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Specter of Iraq haunts Bush trip

Would-be world emperor forced to tone down rhetoric

By Deirdre Griswold

The president of the United States got another reminder this week that it takes more than having the world's biggest weapons to make an aggressive, expansionist foreign policy produce the desired results.

The scripting of George W. Bush's trip to Europe was flawless. Everything was arranged in advance to manufacture the image required by a regime aspiring to world leadership, nay, world domination: unassailable strength tempered with compassion and a folksy touch. How many hours did he spend being coached on how to press his agenda firmly but in a way that would bring the European heads of state on board with his agenda for Iraq, Iran, Syria, Palestine and North Korea?

His enormous security apparatus did their jobs. In the German city of Mainz, for example, the police welded shut 1,300 manhole covers so the presidential motorcade of 80 vehicles could drive through the streets without fear of being bombed. A scheduled town hall meeting with "regular German citizens" was cancelled after the German government told Bush's staff that it couldn't guarantee friendly questions. (Washington Post, Feb. 23)

This is the same city where his father, Bush I, was once welcomed by cheering crowds. It seems so long ago.

The cameras of CNN, Fox and the rest of the corporate media didn't focus on the empty streets—empty except where thousands of demonstrators gathered with banners reading "Bush No. 1 terrorist." They accentuated the positive, showing Bush smiling alongside Jacques Chirac of France, Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and Tony Blair of Britain.

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Those who looked closely, however, couldn't fail to notice Bush's body language—tense, the smile pasted on his face. It was almost like a flashback to the days when the embattled Richard Nixon smiled and flashed the victory sign even while being booed to high heaven by hostile crowds. Nixon knew the cameras would dutifully focus on him, not his opponents, and editors would cut out the background noise.

A colossus with feet of clay?

In some ways, Bush might seem at the height of his power. His party managed, by hook or by crook, to get him elected to a second term. The voting in Iraq that he promised would usher in a period of stability and "nation-building" has taken place.

The loyal "opposition" at home, the Democrats, endorsed his Iraq and Afghan wars, as well as the Patriot Act, the creation of an expensive new police agency—the Department of Homeland Security, and of an "intelligence czar" to have authority over 15

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Koreans demand repeal of National Security Law **10**

New York

WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

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FIST leader pays tribute to Malcolm X

Following are excerpts from a talk given by FIST (Fight Imperialism—Stand Together) organizer LeiLani Dowell at a Feb. 18 Workers World Party meeting in New York.

Feb. 21 will mark the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X at the age of 39. He was by far one of our most dynamic leaders. His image is a symbol of revolutionary thought and action to this day.

What always impressed me the most about Malcolm X was his constant search for answers, and the ability to justify his actions, his ideologies, with facts and in plain, popular language—language that would galvanize a movement that continues to this day.

While he was able to defend Black nationalism as a justified response to hundreds of years of institutionalized racism, towards the end of his life he was seeking a more internationalist approach to ending oppression.

He declared himself as “one of the victims of America, one of the victims of Americanism,” and connected the struggle of Black people in the United States with all peoples living under the gun of U.S. imperialism throughout the world.

Malcolm brought pride to Black people. He made us feel that we were entitled to be angry, to demand respect, to demand justice, in the face of the violence and brutal oppression we had faced since the founding of this country.

He told students at Oxford University, “I firmly believe that the day that the Black man takes an uncompromising step and realizes that he’s within his rights, when his own freedom is being jeopardized, to use any means necessary to bring about his freedom and put a halt to that injustice, I don’t think he’ll be by himself.”

Malcolm also pointed out the hypocrisy of a system that practices violence every second of the day, and then preaches nonviolence to those it oppresses. His popularization of the right to self-defense—with the phrase “by any means necessary”—was an extremely important contribution to the Black liberation struggles of the time.

He saw a movement for real change building and growing. During one of his last speeches, he said, “You’re getting a new generation that is being born right now, and they are beginning to think with their own mind and see that you can’t negotiate upon freedom nowadays. If something is yours by right, you either fight for it or shut up. If you can’t fight for it, then forget it.”

In a Village Voice interview, Malcolm said, “You have to wake the people up first, to their humanity, to their own worth, and to their heritage—and then you’ll see action.” I’m sure in the last few years of Malcolm’s life, he would have taken the term “humanity” to mean the humanity of all, throughout the world.

Both Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. were embracing a more internationalist approach when they



Malcolm X, LeiLani Dowell

were gunned down. Malcolm X was preparing to raise the plight of African Americans to the UN before his death. The UN was different back then than it is now due to the presence of the former Soviet Union and the socialist bloc.

Malcolm had traveled to many parts of Africa, and seen the revolutionary struggles there, spoken with their leaders, and also traveled to Europe to speak with the youth there.

So is it merely coincidence that Malcolm’s and King’s lives were tragically cut short when their outlook was expanding to encompass the oppressed the world over? I don’t think it is. This is what the ruling class had the most to fear from—the mobilization of forces on an international level, the fight for the rights of all, connecting the war at home and the war abroad and militantly supporting each other’s causes.

We’re living in an extremely difficult and outrageous yet exciting time because I think we’re seeing this happen more and more here in the United States. On Oct. 17 of last year the legacy of Malcolm X was clearly manifested in the leaders of the Million Worker March.

And we’re seeing it yet again with the Troops Out Now Coalition and the mobilization for March 19. An active, working coalition has been built here in New York with representatives from labor, youth and students, artists, veterans, AIDS activists, tenants’ rights groups, LGBT communities, Arabs, Haitians, immigrant groups, groups in solidarity with Palestine, Venezuela, Cuba, El Salvador, Korea and the Philippines—all coming together to build for March 19, as well as support each other’s efforts with respect to their communities.

Ossie Davis said it best in his eulogy of Malcolm X: “In honoring him, we honor the best in ourselves.” So in the undying spirit of Malcolm X, let’s keep up the struggle! □

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WW CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Fri., Feb. 25

Workers World Party Meeting. Special Commemoration of Black History Month featuring Imani Henry and Monica Moorehead. 7 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. At 55 W. 17 St., 5th fl., Manhattan. For info: (212) 627-2994.

Sat., March 19

U.S. troops out now. rally in Central Park, East Meadow, noon. Sponsored by Troops Out Now Coalition. For info (212) 633-6646 or www.TroopsOutNow.org.

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LOS ANGELES

Anti-war conference mobilizes for March 19

By Adrian Garcia
Los Angeles

The crucial importance of linking the anti-war and anti-racist movements was the theme of an all-day conference held here on Feb. 19 that drew a standing-room-only crowd despite a day of severe thunderstorms and floods, part of the unusual weather plaguing southern California.

The anti-war and social justice conference, held at the offices of Service Employees union Local 660, was sponsored by the International Action Center and the L.A. Million Worker March Committee.

The rallying cry of the day-long conference was unity and the merging of numerous struggles represented by a wide range of speakers. John Parker, West Coast coordinator of the IAC, commenced the program by calling for solidarity because, "We need unity in order to win the fight against war, U.S. imperialism and racism."

Parker prompted audience members to join the Troops Out Now Caravan. Community and labor activists who are trying to save the King/Drew Medical Center are planning a caravan, with a sound system, that will travel from the hospital in South Los Angeles to an anti-

war rally on March 19 in Hollywood, called by ANSWER.

April Lawrence, a representative of U.S. Congressmember Maxine Waters, addressed the campaign of deception being waged against the King/Drew Medical Center by the media and administrators who are intent on reversing the gains won by the Black community in the 1960s.

"Los Angeles can't afford to close the trauma center," remarked Lawrence. "We need a big movement to save King/Drew."

Pierre Labossiere of the Haiti Action Committee noted, "The campaign of lies leveled against King/Drew is the same as that perpetrated against Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti."

Labossiere recounted Haiti's heroic history of resistance and explained its current struggle to rid itself of U.S. imperialism, sparking a thunderous "U.S. out of Haiti now!" from the audience.

Carlos Montes of Latinos Against the War and a member of SEIU Local 660 declared that the Black liberation struggle of the 1960s was a source of inspiration for his activism. Montes explained why it is pertinent for the success of the movement to recognize struggles for self-determination.

Zahi Dumani, national co-founder of Al-Awda, represented the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people against the U.S.-

sponsored Israeli war of occupation. Dumani spoke about the current situation in Palestine and called for solidarity.

Monica Moorehead, a former U.S. presidential candidate of Workers World Party and coordinator of Millions for Mumia, warned against repeating the mistakes made during the 1960s. "There must be linkage between the anti-war and anti-racist movements" in order to have a viable and strong movement to stop U.S. imperialism, she stressed. "We must unite to halt the genocide in Iraq and the attacks against poor and working people in the U.S."

Founder of the Million Worker March movement and member of the militant International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Clarence Thomas, asked unions to pass resolutions in support of the upcoming March 19 mobilization against the war.

Thomas announced that no cargo would be loaded at the port of Oakland on March 19.

Thomas also addressed criticisms by people in the movement and from other unions about his decision not to back Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry. "When people accused us of creating fissures with our Million Worker March, I would say, 'Those fissures were already present,'" commented Thomas.

He explained how Kerry's positions created the fissures—especially in regard to his support for the continuation of the war in Iraq and his lack of commitment to the labor movement.

Hwa Young Lee from the Korea Truth Commission gave an important update on the worldwide campaign to repeal South Korea's decades-long repressive National Security Law.

John Beacham of ANSWER gave an update on the March 19 anti-war demonstration in Hollywood.

In commemoration of Black History Month, Carl Mohammad, leader of San Diego's Committee Against Police Brutality, spoke about the contributions made by Dr. Martin Luther King's Poor Peoples Campaign.

Gloria Verdieu, member of San Diego's IAC and the Mumia Coalition, explained Malcolm X's unrelenting commitment to Black self-determination and his anti-imperialist stance.

The day's conference came to a close with a showing of Aleida Guevara's documentary, "Chávez, Venezuela and the New Latin America."

Participants in the conference went away with a treasure trove of information and a means for involvement in the growing movement to stop the war and attain social justice. □

Can economic draft be far behind war budget?

By David Hoskins

Bush's proposed 2006 budget has a \$2.5-trillion price tag. The cost of this budget places the country in a record \$427-billion deficit. ("Budget Analysis," AFSCME) A budget of this size could easily provide for a reorientation of the economy to insure universal womb-to-tomb healthcare and education along with massive investments in infrastructure and job works programs.

Instead, the budget proposal has placed 150 domestic federally funded programs on the chopping block while bolstering spending for the Pentagon and Homeland Security. Most of the targeted programs affect the poor and working class communities.

One third of all scheduled cuts come from education programs, for a total reduction of \$1.3 billion. These include the total elimination of the Perkins Loan program, which provides college funding for low-income students, and the Even Start family literacy program.

The Bush war budget has already eliminated 300,000 students from Pell Grants and another 700,000 students from after-school programs. Bush has declared a virtual war on students at home as he seeks an additional \$82-billion supplemental spending bill to sustain the war of occupation in Iraq.

The White House has consistently demonstrated that the ruling class's priorities are brutal wars of conquest and expansion and not providing for people's basic needs. But there exists another aspect to the Bush budget.

With nine out of 10 Army divisions currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan

and the military falling far short of recruitment goals, the ruling class is forced to find new ways to sustain its overseas military presence.

The Bush proposed cuts lay the basis for accelerating the economic draft. High unemployment rates coupled with decreased educational opportunities compel young people to look toward the military as a source of education and training.

