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MARCH 9, 2006

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WORKERS WORLD NEWSPAPER
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Anti-women bigots go on rampage S. Dakota bill would ban all abortions

By Sue Davis

Legislators in South Dakota voted overwhelmingly in late February for a bill that would ban 99.9 percent of abortions in that state. This includes abortions for victims of rape and incest and to protect the woman's health. The only exception is if abortion is deemed necessary to save a pregnant woman's life.

The ban would criminalize women who have abortions and the practitioners who perform them.

Those supporting the ban are up-front about their intentions. They want the bill to be appealed to the Supreme Court, where the new anti-abortion justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito now sit. They're hoping that the rightist realignment of the court will overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortions.

As pro-choice advocates quickly pointed out, those who want to ban abortion have been emboldened by President George W. Bush's reactionary court appointments. But the fact that there was no real opposition, either from the Democrats in the U.S. Senate or by activists in the streets, gave the right-wing a green light.

The vote was 50-18 in the South Dakota House on Feb. 9 and 23-12 in the Senate on Feb. 22. Of 105 legislators in the state, only 19 are women. As pro-choice Rep. Elaine Roberts told KLTM-TV in Sioux Falls, "I've heard a great deal from women, but I've also heard a great deal from men saying this is not a decision that men ought to make for women. Constituents tell me that the legislature is out of touch with the people who live in South Dakota—two to three to one." (keloland.com, website of KLTM, Feb. 25)

This is not the first bill banning abortion in South Dakota. One was vetoed on a technicality in 2002 by anti-abortion Gov. Mike Rounds. This time Rounds says he'll probably sign it. If so, the ban will take effect on July 1. Planned Parenthood, which runs the only women's health clinic in the state, has announced it will seek an injunction to stop the ban from being

implemented. That will send the bill to the courts.

In a related development, the Supreme Court recently heard oral arguments on the legality of the so-called Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act passed in 2003. That bill bans the medical procedure known as intact dilation and extraction (IDE) used for abortions after 20 weeks. While abortion foes have used IDE to demonize all abortions, IDE is performed only in 0.01 percent of cases when other procedures would endanger a woman's life.

President Death attacks women's rights

This all-out attack on legal abortion puts women in the cross hairs of the misogynist, patriarchal, right-wing posse headed by Bush and his neo-con cohorts running the government on behalf of the ruling class. Though Bush claims he's for a "culture of life," his every policy—from the murderous war in Iraq and Afghanistan to his cutbacks in health care, education and housing needed to raise healthy children—exposes his hypocritical stance.

When Bush was governor of Texas, he was called Governor Death because the state of Texas killed over 150 prisoners on death row on his watch. Now he should be known as President Death because so many of his policies lead there—from the federal government's do-nothing response after Hurricane Katrina to its deliberate slaughter of Iraqis and Afghans, causing thousands of U.S. youth to die as well.

Though labeling Bush President Death may be a catchy way to expose him, it doesn't convey the extent of how the whole current socioeconomic and cultural climate negatively impacts—and is really hostile to—the vast majority of poor and working women in this country.

In every aspect of daily life, women's reproductive rights are being undermined and negated. As an article in the Feb. 23 issue of Workers World pointed out, access to abortion, comprehensive sex education, effective birth control, affordable pre-natal and other health care and a caring, supportive social climate

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Puerto Rico says 'FBI assassins out!' -6



WW PHOTO: TOM SOTO

Benefit held for Black activist/lawyer

On a subfreezing Sunday in New York on Feb. 19, Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Center hosted a standing-room-only benefit for activist-attorney Chokwe Lumumba, who was suspended from practicing law by the Mississippi Supreme Court for his defense of clients facing racist injustice.

Lumumba, National Chairman of the New Afrikan Peoples' Organization and co-founder of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, has defended political prisoners such as Assata Shakur, while giving support to youth and legal service clinics in Mississippi.

In March 2005, the Mississippi Supreme Court suspended Lumumba from practicing law for six months until he retakes and passes the ethics portion of that state's bar association exam. He was also fined \$1,000 due to white Judge Marcus Gordon's dislike of Lumumba's

defense. "I wanted to address violations of my client's rights, and Gordon made a statement that I found very difficult to work with. He kept cutting me off. I said perhaps if he paid attention to what I was saying, he'd get on better with lawyers in the future," explains Lumumba.

He also spoke of the plight of Katrina evacuees—the hurricane survivors who have no voice and need reparations.

Supporters cheered when Lumumba said, "Our mission has to be to seize the time! We're going to turn this around!" Other speakers at the benefit were from the National Conference of Black Lawyers, Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika, the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and the Jericho Movement.

—Anne Pruden

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WW CALENDAR

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Mon., March 20
 Protest military recruitment at Recruitment Center in South Central L.A. 3 p.m. At Rodeo, east of LaBrea. For info, phone IAC (323) 936-7266.

NEW YORK

Fri., March 3
 Workers World Party Forum. Ardeshir Ommani co-founder of American-Iranian Friendship Committee: Iran's economic transition from an oppressed colony to a developing, independent country attempting to defend its

sovereignty from U.S. imperialism—a first person account. Sue Davis writer for Workers World newspaper and reproductive rights activist for 35 years: The recent South Dakota ban on abortions and the challenge to the movement. Sue Harris director of "Poison DUST": Report from Cuba. Sue Harris and Janet Mayes were invited to show "Poison DUST" at Cuba's annual exhibition of new film makers which included new films from Cuba and around the world. Update on March 18 -- Bring the Troops Home NOW! 7 p.m. (Dinner at 6:30 p.m.) At 55 W. 17 St., 5th Fl., Manhattan. For info phone (212) 627-2994.

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With no place to go

Thousands of Katrina survivors face eviction

By LeiLani Dowell
New York

As we go to press on March 1, thousands of Katrina evacuees are in danger of being evicted from hotel rooms where they were placed by FEMA. In a few areas, the deadline has been extended. In others, like New York City, survivors and their advocates are demanding protection through stronger tenant laws that require they receive their day in court.

The celebration of Mardi Gras in New Orleans ended on Feb. 28, the day before the scheduled evictions. Toward the end of an Associated Press article, Katrina evacuee Samuel Spade, who is currently staying in Houston, says, "With them putting on Mardi Gras, without still having not addressed the basic human needs in this city, why that's just a slap in the face. I can't go home, but they can have a parade? That's ridiculous."

While many like Spade still cannot go home to the Gulf region, they are facing possible homelessness in the cities they were evacuated to. FEMA has placed Katrina evacuees in about 3,000 hotel rooms across the country. It has said it would evict all who remain there on March 1, leaving them with little or no resources for housing. This latest deadline followed a string of deadlines, beginning with Dec. 15, that evacuees and activists have pushed back. Protests took place around the country on the eve of this deadline.

At a Workers World Party forum on Feb. 23, invited speaker Brenda Stokely of the New York Solidarity Coalition for Gulf Coast Survivors said of the evacuation deadlines: "People across the country have been facing these artificial deadlines. This is just to keep people in a constant state of crisis and demoralization.... Now we have another date looming before us, and that's March 1. All of these dates are illegal and immoral."

"FEMA is supposed to be guided by the Stafford Act, which was enacted about two years ago and says that anybody who is a victim of a natural disaster has the right to 18 months of housing, shelter and other benefits. Eighteen months [should] mean 18 months, not 18 months of jumping through hoops of fire for [FEMA] to decide whether or not you deserve it."

