derecho de l@s trabajador@s a levantarse y decir lo que queremos,” dijo, y concluyó su apasionado discurso diciendo: “Nosotr@s vamos a continuar construyendo nuestra habilidad de luchar ... construyendo el tipo de movimiento en este país que debe arrasar a la clase dominadora.”

Otra organizadora de la MMT, Sharon Black, vino a la conferencia directamente de la cárcel en Baltimore, donde estaba detenida con otr@s sindicalistas por dar apoyo a una manifestación de trabajador@s de hoteles.

L@s invitad@s que participaron representando otros movimientos describieron cómo la miseria promulgada por el imperialismo estadounidense ha estimulado la resistencia en los países de su procedencia: las Islas Filipinas, Irak, Haití, Corea, Colombia y Venezuela. (Ver el artículo que describe el panel sobre “La lucha contra el imperialismo”.) Tod@s l@s congregantes se pusieron en pie para observar un momento de silencio como tributo a l@s

que han puesto su vida en peligro en el Medio Este y en Haití, y también recordaron a los presos políticos en los Estados Unidos, especialmente a Mumia Abu-Jamal, Leonard Peltier y a los Cinco Cubanos.

Uno de los momentos más notorios del fin de semana fue la primera reunión nacional de LIMU/FIST, “Luchemos contra el Imperialismo y Manten-gámonos Unid@s”. Esta nueva organización de jóvenes asociada al el PMO/WWP está siendo muy combativa en la lucha contra la guerra y contra el reclutamiento militar del ROTC en los predios universitarios y en las escuelas secundarias. En la primera sesión plenaria de la conferencia, una organizadora de FIST, Julie Fry de Nueva York, anunció que l@s jóvenes iban a reunirse esa noche para proyectar nuevas acciones. Al día siguiente, Q Allen del estado de Carolina de Norte, informó que la reunión de FIST fue exitosa y se habían hecho planes para ampliar la lucha en muchas localidades del país.

Al final de la conferencia, después de que l@s asistentes habían tenido la oportunidad de oír los análisis del Partido Mundo Obrero sobre una amplia gama de cuestiones y podían ver cómo el Partido hace posible que las personas oprimidas puedan realizar todo su potencial como líderes y organizador@s, un último panel trató el tema “Por qué se necesita un partido revolucionario en los Estados Unidos”. Este fue seguido por una sesión especial en la cafetería para l@s que estaban interesad@s en saber cómo unirse al Partido. Y estaba lleno. Para l@s miembr@s del WWP/PMO que asistieron, fue una experiencia muy conmovedora el explicar a l@s que preguntaban, cómo la decisión de unirse al Partido fue la más importante de su vida.

Alternando con todas las pláticas hubo también actos culturales. Desde las poesías de los artistas de hip-hop—como las de Jaime Roundtree, Billy Martin, Kahlil Khan y Hassan Salaam—a las baladas de libertad cantadas por Pam Parker. Traducción al español y por señas (ASL) estuvo disponible durante las reuniones. □