This creates a situation where working class youth and young people of color are forced into the Army and Reserves out of economic necessity.

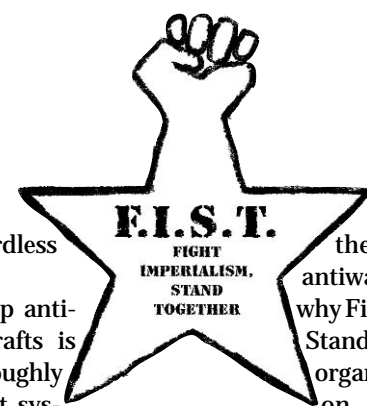
In addition, the Bush administration has engaged in some behind-the-scenes maneuvering that suggests that an actual draft remains on the table if it becomes necessary to sustain the occupation of Iraq.

On March 31, the Selective Service System will report to George W. Bush that it is able to implement the draft within 75 days of congressional approval. ("America Readies for Draft," NewsMax, June 25, 2004) The renewal of military conscription would be an ominous sign that the current government will not be deterred in

its push for foreign conquest, regardless of the consequences.

Ultimately the only way to stop anti-worker budgets and military drafts is through a revolution that will thoroughly uproot the profit-driven capitalist system and replace it with an economic system that meets the needs of all humanity: socialism. Long-term goals, however, must be accompanied by shorter term strategies and tactics.

With this in mind, it is important for youths and students to actively engage



themselves in the antiwar struggle. That is why Fight Imperialism—Stand Together (FIST) organizers are calling on young people everywhere to come to New York on March 19 and rally in Central Park to demand that Bush bring the troops home now and stop the wars abroad and at home on workers, youth and students.

Hoskins is a FIST organizer.
Contact FIST at fist@workers.org.

Bring FIST, SNAFU to your school!

Activists with the youth group FIST (Fight Imperialism—Stand Together) and SNAFU (Support Network for an Armed Forces Union) are taking the struggle against the war and in support of youth into the classrooms.

These activists, including youth and

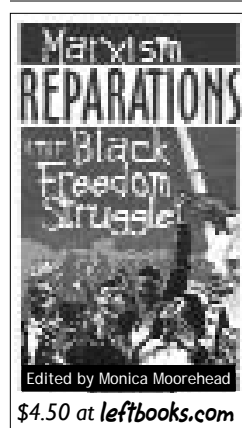
military veterans, have been speaking in high schools with much success, doing their own brand of recruiting into the anti-imperialist movement.

Youth are particularly moved to action by the impending threat of a military draft. While many of the schools visited have progressive administrations that refuse military recruiting on their campuses, students report the presence of recruiters directly outside their schools.

The message of building a movement to stop the draft before it starts, and to reach out to other youth with the facts about the military and military recruiting, has been well received.

Teachers, parents and youth: You can arrange for speakers to come to your school or your child's school. Contact SNAFU and FIST at (212) 633-6646.

—LeiLani Dowell



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

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Students walk out to protest school closings

By Cheryl LaBash
Detroit

When the Detroit School Board announced that 34 schools would not reopen in September 2005, students at Chadsey High voted with their feet. They walked out. Students at Communication and Media Arts (CMA) reinforced that message the next day by walking out in even larger numbers. Chadsey and CMA are the only two high schools to be closed. Elementary schools with high academic performance are also in jeopardy.

The closings are part of an announced "Deficit Elimination Plan" required by and submitted to the Michigan State Department of Education on Feb. 4. But what right does the current School Board have to close schools?

The current board is the unelected remnant of a take-over board installed five years ago. In the November 2004 election, the Black community overwhelmingly demanded and won its right to elect its school board.

How can this rejected body overrule the students, community, unions and parent-teacher organizations who want to keep their schools open?

This take-over board ran through a \$1.5-billion construction bond issue and a Detroit Public School (DPS) District budget surplus, creating the current deficit, which exceeds \$200 million. They are responsible for laying off teachers and support staff. Aramark, a high cost anti-union company, was brought in to replace school custodians with more than 20 years of experience.

A "deficit elimination plan" proposes to reduce Detroit school spending by more than \$560 million over the next five years, with the closing of 60 to 75 additional schools. According to the Detroit Public Schools website (www.detroit.k12.mi.us), the plan includes eliminating 4,000 jobs. The plan claims to adjust for an anti-

pated 25.2-percent decline in revenues and a drop in student enrollment from 140,000 to 100,000 by 2008/2009.

The severity of cuts the district is proposing is "pretty much unprecedented in Michigan, even during the Depression," said Jeffrey Mirel, a University of Michigan professor and Detroit schools historian. (Detroit News, Feb. 10)

Taking advantage of this latest public education crisis, proponents of privatizing education through charter schools have revived a plan that was beaten back last year. Former paving contractor Bob Thompson, who is famous for giving the bulk of the profits from the sale of his company to the workers, is again offering \$200 million for Detroit charter schools.

In a new twist, the money will be handled by African American business owner and former basketball player Dave Bing.

After beating of principal

Black community organizes against policy brutality

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Springfield, Mass.

Once again Springfield cops have been let off after brutally beating a Black man. But, as this outrage resonates in the community and more police terror is brought to light, a multi-faceted campaign led by oppressed communities and their allies is fighting back.

The Springfield Police Commission voted 3 to 2 on Jan. 31 to let off four white cops accused of beating and choking Douglas Greer, a principal at a local charter school, on Nov. 4.

According to Greer, principal of Robert M. Hughes Academy Charter School, he

was viciously beaten by the cops when he 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 cops arrived, according to multiple 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 cops accused him of being "on drugs."

There is a different and effective way to approach meeting educational needs. At a recent Jan. 21 New York Workers World Party meeting, Alicia Gonzalez from the Federation of Cuban Women described how Cuba maintained and expanded educational opportunities during tough economic times in the 1990s.

Gonzalez reported that transportation shortages made it difficult for students to travel to the central universities. In keeping with the Cuban government's commitment to universal free education, the schools were brought to the neighborhoods.

According to "Cuba: Beyond Our

Dreams," a book published as a manual for Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC) union organizers, Cuba manages "975 schools with 10 or fewer students, 656 with 5 or less, 128 with 3 or less and 76 with only one student." Every child has a school. Classes have no more than 20 students in elementary grades and 15 in secondary school.

What if the Detroit school decision-making process was turned on its head? Instead of starting from the budget, start from the need for quality education and solve the problems to achieve that goal. Every one of the 34 schools now slated to be closed could be kept open and put into full use. Turning the DPS budget deficit into a surplus only takes two days of the \$4.5-billion-a-month Iraq war budget.

"Cuba: Beyond Our Dreams" is available from www.leftbooks.com.

front when it comes to seeking justice," said the Rev. J. Williard Cofield, president of the Pastors' Council of Greater Springfield, at a news conference on Feb. 9 announcing the council's complaint filed with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. The council, which has 30 mostly Black pastors, filed the complaint concerning the Greer and family members' beating as a response to increasing complaints of police terror issued by its parishioners. (masslive.com)

"We have heard the cries of our community, and it is our business to speak up so the truth can come forward," said Cofield.

A probable-cause finding by the commission would force a public hearing. If the commission's investigation renders a lack of probable cause, the complaint will be moot.

The U.S. Justice Department has requested that the FBI investigate the complaint. This is like asking the fox to guard the chicken coop. Independent community organizations like the Springfield Technical Community College-based Urban Awareness Group are planning more independent actions like a Nov. 20 demonstration the group sponsored after the Greer beating.

The STCC students, with other community residents and organizations, hope to engage in anti-police brutality actions this spring and to conduct a people's commission to investigate and protest police brutality, terror and occupations of oppressed communities in the city.

Dick Gregory—activist, social commentator and humorist—spoke at STCC in early February and denounced the Springfield police department's racist actions.

In the progressive communities in Western Massachusetts there's a dawning awareness that the anti-war movement must connect the U.S. war in Iraq with the war on working-class and oppressed communities in the U.S.

A central component of these struggles must be anti-racism, especially in the struggle against the cops, the courts and the prison-industrial complex, which affects the oppressed communities most directly.

Nick Camerota contributed to this report.

'A Day of Outrage'

Rally defends attorney Lynne Stewart

A near-capacity crowd assembled at the Community Church in New York on Feb. 17 to support peoples' lawyer Lynne Stewart and her co-defendants. It was sponsored by the National Lawyers Guild. Supporters have denounced what they describe as a frameup by the state on charges of allegedly aiding terrorism.

Shortly after outrageous guilty verdicts had been returned against Stewart, the NLG called for events around the country on Feb. 17, deeming it "A Day of Outrage."

Despite the setbacks of a week earlier, all in attendance seemed ready for struggle. The mood in the church was not one of sorrow or fear but of determination to do what is necessary in the coming period to defend this courageous woman, who has spent 30 years defending others in the legal arena, including some of those most demonized by the state.

When Stewart arrived at the meeting, the audience stood and gave her boisterous and sustained applause.

The meeting commenced with a panel of speakers. Various lawyers working on her defense team gave brief presentations in order to allow for the participation of the audience. They went over the legal

Lynne Stewart

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO



aspects of the case and encouraged everyone to come out to support Stewart when she and her co-defendants return to court for post-conviction procedures.

In her remarks, Stewart gave a stirring talk that showed her fierce determination. Clearly not intimidated by the verdict, she called for unity in the movement and recognized death row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal's support for her case.

Esteemed lawyers Ramsey Clark and Leonard Weinglass were in the audience to show support for Stewart.

Many attendees lined up at the end to give solidarity messages from either themselves or organizations they are affiliated with.

Sara Flounders, co-director of the International Action Center, encouraged everyone in the audience to invite Lynne Stewart to every event they organize in order to help build support for this important case.

—Richard Duncan

was viciously beaten by the cops when he 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 cops arrived, according to multiple 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 cops accused him of being "on drugs."

Greer needed 18 stitches to close lacerations in his head. The police report on the beating claims Greer became violent and they had to use force and pepper spray. The cops also claim that while police were subduing Greer, he smashed his own head on the pavement.

At least two of the cops have long track records of racist, terrorist activity in the Black and other oppressed communities. Jeffrey Asher was suspended from the police force for a year in 1997 after a videotape showing him kicking an African American man was broadcast on local television. James Shewchuck, another cop 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 Black youth, during a traffic stop in 1994. Although Schoolfield's family, after years of litigation, won some minimal monetary compensation due to a civil suit, all the cops involved were let off.

Greer is exploring legal and other avenues for justice with Springfield's Nation of Islam, among others.

Two days after the commission's decision on the Greer beating, a videotape obtained by local media showed three members of a Black Springfield family being beaten and arrested in the Springfield police headquarters lobby in September 2004. While filing a complaint at the lobby window, the family, which has a long history of being harassed by the Springfield cops, was descended upon by at least 10 cops, who came from two side doors. The video shows police swinging batons and placing one of the family members in a choke hold.

Resistance

"Pastors have always been in the fore-

1970: reviving the fighting spirit of IWD

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

It's March 7, 1970: A militant crowd of more than 1,000 women and male supporters are surrounding the Women's House of Detention in Greenwich Village, chanting "Free our sisters! Free ourselves!"

Women prisoners wave from the windows, shouting, "Power to the people!"

Cops push against protesters holding banners demanding free and legal abortions, equal pay for equal work, no job discrimination and freedom for women political prisoners.

The crowd yells, "Women, let's unite and fight!"