In New York, solidarity activists will continue to distribute fact sheets to evacuees in the hotels letting them know their legal rights in the face of the new deadline. Stokely said, "In New York, based on many years of struggle of working people, we have some of the best tenants' rights laws in the country, based on due process. We went around to all of the hotels and told people that they could not be evicted unless they went to court and a judge evicted them. With that effort, no one, to our knowledge, has been evicted, because they all learned that they have a right to stay."

In Louisiana and Mississippi, FEMA has postponed the date for evacuation from hotels for a mere two weeks, until March 15, citing a lack of housing as a result of the hurricanes. In response, activists and evacuees have postponed a press conference, march and rally in Washington, D.C., until March 14.

A statement released by the Gulf Coast Renewal Campaign, organizers of the event, states, "Once again, we witness the impact that a coalition of conscience and a unified commitment to action for

Katrina survivors can have on the otherwise unfettered execution of the Bush administration's authority.... However, the Gulf Coast Renewal Campaign is not demanding that FEMA move deadlines, but that FEMA move Katrina survivors into viable and affordable transitional and long-term housing.... We are postponing our rally ... but we are not postponing our call for justice."

The March 1 deadline included eviction of evacuees from cruise ships, which about two dozen evacuees have sued the federal government over. The AP reports that "The evacuees' lawsuit claims the Federal Emergency Management Agency failed to provide alternative housing and had shown no evidence it would by Wednesday."

Racist effects exposed—again

Meanwhile, a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll of current New Orleans residents released on Feb. 27 provided even more evidence about the effects of racism and class oppression on those exposed to the hurricane. While 53 percent of Black respondents to the poll reported that they lost everything when Katrina struck, only 19 percent of white respondents could say the same. Among incomes, 20 percent of those whose 2004 income was over \$50,000 reported losing everything, compared to 44 percent of those whose income was less than \$50,000. However, Gallup News Service reports, "even at similar income levels, blacks appear to have suffered more than whites." The report also states that "Blacks who were employed before the hurricane are more than twice as likely as whites to be currently out of work."

While 52 percent of whites reported that they did not become separated from their loved ones, only 37 percent of Blacks were able to say the same. In addition, 37

Protests hit FEMA evictions

By LeiLani Dowell

Katrina/Rita evacuees and their supporters rallied in a number of places across the country on Feb. 28 to protest FEMA's illegal evictions of evacuees from hotel rooms.

Despite the bitter cold, about 50 Katrina survivors and their supporters held a press conference/rally in front of the local FEMA office in New York City. Brenda Stokely from the NYC Solidarity Committee for Katrina/Rita Evacuees delivered a letter that had been emailed by 27,000 people to FEMA offices, George W. Bush, Acting FEMA Coordinator R. David Paulison, con-



Los Angeles



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Speakers at Feb. 23 WW forum on Katrina including survivors from New Orleans.

percent of Black respondents said they still had not been reunited with all their family members. (CNN) Almost 2,000 people remain missing in Louisiana alone, and 132 of those are children.

Stealing from immigrant workers

As is the case across the country, the reconstruction of the Gulf region has involved super-exploitation of undocumented workers. A call issued by the Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance states, "The continuing saga of gross fraud, unsafe and unsanitary working conditions, exploitation and outright theft of immigrant workers' wages continues seemingly unabated on the Mississippi Gulf Coast."

University of Michigan professor Joe Atkins elaborates: "Jackson, Miss.-based MIRA recently set up a Gulfport office, and its complaints to the U.S. Department of Labor succeeded in winning back pay totaling \$141,000 for immigrants who worked for Halliburton/KBR, the firm once run by Vice President Dick Cheney, that has grown rich winning big, no-bid contracts from the Bush-Cheney government." (reconstructionwatch.org)

MIRA president Bill Chandler said, "We've found instance after instance of workers sleeping outside or in tents, or in abandoned trailers or even school buses. There's no enforcement of any health standards, no safety gear and no immunizations for people who can easily get tetanus from cuts or punctures. Migrants

work from sunup to sundown without any benefits, and sometimes even without paychecks."

And while the financial cost of war in Iraq steadily increases—according to costofwar.com, spending at the time of this writing had reached \$244.2 billion nationally with \$2.2 billion of that coming from Louisiana alone—the money needed for reconstruction of lives in the Gulf region remains elusive. A survey by the Washington Post reveals that more than two-thirds of the \$3.27 billion donated for Katrina recovery efforts has already been spent. Charities told the Post that the remaining amount—less than \$1 billion—will have to be spread out over a number of services for years to come.

Don Powell, President Bush's coordinator of federal support for the Gulf Coast's recovery and rebuilding, told the Post, "There are many, many needs that the federal government cannot cover." Powell is a former Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) chairperson.

Stokely described how the Lower Ninth Ward—one of the hardest-hit areas in the region—was built by former slaves who decided to form a community there. She said that, despite all the obstacles, "You hear people [say], 'My family has lived there since the 1800s. My parents worked real hard, four and five jobs, to be able to buy some property for our family to live on ... and feel like human beings. I'm not leaving, I'm coming back.'" □



New York City

PHOTO: ALEX MAJUMDER

gresspeople and state and local officials demanding decent housing, a jobs program, clean environment, health care and the right to return home for all survivors.

now." When the caravan reached Hollywood Boulevard, police attempted to shut it down by issuing tickets for "unwarranted usage of the horn." Proceeding undeterred and taking advantage of the increased attention, the participants got out of their cars, chanted and distributed leaflets.

Protesters also rallied at the FEMA office in Chicago. Katrina evacuee Cassandra Burrows told Chicago's WBBM Newsradio 780 that instead of Mardi Gras parties, this Fat Tuesday was a day of political activism for her.

Boston and Washington, D.C. protests were postponed until March 14 to denounce a new March 15 eviction date set for Louisiana and Mississippi.

Monica Moorehead and John Parker contributed to this report.

PHOTO: YOUNG HUI KIM

From Mumia Abu-Jamal on death row

Free Leonard Peltier!

From a Feb. 5 audio message.

It is mind-boggling for us to be here, now, at this late hour, with Leonard Peltier still in chains.

Books have been written; documentaries have been produced; congresspeople have joined his freedom campaign—all for naught. For Leonard Peltier, a former leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM), is still not free!

That, to anyone with a soul, is a damn shame.

Many Peltier supporters put their trust in a politician named Bill Clinton, who told them that when he got elected he "wouldn't forget" about the popular Native American leader.

Their trust (like that of so many others) was betrayed once Clinton gained his office, and the FBI protested. In the waning days of his presidency, he issued pardons to folks like Marc Rich, and other wealthy campaign contributors. Leonard Peltier was left in his chains!

I won't re-state the obvious: Leonard's innocence; the blatantly unfair trial; the crooked tricks that led to his extradition—others may do that.

What is needed is more support, not from two-faced politicians but from the people—the many, who, like you and I, know injustice when we see it!

For those folks who know little about Leonard Peltier, check the library. Or check out his recent book, "Prison Writings: My Life is My Sun Dance: U.S.P. #89637-132"



Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

(Harvey Arden, ed., New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999).

What the movement needs isn't more books, but more movement!

Join the movement to free Leonard "Gwarthee-lass" (or "He Who Leads the People")!

