

MUNDO OBRERO

PALESTINA:
Logro histórico,
nuevos peligros 12

TEAMSTERS BLACK CAUCUS

Gearing up
for fall struggles 3

ALL OUT SEPT. 24

- Unity for Iraq protest 6
- Black Workers League 6

CIA DOCUMENTS SHOW

Posada-Carriles
a terrorist 9

EYEWITNESS CARACAS

Bolivarian education 9

'KOREA IS ONE'

Int'l meeting
in Pyongyang 11

Robertson's rant is no joke

editorial 10

4,400 unionists strike Northwest

Faced with pay cuts and job losses, workers fight back

By Cheryl LaBash
Detroit

As 4,400 Northwest Airline (NWA) mechanics and aircraft cleaners walked out on strike Aug. 20, there was more truth to be found on the picket lines than on the corporate-owned television or in the newspapers.

In addition to attacking the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), Northwest, the media and the federal government are continuing their decades-long assault on workers everywhere.

NWA's last best offer to their union eliminated the cleaning jobs, replacing them with \$8.50-per-hour non-staff contractual workers. In metropolitan Detroit, the minimum wage required to rent a two-bedroom home is \$15.48 per hour. Many of the women on the Detroit picket line spoke about their more than 20 years seniority cleaning aircraft, inside and out, and how their work has included everything from emptying waste water to replenishing fresh water.

According to AMFA literature, distributed at the Detroit terminal, NWA had been offered significant concessions including a 16-percent pay cut, a 20-percent out-of-pocket contribution to medical costs and changes to hard-won work rules. But that was not enough for NWA management. The corporation demanded a 25-percent pay cut from the mechanics, but not from management.

The AMFA decided to fight instead of folding when confronted with the airline industry's demands.

NWA also demanded the right to reduce the number of mechanics maintaining the aircraft from 9,700 four years ago to 2,500, a cut of nearly 75 percent. In negotiations with other unions, NWA is also demanding the right to outsource flight attendants for overseas travel.

Despite these cuts, the corporate media and airline industry are trying hard to persuade working-class travelers to bet their safety and spend their money on NWA tickets. To do this two major untruths are being repeated: first, the strike has had no

Continued on page 5

Camp Casey Diary From a spark to a prairie fire

Clockwise from bottom left, Iraq Veterans Against the War standing security; sign-in map for visitors; Annie Spell from New Orleans and Eddie Boyd from Baltimore; and organizing tent: "Cindy speaks for me, troops home now." See page 7.

WW PHOTOS: DUSTIN LANGLEY



SUBSCRIBE TO WORKERS WORLD

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER
55 W. 17 St. NY, NY 10011 212-627-2994
www.workers.org



This week ...

Headwaters of first mass political gay movement rise

By Leslie Feinberg

Mattachine's successful defense of one of its founders, Dale Jennings, against criminal charges of sexual solicitation of a Los Angeles vice cop in 1952 opened up a floodgate. The headwaters of the first mass political movement for homosexual emancipation in the United States quickly flowed through it.

"During the waning summer of 1952, word of the victory spread like wildfire," wrote Stuart Timmons. "In circles of friends, among 'ribbon clerk' professionals like costumers and clerks, in the gay crowds at bars like the Golden Carp on Melrose Avenue and the Pink Poodle on Pico Boulevard, people talked of little else."

Dorr Legg, who later was a founder of ONE magazine, heard the buzz in the office where he worked as a city planner. "A guy asked me, 'Have you heard about the guy here who has fought the police and won?' I said no. 'Well he has, and there's an organization about it.'"

Mattachine discussion groups that had been drawing 15 or 20 members suddenly doubled in size. Groups subdivided and then subdivided again, only weeks later, as the influx of new members continued.

By early 1953 the matrix of discussion groups had spread across Southern California—from the northern beach communities around Santa Monica to San Diego in the south and inland to San Bernardino.

Dorr Legg recalled, "Before long, hundreds of men and women were joining in excited discussion and arguments in a veritable flood of social protest and calls for action throughout Southern California."

The small core of Mattachine founders scrambled to develop new leadership for the multiplying number of discussion groups.

By May 1953, the Mattachine Foundation surmised that more than 2,000 were taking part in the movement. But Stuart Timmons notes that Harry Hay believed the number, based on the geographical spread, was closer to 5,000. Both were estimates, however, since there was no centralized membership list.

Movement spreads north

The Mattachine movement inspired organizing beyond its base in southern California. Gerry Brissette, a young lab technician at the University of California at Berkeley, wrote to the Mattachine Society in February 1953.

Brissette was more politically conservative than the communist founders of Mattachine. He was a pacifist, active in the Fellowship of Reconciliation. He wrote to Mattachine about his "dream of freedom" for homosexuals. He stressed "my responsibility to work for the kind of world I believe in, to help create in the hearts of people like me a belief in themselves, a dignity, and a capacity for loving." His letter concluded, "If Mattachine means this, then I am with you all the way."

The Mattachine founders invited him to Los Angeles in March to hold discussions about organizing in the northern part of the state. Plans were laid out to send other organizers up the coast to support Brissette. Soon, discussion groups took root—first in Oakland, then Berkeley and the Bay Area of San Francisco. These meetings immediately began drawing 60 or more participants.

Other groups were popping up like mushrooms: Bakersfield, Capistrano, Fresno, Laguna, Monterey, San Diego and Whittier.

The groups each had a different character. Chuck Rowland described the Laguna group as "Junior Chamber of Commerce" types, the Long Beach unit as "swishy" feminine homosexuals. Another drew a contingent of factory workers, while faculty from UCLA formed yet another.

The growth in the movement gave rise to a division of labor. Established discussion groups took on different tasks.

"The group composed mostly of UCLA faculty members embarked upon studying the literature of the natural and social sciences in an attempt to make sense of the current theories about homosexuality," explained historian John D'Emilio.

"Another group surveyed creative literature with homosexual and lesbian themes. Others compiled clipping files on vice squad actions and morals arrests, and most of them gathered affidavits from participants who had suffered from abusive police behavior."

Birth of ONE Magazine

The idea for a magazine, written by and for male and female homosexuals, was born out of a West Hollywood discussion group in late 1952.

Martin Block was chairing the meeting. Block was a writer from New York who came out of an anarchist current and, long before joining Mattachine in California, had heard about the German Homosexual Emancipation Movement from older East Coast refugees. Block recalled, "You always heard that there should be a gay organization."

The idea to publish a magazine struck a chord. The bitter experience of media silence about Mattachine organizing to defend Dale Jennings was still fresh in everyone's mind.

And a magazine could connect and inform the organizing that was reaching from southern to northern California.

Block recalls that the discussion about a homophile magazine grew so excited that Block scolded the group for diverging from the meeting's agenda. He told anyone who wanted to talk about the magazine to please go to the kitchen to do so.

"Then I turned over the chair of the discussion group and joined them," Block said, "because I was just as excited about it as everybody else."

In October 1952 a multinational group of men gathered in Block's bookstore on Hollywood Boulevard to found and incorporate the first mass-distributed homosexual publication in the United States.

Martin Block was voted president; Dale Jennings was elected vice president.

Other signatories included Merton Bird and W. Dorr Legg. Bird, a Black activist and Legg, a white activist, had been founders of the Knights of the Clocks—a social support organization for inter-racial gay and lesbian couples in Los Angeles. Dorr later described the organization as the establishment of "the earliest of the 'Gay Community Centers' which are now found all across the country."

Antonio Reyes and Bailey Whitaker were the other two founders of the magazine. Reyes was a Latino dancer and ceramics designer from El Paso. Whitaker was a young Black student.

It was Whitaker—whose *nom de guerre* was Guy Rousseau—who came up with "ONE" as the name and the masthead of the magazine. Whitaker drew this idea from a quote by Victorian essayist Thomas Carlyle: "A mystic

Continued on page 5



PART 45
The entire Lavender & Red series, which explores the history of the socialist movement and the struggle for sexual & gender liberation, can be read online at www.workers.org.

WW CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Fri., Aug. 26

Workers World Party meeting: Solidarity with immigrant workers, with leaders from the Mexican immigrant workers' and day laborers' struggles. 7 pm. (Dinner at 6:30) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info (212) 627-2994.

Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
Phone: (212) 627-2994
Fax: (212) 675-7869
E-mail: editor@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
Vol. 47, No. 34 • Sept. 1, 2005
Closing date: Aug. 24, 2005

Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson
West Coast Editor: John Parker
Contributing Editors: Greg Butterfield, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Milt Neidenberg
Technical Staff: Shelley Ettinger, Maggie Vascassenno
Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Teresa Gutierrez, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Donna Lazarus, Carlos Vargas,
Internet: Janet Mayes

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

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to wnewssubscribe@workersworld.net.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y.

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



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

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

National Office
55 W. 17 St.,
New York, NY 10011
(212) 627-2994;
Fax (212) 675-7869
www.workers.org

Atlanta
P.O. Box 424,
Atlanta, GA 30301
(404) 627-0815
atlanta@workers.org

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

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

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

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

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

Denver
denver@workers.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

San Francisco
2940 16th St., #207
San Francisco,
CA 94103
(415) 561-9752
sf@workers.org

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

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

Black Teamsters caucus meets

Anti-war fight, Millions More March, Farrakhan's talk are highlights

By Johnnie Stevens
Chicago

Highlights of the Teamsters National Black Caucus meeting here Aug. 17-21 were the group's commitment to the struggle against the war and occupation of Iraq, its plans to participate in the Millions More Movement in October, and a keynote talk by Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam.

Millions More Movement leader Farrakhan addressed 500 members and supporters of the TNBC who gathered in Chicago for their group's annual conference. Minister Farrakhan was invited to speak at the TNBC's banquet by its current president, Chris Silvera, a Teamster leader in the New York area as well as one of the leaders of the Million Worker March Movement.

The invitation to Minister Farrakhan had grown out of discussions within the MWMM about how to highlight Black workers' and Black trade unionists' concerns and their participation in the upcoming Millions More Movement march, set for Oct. 15 in Washington, D.C.

Minister Farrakhan slammed the war in Iraq, saying, "Instead of Saddam Hussein, it's Bush who should be put on trial for war crimes." The NOI leader noted that this was the first time he had spoken before a gathering of trade unionists.

MWMM Co-chair and International

Longshore Workers official Clarence Thomas, who attended the TNBC event, said, "Having Minister Farrakhan here is a major breakthrough for Black labor participation in the Millions More Movement march this fall."

Thomas also noted, "The fact that Farrakhan, in his remarks, called on the labor movement to go back to the table and work out its differences, because the split only serves the interest of greedy corporate executives, is very significant and timely."

Recently several major unions, including the Teamsters, UNITE-HERE and the Service Employees, separated from the AFL-CIO.

The five-day-long TNBC conference endorsed the Millions More Movement march, the Sept. 24 anti-war march in Washington, D.C., as well as a call for three days of protest against the war, racism and poverty set for Dec. 1-3. These dates coincide with the 50th anniversary of the day Rosa Parks opened the famous Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott when she was arrested for refusing to give her seat to a white man.

Larry Holmes of the Troops Out Now Coalition and the MWMM, who also addressed the TNBC meeting, said: "The response at the caucus meeting to the protest on the anniversary of Rosa Parks' defiant stand and the incredible bus boycott that it sparked is really strong. The support of the TNBC will help us get



WW PHOTO: JOHNNIE STEVENS

Minister Louis Farrakhan addresses meeting of unionists in Chicago.

more trade unionists involved in the Dec. 1-3 protest, and it will help our ambitious plans to encourage workers to plan job actions during that time."

Trent Willis, MWMM co-chair and president of ILWU Local 10, also address-

sed the meeting, as did other MWMM leaders Brenda Stokely and Leo Robinson. Coalition of Black Trade Unionists President Bill Lucy and Transport Workers Union Local 100 President Roger Toussaint of New York City also spoke. □

Truth is coming to light

'JUSTICE for the MOVE 9!'