On this day in 1970, the Women's Caucus of Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF) re-ignited the celebration of International Women's Day as a day of revolutionary struggle in the streets against women's oppression. YAWF was the youth group of Workers World Party during the Vietnam War.

The day began with a spirited rally in Union Square, chaired by Deirdre Griswold of the YAWF Women's Caucus. Speakers included representatives from many women's organizations: African American attorney Flo Kennedy, about her work to repeal New York's anti-abortion laws; Sue Davis of the YAWF Women's Caucus on the revolutionary history of IWD; Dr. June Finer of the Medical Committee on Human Rights on health care for women; and Kathy Ellis of the New University Conference on the fight for daycare.

The Women's Caucus of the Young Lords Party—the revolutionary Puerto Rican youth group—sent a delegation. Iris Benitez, lieutenant of information for the Young Lords, spoke about how Antonia Martinez had been killed the day before in a struggle against ROTC—the U.S. military's Reserve Officers' Training Corps—at the University of Puerto Rico. (WW, March 26, 1970)

After the rally, protesters marched to the Women's House of Detention at 6th Avenue, between Greenwich Avenue and the Jefferson Market. Before its relocation to Riker's Island in the mid-1970s, the jail housed political prisoners—from Ethel Rosenberg to Angela Davis.

At the time of the 1970 demonstration, two members of the embattled Panther 21—Joan Bird and Afeni Shakur—were held inside. The Panther 21 were members of the Black Panther Party who were arrested in a government Cointelpro frame-up.

But most of the women at the "House of D" were in jail for alleged crimes of survival, driven by poverty and desperation into prostitution or theft.

The arrest of three YAWF women at the protest led to

the formation of a Women's Bail Fund. To show solidarity with their sisters in prison, the group raised money to help other women get out of jail and back on their feet financially.

Griswold, now editor of Workers World newspaper, says of that 1970 protest, "Marching from the rally to the House of Detention drew attention to the plight of poor and working-class women in particular, and to women political prisoners. This revival of IWD was important because it took the day from being just a historical commemoration back to what it was originally—a struggle of the most oppressed women for their rights."

Red roots!

IWD, traditionally held on March 8, began in 1908 as a day of action organized by socialist working women in the U.S.

A common misconception about IWD is that it began simply as a strike by women garment and textile workers in New York, either in 1857 or in 1908. However, research by feminist historian Temma Kaplan shows that this explanation is erroneous, and perhaps arose in an attempt to separate IWD from its communist origins. Although there were strikes by women shirtwaist workers during those years, these were not related to the establishment of an International Women's Day. (Feminist Studies, Spring 1985, 163-171)

Instead, in 1907, German socialist Clara Zetkin organized an International Conference of Socialist Women where participants, including Russian Bolshevik Alexandra Kollontai, discussed ways to publicly support a struggle for women's equality and liberation.

Socialist women in New York City acted on this discussion in 1908 by holding a mass meeting on women's suffrage on March 8.

The next year the American Socialist Party instituted an annual "woman's day."



In 1910, Zetkin proposed an International Women's Day at the Second International Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen, and European socialists began to celebrate IWD in 1911. (Marian Sawyer, "International Women's Day," Canberra Times, Feb. 17, 1997)

The focus of these efforts was not to set up a day of speeches and floral bouquets, but rather to bring poor and working-class women, and women of oppressed nationalities, into the class struggle to liberate these women, as well as their sons, husbands, brothers, fathers and comrades.

Kollontai described IWD as "a day of international solidarity in the fight for common objectives and a day for reviewing the organized strength of working women under the banner of socialism." ("International Women's Day," Encyclopedia of Marxism, marxists.org)

The fiery power of working women in class struggle erupted on International Women's Day in Russia in 1917 in an event that culminated in the first of two revolutions that year. In St. Petersburg (later Petrograd), in an IWD walk-out, thousands of women needle-trade workers marched through the streets, chanting their demand for "Peace, bread and land!" As working-class men joined them, the crowd swelled to 90,000, and the spark of revolution lit that day led first to the overthrow of the czar and a class struggle that culminated nine months later in a communist revolution in Russia.

Reviving IWD as a day of struggle

Spanish women demonstrated against the fascist forces of Gen. Francisco Franco to mark International Women's Day in 1937. And Italian women observed IWD in 1943 with militant protests against fascist dictator Benito Mussolini sending their sons to die in World War II. (WILPF Newsletter, findarticles.com)

But in the U.S., during the Cold War witch-hunts of the McCarthy era, IWD demonstrations in the streets ended. By the 1950s, IWD celebrations were mainly small, in-door commemorative meetings.

Yet by the 1960s, a revolutionary wind was blowing new force into the struggle against women's oppression.

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WW interviews renowned biologist

Women's brains & 'myths of gender'

By Leslie Feinberg

I've just met him on this car ride to the train station. He's explaining to me the difference between women and men, girls and boys. "They play differently. They think about things differently. They have different brains."

Did he get that theory from Harvard President Lawrence Summers, I ask?

He leans forward against the straps of his car seat. "Who?" he frowns. He is six years old.

When I ask him the difference between girls' and boys' brains, he begins to squiggle his index finger in the air, making a "scientific" drawing that only he can see.

Clearly, it's time to talk to a scientist about this matter.

Dr. Anne Fausto-Sterling, an esteemed biologist and feminist, spoke to Workers World about the controversy that allows a Harvard president with no scientific background—in fact, he's a former World Bank economist and Clinton administration Treasury official—to squiggle in the air his theory that sex differences in the human brain may make women less capable of being mathematicians and scientists.

Fausto-Sterling is a professor of biology and gender studies in the Department of Molecular and Cell Biology and Biochemistry at Brown University. She is also author of the ground-breaking book, "Myths of Gender."

In an interview with Workers World newspaper,

Fausto-Sterling said her area of science has ranged from basic embryology and genetics to a sociological and historical approach to science. Today she is working on the application of ideas about the interaction of nature and nurture to complex problems having to do with gender, particularly in early childhood development.

"Politically I would describe myself as left wing," she says. "I've been involved in the feminist movement since its early days. I've been involved in progressive political movements to some degree for all of my life."

How does Fausto-Sterling talk about female and male brains and capabilities? "The 100-year-long debate on this is: Is it nature or is it nurture? I think that's the wrong way to look at it. The main thing I've been doing in my current work is trying to reframe the question."

Based on current findings from neurobiology labs, she explained, "the brain, and the rest of our bodies, are constantly being shaped and reshaped in its physical and also its social context."

"So nowadays if someone comes to me and says, 'I've done this study on men and women and it shows that some tiny little area of the brain looks different,' I do want to know if the study is well done, because there's plenty of bad studies. But assuming that it could be a well-done study, then I say, 'Oh, that's nice. How did they get to be that way?'"

"Most of these differences that are cited about the

brain—first of all one has no idea what they mean in terms of function—but most of them aren't present in newborns, in little kids. They develop during childhood and into adulthood.

"So why then do the brains of any two people diverge? They diverge because of some interaction between the life experiences of the individuals and how their genes respond to the life experience. So genes aren't at the bottom or the cause but genes are kind of in the middle. They're the way the body reacts to the environment, they're the tools the body uses to respond to environmental input. And if you de-center genes and genetics that way, then you have to talk about the environment as part of the picture."

She stresses, "The whole discussion of math and science needs to take place at a totally different level, which is that we know a lot about discrimination, about discouraging kids from being mathematicians or scientists. We know a lot about barriers that women face if they try to go into more advanced walks of life. And let's stick to those things first. We know what they are. And then if there's still a problem we can talk about genes."

Who's being subjective?

Some people uphold science as totally objective and others argue that scientists are such a product of their

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Iran defiant despite U.S. threats

By Sako Sefiani

The U.S. intelligence community is reportedly conducting a broad review of its Iran assessments, including a new look at information about the country's nuclear program, according to administration officials and congressional sources. (Washington Post, Feb. 19) A similar review, called a National Intelligence Estimate, formed an important part of the administration's case for war against Iraq.

However, this time the Pentagon is already bogged down, fighting a stubborn war in Iraq against a popular resistance that is straining U.S. troop levels, adding to its budget deficits and cutting into domestic programs.

Nevertheless, the Bush administration has been flying surveillance drones over Iran for nearly a year to seek evidence of nuclear weapons programs and detect weaknesses in air defenses, according to three U.S. officials with detailed knowledge of the secret effort.

The small, unmanned planes, penetrating Iranian airspace from U.S. military facilities in occupied Iraq, use radar, video, still photography and air filters designed to pick up traces of nuclear activity to gather information that is not accessible by satellites, the officials said. The aerial espionage is standard in military preparations for an eventual air attack and is also employed as a tool for intimidation.

Bush's senior advisers, including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, said in mid-February that a U.S. attack on Iran is not imminent but that the option remains available.

U.S. preparing to attack Iran?

U.S. officials have confirmed that the drones were indeed deployed along Iran's northern and western borders, first in April 2004 and again in December and January. A former U.S. official with direct knowledge of earlier phases of the operation told the Washington Post that the U.S. intelligence community began using Iraq as a base to spy on Iran shortly after taking Baghdad in early April 2003. Drones have been flown over Iran since then, the former official said, but the missions became more frequent last year.

The spring 2004 flyovers led Iran's military to step up its defenses around nuclear facilities in the southern cities of Isfahan and Bushehr, where locals first reported sightings of unidentified flying objects. Defenses were added around those sites and others last month, Iranian officials said, after it became clear they were being observed by the drones.

"It was clear to our air force that the entire intention here was to get us to turn on our radar," the official said.

That tactic, designed to contribute information about what the Pentagon calls an "enemy order of battle," has been used by the U.S. military in the Korean and Vietnam wars, against the Soviets and the Chinese, and in both Iraq wars.

"By coaxing the Iranians to turn on their radar, we can learn all about their defense systems, including the frequencies they are operating on, the range of their radar and, of course, where their weaknesses lie," said Thomas Keaney, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and executive director of the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins University.

After a briefing by their air force three weeks ago, Iran's national security officials ordered their forces not to turn on the radar or come into contact with the drones in any way. "Our decision was: Don't engage," an Iranian official said. Leaving

Iran used to be under the thumb of U.S. imperialism when the infamous Shah of Iran was on the throne. He was put there by the CIA. But the revolution of 1979 overthrew the Shah and established the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was the beginning of the 'clash' between the Muslim world and U.S. imperialism.

the radar off deprives U.S. forces of vital information about the country's air defense system, but it also makes it harder for Iran to tell if an attack is underway.

During the 12 years between the two wars against Iraq, the U.S. and Britain routinely flew over and targeted Iraqi military installations, in defiance of international laws and the United Nations, prompting the Iraqi air defenses to turn on their radar. Later, U.S. and British bombers used this information to identify and locate Iraqi air defense systems in order to bomb and destroy them. They also called the turning on of the radar—which is meant to warn of an air attack—a "provocation," a pretext for bombing.

So far, the drones have provided little information to the U.S., according to U.S. intelligence officials familiar with the mission.

Israel, believed to be the Middle East's only nuclear power, has hinted it could hit Iran militarily to stop it from getting the bomb.

Israel has warned that it may consider a preemptive strike against Iranian nuclear installations like it did in 1981 against an unfinished Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osirak near Baghdad, but Iranian officials have said any possible attack would fail. Iran's nuclear facilities are spread throughout the country and partly built underground, making an aerial attack difficult.