In his book, Peltier tells us of the U.S. government's war against AIM, and other radical groups. His writings, which predated the events of 9/11, show us that repressive tactics didn't begin then:

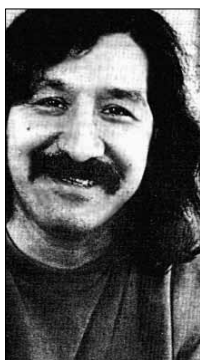
"They hid behind their usual cloak of 'national security' to do their dirty work. Their first tactic: forget the law, the law's for suckers, subvert the law at will to get your man, however innocent he may be; suborn the whole legal and judicial systems; lie whenever and wherever you have to to keep the focus of inquiry on your victims, not on your own crimes.

"I have to admit, they succeeded brilliantly. In the name of Law, they violated every law on the books, and, in their deliberate strategy of putting me—and how many other innocents?—away in a cell or a grave, they turned the Constitution of the United States into pulp fiction." [pp. 95-6]

What Leonard needs is a renewed, revitalized, powerful people's movement fighting for his freedom.

Build the movement to free Leonard Peltier!

"Prison Writings: My Life is My Sundance" by Leonard Peltier is available at www.leftbooks.com.



Free Leonard Peltier

CALIFORNIA PRISON NEWS

Death penalty, medical neglect under fire

By Judy Greenspan
San Francisco

The politicians and bureaucrats of the state of California are reeling from two serious blows to their prison system. The refusal of two doctors to administer a lethal injection to death-row prisoner Michael Morales caused an unprecedented postponement of his execution. And a federal judge completed the takeover of this state's abysmal prison healthcare system by naming a well-known public health doctor as its federal receiver.

The state of California was ordered by a federal judge early in February to change its lethal injection method for the execution of Morales, based on a finding that this method is cruel and unusual punishment.

Death penalty foes and human rights activists say this is a very narrow ruling and have claimed for years that the death penalty itself is unconstitutional and should be abolished. According to Amnesty International, 122 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. The U.S., true to its history of genocide and human rights abuse, has stubbornly refused to stop executing prisoners.

The refusal of two anesthesiologists to monitor Morales's lethal injection forced the state to indefinitely postpone his execution.

The American Medical Association and other medical groups are opposed to the death penalty. According to the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the postponement may have resulted in their long sought-after moratorium on the death penalty. The court ruling may affect executions in 36 other states that use the same combination of lethal injection drugs that California uses. A hearing is scheduled in federal court in early May.

On Feb. 14, U.S. District Court Judge Thelton Henderson named Robert Sillen, the executive director of the Santa Clara County Health and Hospital System, to take over and run this state's prison health care. Henderson made this bold move in response to shocking reports from legal monitors in a class-action lawsuit about medical neglect and abuse in the prison system. The lawsuit, *Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, filed by the Prison Law Office, brought to light countless acts of medical

negligence and put the spotlight on the callous mistreatment of seriously ill state prisoners.

Also on Feb. 14, the California Senate Public Safety Committee, in a special hearing on the governor's plans to build more prisons and jail cells, was extremely critical of this attempt to expand the prison state. Speakers from such groups as California Prison Focus and Critical Resistance strongly opposed any more prison construction and called instead for prison closures.

Prisoners, their family members and human rights activists are cautiously optimistic at these recent events and hope these small cracks in the prison-industrial complex will grow into big fissures in the largest and one of the most brutal prison systems in this country.

In another late-breaking development, the head "czar" of the California prison system, Roderick Hickman, has resigned after a 2-year stint. He originally came to the job promising great reforms in parole and programs for prisoners. Unfortunately, he backed down on every promise that he made. Just another symptom of a decaying, brutal prison system. □

Abu Ghraib, Rhode Island

Tortured prisoner fights back

By Alex Gould
Providence, R.I.

Prison officials in Rhode Island are worried. The tip of the iceberg of their crimes is being exposed.

Michael Walsh, a 30-year-old construction laborer from East Providence, is being held in minimum security at the Adult "Correctional" Institution (ACI). He is serving a short sentence for a non-violent violation of probation he had received for a shoplifting charge. He is due to be released in March.

Walsh reports that on Feb. 14, prison guards performed an anal cavity search on him. They accused him of smuggling contraband. In an act of torture reminiscent of those being carried out by U.S. captors at Abu Ghraib, Walsh said prison guards forced him to eat his own feces. He adds that guards then denied him the use of the sink and a toothbrush all day. Walsh also states that ACI officers beat him on the face with a telephone book.

Michael Walsh's lawyer, Kenneth A. Schreiber, said at a news conference that he was conducting an investigation in order to prepare a civil rights lawsuit against all responsible parties.

Rhode Island Director of Corrections A.T. Wall has "disciplined" nine ACI staff: one has already returned to work and the other eight are on paid leave. Wall promises an investigation, and will undoubtedly blame individual officers for "going too far." But there is nothing unusual about prison torture, which routinely occurs with impunity in prisons, jails and juvenile detention facilities across the country.

The ACI and all prisons in the U.S. are little more than workhouses and concentration camps for the working class, particularly the nationally oppressed minorities. U.S. Bureau of Justice statistics report that 60 percent of state and federal prisoners are Black and Latin@—although they each make up only about 12 percent of the U.S. population.

Most prisoners—nationally oppressed and white—have been sentenced for crimes of survival. Walsh was convicted of shoplifting, a small theft of property.

The owners of the retail industry, Rhode Island's biggest private employer, profit from the labor of tens of thousands of cashiers and clerks who make a median wage of \$9.05 per hour. The bosses, who are stealing the surplus value created by the labor of these workers, rarely provide

them with health insurance. These retail chains are responsible for the poverty of thousands of Rhode Islanders. But as of today, none of these mega-buck bosses has been prosecuted for grand theft.

Walsh and thousands of other working-class prisoners across the United States are victims of the "war at home," which is not just an anti-war slogan, but a social and political reality of imperialism. The intense competition for ever-greater profits drives the imperialists to slash domestic wages, benefits and social programs for workers.

The imperialists' regime of police and prison repression must become ever harsher to defend a social order that promises the average worker nothing but a life of toil and sacrifice in the midst of extravagant opulence that he or she can never hope to attain. The working class, not a foreign government, is the enemy that the imperialists fear most.

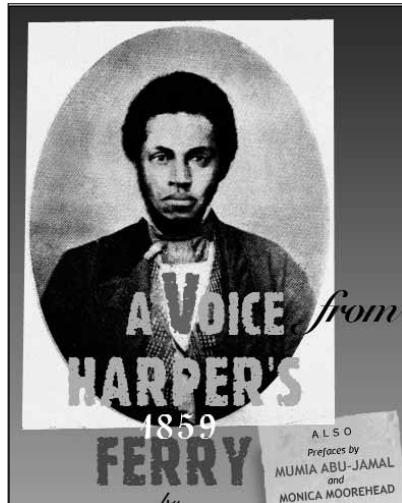
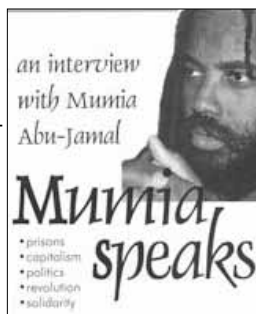
The instant the working class becomes conscious that the capitalists' laws and police state—no matter how brutal—cannot contain it, the parasitic class of millionaires and billionaires that has oppressed it for so long is doomed. □

MUMIA SPEAKS

An interview with
Mumia Abu-Jamal
from death row

Columns by the Black journalist on prisons, capitalism, politics, revolution and solidarity. Additional essays on the prison-industrial complex by Monica Moorehead, Larry Holmes & Teresa Gutierrez.