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

"Free the MOVE 9!" The chants rang out Aug. 7 in the steamy summer air. Protesters had gathered outside the Constitution Center to mark the 27th anniversary of the unjust imprisonment of MOVE members, jailed after a 1978 assault by over 600 heavily armed Philadelphia police officers on the group's Powelton Village headquarters.

MOVE held an Aug. 8 news conference outside the offices of Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham to demand she reopen the case.

In 1978, when the MOVE family fled into the basement of their home to avoid the attack, police attempted to flood them out with high-pressure hoses. During the attack, police officer James Ramp was killed by a single gunshot. Nine members of the MOVE family were charged with Ramp's murder, and received 30-to-100-year sentences.

There is ample evidence that none of the nine was responsible for Ramp's death. Even television and radio stations initially reported that Ramp was killed by "friendly fire" from officers firing at the MOVE house. Police—clearly intent on killing MOVE members, including children, trapped inside—had fired over 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

A city negotiator inside the MOVE home at the time, as well as journalists and other eyewitnesses, all insisted that the shots appeared to have been fired from across the street. When police opened fire, several firefighters, other police officers, and MOVE members Delbert and Chuck Africa were all wounded.

Ramp, who was stationed toward the front of the assault formation, was shot in the back of his neck by a bullet traveling downward. MOVE members were in the basement of the house six feet below the ground, struggling to keep their children from drowning.

But any evidence that could have supported the defense in the case was destroyed by Philadelphia police following orders from Mayor Frank Rizzo to bulldoze the house, leveling it within hours of the assault. Noted Philadelphia journalist Linn Washington described it as "the fastest destruction of a crime-scene site in history."

MOVE members Chuck, Debbie, Delbert, Eddie, Janet, Janine, Merle, Mike and Phil Africa were given the excessive sentences on May 4, 1980 by Judge Edward Malmed. When Malmed was a guest on a radio show a few days after the sentencing, journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal called in to ask him who killed Ramp. Malmed replied, "I haven't the faintest idea." He said that since "they call themselves a family, I sentenced them as a family."

Merle Africa was killed in prison on March 13, 1998. The others remain in prisons across the state of Pennsylvania.

In the eyes of the racist state, MOVE's real offense was daring to stand up and speak out to expose the police brutality rampant in Philadelphia in the 1970s. Before becoming mayor, Rizzo had been commissioner of police, and his regime was a virtual police state.

Despite all the evidence and facts that prove their innocence, Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham has refused to consider legal appeals for the MOVE 9. She has balked at even considering an investigation into the case.

Warrants she signed in 1977, when she was a Philadelphia judge, provided the basis for the 1978 assault.

But the truth is coming to light. "MOVE," an award-winning documentary released this year, provides a thorough, unbiased history of the events surrounding the case. The MOVE organization has also announced that the African American Museum here will present a MOVE exhibition from Oct. 7 to Nov. 6.

For more information on the MOVE 9, visit their website: www.onamove.com. □

Teenagers and supporters vow struggle

Mall owners trample youth rights

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Holyoke, Mass.

On July 13 the Pyramid Management Group, owners of the Ingleside Mall in Holyoke, Mass., issued a statement announcing that, effective Sept. 9, the mall will bar anyone under 18 who is not accompanied by an adult over 21 on Fridays and Saturdays from 4 p.m. to closing time. Teenaged mall workers will not be subject to this policy.

Thirty additional security officers have been hired to enforce the policy. "Greeters" will inform customers of the policy. If individuals don't have proper identification showing they're 21 or over, they may be asked to leave the mall. (www.masslive.com)

But young people and their allies are fighting back. Fifteen-year-old Machael A. Lemme, who lives in nearby Chicopee, began a petition drive on July 13 to demand the policy be revoked. His father and over 1,100 others have signed. See www.petitionspot.com/petitions/holyokemall.

Other actions being considered by area youths and progressive organizations include boycotts, pickets and/or sit-ins.

Established in 1970, the Syracuse, N.Y.-based Pyramid owns 20 malls in Massachusetts and New York. It reports approximately \$5 billion in annual sales.

Pyramid has only implemented this policy in its malls near or in cities with big populations of people of color and high poverty rates.

According to the 2000 census, in Holyoke, the poorest city in Massachusetts, Latin@s make up more than half of the population. Those under 18 make up 30

percent. In Syracuse and Buffalo malls where these policies are already in place, statistics are similar, although with a bigger Black population.

In cities where Pyramid hasn't implemented its policy, the local population is predominantly white and poverty rates are much lower. These cities include Hadley, Mass., where whites make up 96 percent of the population; Pittsfield, Mass., 92 percent white. Plymouth—where Independence Mall caters to tourists going to Plymouth, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket—is 93 percent white. The poverty rate in all these cities is at or below 11 percent.

Mountain Development Corporation followed Pyramid's lead on Aug. 1 by issuing a similar policy, barring unescorted teens under 15 after 5 p.m. every day at its Eastfield Mall near Springfield, Mass. Springfield's population is 20 percent Black and 27 percent Latin@. Springfield has a 23-percent federal poverty level.

These discriminatory policies began in 1996 at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. They are now standard at many of the 1,100 malls in the United States, claims the International Council of Shopping Centers.

"It's devastating how so many rules and so many people seem to be against young people. This is age discrimination. It takes away another right that young people should have... The mall is such a huge place for teenagers, from a social standpoint... There aren't enough safe hangouts or drop-in centers for us to go," said teenager Mary Jo Pham in a newspaper opinion poll regarding these policies. (www.masslive.com) □

Solidarity charters are no answer

Labor split feeds anti-union attack

By Milt Neidenberg

Since the split in the AFL-CIO, the top leadership of the two rival union camps have been working overtime to consolidate their bases. Both the AFL-CIO and the Change to Win Coalition have been telling their respective rank and file that they're for unity. But they are operating in a hostile, divisive manner, ignoring the workers' and oppressed nationalities' need for class-wide unity and independent struggle.

After the defection of the Service Employees International Union and other unions, the AFL-CIO Executive Council ruled at its convention that the disaffiliated unions could not remain in local central labor councils or state federations.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said the AFL-CIO constitution required this ruling. He told convention delegates that the central labor councils and state federations could no longer accept dues—per capita payments—from the defecting unions. Nor, he ruled, could the defecting unions be represented by delegates or officers in the local and state organizations.

The AFL-CIO bureaucracy has now retreated from that position. They have proposed "Solidarity Charters," to woo Change to Win local unions in the central labor councils and state federations to return to the AFL-CIO.

Since the SEIU and Teamster defections, the United Food and Commercial Workers has also disaffiliated from the AFL-CIO. The AFL-CIO calculates that the loss of these three big unions will cost it close to \$28 million—from a budget approximating \$120 million—and more than 4 million of its 13 million members.

The Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees/Hotel Employees Restaurant Employees—UNITE HERE—and the Laborers International also boycotted the AFL-CIO convention. Both unions continue to threaten to leave.

The United Farm Workers union has agreed to stay in the AFL-CIO. The Carpenters union is not affiliated with the AFL-CIO.

It would be a disaster to throw the Change to Win unions out of the local labor councils and the state federations.

Before the AFL-CIO convention ended, the Executive Council appointed a few top leaders to try to mitigate this potential disaster. They set up a committee to review the constitution.

With the board's approval, Sweeney has now set up "Solidarity Charters." These would revise the national constitution, permitting the disaffiliated local unions to remain in the AFL-CIO's central labor councils and state federations.

But the Solidarity Charters create second-class membership filled with bureaucratic hitches.

Hitch number one

According to the AFL-CIO: "If a local union of a disaffiliated union wants to be part of a united local movement in their city and state, they can apply to be part of the central labor council or state federation.

"They would pay a 10 percent solidarity fee to the labor council or state federation to help offset the cost of services and mobilization systems provided by the national AFL-CIO and supported by its affiliated unions."

The 10 percent charge would be in addition to the dues that each member union

paid into the central labor council and state federation before the split.

Hitch number two

Members who sign on to the Solidarity Charters would have to remain in the central labor councils and the state federations until the end of 2006. And they would have to participate fully in local politics. This is an obvious reference to the 2006 congressional election.

This is a high-handed maneuver to get the local unions from the Change to Win Coalition—SEIU, UFCW, Teamsters, and Carpenters—to help finance the capitalist politicians endorsed by the AFL-CIO.

Hitch number three

Members of unions with a Solidarity Charter can't hold top labor council or state federation office. Individuals already in office can only finish out their terms.

Immediately, Anna Burger, chair of the Change to Win Coalition, denounced the entire proposal to create Solidarity Charters. She called them divisive, saying, "The AFL-CIO has taken a position that uses the rhetoric of unity, but is designed to provide unnecessary divisions."

She charged that the language contains "fine print poison-pill provisions," including "discriminatory fees" [and] "a ban on participation in local and state leadership by disaffiliated unions."

Split whets gov't appetite

Unfortunately, as the factional rhetoric heats up, leaders of the local and state bodies are in a holding pattern until the hierarchy of both labor factions plan their next step.

The Change to Win Coalition will hold its founding convention in Cincinnati in late September. At a time when Wall Street, Corporate "America" and the government are dumping their global and domestic crises on the backs of the workers and the oppressed, the top-down factionalism couldn't come at a worse time.

The Change to Win Coalition's split from the AFL-CIO and Sweeney's bureaucratic proposal to form Solidarity Charters will only whet the ruling class and its government's appetites.

As an Aug. 11 Wall Street Journal headline noted, just two weeks after the AFL-CIO split three Republican governors—in Missouri, Indiana and Maryland—opened attacks on public-sector unions.

The Journal reported: "First-term Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt rescinded collective-bargaining rights for state employees. ... Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, a former Bush White House budget director, overturned an executive order that for 15 years provided collective-bargaining rights for that state's public employees. And Maryland's Robert Ehrlich, backed by the state Supreme Court, suspended a 2-percent pay increase unions had negotiated for state employees with his predecessor."

The Journal reveled in "the bitterness between AFSCME and unions that recently quit the AFL-CIO—including the Service Employees International Union which has a significant public employee unit."

The government joy may yet be short-lived. This mouthpiece for the ruling class hasn't the foggiest notion of what the rank and file—those who work together to provide public services for millions of workers and poor and maintain the deteriorating infrastructure—are thinking. The workers'

labor power has joined them in unity—Black, white, Latin@, Asian and women.

Still, it is painfully clear that as long as the AFL-CIO and the Change to Win Coalition are at each others' throats, the potential for unity is submerged. Leaders of both factions are on a destructive, divisive course. They show no vision as to what it will take to revive the labor movement and build unity in the central labor councils and state federations.

Bureaucratic nitpicking over structure and money, which led to the split in the AFL-CIO, will not measure up to what's needed to respond to the ongoing war against labor.

Among the multinational rank and file of both factions there is a residue of good will. They have worked together over decades in good times and bad. It is in the labor councils and the state federations that most of the support for strikes and other forms of struggle is organized. These bodies could be the structural basis for a multinational rank-and-file fight back.

Public employees are a source of strength and revenue to fight back against the preemptive strike at their unions. About one out of every three of the country's 5 million state government employees is represented by a union.

AFSCME has more members than any other union in the AFL-CIO, even before the split. United with the numerical strength of SEIU, which has also organized public-sector workers, this powerhouse could meet the war against public employees head-on.

This unity would reinforce the structural level of support built in the labor councils and state federations. It would come from the bottom up, include both public- and private-sector workers, be national in scope and framed in struggle.

It will take a regrouping, a council of leaders from below, to implement this vision of a fight back in the midst of class war.