Iran responds to U.S. and Israeli threats

Iran has warned it would both retaliate and accelerate its drive to master nuclear technology if the United States or Israel attacked its atomic facilities. (Reuters, Feb. 6)

Iran's negotiator, Hasan Rowhani, told the state-run television on Feb. 8, "We are not seeking tension with the United States. We are seeking to resolve our problems with America but it's the Americans who don't want problems to be resolved." Rowhani is secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

Rowhani also said that a U.S. military strike against Iran's nuclear facilities would fail.

"Iran's nuclear technology is in the hands of its scientists and workshops throughout the country. All of them have the ability to produce centrifuges. Therefore, America will not be able to destroy our nuclear facilities and mines through a military strike," he said.

The broadcast said Iran had begun a new round of nuclear talks with the Europeans in Geneva.

The Bush administration claims that Iran is using its nuclear energy program to conceal an effort to manufacture nuclear weapons, but has offered no evidence. The International Atomic Energy Agency, the nuclear watchdog agency of the United Nations, has said there is no evidence to prove this claim. As a result the U.S. has been lobbying to remove its director, Mohammed El Baradei.

Under an agreement reached with the European Union in November, Iran will continue suspension of its enrichment activities during negotiations with the

Europeans. Iran has said it will decide within three months whether to continue its suspension, which is monitored by UN nuclear inspectors.

Rowhani said Iran won't give up its rights under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which allows Iran access to peaceful nuclear technology.

"The condition to continue the talks is progress," said Rowhani, adding that Iran would not be obliged to continue the talks after March 20 if there is no progress.

In his first interview with a U.S. journalist since 1997, former president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, 70, told USA Today on Feb. 6 that Iran was not concerned about tough statements from President Bush and Secretary of State Rice, which he called "nonsense."

He urged the White House to unfreeze billions of dollars in Iranian assets as a sign of goodwill that could help end 25 years of estrangement. He added that Iran has no use for a nuclear bomb: "We will never use such weapons; therefore they have no utility for us."

Iran and Israel

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the settler state of Israel illegitimate and its ethnic cleansing of Palestinians genocidal. Israel maintains that it will not allow millions of Palestinians, many of whom were driven out of their ancestral homes during the 1948 war that established Israel, to return home from the refugee camps in which they and their parents have been living for the past 58 years.

The ideological differences between the two states go back to the relation each has with U.S. imperialism, which is trying to maintain and further its hegemony over the strategically vital and oil-rich region, as well as the role of each in the international class struggle being waged between the poor of the world—especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America—and world imperialism headed by the U.S.

Since its formation in 1948, Israel has been used by the U.S. to put down national liberation movements in the region that could potentially go against the interests of U.S. imperialism, most notably that of the Palestinians for freedom and self-determination. In 1967, while the U.S. was busy destroying villages in Vietnam, Israel attacked Egypt and Syria to defeat Arab nationalism, which threatened to overthrow the rule of U.S. imperialism in the entire region.

For years Israel has occupied Palestinian land, has kept millions of Palestinians from returning to their homes, has demolished their homes on occupied land, and has killed tens of thousands—all in defiance of dozens of United Nations resolutions and numerous international laws. None of this would have been possible without the U.S.

Israel, with less than one-thousandth of the world's population, gets more money from the U.S. than the billion people living in sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean put together.

Roots of the clash

Iran used to be under the thumb of U.S. imperialism when the infamous Shah of

Iran was on the throne. He was put there by the CIA after a coup which overthrew a democratically elected prime minister who had gone against the wishes of Britain and the U.S. and nationalized the oil. But the revolution of 1979 overthrew the Shah and established the Islamic Republic of Iran. This was the beginning of the "clash" between the Muslim world and U.S. imperialism.

What the Iranian people wanted was to break free of the tyranny and super-exploitation imposed upon them by the U.S. transnational corporations. Working class organizations, having been decimated by the Shah with the help of the CIA, were unable to provide the needed leadership. Religion under these circumstances became the rallying point and filled the vacuum. Mosques became the meeting place for the opposition.

Thus, the battle lines were drawn between a united front of workers and the petty bourgeoisie, on the one hand, and the local pro-imperialist bourgeoisie and imperialism on the other. The left, representing the interests of the working class, wanted to overthrow capitalism as the domestic base of foreign imperialism and domination. The petty bourgeoisie, on the other hand, wanted to overthrow imperialism but keep an "independent" capitalism.

In light of the leadership role of the religious sector and the fact that the latter was historically aligned with the petty bourgeoisie, this sector won and established the Islamic Republic. Later, the regime attacked and obliterated what was left of the pro-socialist forces.

The capitalism that came out of this, however, was no longer aligned with Wall Street, international finance capital or the multi-billion-dollar corporations whose interests were being advanced by U.S. imperialism. Iran, in their view, had been "lost."

They had lost a trusted and reliable U.S. ally who, together with Israel, had policed the region for them. They lost a nation of 70 million people that the International Monetary Fund and World Bank had woven their web around, in the name of free trade and neo-liberalism, and made a meal out of for giant U.S. corporations. They lost a puppet regime that had to ask them how, where and how much oil it could sell.

Shortly after the 1979 revolution, the Islamic Republic established ties with the Shiites in Lebanon, specifically with the Hezbollah, who in 1983 bombed U.S. Marine barracks there, forcing the Reagan administration to withdraw U.S. forces from the country. The Hezbollah was also able to drive the Israelis out—the only defeat of Israel at the hands of Islamists until then.

Other Islamic forces—most notably in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Indonesia and elsewhere—took up the banner of anti-imperialist struggle. These struggles have erupted as a result of imperialist exploitation and the requisite tyranny that goes along with it. The Islamist movement in the world, just as in Iran, rose up to fill the vacuum created when secular working class organizations were wiped out.

Recently, in elections in Pakistan, two Islamist parties won two key provinces bordering Afghanistan. In previous elections they had won at most 5 to 6 percent of the vote. In explaining the victory, one Islamist leader said: "We didn't do anything but attack the American Empire. No one else was doing it. That won us the elections."

Oppressed people may suffer defeats,

Continued on page 11

Assassination of former Lebanese prime minister

Who stands to gain, who to lose?

By Joyce Chediak

Who stands to gain and who stands to lose from the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri?

The U.S. government seized upon this assassination to increase pressure upon Syria and Iraq. Indirectly blaming Syria for the assassination, the U.S. withdrew its ambassador from Damascus, then tried to force Syrian troops to leave Lebanon. Washington next renewed attacks against Lebanon's respected revolutionary group, Hezbollah, which is growing in popularity. The U.S. demanded that Hezbollah disarm, and then called on European governments to declare Hezbollah a "terrorist" organization.

Who was Rafik Hariri? He was the richest man in Lebanon, worth \$4 billion, and the prime minister on and off since 1992. Hariri's corporation, Solidere, re-built downtown Beirut. This city was reduced to rubble after years of civil war and a 1982 Israeli invasion. Under Hariri's watch, international banks returned to Beirut and the tourist industry revived. After his assassination, foreign investors are considering pulling back and rich Gulf state tourists are wondering if they are safe in Beirut.

While Hariri had disagreements with Syria at the time of his death, according to Dawn/The Guardian News Service of the UK, "Hariri was not fundamentally

opposed to the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Indeed, he was a key architect of the agreements that formalized and legitimized Syria's hegemony." (Feb. 19)

The forces in Lebanon now demanding that Syria leave appear to be a minority at this point. But they are powerful and given a great deal of attention in the U.S. media. They could bring down the government of Lebanon. They are the far right and openly fascist forces, based in the Maronite Christian community, allied with the forces of Walid Jumblatt, based in the Druze community.

Israel has armed and supported the fascists for decades. In 1982, fascists slaughtered thousands of Palestinians in West Beirut's Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps. They are currently assaulting Syrian workers in Lebanon and burning their tents.

In contrast, Hezbollah, which represents a much larger segment of the Lebanese population, has an anti-imperialist, anti-Israel intervention alliance with Syria. Mohammad Raad, leader of Hezbollah's 12-seat coalition in Lebanon's 128-member parliament, explained that the Syrians "benefit from the availability of an armed resistance in Lebanon, and we benefit from their need for armed resistance."

He added, "But we are not fighting in the interests of others. We are fighting for our own cause." (Washington Post, Dec. 19, 2004)

What is Hezbollah?

Hezbollah, or Party of God, is a revolutionary organization based in Lebanon's Shia community, the largest and poorest community in Lebanon. Hezbollah gained tremendous prestige in Lebanon and throughout the Arab world for leading popular Lebanese militias to victory against Israel in 2000, ending Israel's 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon. Syria and Iran are Hezbollah's main international supporters. Hezbollah receives material support from Iran via Syria.

Hezbollah, feared by Lebanon's pro-imperialist forces, is being watched closely in Washington. In an article entitled "Lebanese wary of a rising Hezbollah," the Dec. 19 Washington Post said that Hezbollah virtually runs its own government in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah is armed and has drone planes. It has a television station, runs schools and hospitals, and provides jobs and social services. Hezbollah has begun expanding into other areas of Lebanon.

Hariri governed Lebanon by rewarding his friends with lucrative contracts and tax cuts, amid charges of patronage and corruption. While a quarter of the people of Lebanon live below the poverty line, Hariri cut social services and public sector wages. (BBC News, Feb. 19)

In marked contrast, Hezbollah is known for its clean and fair government, says the

Post, which calls Hezbollah's agenda "populist." Explaining that it is filling a public need left by the Lebanese's government inability to provide sufficient health care for the region, Hezbollah is expanding its 50-hospital network into northern Lebanon. Hezbollah does not just serve the Shiite community. For instance, last year, its hospital in the south treated 50,000 Lebanese of all denominations.

Hezbollah has struck a non-sectarian tone in other areas of Lebanese life. For example, it prevented reprisals against southern Lebanon Christians who worked inside Israel during the occupation. Hezbollah is reaching out to Lebanon's mostly Sunni Palestinians, offering to improve the water system and build health clinics in the Ain Helweh camp.

Lebanon is a tiny country of only 4 million people, but its strategic location makes it important to imperialism. Will the Bush administration permit Hezbollah to continue to grow in influence, or will the Pentagon or the Israeli military intervene yet again in Lebanon? Two U.S. invasions, in 1958 and 1982, exacted a heavy toll on the Lebanese. The 1982 Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon left tens of thousands dead.

Despite this punishment, the Lebanese people continue to mount powerful popular struggles. Lebanon bears close watching by anti-war forces in the U.S. □

Women suffer most of all

Afghan desperation grows under U.S. occupation

By Deirdre Griswold

John McCain led a bipartisan group of U.S. senators to Afghanistan in February, where he told the world media that they "had come to congratulate the Afghan people for the economic and political progress made since U.S.-led forces overthrew the Taliban in late 2001." (Reuters, Feb. 22)

Bad timing.

On the very same day that McCain, Hillary Clinton, Russ Feingold and two other senators were giving the Bush administration's occupation of Afghanistan their stamp of approval, the United Nations released its 2004 Human Development Index. The report, which compares conditions in 178 developing countries, showed that Afghanistan ranks sixth from the bottom.

Life expectancy there is a scanty 44.5 years—20 years lower than neighboring countries.

The report concluded that Afghanistan has the very worst education system in the world, and one of the worst adult literacy rates: 28.7 percent.

"News" accounts that reach the United States through the filter of the corporate media monopolies have been extolling the virtues of the war and occupation, just as McCain, Clinton and the other senators are doing now. Many television programs have been devoted to showing that this military conquest has liberated the Afghan people from the oppressive rule of the Taliban.