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Internationalism & class struggle

Solutions to racist war at home and abroad

The following is excerpted from a talk given by Workers World managing editor Monica Moorehead to a Feb. 18 Black History Month forum sponsored by the Boston branch of Workers World Party.

An article in the New York Times on Oct. 23 entitled "For Blacks, a Dream in Decline" summarized the current state of Black people in the U.S.:

"The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. set forth the goal. Civil rights and union membership were to be intertwined. The labor movement, Dr. King wrote in 1958, 'must concentrate its powerful forces on bringing economic emancipation to white and Negro by organizing them together in social equality.'

"That happened in the 1960s and 1970s. But then unions lost bargaining power and members. And while labor leaders called attention to the overall decline, few took notice that blacks were losing much more ground than whites.

"In the last five years, that trend accelerated. Despite a growing economy, the number of African Americans in unions has fallen by 14.4 percent since 2000, while white membership is down 5.4 percent.

"For a while in the 1980s, one out of every four black workers was a union member; now it is closer to one in seven. This loss of better-paying jobs helps to explain why blacks are doing worse than any other group in the current recovery."

These figures are an important reminder that the struggle for Black equality and workers' rights is both interconnected and far from being over.

The deteriorating situation of Black workers cannot be divorced from the criminal offensive being carried out by monopoly finance capital on the living standards of the workers in the U.S. and abroad. Transnational corporations like GM, IBM, Ford and others are reneging on pensions; workers are being forced to pay higher premiums for health care; and lack of job security, wage cuts and outsourcing to other factories where the labor "costs" are lower are threatening the existence of unions.

Global competition is a capitalist law that drives corporations to produce the cheapest goods with the lowest wages to make the most profits and gobble up their competitors in the process. This kind of cut-throat competition for higher profit margins at the expense of providing for human needs is the root cause for deepening hunger, poverty and suffering for millions of people. For the bosses, a "recovery" means being in the black while workers and their families are finding it much harder to make ends meet. The workers and oppressed are facing a brutal kind of war for empire at home.

As these assaults on the multinational working class on the whole intensify, so do the weapons of racism and national oppression. These weapons that the bosses, the government, the media and the repressive arms wield at will to keep the workers divided come in many forms: immigrant bashing, especially against those who migrate from poor Latin American and Caribbean countries; police brutality; the growing prison population where there are more young Black men in prison than in college; and racial profiling against Arabs, South Asians and Muslims since 9/11. And they are just the tip of the

iceberg. All too often these forms of racism against oppressed peoples are either isolated or ignored by the media.

It was only after Hurricane Katrina hit last August that millions of people inside the U.S. and throughout the world could no longer deny that racism and poverty are endemic here. The abominable treatment of the Katrina survivors then and now, with the mass evictions that have already taken place and more that are scheduled for March, show the racist, callous disregard for the suffering of Black and poor people in the richest imperialist country. To add insult to injury, evacuees have been incarcerated for trying to find housing in abandoned buildings—because the homeless shelters are filled beyond capacity.

This war for empire at home extends to a war for empire abroad. In 1992, George H.W. Bush was president and the Soviet Union and the socialist camp had just been dissolved. That year, the New York Times leaked a Pentagon document called the National Defense Review, which declared that no country, developing or capitalist, had better try to challenge the hegemony of the U.S. militarily, politically or economically. This laid the foundation for the infamous National Security Strategy document of 2002 that advocates endless war, including the so-called war against terrorism since 9/11.

War for empire includes the war and occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and threats of military attack against Iran and North Korea, using the "nuclear threat" as an excuse. Condoleezza Rice just announced a \$75 million plan to undermine the Iranian government, a clear violation of any country's right to sovereignty.

The U.S. is using the United Nations as a cover to justify the occupation of Haiti and countries in Africa. Bush and Blair have imposed sanctions against Zimbabwe. The FBI assassinated Puerto Rican liberation fighter Filiberto Ojeda Rios last September and recently raided the offices and homes of other Puerto Rican independentistas. The U.S. and Israel are trying to sabotage the electoral victory of Hamas by stopping financial aid to the Palestinian



Monica Moorehead

WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

Authority. Washington continues to threaten President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela and maintains its longstanding hostility towards President Fidel Castro and socialist Cuba after almost 50 years.

Which road to liberation?

Black History Month is an opportunity not only to reflect on the past but to learn important political and strategic lessons that will help move the struggle forward in the interests of not just Black people but all of humanity.

The struggle of Black people in the U.S., in Africa, in South America, the Caribbean and elsewhere is part and parcel of the worldwide struggle for the liberation of working and oppressed people. The concept of internationalism—having an independent world view of the class struggle and solidarity—is not a new one but needs to be rejuvenated and embraced by all of those seeking revolutionary change. Leaders like Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King were beginning to understand the need to build internationalism in their own way before they were both cut down by assassins' bullets.

Internationalism does not mean looking toward the Democratic Party—historically the party of slavery and war—for any real justice or equality. Recent history has shown that the Democrats, especially if they are white and in powerful positions, will not stand up to the neo-cons in the White House and Pentagon on the issues of defending civil rights, women's rights, lesbian, gay, bi and trans rights or stopping war. What the Democrats really care about is dominating Congress and winning the presidency in the 2006/2008 elections to prove their loyalty to the capitalist class—just like the Republicans.

It's not just that the Democrats or Republicans won't save the workers and oppressed from exploitation. The capitalist system can't save the workers because in order for capitalism to make profits, it needs to promote racism, national oppression, women's oppression, LGBT oppres-

sion and more inequalities that superficially divide us when we should be uniting against this monstrous capitalist and imperialist system. As much as Bush is hated as a warmonger, and understandably so, he is the symptom of the problem and that problem is imperialism.

We must continue to organize independently from the big capitalist parties that want to keep the workers and oppressed enslaved. Progressive movements, especially those focused on ending war, must encourage and politically embrace the leadership of people of color, whose issues and struggles especially on political and economic repression have been historically ignored or relegated to the back burner. The Vietnam anti-war movement is a case in point.

Connecting the war at home and the war abroad is central to moving the class struggle in a more independent, anti-racist, working-class direction. We must continue to organize united fronts that are inclusive of all the issues, whether it's supporting the right of return for the Katrina survivors or the right of return of the Palestinian people to their rightful homeland, Palestine. And we need to take this organizing to the next step on the weekend of March 18 and 19, the third anniversary of the war, which has evolved into an international day of protest along with military counter-recruitment actions.

In the long run, we must fight for a new economic system where people work to provide human needs, not to make profits for a boss; a system that will empower the workers and oppressed, not oppress and exploit their labor. That system is socialism.

Socialism is the road that President Hugo Chávez is attempting to take with the Bolivarian revolution in Venezuela. Despite the U.S. attempts to sabotage and intimidate the Cuban revolution for 45 years, that revolution has not only survived nine U.S. administrations and an economic blockade but its socialist economy is getting stronger due to the growing anti-imperialist wave sweeping across Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is important to revive the struggle for socialism worldwide, including the U.S. One of the greatest lessons to be learned from the fall of the Soviet Union is that socialism must be free to develop worldwide without imperialist intervention. □



PHOTO: PATRICIA JACKSON

Bang4Change rocks downtown SF

"Bang4Change" was truly a "Human and Civil Rights Revival Fest" as countless performers and speakers came together in downtown San Francisco on Feb. 25. The event was dedicated to poor youth of color in this city. Speaker after speaker exposed the brutality of the police in Black and Latin@ communities in the Bay Area.