The capitalist system of exploitation, national oppression and imperialist war will feed the will to resist. Bubbling from below—from the multinational work force, women and oppressed nationalities and united with the anti-war and other movements—there is the energy and will to build this united front. It must burst forth.

Rally highlights U.S. prison abuses

By Reza Namdar and David Hoskins
Washington, D.C.

On Aug. 13, Family Members and Friends of People Incarcerated—FMI—held a national demonstration here in Washington, D.C., to protest the imprisonment of more than 2 million people in the United States. Sister rallies took place in Seattle and in Lansing, Mich.

More than 300 lively protesters came out and voiced their grievances.

The demonstrators demanded "community investment and education, not incarceration." More than 70 organizations, including the Southern Center for Human Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union Capital Punishment Project, endorsed the event.

Speaker after speaker railed against the

ON THE PICKETLINE

By Sue Davis

Federal workers protest

Hundreds of federal workers, many from the departments of defense and homeland security, marched on Capitol Hill July 12 to protest proposed changes in personnel systems. They charged that workers' ability to do their jobs would be severely hampered if the changes went into effect Aug. 15.

"These bogus personnel changes will destroy morale and undermine public servants throughout the federal government by injecting politics into the federal work place, stripping workers of their whistle-blowing protections, and eliminating accountability over federal spending on salaries and raises," said John Gage, president of the Government Employees union.

(July 13 Union City published by the Metro Washington Council)

On Aug. 12, a federal court judge appointed by President George W. Bush ruled that the proposed changes covering 180,000 workers in the Department of Homeland Security did not "ensure collective bargaining" as mandated by law. She struck them down, ruling that they violated the rights and protections granted workers by Congress.

Women musicians win settlement

Though the recent movie "Mona Lisa Smile" promoted women's rights in the repressive 1950s, its 21st-century producers paid 19 women musicians less than their male counterparts for the same work on the film. On Aug. 9 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission announced a settlement that provided a payout of \$3,500 to each musician for a total of \$66,500. The producers, however, did not admit to any wrongdoing in the settlement. □



growth in the U.S. prison population, the racist character of sentencing and the irrational drug policy in the United States.

According to FMI, 55 percent of the federal prison population consists of individuals serving time for a drug law violation. Given the rising prison population, the organizers are calling for the reversal of a 1987 act of Congress that abolished the federal parole system and replaced it with fixed mandatory sentences.

The U.S. incarceration rate is the highest in the world: 701 incarcerations per 100,000 of the population. During George W. Bush's tenure as governor, Texas led the country in executions, with over 150 state-sponsored killings.

According to Bonnie Kerness of Prison Watch, "The criminal justice system

Continued on page 8

Airline uses scabs as 4,400 strike Northwest

Continued from page 1

effect and second, the strike has no support.

273 flights canceled

Here are the facts:

On Aug. 20, the first day of the strike, NWA canceled more than 273 flights. NWA calls the cancellations "shifting to the fall schedule early." At Northwest's number one hub, the new lavish McNamara Terminal at Detroit's Metro Airport, there are empty ticket counters and short lines at the security check points.

Two safety incidents occurred there within a few hours of the start of the strike. Around 4 p.m., four tires blew out on an incoming flight. Later an air-conditioning malfunction sent smoke into the aircraft cabin forcing a flight to Pittsburgh to return to Detroit so travelers could board another plane.

On Aug. 21 nearly half of the scheduled non-stop flights were delayed or canceled. The Detroit News reported that frustrated customers felt NWA "didn't seem to be upfront about the level of delays passengers should expect."

The media has reported widely that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) had given its stamp of approval to NWA's training of scab "replacement mechanics" and its plan to maintain its fleet with a drastically cut workforce of mechanics. But the FAA's own Aviation Safety Inspectors say NWA's plan is not working.

In a letter of support for the striking mechanics, James H. Pratt, a safety inspectors union official, wrote, "Thirteen FAA Airworthiness Inspectors assigned for the entire world system of Northwest, for the hundreds of locations where Northwest is going to do maintenance, including those with replacement workers. I hardly think that qualifies as 'closely monitoring.' I guess the FAA Headquarters spokeswoman must think 13 is your lucky number if you are planning on flying on Northwest Airlines right now."

Other unions show solidarity

Much is made in the media about the other Northwest unions continuing to work. Yet ticket agents who are union members came out of the terminal to report all the cancellations to the strikers. Custodial staff drove up to the picket line at the terminal when rain started, distributing large plastic bags as improvised rain gear for their picketing co-workers. The striking men and women enthusiastically greeted their supporters.

On Aug. 21, according to the Detroit News, the solidarity continued. A Northwest flight attendant dropped off a stack of pizzas, and a mechanic with another airline wrote a \$100 check for the strike fund.

Are there any workers at any airline who haven't followed the restructuring of the industry and the attacks on pensions, wages and benefits, who don't fear for their jobs and their livelihoods? Those workers too are looking for a way to fight back but are not sure that leaving their jobs is the best or only way to do it.

The strike headquarters itself shows that the AMFA is not alone and is prepared to fight. Tucked behind a nearby UAW Local hall, the tented encampment had the air of a military operation. A support statement from concerned Metro-Detroit unionists titled "Don't Cross a Picket Line in the Middle of a War" was warmly received. In the weeks before the strike deadline, AMFA held daily demonstrations picketing area hotels housing scab replacement mechanics.

Mechanics on the picket line wore T-shirts with a coiled cobra rearing up and the words, "When provoked we will [strike]."

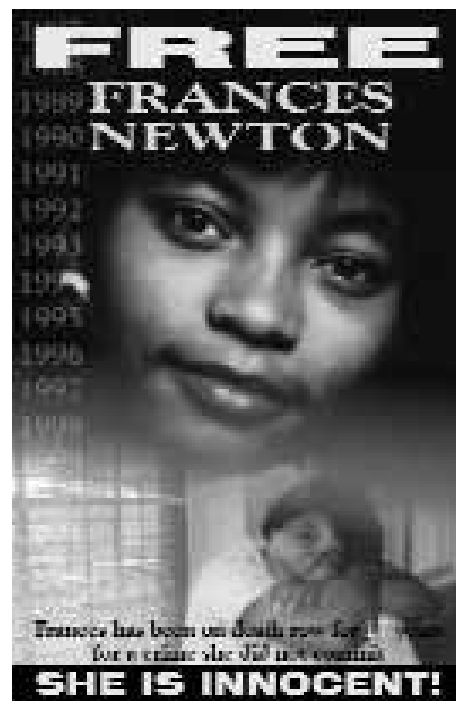
The AMFA strike is a defensive action forced on the mechanics and cleaners. Although the media is seeking to pit worker against worker, the AMFA's picket-line strategy in the first days of the strike was not directed at other union workers at Metro but at the corporation that doesn't agree with the AMFA's motto that "Safety in the Air Begins with Quality Maintenance on the Ground." □

Stop the execution of Frances Newton

If the state of Texas is allowed to go through with the execution of Frances Newton on Sept. 14, she will be the first African American woman executed in Texas since the Civil War. The history of her case is like that of many other poor and oppressed people in Texas, that of being railroaded to Death Row, where she has been for 18 years. (See Workers World, Aug. 25)

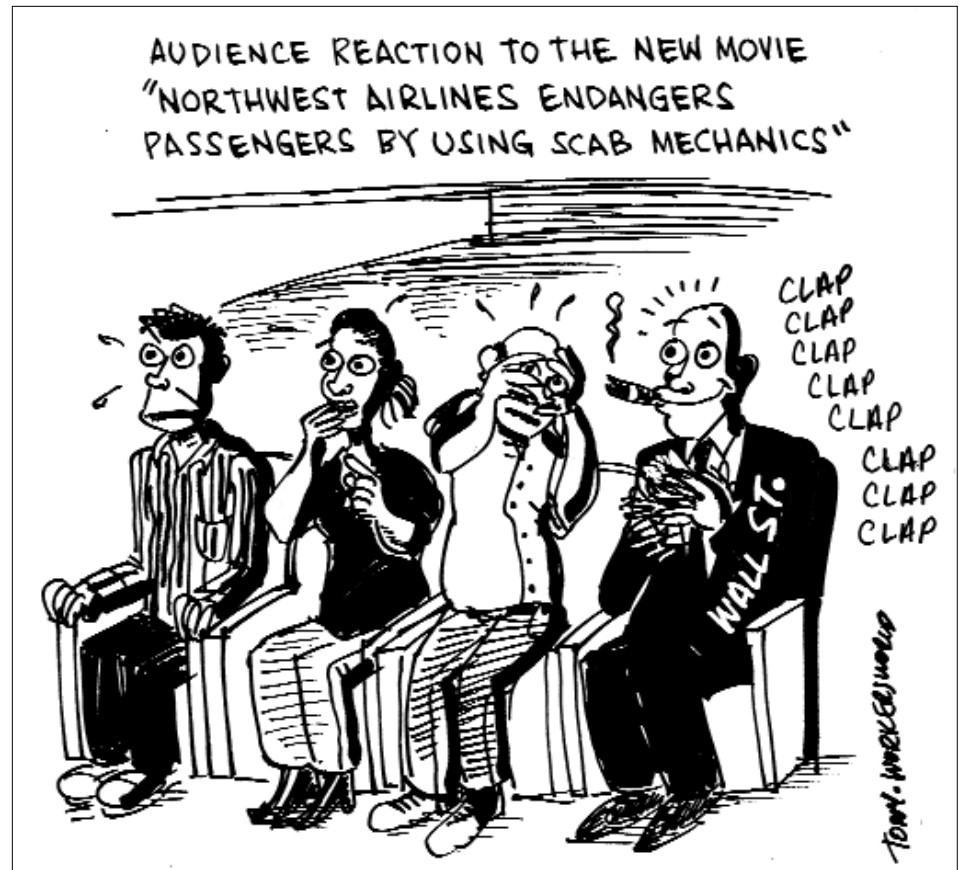
In an effort to stop this execution, the International Action Center has been carrying out an online campaign to send email and postcards to President Bush, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Texas Attorney General Gregg Abbott, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and many U.S. congresspeople and Texas elected officials.

As of Aug. 24 at 8 a.m., the IAC reported that over 1,862 people have responded to the campaign and generated a total of 76,629 emails to public officials in Texas and Washington. People are invited to write their own letters, or to sign a sample letter provided at the site.



The url for the letter is: www.iacenter.org/francesnewtoncampaign.shtml or look up www.freefrances.org for contact information for officials.

—K. Durkin



Hawai'ians protest for native rights



About 1,000 Native Hawai'ian people rallied and marched by the Ninth Circuit Federal District Court in downtown San Francisco on Aug. 20. They were protesting the recent decision by the court favoring non-Native "John Doe" in his right-wing suit to allow non-Native Hawai'i residents into the Kamehameha Schools. The schools, founded 117 years ago and maintained for people of Hawai'ian ancestry, will fight the attempts to make the schools accept non-Hawai'ians, who already have more than enough other schools that they can easily attend. Through centuries of foreign domination of the Hawai'ian people, much education was offered exclusively for non-Hawai'ians.

—Photos and story by J. Marquardt

Gay movement rises

Continued from page 2

bond of brotherhood makes all men one."

Both Carlyle and the 1950s homosexual activists were living in historical epochs in which the word "mankind" was thought to embrace women as well—an assumption the women's movement later rejected. However, lesbians did play an important role in the development and distribution of this publication.

'ONE' magazine read across U.S.

Three months later, in January 1953, the first issue of ONE magazine—not a leaflet, not a pamphlet, but a magazine—was published.

The monthly magazine was established as a separate entity from Mattachine. But Mattachine supplied the first mailing list—some 3,000 names.

The magazine included articles about the Mattachine Society, and about entrap-

ment arrests and police harassment of bars.