Military operations by the 18,000 U.S. occupation troops cost billions of dollars. The number of dead and wounded—espe-

cially Afghans—continues to rise.

On Feb. 12, villagers near the Shinand U.S. air base in western Afghanistan shouted "Death to America" in a demonstration protesting the killing of two young men. They had been cutting firewood near a road as a military convoy passed. When they ran away, Special Forces troops mowed them down, said observers, and then came and finished one off with bullets to the chest.

"It affected the community very strongly," said the village chief, Muhammad Amin Kamin. "It is very sensitive. The people can become independent and fight against the Americans." (New York Times, Feb. 18)

The military brass are so worried about the explosive effects of this incident that they've launched an investigation.

Those whose job is to provide justification for whatever the capitalist government in Washington decides to do keep trying to put a humanitarian face on this brutal occupation.

In particular, they claim that women have been liberated and are now free to progress. Hillary Clinton's presence on the delegation was supposed to highlight this. But the figures in the report show otherwise.

"Most glaring are the inequalities that affect women and children, still some of the worst social indicators in the world today," said Alistair McKechnie, country director of the World Bank, which financed the report along with the Canadians and the United Nations. One woman dies from pregnancy-related causes about every 30 minutes, and maternal mortality rates are 60 times

higher than in industrialized countries, the report said.

"One-fifth of the children die before the age of 5, 80 percent of them from preventable diseases, one of the worst rates in the world. Only 25 percent of the population has access to clean drinking water, and one in eight children die from lack of clean water." (New York Times, Feb. 22)

What was behind decades of war?

Apologists for the U.S. will point to the decades of war in Afghanistan as responsible for its deplorable state, and urge that the new U.S.-installed government of Hamid Karzai be given a chance. But this argument leaves out a crucial factor: U.S. imperialism, including both Democratic and Republican administrations, is responsible for these decades of war.

For a brief period, beginning in 1978, Afghanistan had a secular, democratic government that tried to implement land reform, literacy programs and equal rights for women. It came up against the old feudal order. But not just them.

Because the revolutionary government was led by leftists, the U.S. within months began covertly organizing an armed opposition. The CIA spent billions creating an armed force out of various landlord militias, many of them extreme religious fundamentalists. That was the period when Osama bin Laden, among others, worked with the CIA in attempting to overthrow the government led by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Anahita Ratebzada, one of the leaders of that party, had founded the first women's rights



Afghanistan, Feb. 16.

organization in the country.

Afghan women were set way back when the progressive government was finally overthrown, but Washington was gleeful. It had drawn the USSR into the conflict—Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, later bragged about it—and that had helped weaken the Soviet Union.

The agenda for Afghanistan then, as now, was being set by the billionaire transnational corporations that despise and fear socialist revolutions and national liberation movements.

Senator McCain, speaking for the U.S. military-industrial complex, now declares that "permanent" U.S. military bases are needed in Afghanistan—which borders Iran and is viewed by the politically powerful energy companies as an ideal transit route for oil and gas pipelines from the Caspian Sea.

Like Iraq, Afghanistan can only begin to make real progress when it is free of imperialist intervention and occupation. □

For Giuliana Sgrena and against the war Half a million march in Rome

Some 500,000 protesters marched through intermittent rain and wind in Rome Feb. 19 calling for an end to the war against Iraq and the occupation. The demonstrators also called for the freeing of Giuliana Sgrena, a journalist for the independent pro-communist daily "Il Manifesto," and other hostages. Sgrena is a long-time leader of the feminist and anti-war movements in Italy. The others include journalist Florence Aubenas for the French paper "Libération" and her interpreter, Hussein Al Saadi.

Leading the march were two enormous banners reading "Let's liberate peace" and "Liberate Giuliana, Florence and

Hussein." Sgrena's elderly parents, Franco Sgrena and Antonietta Sgrena, and her lifelong companion Pier Scolari, headed the march. Giuliana's father is an ex-partisan in the war against Nazi-fascism and a retired railroad worker.

Throughout the march, rainbow-colored peace flags mixed with the red flags of the CGIL and COBAS trade unions, the Leftist Students, the Communist Refoundation Party, the Left Democrats and the Italian Communists, as well as the flags of the Green Party and many Iraqi and Palestinian flags.

Most demonstrators marched spontaneously in small groups and not in organ-

ized contingents. Many held home-made signs calling for the release of Giuliana and all the hostages. They called for an end to the criminal occupation of Iraq and the immediate withdrawal of all Italian and other Western troops. Other demonstrators carried blow-ups of photos taken by Sgrena during her reporting in Iraq over the last two years of the countless civilian victims of the U.S. war, including the many young children who are victims of U.S. cluster bombs.

A contingent of U.S. Citizens Against War from Florence and Rome marched behind a large banner reading "Not in our name" and was applauded all along the

march route. For the last part the U.S. contingent marched behind a banner of "Jews against the Israeli occupation," which was also very well received by the crowd.

The demonstration ended in the rain at the Circus Maximus, where speakers alternated with performances by Iraqi, other Arabic and Italian musicians. On the steep hillside above, demonstrators had written in huge letters formed with candles the words "Iraq Libero"—Free Iraq—with the last letter formed by a giant peace sign.

Based on a report by John Gilbert, U.S. Citizens Against War, Florence, Italy.



Brussels: Anti-Bush demonstrators take their protest to the steps of the stock exchange.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Brussels protest: 'Bush is not welcome!'

By John Catalinotto
Brussels, Belgium

"Bush is not welcome!" That was the message here on Feb. 20-22 from the Belgian peace movement, progressive groups and a good portion of the population.

U.S. President George W. Bush arrived here the evening of Feb. 20 to try to mend the relations with his imperialist allies in Western Europe that he had shattered by

unilaterally launching the war on Iraq in 2003. How much he offered the government leaders is still an open question. He offered nothing to the European working class, youth and students.

And they came out to show him what they thought of him on the first day in symbolically just the right place: the bourse or stock exchange in downtown Brussels, a marketplace for international capital.

On the steps outside the distinguished old building 1,000 people gathered, young and old, Belgian-born and immigrant. The BRussels Tribunal and the StopUSAggression anti-war group brought signs giving 20 examples of countries the Pentagon has bombed since 1945. To them, Bush is a war criminal, but not the only one.

Their message to European leaders was, "Don't follow Bush into Iraq or into any new wars against Iran or Syria or North Korea."

A representative of the Troops Out Now Coalition in the U.S. told protesters about plans for demonstrations there on March 19 and of the growing resistance among GIs to participating in the occupation of Iraq.

Following the demonstration, hundreds from the crowd, which was mostly youths, overstuffed a local theater for an evening of political discussion and cultural events. This included a talk by Francois Houtard, an elder statesperson of intellectual opposition to U.S. aggression and a key motivator of the World Social Forum.

The next day there was a massive police presence around Brussels, with many streets and metro stops blocked and schools closed for the day. It looked something like the state of siege in New York during last August's Republican National Convention.

Still, 4,000 Belgians jammed the streets across from the U.S. Embassy. They expressed their displeasure with Bush for the wars he unleashed, and also for failing to sign the Kyoto accord setting limits on the use of fossil fuels. Demonstrations around the city are also expected on Feb. 22, when Bush will be leaving for Germany.

Coordinated local protests are expected throughout Germany on Feb. 22. The following day, when Bush meets German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Mainz, thousands are expected to be there from all over the country—in another city under police siege. □

'Poison DUst' features vets exposed to DU

By David Hoskins
New York

The premiere showing on Feb. 15 of "Poison DUst"—a documentary highlighting the effects of Depleted Uranium [DU] on veterans returning from the Iraq war—attracted a large and engaged crowd at the New School theater. Filmmaker Sue Harris was on hand to introduce the film and take questions afterward. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and Sara Flounders, national co-director of the International Action Center, also spoke at the event.

DU refers to that portion of uranium left over after the enrichment process that makes natural metallic uranium suitable

for nuclear uses. DU has limited civilian applications in the development of medical radiation therapy machines.

However, the military has found a more sinister use for DU in its operations. Because of its high density, DU is used in armor-penetrating munitions. DU munitions were used extensively by United States forces in both the first and current Iraq wars, putting soldiers and civilians at risk of exposure.

DU is both radioactive and toxic to the human body. Exposure to DU can cause a host of ailments associated with the kidneys, lungs and immune system. An

increased risk of lung tissue damage and lung cancer has been documented among uranium miners.

The film features soldiers whose health has been affected by DU exposure, along with the wives of military personnel discussing genetic disabilities faced by their children as a result of a parent's exposure to DU. An increased risk of miscarriages, maternal mortality and congenital disabilities is associated with DU contamination.

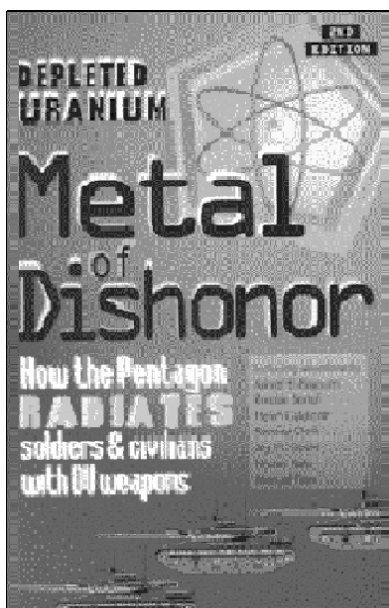
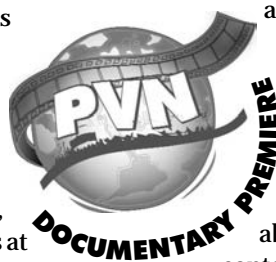
It's a weapon of mass destruction.

The top U.S. military brass are complicit in the cover-up of DU's harmful effects on civilians and soldiers. The current attitude of the U.S. military leadership is similar to the approach taken during the Vietnam War, when military leaders ignored the health risks connected to the use of Agent Orange as a defoliant.

Several military servicemembers and their families, including veterans featured in the film, were in attendance at the premiere of "Poison Dust." The anger these individuals harbor toward the government that disregarded their health and safety was apparent during the open discussion that followed the film.

It is up to the anti-war movement to channel this anger into an active resistance of the U.S. war of occupation in Iraq.

As the Troops Out Now Coalition organizes for a mass demonstration in New York City's Central Park on March 19, "Poison DUst" helps demonstrate why soldiers have both a right and a duty to resist serving in a military that disregards the lives of GIs and Iraqis. □



METAL OF DISHONOR Depleted Uranium

How the Pentagon Radiates Soldiers & Civilians with DU Weapons

A book that reports on the Pentagon's new weapons comprised of Depleted Uranium. Now in its second printing you can read scientists; Gulf War veterans; leaders of environmental, anti-nuclear, anti-military and community movements discuss: the connection of Depleted Uranium to Gulf War Syndrome and a new generation of radioactive conventional weapons. The bizarre Pentagon recycling plans of nuclear waste create a new global threat.

Authors include former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, Dr. Michio Kaku, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Dr. Rosalie Bertell, Dr. Jay M. Gould, John Catalinotto, Sara Flounders, Manuel Pino and many others.

'Imperialism cannot stop history!'