The civic center rocked with the

sounds of Ace Washington singing "Inner City Blues" and Michael Franti reciting a poem from his album, "Staying Human." Workers World Party delivered a solidarity message, along with many other groups.

The driving force behind Bang4Change is mesha Monge-Irizarry. This tireless anti-racist activist is the mother of Idriss Stelley, a young Black man killed by San Francisco police in 2001. Monge-Irizarry

started the Idriss Stelley Foundation and in 2005 hosted a "civil rights cookout" in the SF Bayview District to "honor freedom fighters in her neighborhood."

According to organizers, this year's event was held in downtown SF as a wake-up call to all government officials from the "New Human and Civil Rights Movement."

—Judy Greenspan

PUERTO RICO

Thousands march against the FBI

By Tom Soto
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Under the hot, bright sun of a Caribbean sky, thousands of workers and their families representing a cross section of Puerto Rican society marched here on Feb. 25—from “la avenida Roosevelt” (Roosevelt Avenue) in the financial district to the U.S. federal court house on Chardón Street—to denounce growing FBI repression against the independence movement.

The march, which stretched out for more than 10 blocks, with 10 to 15 people abreast, was flooded with Puerto Rican flags and banners condemning the recent FBI raids against the independence movement and also the FBI assassination last Sept. 23 of Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, leader of the Ejército Popular Boricua—Macheteros (the Puerto Rican Popular Army—Cane Cutters).

Contingents of marchers were grouped behind a huge lead banner which read: “Puerto Rico se respeta—fuera el FBI” (Respect Puerto Rico—FBI get out).

The demonstration was sparked by FBI raids on Feb. 10 against six pro-independence activists, in which agents seized personal property, computers and the mailing lists of independence organizations. The FBI claimed it was averting an unspecified terrorist attack by the Macheteros.

Julio Muriente of the Hostos National Independence Movement (Movimiento Independentista Nacional Hostosiano/MINH), the initiating organization of the Feb. 25 activity, estimated the crowd at 8,000.

The relatively large demonstration was noteworthy due to the broad support it drew on short notice.

Marchers included women and men, young and old, students and workers.

The protest against the FBI was supported by many organizations, such as Mothers Against the War, the Federation of Pro-independence University Students, the Organization of Puerto Rican Working



WWW PHOTOS: TOM SOTO

Above, marchers in San Juan honor Carlos Muñiz Varela, Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and Juan Mari Pesquera, three independentistas killed by the FBI in recent years. Left, Elma Beatriz Rosado, widow of Filiberto Ojeda.



Women and the Socialist Front, among others.

Union leaders such as Ricardo Santos and José Rodríguez—the presidents of the Electrical Industry Workers Union and the Federation of Puerto Rican Workers, respectively—were also present. Ismael Guadalupe, leader of the struggle to get the U.S. Navy out of the island of Vieques, ex-political prisoners Rafael Cancel Miranda,

Elizam Escobar, Dylcia Pagán and many others were also present. Elma Beatriz Rosado, the widow of slain independence hero Filiberto Ojeda Ríos, took part.

A broad range of artists, personalities and public figures also supported the event, such as actress Nydia Velázquez; television comedian Silverio Pérez; filmmaker Pedro Muñiz; María Dolores Fernós, from the Office of Puerto Rican Woman; Pedro García, the mayor of Hormigueros where Filiberto Ojeda Ríos was assassinated; and others.

Representatives of the media who had been beaten and sprayed with pepper gas during the Feb. 10 raids—which further outraged public opinion against the FBI—participated in the demonstration.

The public mood has been such that on Feb. 24, the Catholic archbishop of San

Juan, Roberto González Nieves, publicly criticized the Federal Bureau of Investigation, saying, “The recent FBI raids against pro-independence activists were deplorable.”

In light of the assassination of Ojeda Ríos and the recent FBI raids, there is a growing sentiment in Puerto Rico against the FBI presence on this island nation, which has been a de facto U.S. colony since 1898.

Pedro Muñiz, moderator of the short rally that followed the march, told the crowd: “Just like in Iraq, they invaded our homes and offices supposedly looking for weapons of mass destruction, claiming they are defending democracy. Just as they lied about Iraq they are lying about Puerto Rico. They are the real terrorists and should get out.” □

PHILIPPINES

People’s movement seen as real target of gov’t

By Scott Scheffer

A nationwide state of emergency was called in the Philippines by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Feb. 24—the 20th anniversary of a people’s uprising that toppled the hated U.S.-backed regime of Ferdinand Marcos.

The repressive move was based on the claim that a coup was in the offing by a coalition of leftist leaders and right-wing military officers. The named conspirators are Brig. General Danilo Lim and Col. Ariel Querubin. Proclamation 1017 was issued after the military of the Philippines claimed it had prevented the coup.

The state of emergency was far from expected. The call for Arroyo’s ouster has been growing louder since the spring of 2005. Still, the edict caught everyone off guard because the pretext for the state of emergency is very unlikely. Circumstances point to a more plausible explanation: it is a ploy to crack down on the Communist Party of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front.

On Feb. 27 the Philippine National Police (PNP) Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management forwarded two lists to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales containing the names of 59 individuals, mostly CPP and NDF leaders. Although a handful of soldiers are among the names, the alleged coup organizers are not listed. More names are being added to the lists each day.

A statement issued by Jose Maria Sison, chief political consultant to the National Democratic Front, exposed the real motives of Arroyo’s crackdown and discussed the issue of working with elements of the military in a struggle against the ruling regime.

“[T]he CPP has no agreement with any group in the military organization of the reactionary government regarding any conspiracy to carry out a coup d’etat on February 24 or any other date,” wrote Sison.

“The claim of the Arroyo regime that there is a coup conspiracy between the CPP and so-called military adventurists of

the Right is a brazen lie. It misrepresents as a foiled coup attempt a mere conversation between AFP chief of staff General Senga and General Danilo Lim about the difficulty of preventing the officers and troops from joining the mass actions, as in Edsa 1 and Edsa [the uprisings that toppled President Marcos and President Estrada, respectively—SS]. It also misrepresents as a coup conspiracy an alleged agreement of political alliance between the CPP and the anti-Arroyo groups in the military and police forces.

“There is nothing wrong if under certain conditions the representatives of the CPP and any anti-Arroyo group in the military and police negotiate and make agreements for the benefit of the people along the line of patriotism, democracy, civilian supremacy, development and just peace.”

A crackdown against many of the top leaders of the people’s movement is definitely underway. According to an article in “Inside PCIJ” (Philippine Center of Investigative Journalism), among those

targeted in the lists are “Jose Ma. Sison, Luis Jalandoni and Fidel Agacoili and 44 other alleged communist leaders and members; all six congressmen who are members of the leftist party list groups Bayan Muna, Gabriela and Anakpawis; Reform the Armed Forces (RAM) leaders Gregorio Honasan, Jake Malajacan and Felix Turingan, and three lieutenants.”

Government lawyers have said that rebellion is a “continuing crime,” and that those who are guilty can be arrested even without warrants. Bayan Muna party list representative Joel G. Virador, for example, was arrested without a warrant in Davao City. Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran was picked up in Bulacan, also in a warrantless arrest, and the police attempted to arrest Bayan Muna representative Satur Ocampo, but he eluded them.