Within months, sales of ONE magazine were topping 2,000 copies. But the readership base was considerably larger, as the magazine passed from hand to hand. D'Emilio wrote, "Since, as letters to the editor revealed, the magazine was circulating throughout the country, it also helped spread word that a homosexual emancipation organization had formed."

Chuck Rowland, a Mattachine founder, summed up the entire political period after the 1952 court triumph: "Mattachine really took off. ... We moved into a broad sunlit upland filled with whole legions of eager gays. Mattachine was suddenly IN! No combination of people in our limited leadership could handle them."

But storm clouds of anti-communism were gathering.

Next: Victory sparks internal debate over reorganization of Mattachine.

By Mumia Abu-Jamal from death row

The mama & the war president



Aug. 16—The sight of Cindy Sheehan, bereaved California mother of her soldier son Casey, holding a protest in the summer heat of Crawford, Tex., drives to the hearts of many—perhaps millions—but certainly of those parents whose sons and daughters are being sacrificed on the altar of oil wealth in the urban wilds of Iraq.

It is a measure of American disengagement with the processes that lead to war that when a U.S. network attempted to get an opposing view, it interviewed a Hispanic mother who lost a son in Iraq and who predicated her “support” of the continuing presence of U.S. troops on the events of 9/11. Sheehan, her presence fueled by a mother’s loss of her child, would never make such a mistake.

She speaks clearly, knowingly, and condemns not merely the meaningless loss of her son, but the war proper. She notes in clear undeniable terms that there is no connection between the events of 9/11 and Iraq. And reminds us of the dreaded weapons-of-mass-destruction lie that convinced many to suspend their objections and misgivings and support this bone-headed imperial dream of remaking the Middle East.

Sheehan has demanded a brief but substantive meeting with a man who sent her child into death. America’s war president, who will be in Crawford for about a month, has declined her invitation. In his stead, right-wing talking heads and propagandists have taken to the airwaves and op-ed pages to attack the woman for daring to really exercise her alleged constitutional rights of protest.

She is essentially told to be loyal, which means shut up, go home, and don’t criticize the commander in chief. As a matter of fact, a similar sentiment seems to obtain for soldiers—shut up, follow orders and kill or die for your commander in chief. In short, in the service of empire, both the views of parents and the lives of young recruits are expendable. The common denominator is “shut up.”

What a strange message to emerge from a country claiming to be a democracy, engaged in building democracy in the Middle East. Funny, how come there is no serious effort to build democracy in Israel, which has been standing for half a century? Sure, there is some degree of democracy for folks who happen to be Israeli Jews, but what of the millions who are Palestinian Arabs? They have the right to occupation.

So much for the building democracy line. One could of course point to America’s closest Arab allies in the region and democracy gets no closer. Egypt—a kingdom in everything but name. Saudi Arabia—a kingdom where a prerequisite for ministerial posts is to share the blood of the founding king Saud and to be male. Pakistan—a military junta. Afghanistan—an American-installed and -preserved puppet. Iraq—a collection of ex-CIA assets and informants or former recipients of M15 largess. People whose greatest fear is leaving the Green Zone and walking among the people they claim to represent.

Cindy Sheehan has every right to be in Crawford and every right to protest the bogus war that snatched the young promising life of her son, Casey. She knows as thousands of other mothers and fathers have come to know that their sons and daughters did not die to bring democracy. Their lives were lost to insure the wealth and maintenance of princes, kings and presidents, of corporate directors of Halliburton, of the rights of the elite, not the working many.

She has every right to protest. She has every right to pitch a fit. She has every right to rage. The wonder is that there are not tens of thousands more. From Death Row—this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

To hear the two audio versions of this transcript, go to www.prisonradio.org/SheehanBush.htm

Unite the anti-war movement

Oppose the occupation of Iraq and Palestine!

Below is a statement from the Black Workers League about the upcoming Sept. 24 anti-war demonstrations.

The anti-war movement is at the center of world politics. It confronts preemptive war and occupation of oppressed nations by imperialist forces. The lies and deceptions leading to the war, the slaughter of the Iraqi people, the suppression of labor rights, the increased oppression of Iraqi women, and the use of U.S. working class women and men as cannon fodder and torturers demands that African American people, the multi-national working class, and all honest and progressive people turn out to the anti-war demonstrations in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24.

Opposition to the war in Iraq must be seen as part of the anti-war struggle against the endless war of plunder and occupation in the Middle East and throughout the world being carried out in the name of the “war on terror.” This means supporting an end to all occupations and the right of self-determination for all the nations in the region, especially Palestine, including their right of return.

The U.S. anti-war movement embraces forces fighting for peace and those opposing imperialist domination. And while there may be differences within the anti-war movement in terms of long- and short-term goals and tactics, it is critically important that this movement and its demands be guided by anti-racist, anti-sexist, democratic and human rights principles.

Coalitions agree on united protest Sept. 24

The Sept. 24 National Coalition and United for Peace and Justice made the following announcement on Aug. 19.

“The two major antiwar coalitions that have initiated and organized for a massive antiwar March on Washington for Sept. 24 have agreed to organize a joint rally followed by a joint march. Both coalitions will organize under their own banners, slogans and with their own literature for the Sept. 24 demonstration.

“The joint rally will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Ellipse in the front of the White House. We urge everyone around the country to unite and come out for the largest possible antiwar demonstration on Sept. 24.”

The Troops Out Now Coalition (TONC), which is part of the Sept. 24 National Coalition, wrote that it “applauds the agreement” and that now “all attention and energy can be turned to building the biggest strongest protest possible to shut down the war and bring the troops home now!” TONC had been publicly promoting a unified demonstration since the Sept. 24 protest was called.

On Sept. 10, from 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., TONC is planning what it describes as “a vitally important strategy meeting” at the New School Lang Center, 55 West 13th St. in New York.

—John Catalinotto

While the primary immediate demand of the anti-war movement centers around ending the U.S.-led war and occupation in Iraq, it must also include demands that expose, isolate and put pressure on key components of the U.S. imperialist strategy of using wars and occupation for empire building throughout the Middle East.

Israel’s occupation of Palestine and its role in the Middle East as an outpost of U.S. imperialism is a central component of the U.S. strategy to dominate the Middle East—the most energy-rich region of the world and the gateway to both Africa and Asia.

In addition to its cruel oppression of the Palestinian people, Israel’s occupation of Palestine has served as a base for Zionist expansion and U.S. military aggression throughout the Middle East.

Israel has occupied a piece of every country it borders. It has carried out “preemptive” strikes against Iraq in the 1980s and Syria more recently, and is now planning to do the same in Iran. Its arsenal of 200-400 nuclear weapons makes it the greatest threat to peace in the Middle East.

The refusal to build a unified U.S. anti-war movement and demonstration on Sept. 24 that includes the demand to end Israel’s occupation of Palestine as part of the struggle for peace and democracy in the Middle East is a refusal to oppose white supremacy and the racist character of the war in that region, and amounts to defending Zionism.

For the African American community, this points to similar arguments used by many progressives against supporting demands opposing racism and for Black power, claiming they are divisive to building “broad” campaigns and mobilizations.

Progressive forces should be in the forefront of promoting democracy and opposition to racism and human rights violations. They have correctly taken “risks” in promoting other controversial issues closer to home which the religious right has condemned as “immoral” and against “family values.” Yet, there is hesitation to oppose Israel’s occupation of Palestine, which is a clear violation of human rights any way one cuts it.

The Israeli occupation of Palestine has been central to shaping U.S. and European racism against the Arab peoples. The occupation of both Palestine and Iraq has led not only to racist profiling against Arab peoples, but also Muslims, the largest number in the U.S. being African Americans.

The unity of the U.S. anti-war movement and for a united demonstration on Sept. 24 must not be obstructed by sectarianism, or by bowing to racism, national chauvinism and Zionism. All are enemies to the struggle for peace and against imperialism.

For all these reasons and more, it is essential that we build a united front of the main national anti-war coalitions against U.S. war in the Middle East—one that is centered on ending the war in Iraq and opposing wars and occupations in Palestine and throughout the region.

If there are two demonstrations in D.C. on Sept. 24, we urge people to mobilize and raise demands opposing U.S. war and occupation in Iraq, Palestine and throughout the Middle East. Troops out now!

For more information, contact Black Workers League, P.O. Box 934, Rocky Mount, NC 27802. □

Crawford diary

'Welcome to Camp Casey, the beginning of the end of the war'

Dustin Langley
Crawford, Texas

I arrived in Crawford, Texas, on Aug. 17. As I got off the shuttle bus I was greeted with, "Welcome to Camp Casey, the beginning of the end of the war!"

As I settled in at the camp, I was overwhelmed by an almost tangible feeling of optimism.

Eleven days earlier Cindy Sheehan—whose son, GI Casey Sheehan, was killed in Baghdad in April 2004—had arrived in Crawford to confront President George W. Bush. By doing so, she had reached out and touched people who had not been reached before.

People have come here from all over Texas and all over the United States. They have also come from as far away as Australia, Turkey and South Korea.

All to camp out in a ditch beside a single-lane road. When I ask why they've come, almost everyone says, "I felt I had to be here."

Dave Jensen, a veteran who drove from Tyler, Texas, says: "I saw this and just knew this was something I had to go to. The best way to put it is that I felt like this could be the little snowball going down the mountain that's going to turn into something and change something."

As I settle into camp, pitching my tent at the side of the road, I survey the vista: cars and tents stretched as far as I could see down the road. Some people sleep inside or on top of their cars. Others sleep in tents, or just in sleeping bags in the open air.

Tammara Rosenleaf's husband is about to be deployed to Iraq. She joined the encampment in its first few days. She says: "When my husband got ready to deploy, the Army gave me a book, called 'Surviving Deployment.' There's a lot of things in it, lists of all sorts of things I should have.

"It says I should write down the numbers of the electrician and plumber. You know what? I am 47 years old. I know that if my toilet is clogged up, I should call a plumber. What I'd like to know, at 4:00 in the morning when I wake up scared to death that my husband is dead or injured, who do I call? And it's not in that book."

Sense of community

The next day I meet with Cindy Sheehan briefly. I tell her about the solidarity rally in Union Square and the ongoing presence we had at Camp Casey in New York City.

Sheehan has to leave later in the day when she hears that her mother has suffered a stroke. But those left at Camp Casey are determined to continue building the movement here.

A sense of community and enthusiasm permeates the roadside encampment. People just seem to show up, and immediately begin chipping in.

A group of young activists from Ithaca, N.Y., staffs a kitchen at Crawford Peace House, making sure the camp has fresh coffee in the morning and three hot meals each day.

Others stand out in the blazing Texas heat for hours, directing traffic and keeping an eye out for pro-war troublemakers.

The veterans' tent

There is a veterans' tent, staffed by representatives from Veterans for Peace and Iraq Veterans Against the War. Inside, I talk with Cody Camacho, an Iraq War veteran from Chicago.



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



WW PHOTO: KYLE

Over 1,500 Camp Casey vigils took place. Left, New York City; right, Detroit.

Camacho tells me he's here because it helps in "dealing with the things I saw and the things I did over there, dealing with the guilt and things.

"You've just got to find a real 'noble cause.' The only way to keep your sanity is to do what is obviously right.

"All of a sudden, there's clarity after you go through that. That's the reason I'm here, to get my buddies home," Camacho said.

On the night of Aug. 20, the anti-war campers hold a powerful rally at the new campsite—located within view of the Bush estate. Speakers include military families, veterans, and anti-war activists from across the country.

One of the speakers is Andrea Hackett from the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice. Her daughter is currently in Iraq. She asks: "Now, why is it that the president can't come out and answer her question, okay? Us mothers want to know this, okay? We want him to act like an executive officer that he is supposed to be.