Packed event builds stronger ties with Venezuela

By Rebeca Toledo
New York

A standing-room-only crowd of several hundred people attended an historic event here on Feb. 11. The activity was organized by the Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle, Fuerza de la Revolucion, International Action Center, Cuban Solidarity N.Y. and others. It was held at the 1199 Health and Hospital Workers' hall.

The event brought together many different movements for an evening in solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela. It was dedicated to the memory of Malcolm X, Ossie Davis and James Forman.

Speakers included former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and author Jane Franklin.

The highlight of the night was back-to-back speeches from representatives of the Venezuelan and Cuban governments.

First up was Dr. Carlos Alvarado, vice minister for social development in Venezuela. He explained that he was in New York to attend the 10-year celebration of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration to eradicate poverty.

The Bolivarian government under President Hugo Chávez in 1998 "started to change the laws and the structure of the government and declared that it was responsible for the basic rights of the people: housing, education, healthcare, jobs, women's rights and Indigenous rights." The social indicators in 2000 and 2001 quickly started to show a decrease in poverty in the country.

"When we continued our march toward

eradicating poverty, invoking the people to be participates in history and challenging the very core of the powerful, we were met with a coup attempt in 2002 and work lockouts at the end of 2002. This can be called nothing but terrorism," Alvarado stated. "This was organized by a minority in the military and the government and of course it was supported by U.S. imperialism. All those who carried out these acts of terrorism are mostly living in the U.S. now, with some living in Colombia. We ask, who then really supports terrorism?"

Instead of giving in to the tremendous pressure it faced, in 2003 the Venezuelan government turned to developing social programs that would raise the standard of living of the people. "Mission Robinson has raised literacy to 80 percent in less than a year. Mission Barrio Adentro has brought healthcare to the most excluded sectors for the first time; 15,000 Cuban medical personnel have made this possible. Mission Zamora has begun to distribute land to the peasants. Credits have been made available and the peasants have begun to be organized into cooperatives."

'U.S. is destabilizing force'

Marcos Fuenmayor, a Venezuelan representative to the United Nations, spoke next. Responding to a recent U.S. State Department declaration that the Venezuelan purchase of Russian arms will be a destabilizing force in the region, he said, "We consider the U.S. military-industrial complex the destabilizing force in the world. We state again that Venezuela will defend itself against outside threats."

Responding to Condoleezza Rice's comment that Venezuela is having a negative impact on the region, he replied, "Perhaps it is a negative influence for those who want to starve us and declare 'free trade,' which means a concentration of wealth by big capital."

Responding to the recent kidnapping of a FARC leader in Venezuela, he said, "Colombia was used by imperialism. Imperialism's goal is to put Venezuela on the list of states harboring terrorists."

"The Bolivarian Revolution is with all of the oppressed of Latin America, Asia and Africa and the workers in Europe and the U.S. As Che said, 'We are anywhere where the powerful oppress the weak.'"

He continued, "The cost of being the voice of the poor is to be threatened and harassed by imperialism. But we readily take on this responsibility. We do not want a confrontation with the U.S. But we will not let anyone threaten our sovereignty."

"Events like tonight's show us that we are on the right path, the path of history. Imperialism can not stop history," he stressed.

'Political will finds a way'

The Cuban ambassador to the UN, Orlando Requeijo, began by saying, "Venezuela is a vibrant example for all of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is doing everything that goes against neoliberalism. Like Venezuela, Cuba does the exact opposite of what organizations such as the IMF [International Monetary Fund] and World Bank dictate. Our two countries have done more with less

resources because of this."

In December 2004, Venezuela and Cuba signed a broad range of accords, including the Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America (ALBA), a direct response to the U.S.'s Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

Requeijo explained, "ALBA is based on the integrative, complementary use of resources. Some of the things we are trying to do are to end customs tariffs between the two countries, develop industries both in Cuba and Venezuela and we trade in kind or in other currencies. We do not have to rely on the U.S. dollar for anything."

Cuba provides scholarships to Venezuelans to study in Cuba as well as medical personnel to carry out its missions. Requeijo proudly stated that in 10 years, tens of thousands of Venezuelan medical staff will have been trained by Cuban personnel.

"But I want to talk about what Venezuela is doing for Cuba. Venezuela is providing energy technology to Cuba, providing scholarships to Cuban students for energy training. Venezuela is financing energy and electrical development, road pavement, the building of aqueducts, the maintenance of ports and the sewage system."

"This is the problem, this is the danger to imperialism," he concluded. "The integration of a Bolivarian Latin America is moving forward in a real way. Political will finds a way. Problems are solved when the lines of communication are clear. When there is a clear strategy, victory is certain." □

Chance to see a revolution in the making

This year's world youth festival to be in Venezuela

By Julie Fry
Chicago

Caracas, Venezuela, has been designated as the host city for this year's 16th World Festival of Youth and Students, which is to take place in August. The festival, which has been a traditional gathering for young progressives since 1948, usually draws thousands of youth and students from more than 100 countries.

The slogan for this year's festival is "For peace and solidarity—we stand against imperialism and war." Therefore, it is fitting that the festival is taking place this year in Venezuela—a country whose people are standing so strong against imperi-

alism in the face of continuous threats from the U.S. government.

The Youth of the Fifth Republic (JVR)—the youth organization of the party led by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez—had proposed that the festival be held in Caracas this year. The JVR is organizing all the festival activities in Venezuela.

Venezuelan youth have participated in every aspect of the struggle to defend the Bolivarian Revolution and Chávez from U.S.-backed right-wing forces. Now youth from all over the world will have a chance to show their solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution and with the heroic youth of Venezuela.

Youth and students in the U.S. are

already preparing to take a large and broad delegation to Venezuela this summer. A recent meeting of the U.S. National Preparatory Committee for the Festival in Chicago drew over 100 people representing more than 40 youth and student organizations from across the country. They represented a range of struggles—from farm worker organizers to anti-imperialist activists. There are Local Organizing Committees in more than 20 cities already and more still being organized.

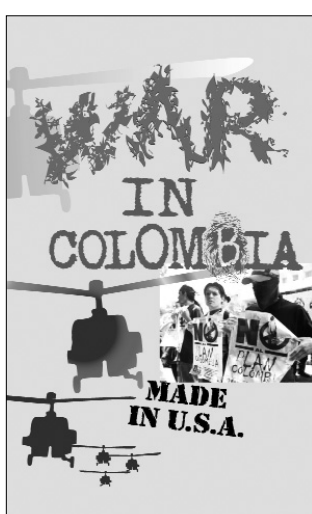
The 14th World Youth Festival, held eight years ago in Havana, Cuba, drew more than 800 delegates from the U.S.—the largest U.S. delegation to date. Many of those youth wanted to see the revolu-

tionary process in Cuba for themselves and show their solidarity with the Cuban people.

Similarly, the Bolivarian Revolution is inspiring many young people in the U.S. to take part in this year's festival. The National Preparatory Committee hopes to bring hundreds of youth from the U.S. to support the Venezuelan people and the struggles of youth from all over the world.

The festival will include an anti-imperialist tribunal, artistic and cultural events, and athletic activities.

People interested in participating can contact usnpc2005@riseup.net. □



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Free the
CUBAN

AIDS & imperialism

South Africa saw a 57-percent jump in reported deaths between 1997 and 2003, with AIDS-related deaths contributing hugely to the increase, according to a recently issued report by a group called Statistics SA. One in five adults in the country is living with HIV/AIDS.

A statement issued by the Asian Development Bank and the Joint United National Program on HIV/AIDS has stressed that goals to reduce poverty in the Asia-Pacific region will not be achieved without more funds being allocated to fight HIV/AIDS.

In the United States, a case of a gay man who contracted a strain of HIV resistant to most drugs and that progressed to full-blown AIDS within two months has renewed the scapegoating and condemnation of gay men as the cause and source of the epidemic.

This focus is coupled in the media with exposés on the use of crystal methamphetamine in the gay community, which lowers inhibitions. As usual with discussions on community drug abuse, the social factors that contribute to that abuse, such as poverty and discrimination, are ignored. So is the fact that crystal meth is itself an epidemic that is rampant throughout the U.S., and is devastating rural as well as urban areas.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration's proposed 2006 budget calls for cuts to the tune of \$4 million to AIDS prevention and surveillance programs. A \$38-million increase is earmarked for "absti-

nence-only" programs that have been proven to increase the likelihood of unsafe sex.

This doesn't include Bush's call for a \$4.5-billion cut to Medicaid—the largest provider of medical care to people with AIDS in the United States—over the next decade. The head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has said that budget cuts proposed for the National Institutes of Health could very well lead to a halt on some AIDS vaccine research.

While Bush admits that communities of color have been hit hardest by the epidemic, he proposes no extra funding for the so-called Minority AIDS Initiative. And he proposes to cut the Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS program by \$14 million. While the Bush administration does propose an increase in global AIDS spending, it doesn't even cover a third of the estimated amount needed to counter the pandemic.

This is the "morality" for which the Bush administration congratulates itself. The real culprit for the spread of this pandemic is the capitalist system of private ownership, exploitation and greed that makes a planned, global effort to marshal the necessary resources—human, financial and material—so difficult.

Let the demand ring out, loud and clear: Money for AIDS research, treatment and health care, not war for imperialist empire! □

Specter of Iraq haunts Bush trip

Continued from page 1

already existing spy agencies. They even seem to be ready to accept John Negroponte in the post of national intelligence director, despite his odious history as a facilitator of death-squad repression in countries like Honduras.

So why has Bush forsaken his triumphalist demeanor? Why is he actually speaking of an "equal partnership" with Europe—the "old Europe" he dismissed so breezily not very long ago? Why is he actually eating french fries?

It's always important to remember that Bush is not just a cocky, power-hungry individual but someone groomed for many years to represent the interests of the gold-plated U.S. ruling class, which owes its vast fortunes to the exploitation of the increasingly multi-national working class at home and the intense, super-exploitation of hundreds of millions of workers in oppressed countries around the world.

To them, an imperialist war like the one in Iraq is fully justified, no matter how dirty it is, if it succeeds in protecting and expanding their investments and their ability to suck out the resources and labor of other countries at the lowest possible cost. They don't mind corporations like Halliburton getting close to the presidency and skimming off extra gravy for themselves as long as it all works to enhance the interests of their class as a whole.

But what if it doesn't? What if the resistance of the Iraqi people to being recolonized turns what was anticipated to be a short, brutal victory into a long tunnel with no light at the end? What if that spirit of resistance begins appearing in more

and more places around the world?

What if the reluctance of the population at home to fight and die for empire makes it ever more difficult to get the needed bodies for their expensive war machine?

And what if the decades-long preoccupation with building the biggest, baddest, most technologically advanced military machine of all, and borrowing trillions to pay for it, is actually hurting their competitive edge in the world capitalist market, instead of enhancing it?

A flash of heat lightning

At the very moment that Bush was beginning his European trip, the financial markets got a rude shock. They heard that the Bank of Korea might start shifting its holdings into other currencies besides the dollar. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 150 points that day.

At one time, the various brokers and financial managers who analyze market trends would probably have laughed disparagingly if anyone suggested that a decision made by a bank in South Korea could shake them up. Their chauvinism was unmitigated. But the world has changed.

The huge foreign debt of the U.S. has greatly eroded its currency, and speculation has been rife for quite a while that institutions in other countries holding large amounts of U.S. dollars might begin to exchange them for something more stable, like the euro. A move by the Korean bank might be just the first shift in what could become an avalanche.

A lot of people in the financial world know this and are holding their breath.