Movement organizers are worried that many more arrests are in the offing. Since the news of the initial lists came out, the PNP has said that it now has 200 names.

But the response from Filipino leaders

Rebellion in Dublin

Youth attack pro-British parade and corporate symbols

By Ed Childs and Bryan G. Pfeifer

When reactionary “Orange” Protestant organizations attempted to march on Feb. 25 in Dublin, Ireland, a mostly spontaneous rebellion decisively shut down the parade.

The label “Orange” refers to the victory in 1690 of Protestant King William of Orange over Catholic King James II, which intensified British colonial rule over Ireland. Today, the Unionist movement in Northern Ireland and its extreme faction of Loyalists remain loyal to the British crown and favor continued union with Britain. These Loyalists receive backing from Britain, which still occupies six counties in the North of Ireland.

Each year on July 12 these Klan-like organizations celebrate William of Orange’s victory by laying siege to nationalist, primarily Catholic, communities, parading through their towns. The Loyalists count on support from Britain, especially when they meet resistance from Republican forces, who are trying to liberate Ireland from imperialist occupation and unite their country in one Irish Republic.

This year, Unionist organizers named their divisive parade in Dublin “Love Ulster,” their name for the six northern counties that are not part of the Irish Republic.

On Feb. 25, Orange parade participants, mostly from the north, lined up for the event. The march was organized by various groups, including Families Acting for Innocent Relatives (Fair) and Unionists from the Dublin City Council. Their intent was to march down O’Connell Street past the General Post Office—a revered site of the 1916 Easter Rising for Ireland’s freedom.

This April is the 90th anniversary of that uprising, led by James Connolly. It is also the 25th anniversary of the deaths of 10 hunger strikers in 1981. Led by Bobby Sands, these Irish Republican Army members behind bars had fasted to the death to demand recognition of their status as

Youth set up barricades in central Dublin



political prisoners.

As the Unionists attempted to march, they were confronted initially by a youthful group of several hundred, according to press accounts. The reactionaries turned back after being pelted with bricks, homemade petrol projectiles and rocks, which also hit several Irish police, or gardai, who were present.

As the gardai moved in to suppress the resistance, the counter-demonstration grew to over 1,000. During pitched battles that lasted more than three hours in Dublin Center and on nearby city streets, some of the protesters smashed windows of stores seen as most representative of capitalism and imperialism, such as McDonalds.

Eventually the Irish police placed the “Orangies” on buses and sent them packing. The Loyalists have vowed to return soon, possibly within the next month, reports the Feb. 27 edition of the Belfast Telegraph.

At least 42 resisters were arrested. Irish police and state officials say they will be arresting more after viewing video surveillance tapes. Unionists on the Dublin City Council, Justice Minister Michael McDowell, who called the rebellion “orchestrated political terror,” and Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Bertie Ahern also vowed to hold a “riot inquiry.”

The British government as well as Ahern and other Irish officials accuse Sinn Fein—the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA)—and other Republican organizations, such as Republican Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Socialist Party—of allegedly “instigating” the rebellion.

But Indymedia Ireland reports that the Feb. 25 actions were “an expression of the anger of the most marginalized sector of Dublin’s urban poor.”

Many of the youth chanted nationalist slogans, according to news accounts, and one group held up a banner, “Remember Bloody Sunday.” Indymedia reports that those watching the rebellion mostly sym-

pathized with the counter-demonstrators. (www.indymedia.ie)

U.S. moving in concert with Britain?

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams had urged his party members not to confront the Loyalists’ march and, according to the Belfast Telegraph, condemned the resistance to it.

It is possible that Sinn Fein believes the U.S. and Britain were using the Loyalist march as a provocation to create sharper sectarianism between Catholic and Protestant workers and to split the party into factions, or alienate it from the Irish masses on the island and in the diaspora, specifically in the U.S.

It could also be that Adams is trying to keep Sinn Fein from becoming isolated at a time when the party remains in negotiation with the British government regarding policing reform in Northern Ireland. Legislation is currently being debated which would devolve policing and justice to elected officials in the north of Ireland, which Sinn Fein has been lobbying for.

A Feb. 25 Irish Northern Aid bulletin says that “The U.S. Special Envoy, Ambassador Mitchell Reiss, has barred Gerry Adams once again from attending a fund-raising event unless the party endorses the PSNI [Police Service of Northern Ireland]. This time it is a Friends of Sinn Fein breakfast at the Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., on the morning of March 16.” This is the second time in recent months that Adams has been denied a U.S. visa.

“The IRA moves over the past months in standing down as a military force and totally decommissioning its arms seem to have stimulated the U.S. administration to punish Sinn Fein. The IMC [Independent Monitoring Commission], which is neither independent nor monitors anything—it is told what to report by the PSNI—just happens to be visiting the U.S.,” continued the bulletin of the U.S.-



based solidarity group.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Unionist Party, led by ultra-rightist Ian Paisley, is opening a U.S. office with the full support of Washington. Is this another U.S. move in concert with the British to sabotage the Good Friday Accords that Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army have adhered to in good faith?

U.S. controls Ireland, too

Colonialism and partition have kept many in the 26 counties of the Irish Republic mired in poverty. Of the 3.4 million people living there, over 55 percent earn below the poverty level or live in a household headed by someone unemployed. When Northern Ireland is added in, a total of 5 million people live in Ireland’s 32 counties.

Although Britain is the most well-known colonial subjugator of Ireland—controlling the economy and political structure, as well as sending troops and other repressive forces for over 800 years—the U.S. today, and for some time, has controlled Ireland as well.

Most recently British Prime Minister Tony Blair, a junior partner in the U.S.-led colonial war in Iraq, has used this relationship to pressure Ireland. This geographical area is a strategic military location, vital to controlling the sea routes in the North Atlantic and access to Europe and the Mediterranean. Former U.S. Gen. Alexander Haig often reminded U.S. imperialists of this, pointing out that if Ireland were independent it “could become the Cuba of Europe.”

In the current Iraq War, U.S. military vessels have docked at Ireland’s ports. Shannon Airport is being used by the U.S. and Britain as a staging point in the occupation of Iraq and a conduit for the transfer of CIA prisoners undergoing “extraordinary rendition.” All this is a clear violation of Ireland’s neutrality stance.

Thousands of Irish people have campaigned and protested against U.S. war and repression.

Finally, U.S. transnational corporations are the largest investors in Ireland and take in the most profits.

But recently many high-tech corporations have begun laying off Irish workers en masse and even moving elsewhere in search of higher rates of profit. As the “Celtic Tiger,” specifically in Dublin, has begun to stagnate economically, social conditions have continued to deteriorate. The runaway corporations leave in their wake abandoned buildings, lost tax revenue and psychological scars.

At the same time, as the youth rebellion demonstrated, consciousness of the role of capitalism is rising. □



Before the rebellion.

t crackdown

has been one of confidence and determination—not fear. According to Chito Quijano, vice-chairperson of BAYAN-USA, “The declaration of the State of National Emergency by the fascist Arroyo regime is a blatant and arrogant abuse of power by one fearful of losing the hold on the presidency that she illegitimately acquired by cheating in the elections. Arroyo is isolated further from the broad masses of Filipino people because of her anti-people policies.