"He [Bush] represents the whole of the United States. He represents all of those troops that are laying their life down for this country and die for what they thought was the good cause. I think it's just a moral sin against them to have them fighting a war and not know exactly what they're fighting for, because you lied to them.

"Since we don't have the power to go over there and really end this war, we're just going to bring the issue right here to him, right to his house. Right into his neighborhood, right to his backyard. Let's keep coming, okay?"

"Let's make this a big huge movement that he's going to have to either answer

to or go back to the White House and hide, okay? Hide back in the White House.

"We'll meet him there, though, on Sept. 24."

Returning veterans face trauma

Eddie Boyd, a Navy veteran and an activist with the Troops Out Now Coalition in Baltimore, speaks of the trauma returning veterans face. He says: "There are a lot of folks that are coming back home, and a lot of folks that are feeling the same way. And all our government has to do is say, 'Suck it up, drink a beer and keep moving.'

"I say no. We have to love our troops, and we love our kids. And we love our kids so much that we would do anything and everything in our power to keep them away from putting on them uniforms."

SCLC's Lowery speaks

One of the highlights of the rally is a speech by the Rev. Joseph Lowery, co-founder of Southern Christian Leadership Conference and a close friend of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lowery says: "The war is over, now it is time for Bush to come to that understanding and bring the troops home.

"Even though Cindy had gone, her presence remained, and the presence of all of those parents and supporters and sympathizers who came from across this country—Black, white, brown—to send a message to this administration, it was a tremendous spiritual experience.

"And when I go back home, I want to share it with a woman who has given her life for peace and justice, Coretta Scott King, who is struggling now with courage and dignity, the kind of courage and dignity she has displayed throughout her life.

I want to share it with her the first chance I get, that there is a balm in Gilead, and that there is a movement brewing in the land. And it's time, it's time to bring the troops home."

Taps at Camp Casey

"By far, the most incredible part of my stay," says Eddie Boyd, "was at dusk on Saturday, at Camp 2, where a plot of land had been measured to place crosses for the dead who had come from Texas. Jeff, a Marine veteran, began playing TAPS in honor of the dead. The camp was silent.

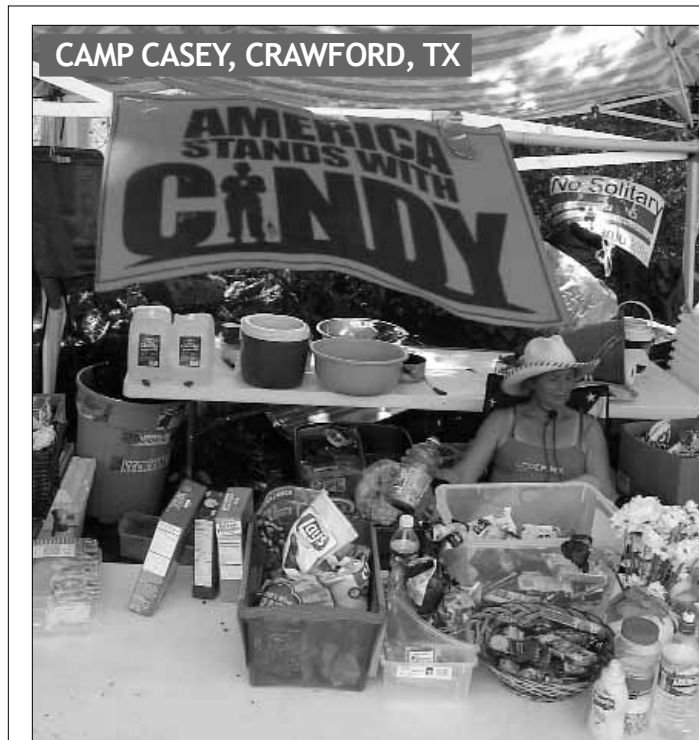
"After TAPS were played, a lady that had lost a family member sang a song that didn't leave a dry eye at the campsite. Later that night I begin to think of the importance of being here, of voicing my displeasure of this president and administration's policy, where this country is headed."

Annie Spell and Buddy Spell, lawyers from outside New Orleans, had driven to Crawford to help out with legal issues and security. Buddy Spell describes his time at Camp Casey as "the most unique and inspiring action that I've ever been involved in. I have a lot of hope for the future.

"Now we're in a position for a national movement. People from all over the country are organizing and preparing for future resistance against the war."

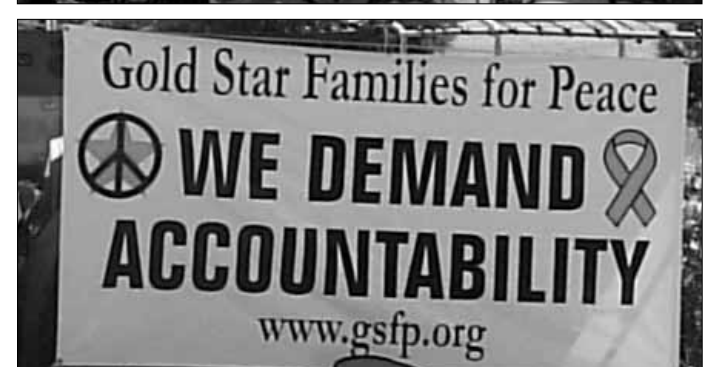
Many at the camp echo this sentiment. As I leave Camp Casey on Aug. 21, participants are preparing to take this new spirit of struggle and grassroots action to Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24 and beyond. Everyone I say goodbye to says, "See you next month in Washington!"

Langley is a Navy Veteran and organizer with No Draft No Way (www.NoDraftNoWay.org)



WW PHOTOS, ABOVE AND RIGHT: DUSTIN LANGLEY

Scenes from Camp Casey in Texas; above right, Cindy Sheehan greets Dustin Langley.



Class solidarity needed

State governors crack down on immigrant workers

By Ruth Vela and Alex Gould

New Mexico's Democratic Gov. Bill Richardson on Aug. 12 declared a state of emergency in the counties bordering Mexico. On Aug. 14, Janet Napolitano, the Democratic governor of Arizona, declared a similar emergency in her state. The California legislature is debating a similar declaration.

All three actions are aimed at immigrant workers entering the U.S. at the Mexican border.

Richardson, a silver-spoon son of the Citibank empire, who likes to show off his Spanish when courting the "Latino vote", is a likely candidate for president in 2008. Napolitano is a former state prosecutor who supports the death penalty.

Such emergency declarations are usually associated with disasters like floods and earthquakes, but these two are designed to get \$3.25 million in federal funds to increase the militarized policing of the U.S.-Mexico border.

There are already 11,000 federal border patrol agents employed by the Department of Homeland Security on the Mexican border. The armed border agents are supplied with helicopters and other military equipment such as night-vision aids and remote video sensors.

Reuters reported on Aug. 18 that

Richardson had also arrogantly asked the Mexican government to bulldoze the Mexican border town of Las Chapas, because it is a departure point for many immigrants.

The Border Patrol agents are joined by a growing military presence. U.S. Army troops and Marines are on the ground and in the air menacing the migrant workers who cross the border daily.

The current military deployment on the border began in 1981 as part of Reagan's "war on drugs" and was expanded by Clinton to become a war on migrant workers. All told, police and troops of at least 15 federal, state, and local agencies are involved in this conflict at the border.

The border deployment targets migrant workers from Mexico and other Latin American countries who are fleeing poverty and civil wars to try to find work in the United States. This million-dollar racist hunting expedition often proves fatal for the migrants who cross the deserts of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

325 killed on the border

The U.S. border patrol reported that 325 immigrants died along the Mexico border in 2004, primarily from heat stroke, dehydration, and hypothermia. Since Operation Gatekeeper took effect

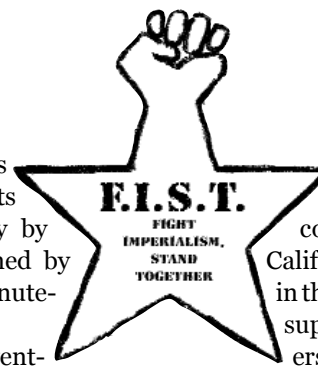
in 1981, over 3,200 migrants have died on the border. Migrants are also shot at with impunity by ranchers and are now threatened by racist paramilitary gangs of "Minutemen" and their imitators.

These deaths are entirely preventable and are caused by the official criminalization and harassment of Chican@ and Latin@ workers. They put the lie to the governors' insinuations that migrants are criminals and dangerous.

If these states of emergency were truly being declared in the interest of public safety, Richardson and Napolitano would use the funds to deploy medics, translators, and guides to help the migrants cross safely and not more sheriffs' deputies.

Instead, the actions of Richardson, Napolitano, and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger are giving the green light to ultra-right racist and fascist elements like the "Minutemen," who plan to set up shop in California once again in mid-September. This time they are boasting that their contingent will span the length of the fence which runs from the Pacific Ocean to the base of the Otay mountains.

Fortunately, a counter-movement is in full swing in San Diego, led by the Gente Unida coalition of which Fight Imperialism - Stand Together (FIST) is a mem-



ber. Gente Unida is urging supporters to come out to Calexico, Calif., on Sept. 17 or protest in their own communities in support of migrant workers and against the racist vigilantes.

Attacking migrants and encouraging racism for political advantage will not reduce unemployment or bring back industries that have relocated to U.S. neo-colonies in Latin America for lower wages. It won't stop the cutbacks in Medicaid and Social Security, lower gas prices or rents, or make higher education and job training affordable. But it does produce a layer of super-exploited workers in the United States.

If these workers lack the legal protections citizens have and if they don't have the solidarity of their fellow workers here, bosses can pay them less, force them to work longer hours and deny them union rights.

The workers and farmhands of the U.S. Southwest are threatened not by a migrant crisis, but by a capitalist crisis.

Unity across racial and national lines is needed to overcome this crisis and its symptoms—poverty, war and disease. The racist demagoguery of Richardson and Napolitano is aimed at preventing this unity. □

Bush's war pumps up gas prices & profits

By Bill Cecil

Workers across the United States took a big wage cut this week. It came at the gas pump, where prices rose to \$2.61 a gallon.

Experts predict they will soon hit \$3. A barrel of crude oil sold for \$67 on the International Petroleum Exchange.

Wal-Mart Corporation, the second-richest U.S. corporation, reported a drop in sales and profits, because "our customers, most of whom are low-income," had less to spend. They had to fork over more of their paychecks to ExxonMobil, the richest U.S. corporation. Wal-Mart did not, of course, raise the wages of its notoriously low-paid workers to help them cope with the hikes. The workers will need a union to win that.

Northwest Airlines wants to pay its fuel bill with what it saves by reducing the pensions and benefits of its mechanics, cleaners and baggage handlers. As a result, the workers are now on strike, and the company is using scab labor.

Oil prices don't only hit workers at the pump. They show up in rent and utility bills, the price of food, medicine, and anything made with plastic or carried by truck, train, ship or plane. High oil prices also push up the price of other energy sources, like coal and natural gas.

Many people will suffer and even die this winter because they can't pay for heating oil.

The price hikes have hit even harder outside the U.S. The European Union says the high oil prices are slowing its economy. In Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the effects are even more painful. Poor countries spend a huge chunk of their income on oil. High oil prices mean less money for food; they can mean hunger. Dozens died in Yemen last month in protests against rising fuel costs.

Iraq once traded oil to African countries on a barter basis. Occupied Iraq can't do that anymore.

The price of gas was top news this week in the corporate-owned media. But the

media didn't mention a big cause of the increase: the U.S. wars against Iraq and Afghanistan, combined with the Bush regime's war threats against oil-rich Iran and Venezuela, and Washington's sanctions against Sudan.