So there was Bush, trying to look tough and friendly at the same time while he



Los Angeles

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Koreans demand repeal of National Security Law

It is hard to imagine a more repressive statute than South Korea's National Security Law, which has been on the books since 1948. Under this law, political prisoner Kim Sun Myoung was held in solitary confinement for 44 years—a world record. Other long-term political prisoners were held for decades because they refused to renounce their political beliefs.

Under the NSL, people could be, and were, thrown into jail—and even executed—for such offenses as "enemy-benefitting activities." The "enemy" referred to is North Korea. The Korean people, who have had one culture and language for thousands of years, have been divided ever since World War II. U.S. troops in the South enforce this cruel division, which affects millions of Korean families.

For the last six months, a vigorous campaign to repeal the NSL has been waged in South Korea by a coalition of over 300 civic organizations and popular movements, including the National Alliance for Democracy & Reunification of Korea, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, the Korean Peasants League, People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy and the Korea Truth Commission. Even the South Korean government's own Human Rights Commission has recommended the repeal of the NSL.

The law is especially anachronistic now that the two halves of the Korean peninsula are engaged in a process of dialogue and exchanges long prohibited. While government officials and business figures from the South regularly visit the North,

private citizens can still be arrested for making the trip. So hundreds of thousands of people have signed petitions and, in the fall, 600 went on a hunger strike calling for the law's abolition.

But hard-line rightists allied with the U.S. occupation forces are furiously opposed, predicting that crowds of people waving the flag of the Workers Party of Korea, the governing party in the North, will flood downtown Seoul if the law goes down to defeat.

The campaign to repeal the NSL reached the U.S. on Feb. 19. In Los Angeles, New York and other cities with significant Korean communities, candlelight vigils were held to abolish the hated law.

The Los Angeles protest took place at a busy intersection in one of the largest Korean population centers outside Asia. The locale has seen several vigils—most recently one opposing the sending of South Korean soldiers to Iraq.

In New York, the vigil was held at 32nd Street and Broadway, heart of the commercial area known as Koreatown.

Sponsors of the campaign include the Korea Truth Commission, which has an online petition and explanation of the law at korea-is-one.org, One Korea-L.A. Forum, and the Korean American East Region Alliance to Abolish National Security Law.

Workers World Party and the International Action Center also participated in solidarity with the Korean movement. In Los Angeles, Judy Greenspan spoke on behalf of WWP.

—Deirdre Griswold and Scott Scheffer

explained his administration's bellicose attitude toward Iran to a skeptical audience. Asked at a news conference if the U.S. might attack Iran—even while the European imperialists are negotiating with that country—Bush said, looking straight at the cameras, that such talk was "ridiculous." And then he added hastily that the U.S. didn't rule out any action. Pure double-speak.

There was laughter in the room. Laughter. So much laughter that it was noted in the transcript. Another photo op turned into humiliation for the would-be emperor.

His next stop is Russia, where he is supposed to dress down the Putin administration for its "crackdown on independent businesses and internal dissent." (New York Times, Feb. 23)

Independent businesses? Like the oil company Yukos, which Bush's energy friends thought they had all sewed up? ExxonMobil and ChevronTexaco had made a deal with the richest person in Russia, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, to sell them a huge chunk of that country's oil

riches at firesale prices. Now Khodorkovsky is in jail and Yukos has reverted to state ownership.

As much as the U.S. imperialists feel they deserve to control Russia's great resources and industries—after all, they won the Cold War!—they have not overcome the resistance of the Russian people, even after the destruction of the Soviet workers' state. Putin has to remember that if he wants to keep his job.

Nor is the Bush administration likely to get Russia's cooperation in its drive to isolate Iran and tighten its grip on the Middle East.

At bottom, it is not the independent will of rival capitalist politicians that has thrown a monkey wrench into the plans of Washington's neo-cons. It is the pressure they are feeling from below, from the masses—sometimes articulated clearly in political demonstrations, but more often apparent in other ways, from the spread of popular resistance in Iraq to the falling rate of military enlistment and the resistance to social service cuts, especially Social Security, here in the U.S. □

Reviving IWD Women's brains & 'myths of gender'

Continued from page 5

Many women, of all nationalities, were increasingly inspired by the power of a people's fight—the Black civil rights and anti-war movements, La Raza and the American Indian Movement.

The women's liberation movement emerged out of the confluence of these great mass movements. And many women began to study Marxism and communist history, inspired in part by the Vietnamese women "holding up half the sky," armed and fighting in a communist-led war for national liberation.

In 1968, socialist Laura X wrote an article calling for a renewal of IWD after watching Pudovkin's 1929 Soviet film, "The End of St. Petersburg," which highlighted the 1917 women workers' demonstration on IWD. The next year she joined with members of Berkeley Women's Liberation to organize an IWD street demonstration, which she believed to be the first such in the U.S. since 1947.

In 1970, 30 events took place worldwide on International Women's Day. (Laura X, ncmdr.org)

The YAWF revival of celebrating IWD as a militant day of struggle in the streets that year arose from bi-weekly meetings of the group's Women's Caucus. YAWF women combined theory with practice. They read and discussed Frederick Engels on "The Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State." And they studied other socialist writings, including works by Zetkin, Kollontai and V.I. Lenin, that chronicled the revolutionary communist origins of IWD.

Armed with an understanding of the revolutionary roots of IWD, they called for the 1970 rally at Union Square—site of many historic socialist and labor rallies.

Today, the importance of that 1970 rally and the march to the Women's House of Detention blazes out from the past. With that event the YAWF Women's Caucus reignited the celebration of International Women's Day in the streets of New York in a militant, communist tradition.

Remembering the fighting spirit of that day in 1970, Griswold explains how its lessons are crucial in today's struggles. "Economic pressures today in the U.S. are forcing more and more women into the army or into prison.

"They need an alternative—a multinational, international movement against women's oppression that is part of a world-wide struggle against imperialism and war."

Naomi Cohen, Sue Davis, Kathy Durkin and Sharon Eolis also provided information for this article. More articles on the struggle for women's liberation and Workers World Party's ongoing role will appear in WW during Women's History Month.

Continued from page 5

societies that they are totally subjective and would therefore like to write science off completely.

Fausto-Sterling answers, "Obviously I don't agree that science is all subjective and nothing is knowable. If I thought that, or if anybody thought that—especially people who are committed to political action—there would be no grounding in the world that could make you move forward."

She makes an analogy with a union in a struggle with a corporation to win higher wages. Union members will collect data, like company profits and how much the CEO is paid.

"The CEO may argue that his bonuses are not really his income and the union argues that it is. So there you start to argue about how you construct the facts. But still you try to do a good enough job that you think that the basic conclusion is correct even if the data aren't perfect.

"The data are never perfect. And that's true in science. And that's simply true in any walk of life, whether it's science or whether you're figuring out whether to put boots on your kid when you send them out the door. You have to make conclusions about the world and how it's working in order to put one foot in front of the other."

But scientists and science are social products, subject to the prevailing ideas and prejudices like racism, sexism and homophobia.

"When we talk about things like sex or gender or race," Fausto-Sterling cautions, "we're talking about categories that carry with them very deep social meanings. And it's very hard to separate the social meaning from how we decide to collect our information.

"For example, in studies of homosexuality in biology, many scientists come in to a study of gay men with a definition of gayness in males as meaning a male is more feminine, so they equate gay men with straight women at some level or with wanting to be straight women. If they come in with that theory of gayness, then the sort of science questions they're going to ask is going to be based on that theory. And so the question is: Is that the right way to frame the question to begin with?

"So you come in with these social definitions which are often nothing more than stereotypes and if you use those to do your science then your science is going to be constrained by that initial definition.

"And the same, by analogy, to race. If you believe that a dark skin color makes it likely that a person will get hypertension through some genetic cause, then you look for a pill to treat the hypertension. But if you believe that the dark skin color is a source of extraordinary stress, because of the daily insults of race a person of color

encounters in the U.S., then preventing the hypertension might mean attacking racism."

Change the curricula!

Can brains be easily grouped as "female" or "male" for study?

"The problem is—well, there're many levels of problems," Fausto-Sterling replies. "The first is how you're defining female and male. Whether you're doing it based on chromosomes, on the degree of masculinity or degree of femininity, in terms of male-presenting and female-presenting—you know there's this huge variability within sexes with just about any aspect of physical or emotional being, and there're huge overlaps.

"So the real question from my point of view is how and why individuals vary rather than asking how these big overlapping groups vary. I think the groups are not too useful as categories. You have men who are brilliant in math and you have

men who can't add one and one. And the same for women. And the really interesting question to me is what makes the difference between any two individuals. And I think the group question isn't usually too helpful at this level."

Fausto-Sterling concluded, "There's one other point I want to make, which is that science education in this country stinks for everybody. It's really bad. And in biology one reason for this is we still have that battle about teaching evolution in our schools.

"The first, most important step we could take would be to really beef up science education for everybody in elementary and secondary schools. Because if we did that, if we turn science from something badly taught and boring into something that is tremendously exciting and vibrant—which those of us who do science find it—we would catch a lot more of the potential scientists and mathematicians, both boys and girls." □

Iran defiant despite U.S. threats

Continued from page 6

but sooner or later they will stand up once again and wage their battle in whatever form and under whatever leadership or organization is available to them, using whatever means are available. If they don't have fighter jets, they will invent some other way to deliver their explosives.

Iranians defiant

Washington recently recalled its ambassador to Syria after the killing of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in a bombing, although Washington has not directly accused Damascus of responsibility.

Since the U.S. escalated its threats against Syria, Iran has pledged to back that country. "We are ready to help Syria on all grounds to confront threats," Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref said after meeting Syrian Prime Minister Naji al-Otar. (BBC News, Feb. 21) "Our Syrian brothers are facing specific threats and we hope they can benefit from our experience. We are ready to give them any help necessary."

Back in October, BBC News had interviewed people in Iran on their attitudes about the U.S. threats. "Why should the U.S., Britain and Israel all have nuclear weapons and not us?" asked student Saida Hussain. "I want to tell outsiders not to think that young people today are different from young people in the early days of the revolution..."

Professor Zibakalam of Tehran University's political science department said that "if the United States or Israel attacks Iran over the fact that Iran has been trying to develop its nuclear industry, then I think that public support would rally around the regime.

"No government in Iran can afford to say that because of international and U.S. pressure it will cancel the nuclear program altogether."

Washington also has the gall to accuse Iran of influencing Iraqi politics. This is because its favored candidate, Iyad Allawi, failed to win a majority in Iraq's elections, even though they were staged by the U.S. Those who got the most votes have closer ties to Iran.

This worries Washington, which has quite different plans for Iraq. Washington envisions an Iraq that will allow the building of 14 military bases it is already planning; will let the U.S. decide what Iraq can do with its oil; and will allow the Pentagon to use Iraq as a base to attack other nations such as Iran and Syria. It wants an Iraq "friendly" with Israel, and one that will implement neo-liberal policies.

While an attack on Iraq or Syria would only compound U.S. imperialism's problems, Bush himself says no options are closed. It is incumbent upon all anti-war and anti-imperialist people to get out on the streets to demand that the U.S. bring the troops home now. □

MUNDO OBRERO

El derecho a casarse a parejas del mismo sexo

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quien tiene el poder en Irak.

El verdadero poder a en Irak proviene del control del estado. Esto se refiere a quienes mandan la fuerza armada y pueden imponer su voluntad sobre el resto de la sociedad.