“These policies cater to the interests of its master, the Bush regime, and support the rotten system of U.S. imperialism. Ninety percent of the Filipino people are suffering from severe poverty, unemployment is at an all-time high and thousands are leaving the country for jobs abroad. The Filipino people must declare their own national state of emergency and rally the people to oust the U.S.-Arroyo regime now!” □.

New medicines—who can afford them?

By Kathy Durkin

A \$100,000 price tag for one drug? Unbelievable. Yet it's true. That's what Avastin's manufacturer, Genentech, plans to charge for one year's supply to treat one person with breast or lung cancer. Its current price for advanced colon cancer treatment is an astounding \$50,000 a year. If taken for 11 months, it can prolong life for about five months, combined with chemotherapies.

How can they do this? Easily. Because they can. This company is charging the highest amount it can get away with. The underlying reason is production of medications for profit. In this brutal "free market" system of health care, drug companies can charge exorbitant prices no matter how many thousands of people need the medication and even if it's a life saver.

Instead of holding in check this unbridled greed, the Bush administration is wholly cooperating with the drug companies and is finding every way possible to help them maximize profits.

Even for those with health insurance, an individual's co-payments for Avastin

could be up to \$20,000 per year—half or more of many people's yearly income. Many cancer patients are telling their doctors they can't afford it, and right now insurance companies won't cover it for breast and lung cancer so patients are being held responsible for its costs.

But Genentech officials see no need to decrease prices and have the nerve to suggest that people who cannot afford Avastin use cheaper drugs. However, these medications have not been as effective. (New York Times, Feb. 21)

Avastin now brings in \$1 billion a year for Genentech, a biotechnology company mainly owned by Roche. The pharmaceutical giant is expected to garner \$7 billion in Avastin sales by 2009 in the U.S. alone, while the company's overall profits are predicted to hit \$4 billion by then.

A closer look at pharmaceutical corporations' arguments on pricing proves them to be bogus. They claim that costs of new drugs are very high due to research and development expenses. But the reality is that they spend double that on sales and marketing. (Center for Public Integrity)

Further, manufacturing Avastin costs a

small fraction of the amount Genentech is charging for it. Since it already exists, any research and development costs should be minuscule, if anything. Many health care professionals thought its cost would increase only slightly for use in breast and lung cancer treatment, since production costs are low. However, Genentech has doubled the already outrageous price.

Yet working people, most of whom can't afford this drug, helped to pay for its production. The federal government funds the National Institutes of Health from the people's taxes. That agency has awarded 11 grants concerning Avastin since 2002, some for clinical trials. Its manufacturers got government funding for "extensive" research.

The sickest people—including those in terminal stages of illnesses—are being held hostage by the pharmaceutical and insurance industries and being given a terrible choice: either pay or go without treatment. These drug corporations are callously betting that desperately sick people will find a way to pay their shocking prices. Only the wealthy will be able to afford these medicines so that Genentech and

their ilk can reap mega-profits.

Why can't everyone who needs medications get them for free or at a very low cost?

The pharmaceutical price-gouging shows at the minimum the need for government regulation, price controls and deeply discounted prescription drug costs, including for people on Medicare. Going further, it shows the need for a national health plan where the government pays for all health care, including medications, for all who need it.

But it also calls into question the very nature of capitalism and its built-in contradictions, which prevent it from making health care available to the majority of the people, no matter how high-tech or how wealthy the system becomes. As long as health care is based on the profit motive, it simply cannot meet most people's needs.

It shows that the time to struggle for socialized medicine has come. This would guarantee that health care, including medications, is provided for everyone in need. It shows how necessary a socialist system is, where people's lives come first and where society's goals are to provide for human needs, not to increase profits. □

IN DEEP SOUTH

Civil rights era activists were gay-baited, red-baited

By Leslie Feinberg

As the civil rights movement heated up at the height of the Cold War, state repression often came in the form of investigations into the sexuality of those who were fighting for freedom.

White supremacist propaganda—which included virulent racism, crude anti-Semitism and brutal sexism—condemned civil rights activists for being homosexuals and/or in inter-racial relationships, allegedly having adulterous sex or living together out of wedlock. The movement was portrayed as made up of activists who threatened to "queer" the white, heterosexual, father-dominated family structure.

Jim Crow miscegenation laws enforced apartheid in marriage. Klan ideology, which propagated the vicious myth of African men as a "sexual threat" to white Southern womanhood, formed the foundation of lynch law. That racist lie was meant to cover up the real truth—the widespread rape of Black women by white men that began during slavery.

It was these Southern patriarchs of property who gave the go-ahead for their police forces, their mobs armed with bricks and bats, and their McCarthyite committees of inquisition to attack civil rights activists. Gay-baiting was often the specific point of attack.

As was the case with civil rights activists who faced ferocious red-baiting, some were not gay and/or communist. But many were.

Gay men and lesbians, Black and white,

and presumably bisexual and transgender people as well, played dynamic roles in the movement to end Jim Crow apartheid. But the active police repression of same-sex love and the Cold War demonization of lesbians and gays made civil rights activists who were gay much more vulnerable to state repression.

Since same-sex love was against the law, police and legislative inquiries into the sexuality of activists conveyed the threat of police and prison torture, including rape. The threat was meant to terrorize freedom fighters in the struggle for Black liberation in the Deep South.

Gainesville witch hunt

In 1956, for example, a conservative state senator from northern Florida, Charley Johns, launched a legislative inquisition known as the "Johns Committee" that was to last eight years. Started just two years after the growing civil rights struggle had compelled the Supreme Court to declare school segregation unconstitutional, it was bent on pushing back the struggle against institutionalized segregation.

Former acting governor Johns directed police to carry out an investigation into the "homosexual menace" at Florida State University in Gainesville. Johns chaired the committee, which relied on surveillance and police entrapment, informers and extortion. The committee interrogated hundreds of witnesses and publicly leaked bald-faced lies and sensationalized half-truths about their testimony.

The committee reported to the legislature that university officials were "soft" on communism, homosexual activities, atheism and obscenity. On March 17, 1964, the committee printed up now-infamous purple-covered pamphlets "to prepare ... children to meet the temptations of homosexuality lurking today in the vicinity of nearly every institution of learning." The portrayal of gay men as looking for young children to prey on was the heart of the argument. The committee distributed this gay-bashing publication to the media, legislators and state officials.

Johns Committee Director John Evans told a Florida Federation of Women's Clubs in Jacksonville that he knew of 123 homosexuals who were responsible for a "flourishing" of same-sex activity in Florida educational institutions. As with Sen. Joseph McCarthy's notorious list of communists in the State Department, later media reports exposed that no such list existed.

As a result of the witch hunt, 16 FSU faculty and staff were fired and many more, including students, were driven in fear from the state campus—and other Florida campuses—by the political purge. How many faculty and students then at FSU might identify—in today's terms—as gay or lesbian, bisexual or transgender, transsexual or intersexual? No one will ever know.

But what is known is that all of those who were fired were activists in the Florida civil rights movement.

Some of those targeted called on the Florida Civil Liberties Union for help. Historian John D'Emilio notes that the FCLU "surmised that motives other than a concern for sexual morality were at work. Civil rights forces were beginning to resume the offensive in the South. The

first Black student had recently enrolled in the university's law school and the FCLU recognized that the Johns Committee's 'intimidation of the faculty and student body would serve as a deterrent against racial integration on the campus or [the establishment of] a university chapter of the FCLU.'" ("Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities")

But the policies of the American Civil Liberties Union made it hard for the local FCLU to competently and aggressively defend civil rights activists of all sexualities who had been caught up in an anti-gay dragnet. The national American Civil Liberties Union had stated on the public record in January 1957 that "homosexuality is a valid consideration in evaluating the security risk factor in sensitive positions" and added, "It is not within the province of the Union to evaluate the social validity of the laws aimed at the suppression or elimination of homosexuals."