The media don't talk about how much oil the war consumes: an Abrams battle tank uses six gallons per mile. Commentators instead complain that China "buys too much oil." China once had contracts to buy oil from Iraq, but it now has to buy more from U.S. monopolies at exorbitant prices. The Chinese tried to break that stranglehold by buying Unocal, another oil giant, but U.S. courts didn't allow it and Unocal went to Chevron.

Many who oppose the war and some who support it think the U.S. invaded Iraq to bring down the price of oil. But the Bush regime is a creature of the oil monopolies. These giants are not in business to supply energy. They're in business to make a profit, the highest return on their invested capital.

An oil shortage is not the biggest fear of oil executives. They fear a glut—too much oil on the market, pushing down prices, profits and the value of their capital. The history of the oil industry is a history of rigging prices by restricting supply. That's what monopoly is all about.

John D. Rockefeller created the original Standard Oil monopoly back in the late 1800s. He did it by gaining control of pipeline routes in Pennsylvania and Ohio and crushing small producers. To do this, Rockefeller agents bombed competitors' refineries. These attacks were called the Pennsylvania Oil Wars.

The U.S. war against Iraq has killed a lot more people than the Pennsylvania Oil Wars. But it serves the same interests. The war crushed Iraq's state-owned oil industry - which owned 11 percent of the world's

known oil reserves and was independent of the U.S. oil monopolies. The war also pumped up profits at ExxonMobil, ChevronTexaco and British Petroleum, who got a stronger grip on the world oil supply. The three biggest oil firms are descended from Standard Oil, and the Rockefellers have major interests in all of them. They made a combined profit of nearly \$30 billion in the first six months of this year.

Bankers are also getting richer. They rake it in from oil-future speculation and debt payments from oil-producing countries.

High prices bring little benefit to poor oil-exporting countries, like Mexico, Ecuador, Nigeria and Indonesia. These countries must use most of the oil income to pay interest on loans to western banks. The higher the price of oil, the better the bankers' long-term credit ratings.

Banker-run hedge funds now control at least 10 percent of the world's oil supply. The Rockefeller-controlled Citigroup is the world's largest financier of energy projects. Its second-quarter profit quadrupled this year to \$5.7 billion. JPMorgan Chase, a merger of the Rockefeller and Morgan dynasties, manages Saudi Arabia's overseas investments. Now, thanks to the U.S. occupation, it controls Iraq's oil revenues, as a virtual colonial administrator of Iraq's Bank of Trade.

To the bankers and oil magnates, the lives of Iraqi people and U.S. GIs don't count for much when profits like that are involved. Nor do the hardships of workers who must choose between heating and eating. The White House and Pentagon are not planning to leave Iraq any time soon. They're plotting instead to expand their war to Iran and Syria. They won't stop unless a worldwide popular movement stops them. □

U.S. prison abuses

Continued from page 4

works perfectly—just as slavery did." This sentiment is confirmed by the racial disparities in sentencing and the deplorable treatment of inmates. People of color are far more likely to receive jail time and the death sentence than whites who commit the same crime.

A recent study commissioned by the University of Georgia indicates that the average sentence for Black defendants is more than twice that for whites. Latin@s experienced a similar disparity in sentencing compared to white convicts.

The inhumane treatment of prisoners inside U.S. jails is well documented. It includes mistreatment of mentally disabled prisoners, failure to provide HIV prevention and treatment options, and sexual violence against female inmates by prison staff.

The Aug. 13 demonstration was an opportunity to unite with those who have seen family members and loved ones stripped of their freedom by a system plagued with racist discrimination and human-rights abuses—atrocities that U.S. prisons carry out in the name of "justice." □

Court to hear Posada extradition case Aug. 29

By Teresa Gutierrez

It is off the front pages in the U.S. media, but news of the case of Luis Posada Carriles is very much a hot topic in Venezuela and Cuba.

And in the progressive and Cuba solidarity movements in the United States, the demand to extradite Posada Carriles to Venezuela continues to gather momentum. National actions demanding extradition will be held on Aug. 29 throughout the United States. That same day Posada Carriles' immigration status is scheduled for review in a court in El Paso, Texas.

Luis Posada Carriles was taken into U.S. custody in Miami on May 17 and detained on immigration charges. The arrest came only after an intense international campaign denouncing Posada Carriles' terrorist actions against Cuba and elsewhere.

The case quickly became an Achilles heel for the Bush administration.

People around the world and in the United States were outraged by the fact that the Bush administration had waged a so-called "war against terror" while the U.S. government was harboring a known terrorist, Posada Carriles.

A wealth of information documents the infamous history of terrorist acts against Cuba carried out by Posada Carriles. The

information has been reported in news accounts—including Posada Carriles' own admission to the New York Times in 1998.

Now declassified CIA documents detail his acts of terror, and his collaboration with the CIA.

Posada Carriles is the chief plotter behind many assassination attempts against Cuba's President Fidel Castro as well as bombs set in Cuba's tourist sites.

Posada Carriles orchestrated the bombing of a Cubana airliner in 1976 that killed 73 people. Plans as well as the bombs themselves were made at two Hilton Hotels in Caracas, Venezuela.

Venezuela demands extradition

The government of Venezuela is requesting the extradition of Posada Carriles because the Cubana airline tragedy was hatched in that country.

The case for the extradition of Posada Carriles to Venezuela is strong. If the U.S. government refuses or circumvents it, this would be a blatant violation of international law.

A well-known Cuban-American lawyer in Washington, D.C., José Pertierra, an expert on immigration law, is currently employed by the Venezuelan government to represent it in the extradition case. In a June 22 interview with a progressive

Cuban American radio station in Miami, Pertierra explained why the case for extradition is so strong.

Pertierra pointed out that the standard for extradition requests is broad. "It is not necessary to demonstrate guilt," he said. "It is enough to demonstrate probable cause that the individual is guilty."

The case has strong legal grounds, too, because of the 1922 Treaty of Extradition between the United States and Venezuela.

In the United States, extradition cases are handled by the state department. Venezuela has submitted a wealth of material documenting Posada Carriles' role in the Cubana Airline incident.

The material includes Hernán Ricardo's confession. Ricardo placed the bomb in the Cubana airliner. He admits being an agent for Posada Carriles.

Posada Carriles, a naturalized Venezuelan citizen, entered the United States in March without documents. He was in Miami illegally—and even held a news conference announcing his presence.

Posada Carriles has filed for political asylum. He says he wants to remain in the United States.

According to Pertierra, state department regulations establish that the extradition process takes precedent over Posada Carriles' immigration process.

If the federal judge determines on Aug. 29 that there is a case for extradition and Posada Carriles is denied asylum, the case goes to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Pertierra says that Rice has three options: She can extradite, refuse to extradite or she can extradite while placing conditions on Venezuela.

For over 45 years, Cuba has worked hard to expose the role of the likes of Luis Posada Carriles in their horrific crimes against the Cuban people. But he, along with other counter-revolutionaries such as Orlando Bosch, have been nurtured and protected by the U.S. government. The first President George Bush, for example, pardoned Bosch despite his terrorist activities.

It was the struggle of the Cuban people and their many supporters in the United States and around the world that led to Posada Carriles' detention.

If justice is served in El Paso, Posada Carriles will be extradited to Venezuela—where he will face a fair trial for the charges of murder of the 73 people on the Cubana plane. No asylum should be granted to Luis Posada Carriles. The extradition treaty between Venezuela and the United States should be honored.

Gutierrez is the New York coordinator of the Committee to Free the Cuban 5.

Education is key part of Bolivarian Revolution

By Peter Gilbert, FIST organizer
Caracas, Venezuela

Many of the radical changes in Venezuelan life since President Hugo Chávez took office have involved the educational system. Access to schooling is now being extended to all persons, not just the rich. In addition, the very philosophy and politics behind education is similarly developing.

Changes are evident at every level of the educational system, from the basic literacy programs of what the Venezuelans call "Mission Robinson," through advanced technical or medical school.

Before the Bolivarian Revolution brought about these changes, the Venezuelan system was similar to that of the imperialist countries of the U.S. and Europe. Education was available for the wealthy, and illiteracy was widespread among the poor.

When education was made available to workers, the rich viewed it as an "investment" in the economy, not a social right. The Venezuelan ruling class saw education as a way of producing a more skilled, more valuable workforce.

The new Bolivarian Constitution guarantees access to education as a basic right. The perspective on education is shifting to providing a service to the people, not merely an investment in the economy.

The literacy programs like Mission Robinson are overtly political at every level. Increased literacy rates allow a greater part of the population to engage more fully in the political process. Already political consciousness, even among children, is remarkably greater than that of many adult workers in more "developed" countries.

Ingrid Castillo, a professor at the Bolivarian University, told Workers World that even the names of the educa-

tional programs are chosen "to remind Venezuelans of the history that the U.S. has robbed from them." Mission Robinson is named after the tutor of Simon Bolívar—"the Liberator" who won independence from Spain for Bolivia, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela in the early 19th century.

Participants: from 13 to 80

Participants in Mission Robinson range from 13 to 80 years old. Classes are held in the afternoons and evenings to allow workers—whether they work in a factory or at home—the greatest chance to study. The missions are consciously placed near their homes and workplaces.

One, in the Santa Rosalia neighborhood here, occupies some formerly vacant land in the local cemetery. As the Cuban woman directing the adjacent medical center announced, "We Cubans make a revolution even among the dead." One hundred twenty students study here, with between eight and twenty per instructor.

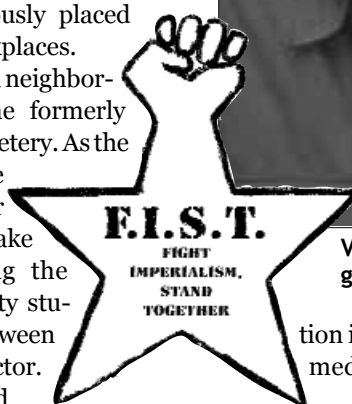
The structure is modeled on the Cuban system. This means students are given great control over the curriculum. Frequently they choose to study sewing or carpentry as well as basic reading and writing.

The Bolivarian University in Caracas is not only a bastion of revolutionary spirit, but is pioneering new models for higher education. With a philosophy they call the "municipalization" of education, students study in and for their communities. This contrasts with the usual university education in capitalist countries, where students often become alienated from their communities.

One key example of this municipaliza-



Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Cuban President Fidel Castro give priority to education and health care.



**Eyewitness
CARACAS**

tion is the Mission Sucre, where medical students learn by working in their own communities alongside Cuban and Venezuelan physicians. Recently one of these medical students successfully treated a U.S. participant in the World Youth Festival who was suffering from a liver infection.

In another example of municipalization, students who are enrolled in the Bolivarian University's newest program in ecological agriculture have to spend more time in the fields than the classrooms. As one student, Jose Hernandez, described the program, "The emphasis is not on telling the farmers what to do, but learning from them. They have learned sustainable techniques from their parents and grandparents that we can docu-

ment and share with farmers around Venezuela."

Many contradictions still persist in the educational system. The new missions exist alongside the older hierarchical primary school system. The Bolivarian University, for example, looks across the street at the older more conservative university attended by the elite. Some officials in the Ministry of Education have yet to see the need to introduce new teaching methods, but overall, great gains are being made.

As Karen Centavo, a second-year student at the Bolivarian University, exclaimed, "The youth are the core of the revolution; the revolution is born within the youth; we are the hope for the future, initiatives must come from youth, [we] must respond to criticism, [education] is a fundamental part of the process." □

Bush's Constitutional delusions

When the Bush administration ordered the U.S. military into Iraq, the would-be conquerors in Washington were enveloped in an extravagant fantasy—the vision of U.S. forces joyously being greeted as liberators by the Iraqi people who were preparing to shower them with flowers as they marched triumphantly through the streets of Baghdad.