En Irak hay solamente dos fuerzas contendiendo por el poder. Por un lado están las fuerzas armadas de los EEUU y el Reino Unido, con el menguante apoyo simbólico de una colección de aliados y estados clientes.

Por el otro lado está la resistencia iraquí. A pesar de que no hay un liderato nacional

establecido, esta resistencia ha negado a Washington el control de la mayoría del centro de Irak, incluso la mayoría de Bagdad.

"Después de la relativa tranquilidad durante la votación, cuando la mayoría de Irak estuvo controlada por medidas drásticas que prohibían el tráfico vehicular y desplegaban cantidades masivas de tropas y policías en las calles, un patrón de secuestros, asesinatos políticos, sabotajes y carro bombas ha regresado. Algunas vías están controladas por la guerrilla, y los rebeldes han mantenido un cuartel de policía bajo asalto". (Los Angeles Times,

13 de febrero)

El intento de Washington de establecer un ejército títere iraquí sigue fracasando.

Porque el Pentágono ha falsificado la forma de reportar las cifras de tropas iraquíes, la administración puede "afirmar que ha llegado a la mitad del camino de entrenar 270.000 tropas iraquíes, incluyendo alrededor de 52.000 tropas y 135.000 policías. La realidad según los expertos, es que sólo hay 5.000 efectivos que se pueden considerar listos para combate". (The Independent, Reino Unido, 13 de febrero)

Así que el pronóstico del Irak pos comicios es que la resistencia va a seguir

aumentando y la administración de Bush continuará manteniendo gran cantidad de tropas estadounidenses allá. Una retirada de tropas significaría la admisión de derrota por el imperialismo estadounidense.

Por ello, más que nunca la demanda de la retirada inmediata de las tropas tiene que permanecer como demanda principal del movimiento antigüerra aquí. Es la demanda que actualmente tiene el apoyo de la mayoría abrumadora de iraquíes y el apoyo potencial de la vasta mayoría de trabajador@s, estudiantes y también de soldados, marinos y soldados de marina de los Estados Unidos. □

Irak, aún después de las elecciones es resistencia vs. ocupación

Por John Catalinotto

Publicado el 17 de febrero, 2005 – 11:09 pm.

En las dos primeras semanas después de las elecciones del 30 de enero en Irak, se han reportado 296 personas muertas en batallas entre las fuerzas de ocupación de los Estados Unidos con el ejército títere iraquí por un lado y las fuerzas iraquíes de resistencia por otro. Toda la evidencia señala la continuación de esta lucha tal y como ha sido por los últimos 20 meses, a pesar de las elecciones.

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos y la prensa capitalista presentan las elecciones del 30 de enero como unas honestas que respetaron los deseos del pueblo de Irak. Estas elecciones son un paso de estabilidad y de reconocimiento internacional para el nuevo régimen iraquí, dicen ellos.

El aceptar estas declaraciones lleva a una serie de preguntas que no tienen respuestas, tales como:

¿Cómo puede ser que el día después de las elecciones, las autoridades estadounidenses supieron que 8 millones de iraquíes votaron, mucho antes de que los votos fueran contados? ¿Cómo podían saber que este había sido el 57% de los votantes, cuando no ha habido censo? ¿Por qué se tomó dos semanas para contar los votos? ¿Por qué la coalición chiíta alrededor de al-Sistani terminó con sólo el 48% de los votos, cuando estimados anteriores por la prensa mostraban el 60%? ¿Cómo los partidos kurdos terminaron con el 25% de los votos?

Mahdi Ibrahim, un prominente miembro de la Asociación de Intelectuales Musulmanes (AIM), la autoridad religiosa suni más alta, ha desafiado las declaraciones británicas y estadounidenses que

decían que las elecciones fueron un éxito, diciendo él que la cifra de votantes no fue más del 30%.

Estas preguntas son difíciles de contestar si se aceptan las declaraciones de los Estados Unidos. Pero asúmase de otra manera: que las elecciones fueron una farsa elaborada por los Estados Unidos; el total de los votos se decidió mucho antes y estos fueron ajustados para que continuara la ocupación por los Estados Unidos.

La meta de esta farsa era la de establecer un régimen provisional que diera la apariencia de estabilidad y justicia, pero el cual es débil y no permite dar pasos para terminar la ocupación. Esto es difícil, ya que la gran mayoría de iraquíes quiere el fin del dominio estadounidense sobre su país.

El títere de los Estados Unidos que gobierna a Irak hoy, Iyad Allawi, obtuvo muy pocos votos. Aún con el ajuste de los totales, él salió con menos del 15% de los votos. De todos los candidatos, Allawi era el títere más obvio de la ocupación.

El grupo más grande es una alianza mayormente de partidos religiosos y de algunos partidos seculares del sur de Irak, alrededor de Ayatollah al-Sistani, un líder religioso de la comunidad chiíta. Este grupo, llamado la Alianza Unida Iraquí (AUI), rehusó unirse al boicot organizado por los partidos seculares y suni de Irak central. Este siguió los pasos de los Estados Unidos y participó en las elecciones, las cuales muchos de sus votantes veían como un paso para el fin de la ocupación.

Los primeros estimados dieron a la AUI el 60% de los votos. Esto les daría una gran mayoría de puestos en la Asamblea Nacional y una oportunidad para estructurar una nueva constitución. El movimiento de masas que apoya a la AUI prob-

ablemente rehusaría una colaboración abierta con la ocupación. Por esta razón, los Estados Unidos se afanaron para disminuir el papel de la AUI en el gobierno. Además, Washington sospecha que tiene lazos con el régimen iraní.

Por eso el 60 por ciento que esta había logrado bajó a un 48 por ciento para el 14 de febrero. A su vez, más votos de los esperados resultaron para los mayores partidos kurdos. Estos son: la Unión Patriótica de Kurdistan (UPK) dirigida por Jalal Talaban, el líder kurdo-iraquí que probablemente sea nombrado presidente, y el Partido Democrático Kurdo (PDK), dirigido por Massoud Barzani.

Éstos líderes han estado cooperando con la CIA desde los años setenta intentando obtener más poder para ellos a nombre de la autonomía kurda. Desde que la sección kurda al norte de Irak en la década de los noventa fue virtualmente separada, ellos han estado trabajando muy de cerca con los Estados Unidos.

En las primeras etapas de la invasión a Irak en el 2003, el gobierno turco impidió que el Pentágono asaltara desde Turquía. Entonces Estados Unidos recurrió a la cooperación con Peshmerga, un grupo armado kurdo aliado a estos dos partidos, para presionar a los ejércitos de Irak desde el norte.

Desde que comenzó la ocupación en abril de 2003, la región mayormente kurda ha sido la menos que ha sufrido a manos de las tropas de ocupación, y donde se han presentado menos fricciones entre las tropas y la población. El Pentágono incluso ha usado a Peshmerga contra la población árabe que reside más al sur. Ellas fueron las únicas fuerzas "iraquíes" que se unieron al asalto sangri-

ento de los EEUU contra Faluya en noviembre pasado, y consecuentemente se han vuelto en blanco de la resistencia, por lo menos a través de Irak central.

"En Mosul los cadáveres de 12 hombres, seis miembros de la Guardia Nacional de Irak y seis guardias de seguridad kurdos, fueron tirados en dos partes de la ciudad, reportó Prensa Asociada. Anotaciones dejadas cerca de los cuerpos de los guardias decían, 'Este es el destino de aquellos que participaron en asediar a Faluya.'" (New York Times, 13 de febrero)

Al exagerar el grado de éxito del PUC y el PDC en la votación, los EEUU han hecho que la Asamblea Nacional se vuelva un mercado de negociar puestos de liderazgo. Ahora mismo se sospecha que Talabani será nombrado presidente, lo que se describe como una "posición". Ibrahim al-Jaafari, el líder de la Alianza Iraquí Unida y actual vicepresidente interino, a lo mejor será nombrado primer ministro.

Curiosamente, Ahmad Chalabi es el principal rival de al-Jaafari para primer ministro. Notorio por su corrupción, Chalabi fue el primer exilado promovido por el Pentágono como líder de Irak después de la época del Partido Baath. Hace un año Chalabi fue despedido. Tropas de los EEUU hasta ocuparon los despachos de su partido. Ahora, parece que Washington lo va a necesitar de nuevo.

Resistencia y ocupación continúan

Esa es la lucha por la Asamblea Nacional, lo que realmente se reduce a un foro de discusión, especialmente cuando ninguno de los grupos principales tiene una mayoría permanente. No determina

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LAS FILIPINAS

El Nuevo Ejército Popular reconoce el derecho a casarse a parejas del mismo sexo

Por LeiLani Dowell

El 4 de febrero, el Nuevo Ejército Popular (NEP) celebró la primera boda de parejas del mismo sexo. Los dos guerrilleros, Ka Andrés y Ka José, camaradas que han participado en la lucha armada contra el régimen pro-estadounidense de Manila, afirmaron sus promesas matrimoniales delante de sus camaradas, amig@s y aldean@s.

La boda incorporó imágenes simbólicas del compromiso de los dos camaradas hacia el otro, y también de su compromiso

a la lucha revolucionaria. Los dos hombres se tomaron de manos durante la boda, y en la otra mano cada uno llevaba una bala como signo de su compromiso con la lucha armada.

Durante la ceremonia, Ka Andrés y Ka José estaban envueltos por una bandera del Partido Comunista de las Filipinas (PCP), adornada con lentejuelas y asegurada por un gran lazo de cuentas que unía a la pareja y a sus padrinos. El lazo y la bandera, según el periódico Philippine Daily Inquirer, son símbolos de que su matrimonio sería más fuerte con la ayuda de sus camaradas y de las masas.

Camaradas del Nuevo Ejército Popular celebran la primera boda del mismo sexo

Un coro del Nuevo Ejército Popular le brindó una serenata de canciones revolucionarias de amor a la pareja.

La respuesta de representantes del gobierno filipino ha sido condenar al Nuevo Ejército Popular de no tener religión. Un

portavoz de los generales de la Fuerza Aérea dijo a periodistas, "Esto es prueba de que ellos no tienen dios y su moralidad está cuestionada."

Aunque propuestas en apoyo del matrimonio de personas del mismo sexo han sido presentadas varias veces al cuerpo legislativo filipino, hasta ahora ninguna ha sido aprobada.

La Organización Progresista de Homosexuales (Pro Gay) respondió a la boda NEP con un reto a la administración de la Presidenta Gloria Macagapal Arroyo a que apruebe una ley que formalice los derechos iguales para filipin@s lesbianas y homosexuales. Michael Falguera, secretario general de Pro Gay, dijo, "En vez de estigmatizar a matrimonios homosexuales como asunto inmoral, el gobierno debe seguir el ejemplo del NEP y legalizar las relaciones domésticas y honrar a las familias de personas homosexuales."

Hablando sobre l@s homosexuales en el NEP, el recién casado Ka Andrés dijo, "Los cuadros homosexuales se adhieren a



la fuerte disciplina del partido. Ellos aumentan el prestigio de l@s homosexuales en el movimiento. Esto nos ha dado resultados muy positivos por muchos años. L@s compañer@s (mujeres y hombres) y aún las masas han aprendido a respetar y a reconocer a l@s homosexuales y sus contribuciones a la revolución.

Dijo Ka José: "Lo que tenemos que hacer ahora—con la ayuda del partido—es trabajar por nuestro matrimonio y ser fuertes mientras servimos al pueblo." □