The deaths of almost 2,000 U.S. troops, the wounding of thousands more and the determined intransigence of the Iraqi resistance have not cured Bush and company of its penchant towards self-delusion. For it took self-delusion for Washington to imagine that it could order the unholy collection of bourgeois stooges it brought out of exile and its gang of domestic collaborators to construct a constitutional order that would neatly demonstrate the neo-con theory of “bringing democracy” to Iraq.

Instead, the 75-member “constitutional committee,” which is composed of U.S.-approved power brokers, has broken up into a war of irreconcilable, unprincipled factions grabbing for oil, territory and power that threatens to break up Iraq.

Among the principle actors in this farce are Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, spokesperson for the Shiite Dawa Party, who was part of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council; Jalil Talabani, a leader of the Kurdish landlords whose Peshmerga fought alongside U.S. troops during the March 2003 invasion and in Falluja; and Baqir Al-Hakim of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution (SCIRI), associated with Shiite Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani. Now SCIRI is promoting Islam in the constitutional process. But SCIRI folded its hands and collaborated with U.S. forces during the U.S. invasion and

desecration of the holy city of Najaf to put down the insurrection of fellow Shiite Muqtada al-Sadr.

And then there is Ahmad Chalabi, Pentagon favorite, banker-embezzler and exile who is the so-called “secular” representative of the Shiites. The Defense Minister, Sadoon al-Dulaimi, is a Sunni who fled to Britain in 1990 and returned with the bayonets of U.S. forces in 2003. The Islamic Party, the Dawa Party, the followers of the al-Hakim dynasty and the Kurdish Democratic Party were all opposed to the revolution of 1958 which ousted the British-backed monarchy, overturned the privileges of the landlords, gave rights to women and finally nationalized Iraqi oil. Now they see a chance to regain their class privileges under the protection of the Pentagon and U.S. imperialism.

These conspirators have been “negotiating” behind the backs of the Iraqi masses for over 70 sessions now and they are still at each others throats. Under the guise of “federalism” versus centralism, and Islamic rule versus secularism, class interests of bosses, landlords and warlords are being fought out. The so-called “constitutional process” is a complete farce. And all of Bush’s projections have gone up in smoke.

The lust for loot among the collaborators and puppets has run riot in the Green Zone. It is only exceeded by the voracious appetite of the U.S. oil companies, the Pentagon and the military-industrial complex. Washington has failed as miserably at orchestrating a “constitutional” settlement in Iraq as it has in the war.

Fortunately for the workers and oppressed of the world, the heroic Iraqi resistance is exhibiting the most extraordinary self-sacrifice and determination to destroy Bush’s triumphalist delusions—both military and political. □

Robertson's rant is no joke

Fundamentalist evangelist Pat Robertson’s call for the murder of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez is not just the impulsive mouthing off of a right-wing crack-pot. It is a serious matter, not just for what was said, but for who said it.

During his 700 Club TV show on Aug. 22, Robertson said, “You know, I don’t know about this doctrine of assassination, but if he thinks we’re trying to assassinate him, I think that we really ought to go ahead and do it.”

“It’s a whole lot cheaper than starting a war ... and I don’t think any oil shipments will stop.” What Robertson was referring to was Chávez’s warning that the White House was planning to assassinate him.

Pat Robertson is not just another run-of-the-mill racist, warmongering, misogynous bigot. Robertson is also a close ally of the Bush administration. He is one of those high on Karl Rove’s list of “base builders.” He formed the Christian Coalition to help get Bush elected. He is on speaking terms with members of the White House political machine.

What came out of his mouth on TV is what is undoubtedly being whispered about in the inner circles of the Bush administration. His public comment helps to both promote and set the stage for an assassination.

The Venezuelan Revolution poses a major problem for the Bush administration. Hugo Chávez has enormous mass support, as expressed in two presidential elections,

the overturn of a U.S.-backed coup by an outpouring of the masses, a failed recall referendum and the obvious general enthusiasm of the workers and peasants for his profound reforms.

Invasion and military intervention in Venezuela is a difficult option for Bush, particularly when the resistance is tying down 138,000 troops in Iraq. Assassination is the method of choice under such circumstances. After a U.S.-backed invasion was humiliatingly defeated at the Bay of Pigs in 1962, the CIA tried to assassinate Fidel Castro numerous times.

Robertson used the airwaves in his incitement to the murder of the president of Venezuela. If anyone is caught whispering a threat to someone else against the president of the United States they can be charged with terrorism and held in jail.

Robertson’s threat was not whispered but broadcast live to a TV audience of hundreds of thousands. Has Bush given the appropriate response to this terrorist threat?

Bush has not denounced the threat nor Robertson. The rightwing has been complicit by its silence. No legal action has been taken against Robertson. No punitive action has been taken against the ABC Family network which broadcast the threat. If the so-called “war against terrorism” were anything but an excuse to conquer independent countries, Robertson would have been arrested by now and be on his way to jail. □

Daily News tabloid gives gay-bashers a map

By Leslie Feinberg
New York

Why did the New York Daily News run a full-page article on Aug. 16 about a New York City subway platform in an oppressed community that allegedly draws gay and bisexual men late at night?

The Daily News reported, “A Bronx subway platform has become a popular spot for gay men to have anonymous casual sexual encounters, the Daily News has learned.”

After naming the subway station and specifying exactly how far it was from the end of that particular line, the News added: “The cruising area is at the northern end of the long southbound platform. Anything goes, largely unnoticed—except to those in the know.”

If gay men do meet there, and this fact goes largely unnoticed by other subway riders, why did the Daily News feel all its readers should be “in the know”?

Since this article did not appear on the “singles” pages, it would be hard to argue that the newspaper is trying to help its gay and bisexual readership find sexual pleasure or companionship.

The tip-off grew clearer: “But the

activity at the platform is more than a public lewdness issue; in this era of AIDS, casual sex can kill.”

Public lewdness: Didn’t the article report that the activity went largely unnoticed? Casual sex can kill: Is the Daily News really worried about the health of gay and bisexual men?

“In 2003, a Health Department survey showed just 45 percent of men used condoms when engaging in gay sex.” No mention here of the percentage of men who use condoms when engaging in heterosexual acts.

“The spread of AIDS led city officials to close gay bathhouses and spurred a public awareness campaign about the dangers of casual sex, especially among gay men.”

That’s the kicker. AIDS, long understood to have reached pandemic proportions around the world among people of all sexualities, nationalities and regions, is once again invoked as a “gay disease” in this sensationalized article.

If bigots follow the Daily News directions to the subway station and attempt to bash the men they find there—who are seeking each other out for consensual activities that went “largely unnoticed” before this full-page spread—will this tabloid’s headlines also exploit that news story it helped to whip up? □

WW
Analysis

Workers World Newspaper SUBSCRIBE NOW!



WW PHOTO: J. MARQUARDT

Special introductory rate \$2 for 8 weeks

\$25 for one year

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE/E-MAIL _____

Clip and return to: Workers World 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., New York, NY 10011

World delegates say: Korea is one!

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Pyongyang, DPRK

Chanting "Korea is one," more than 200 international delegates from some 40 countries marched to the soaring Reunification Monument in Pyongyang as thousands of North Koreans lined the street to greet them.

The event capped the two-day "World Conference in Support of the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea" held Aug. 13-14 here in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Delegates came from Cuba and South Africa, Belgium and Mongolia, Ecuador and Bangladesh, Jordan and the United States and many other countries.

Parliamentarians, trade union members, anti-war activists, students, leaders of international women's organizations, cultural performers and academics from six continents proclaimed that Korean reunification should proceed free from outside interference and as quickly as possible.

60th anniversary of liberation

The conference occurred simultaneously with celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Japanese colonial occupation in August 1945. The history of Korean resistance to foreign domination under the leadership of Kim Il Sung is a source of great pride to Koreans. Veterans of that struggle were given heroes' welcomes at numerous televised events in all parts of the country.

The Koreans were proud they were able to combine guerrilla warfare with mass organizing in the cities throughout the Korean Peninsula to wage a liberation struggle against Japanese colonialism. As World War II ended, this drove the Japanese military forces from the country.

Following Japan's surrender in August 1945, Washington quickly moved thousands of troops into the southern part of the country and set up a puppet government under a former Japanese collaborator to thwart the national aspirations of the Korean people.

In the years immediately before the Korean War of 1950-1953, this puppet government and U.S. forces severely repressed the leaders and members of the progressive resistance movement in the south, killing, imprisoning and torturing many.

War broke out in 1950 when, under the cover of a UN resolution, the U.S. made a bid to extend its control to the whole peninsula. After three years of heavy fighting that caused over 50,000 U.S. soldiers' deaths and an estimated 2 million Korean military and civilian deaths, an armistice was declared.

Still no peace treaty

No peace treaty has ever been signed and the U.S. has continued its hostile policy towards North Korea and its domination of the south. For half a century, no less than 37,000 U.S. troops have occupied the southern part of the country.

Military dictatorships enjoyed U.S. support while South Korean workers became a source of cheap labor for trans-national corporations, mainly U.S. and Japanese based.

At the 38th parallel, the U.S. built a towering fortified wall which crossed mountains, roads and rivers, separating Korean families, villages and farms for decades. All communications were cut off.

In the south, a series of laws made it illegal to travel to the DPRK or to even discuss reunification of the country. Nevertheless, after almost 50 years of



PHOTO: KDLA

International delegates march to Reunification Monument in Pyongyang, DPRK.

U.S. enforcement of the division, on June 15, 2000, a North-South Joint Declaration was signed by both governments which established a path for national reunification.

In the last five years, there have been exchanges of cultural, political and sports delegations, families have been able to visit and communicate and joint economic ventures are underway.

Yet the wall remains and South Korea still has thousands of U.S. troops stationed at bases throughout the country. Shipments of advanced military equipment continue as well as provocative joint exercises and surveillance activities.

President Bush included the DPRK along with Iraq and Iran in his bellicose "axis of evil" speech. Bush has repeated his threat of a preemptive military strike in the dispute over nuclear development in the DPRK.

The achievements of socialist Korea are unknown by many in the U.S. who are subjected to a never-ending slander campaign about the country as a whole, but especially about the now-deceased President Kim Il Sung and his successor, Kim Jong Il.

In the days before the Aug. 13-14 conference, delegates traveled throughout the capital city of Pyongyang. Some took

an additional trip to Mt. Paektu, where the guerrilla resistance to Japanese occupation was based.

All marveled at the magnificent public spaces and buildings, such as the People's Study Hall, which houses millions of books, magazines, CDs, tapes and archival materials, and provides foreign language classes, computer skills, science and math courses and lectures on many other topics for the benefit of the people.

Delegates were delighted by the talent and artistry of children and youth when touring the Children's Palace, a facility that offers after-school classes and activities in everything from swimming and gymnastics to painting and music.

Similar institutions exist in all of the DPRK's reconstructed cities and towns providing free instruction in the fine arts, music and voice, and sports.

Conference participants learned that the socialist government provides free education and health-care services, including advanced degrees and complex surgery.

Construction of new housing, an expansion of the subway system, improvements in irrigation and flood control, developments in more efficient farming and increased participation in cultural and athletic activities were evident everywhere

the international delegates traveled.

DPRK was devastated by war

The DPRK is a small country that only a little more than 50 years ago was left devastated by a brutal U.S. bombing campaign that destroyed its cities and infrastructure. It lacks oil, a vital requirement for industrial development.

Despite being blocked by US-imposed sanctions and threatened daily by U.S. military moves, North Korea is establishing a society that works to provide everyone with their basic needs as well as the opportunity for cultural expression.

On the eve of the conference, the 6-Party Talks held in Beijing, China, dealing with the DPRK's development of nuclear weaponry, were recessed.

Delegates at the conference were aware that these negotiations occurred on the 60th anniversary of the U.S. dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the first and only time nuclear bombs have been used.

While Washington declares that the threat to world peace comes from North Korea's defensive nuclear program, the U.S. has nuclear warheads stationed on submarines and bases around the world, capable of killing millions of people.

Huge sums of U.S. taxpayer dollars are going to develop a "Star Wars" missile system and "bunker-buster" bombs and other weapons of mass destruction. Tons of U.S. armaments utilize depleted uranium, the toxic waste product of nuclear production. These DU weapons are used daily in Iraq and Afghanistan, causing long-term health and environmental damage.

Conference delegates pledged to increase solidarity efforts in their home countries to educate people about the realities of the DPRK and the history of U.S. interference and intervention.

Dianne Mathiowetz attended the conference representing the International Action Center.

Italy pro-resistance conference

U.S. blocks Iraqis from speaking

By John Catalinotto

A group of right-wing members of Congress close to the Bush administration has pressured the Italian government into interfering with an October conference—a gathering scheduled to build solidarity with Iraqis fighting to liberate their country from its occupiers.

The theme of the Oct 1-2 conference is "Leave Iraq in peace—support the legitimate resistance of the Iraqi people." The Italian government has refused visas to the representatives of Iraqi civilian organizations who have agreed to address the conference.

The Italy-based Free Iraq Committee, which organized the conference, has begun a campaign to reverse the government's decision. Among other tactics, organizers are circulating a petition demanding the Iraqis be allowed in to Italy.

According to the Free Iraq Committee, Italy's embassy in Baghdad had earlier agreed to issue the visas. Then, on June

28, 44 members of the U.S. Congress sent a letter to Italy's ambassador to the United States demanding that the Italian government stop the conference.

Six weeks after this letter was sent, the Italian Embassy in Baghdad said it was reversing its agreement, based on a decision of the foreign ministry.

The U.S. members of Congress accused conference organizers of supporting "terrorism." They especially focused on one of the Free Iraq Committee's coalition members: the Anti-Imperialist Camp, which two years ago held a campaign to collect 10-Euro (\$12.50) donations for the Iraqi resistance. Aside from 2,000 Euros used to send a cargo plane of medical supplies to Iraq from Austria, the AIC says the rest is being held to provide political support for whatever Iraqi political front is formed representing the resistance.

Among the more notorious U.S. politicians involved is Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida. She is tightly connected with ultra-right Cuban counter-revolutionary

groups in the Miami area that helped George W. Bush steal the 2000 presidential election. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush managed her campaign in 1990. Ros-Lehtinen fully supported anti-Castro terrorist Orlando Bosch, who was connected with Luis Posada-Carriles and the bombing of a Cubana airliner in 1976 that killed 73 people. President George H.W. Bush pardoned Bosch.

Italy refused visas to Sheikh Jawad al Khalesi, leader of the Iraqi National Foundation Congress; Ayatollah Ahmed al Baghdadi; Salah al Mukhtar, former Iraqi ambassador to India and Vietnam; and Sheikh Hassan al Zargani, international spokesperson of the movement of Muqtada al Sadr, among others.

Among the prominent non-Iraqis on the conference speaker list are former Algerian President Ahmed Ben-Bella, philosopher Samir Amin and Philippine leader Jose Maria Sison. The International Action Center plans to participate from the United States. □

PALESTINA: Logro histórico, nuevos peligros

Por Sara Flounders

La decisión de Israel de remover a 8.000 residentes israelitas de la Franja de Gaza tiene implicaciones históricas para el futuro, no solo del sionismo, sino del dominio de Estados Unidos en el Medio Oriente.

Por décadas se podía contar con Israel, armado hasta los dientes por Washington, para servir a los intereses de las corporaciones estadounidenses y proteger las ganancias extraídas de esta región. Israel ha sido parte importante en la estrategia del Pentágono que ha permitido al imperialismo dominar política y económicamente toda la región.

Pero consideremos la situación ahora.

Hoy hay confusión en el ala más reaccionaria del movimiento sionista sobre la fecha del 15 de agosto para el retiro de los 8.000 residentes de la Franja de Gaza. El fraccionamiento y las renuncias dividen al gobierno de Tel Aviv y al ejército.

Al mismo tiempo, las tropas estadounidenses están atrapadas en Irak. Ahí enfrentan más de 65 ataques al día. Hay inestabilidad y caos sobre la fecha del 15 de agosto para la presentación de la constitución diseñada por los Estados Unidos.

Y en los Estados Unidos el apoyo a la ocupación por el Pentágono disminuye. Según el sondeo este mes de CNN/Gallup/USA Today, el cual repite el resultado de otros sondeos, un 55% piensa que Estados Unidos “cometió un error al enviar tropas a Irak.” Un 56% dice que algunos o todos los soldados deberían retornar a su patria ya. (csmonitor.com, 1 de agosto)

La resistencia individual y colectiva que se ha estado viendo por décadas en Palestina ahora se ve reflejada en una escala mucho más grande en Irak.

El hecho de que Israel se haya visto forzado a retirarse de tierra palestina es una victoria para la resistencia palestina. Es un logro de gran dimensión histórica.

Imperialismo y Sionismo

Históricamente, el sionismo como movimiento político siempre ha estado ligado a los poderes imperialistas, primero al británico y luego al estadounidense. El estado de Israel fue apoyado y financiado con el propósito de actuar como cuartel para proteger los intereses imperialistas en el centro del mundo árabe. Israel no habría sobrevivido un día, y mucho menos 57 años sin la infusión masiva de la ayuda económica y militar de los Estados Unidos.

Con esta ayuda, se podía contar con Israel para atacar a cualquier movimiento popular que amenazara los intereses de

los Estados Unidos en la región. Estados Unidos estaba dispuesto a dar miles de millones de dólares para mantener una guerra sin fin y desestabilizar la región. Desde su creación en 1948, el ejército de Israel ha invadido, bombardeado y ocupado a Egipto, Siria, Irak, Jordania y el Líbano.

La expansión, la agresión y la expulsión de la población palestina ha sido la guía política desde 1948. Después de la guerra de 1967, Israel tomó Jerusalén, Cisjordania y la Franja de Gaza. Gigantescos fuertes militarizados, conocidos como asentamientos—fueron establecidos en Cisjordania y en la Franja de Gaza en violación a las convenciones de la ONU y a las leyes internacionales. Los asentamientos donde ahora habitan más de 250.000 personas fueron construidos rodeando a Jerusalén para incomunicarlo de Cisjordania.

Los asentamientos no solo eran una movilización de fanáticos religiosos. Todo tipo de incentivos financieros fueron utilizados para atraer gente a Gaza y a Cisjordania. Las casas eran más grandes y el alquiler más bajo en comparación a los alquileres dentro de la frontera israelita de 1948.

El estado israelita llevó a cabo la apropiación de la tierra Palestina. Construyeron escuelas, guarderías infantiles, centros de comercio e industrias y negocios de agricultura subsidiados. Cercas electrificadas y anillos de paredes de concreto rodeaban estos enclaves suburbanos. Más tierras palestinas fueron confiscadas para construir puestos mil-

itares, vías de tránsito que circunvalaban la zona donde vivían l@s palestin@s, y para establecer perímetros de seguridad. Decenas de miles de tropas israelitas fueron estacionadas en Gaza y en Cisjordania.

Todo esto fue financiado con miles de millones de dólares estadounidenses.

La resistencia no pudo romperse

Desde la primera ‘Intifada’, o levantamiento, en diciembre de 1987, los soldados israelitas han estado atrapados en sus esfuerzos de aplacar la lucha revolucionaria por la autodeterminación Palestina. Tácticas extremas de derrumbar casas, detenciones masivas y torturas, han sido usadas. A pesar de los 38 años de ocupación militarizada, la resistencia no ha podido ser aplacada.

Hoy los líderes sionistas se han dado cuenta de que no pueden continuar la ocupación en ambos lugares, la Franja de Gaza y Cisjordania.

Gaza es una empobrecida franja de tierra arenosa de apenas 5 millas de ancho por 25 millas de largo. En medio de los 1,3 millones de palestin@s viviendo allí, en uno de los territorios más poblados en el mundo, Israel estableció 21 asentamientos fortificados. En medio de una gran pobreza, lujosas residencias fueron construidas para 8.000 colonos.

Pero la rotación de decenas de miles de soldados israelitas en ese sector para proteger a sus residentes de la resistencia Palestina, se hizo insostenible para el estado israelita y su promotor, el imperialismo estadounidense.

Por medio de formas brutales de presión—seguidas de negociaciones, sobornos e interminables promesas de establecer alguna forma de estado palestino—todo tipo de esfuerzo se ha hecho para dividir la resistencia y abrir una guerra civil en el movimiento palestino.

Al haber fallado en eso, el movimiento sionista ha entrado en guerra consigo mismo.

Falsa preocupación por los colonos

La prensa corporativa en los Estados Unidos ve con gran simpatía a los colonos que están siendo removidos de sus fortines suburbanos. Pero aquellos que tomaron territorio palestino a la fuerza recibirán \$300.000 para sus gastos de mudanza pagados por los impuestos de l@s trabajador@s estadounidenses, y nuevas casas en otros asentamientos, construidas también en tierras robadas.

No hay compasión por parte de la prensa para las

decenas de miles de palestin@s que fueron removid@s a la fuerza y han vivido por décadas como refugiad@s.

Mientras que desarman sus asentamientos y sus bases militares ilegales en Gaza, Israel mantendrá la ocupación total del territorio aéreo, marítimo y de tierra. Sus planes son de mantener a Gaza como una prisión al aire libre bajo control israelita.

El temor más grande de Israel es que los palestinos tomen ventaja del desalojo de las bases militares y de su nueva situación. La atmósfera está llena de resistencia en Gaza como se puede ver en letreros que leen: “Gaza hoy, mañana Jerusalén y Cisjordania,” y “¡La resistencia gana—continuemos!”

La lucha continúa

El Primer Ministro Ariel Sharon, el arquitecto de la política de asentamientos y el culpable de ataques brutales contra el pueblo palestino, no inició este retiro por reconocimiento o respeto a los derechos palestinos.

Es una táctica política para expandir la toma de tierras en Cisjordania, especialmente alrededor de Jerusalén, mientras abandona los asentamientos aislados que son difíciles de mantener. Mientras la prensa se enfoca sobre Gaza, continúa la construcción de una Pared de Apartheid de tres pisos de altura que convierte a los pequeños pueblos de palestina en guetos.

Sharon no esconde esta estrategia. “Los asentamientos continuarán existiendo. No negociaré sobre Jerusalén. Los territorios de los asentamientos continuarán ligados al estado israelita,” dijo él a la televisión israelita el 10 de agosto. “A la misma vez, no habrá más retorno de refugiados palestinos a Israel.”

Esto es claramente una estrategia llevada a cabo en estrecha coordinación con la administración de Bush. Sharon reafirmó el 12 de agosto en una conferencia de prensa, “yo prefiero llegar a un acuerdo con los americanos que con los árabes.”

El derecho al retorno y el derecho de l@s palestin@s a su propio estado, con Jerusalén como capital, son las demandas que el movimiento de solidaridad tendrá que mantener delante.

Los próximos días son extremadamente peligrosos para el movimiento palestino. El peligro es que el gobierno israelita proyecte ataques horribles para recobrar su credibilidad ante el ala de ultra derecha del movimiento sionista y trate de destruir el sentimiento de victoria en l@s palestin@s.

Este es un tiempo vital para estar alerta y aumentar el nivel de solidaridad y apoyo a la resistencia Palestina. El enlace entre los miles de millones de dólares para la guerra en Irak y los miles de millones de dólares para apoyar a Israel nunca ha estado expuesto tan claramente. Mientras el apoyo para la guerra de los Estados Unidos contra Irak continúa su descenso, ahora es esencial mostrar que la ayuda de los Estados Unidos para Israel es parte de la misma guerra. □