Lesbians were not the focus of the Johns Committee investigation. But bashing gay males impacts on women who love women, as well. Though women were not the public political focus of the inquiry, that doesn't mean that lesbians—Black and white—were not being oppressed.

Well-known white Southern lesbian Merrill Mushroom, a student at FSU during the Johns Committee witch hunt, explained, "Women were simply not reported on. ... But we were harassed, we were arrested, and we were subjected to the same bullshit as the men—but not in the same numbers. ... Sometimes lesbians—drag queens, too—were beaten up or raped by the cops." ("Lonely Hunters")

Next: North Carolina: Black and white gays led civil rights struggles.



Lavender & Red

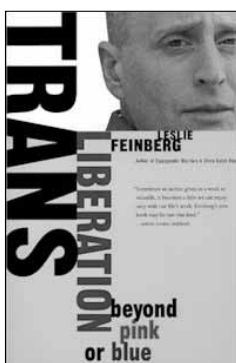
focuses on the relationship over more than a century between the liberation of oppressed sexualities, genders and sexes, and the communist movement. You can read the entire, ongoing Workers World newspaper series by Leslie Feinberg online at www.workers.org. Stop and get a subscription while you're there!

TRANS LIBERATION

More exists among human beings than can be answered by the simplistic question I'm hit with every day of my life: "Are you a man or a woman?" — Leslie Feinberg

Trans Liberation is the phrase that has come to refer to all those who blur or bridge the boundary of the sex or gender expression they were assigned at birth: cross-dressers, transsexuals, intersex people, Two Spirits, bearded females, masculine females and feminine males, drag kings and drag queens. In this inspiring collection of speeches and new writing, Leslie Feinberg argues passionately for the acceptance of all trans peoples.

Order at leftbooks.com for a copy signed by the author



After Samarra bombing

Iraqis blame U.S. intervention for violence

By John Catalinotto

No one has yet revealed hard evidence proving who blew up the Imam Ali Al Hadi shrine in Samarra, Iraq, which provoked battles between Sunni and Shiite communities. But no matter whose hands set off the charge that smashed the golden dome, the U.S.-led occupation forces are responsible for this additional assault on the Iraqi population.

As of Feb. 27, five days after the explosion, no organization or state had publicly accepted responsibility for the bombing. This alone shows that whoever carried out the bombing intended to throw the blame for it on other forces. The bombing was certain to incite battles between the two major Arab communities in Iraq—Shiite and Sunni. If such warfare broke out on a large scale, it could lead to fragmenting Iraq into multiple mini-states more easily manipulated by imperialism.

Iraqi blogger Riverbend wrote that Baghdad woke up to the news that “men wearing Iraqi security uniforms walked in [to the shrine] and detonated explosives, damaging the mosque almost beyond repair. Several mosques in Baghdad were attacked. I think what has everyone most disturbed is the fact that the reaction was so swift, like it was just waiting to happen.”

Sectarian fighting followed and was reportedly carried out by organized groups. The Badr brigades are suspected. These are the militia of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution (SCIRI), associated with Shiite Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani. SCIRI collaborated with U.S. forces when they invaded and desecrated the holy city of Najaf to put down the insurrection led by fellow Shiite Muqtada al-Sadr.

Since the provocation in Samarra, U.S. big-business media have presented the events in Iraq so as to exacerbate the differences between the Sunni and Shiite communities. However, it is enlightening—and at least somewhat encouraging—to contrast the reports in the corporate media with those from Iraqis, inside and outside the country, who oppose the U.S. occupation. They indicate that, in many cases, mass demonstrations after the bombing attempted to build Shiite-Sunni unity against the occupation.

Sunni-Shiite solidarity

Knowledgeable analyst Dahr Jamail, an anti-occupation journalist who spent eight months reporting directly from Iraq, wrote Feb. 24 that “the Sunnis were the first to go to demonstrations of solidarity with Shiites in Samarra, as well as to condemn the mosque bombings. Demonstrations of solidarity between Sunni and Shiites went off over all of Iraq: in Basra, Diwaniyah, Nasiriyah, Kut and Salah al-Din.

“Thousands of Shiites marched shouting anti-American slogans through Sadr City, the huge Shiite slum area of Baghdad, which is home to nearly half the population of the capital city. Meanwhile, in the primarily Shiite city of Kut, south of Baghdad, thousands marched while shouting slogans against America and Israel and burning U.S. and Israeli flags.”

The Turkish media reported on Feb. 25 that Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr “publicly made peace with political and religious Sunni leaders. Four sheiks from the Sadr movement made a ‘pact of honor’ with the conservative Sunni Muslim Scholars Association, calling for an end to

attacks on places of worship, the shedding of blood and condemning any act leading to sedition. The meeting also announced the formation of a commission to ‘determine the reasons for the crisis with a view to solving it,’ while also calling for a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.”

Moqtada al-Sadr ordered his Mehdi Army to no longer wear their signature black uniforms, for fear that others were disguising themselves as Mehdi forces in order to provoke clashes between Shiites and Sunnis. Even though al-Sadr joined an electoral bloc with the reactionary SCIRI and al-Dawa forces—which have supported the occupation and which are seen as also being aligned with Shiites in Iran—many in the resistance see the Mehdi Army as the most likely of the groupings in the Shiite community to join the mostly Sunni-area forces now fighting the occupation.

In addition to attempting to avoid civil war, forces within both Shiite and Sunni communities in Iraq are joining together to rid their country of an unwelcome and painful imperialist occupation.

Sami Ramadani, an Iraqi exiled in Britain, wrote in the Feb. 24 British Guardian: “It has not been Sunni religious symbols that hundreds of thousands of angry marchers protesting at the bombing of the shrine have targeted, but U.S. flags. The slogan that united them on Wednesday was: ‘No to America, no to terrorism.’”

“The Shiite clerics most listened to by young militants swiftly blamed the occupation for the bombing. They included Moqtada al-Sadr; Nasrallah, leader of Hizbullah in Lebanon; Ayatollah Khalisi, leader of the Iraqi National Foundation Congress; and Grand Ayatollah Kha-

menei, Iran’s spiritual leader.” Khamenei blamed the intelligence services of the U.S. and Israel.

“Along with Grand Ayatollah Sistani,” continued Ramadani, “they also declared it a grave ‘sin’ to attack Sunnis—as did all the Sunni clerics about attacks on Shiites. Sadr was reported by the BBC as calling for revenge on Sunnis—in fact, he said ‘no Sunni would do this’ [bomb the shrine] and called for revenge on the occupation.”

Divide Iraq into three parts?

Washington’s legal responsibility for protecting the shrine was made clear in a statement by the BRussell’s Tribunal which read: “The destruction of Al-Askari Mosque in Samarra, Iraq, represents yet another breach of the obligations of occupying powers under international humanitarian law.” Those rules of war and occupation were spelled out in the conventions signed in The Hague and in Geneva more than 50 years ago.

U.S. imperialism’s responsibility, however, goes far beyond the mere breaking of these rules. The Bush administration consciously spread lies in an attempt to justify the illegal invasion of Iraq. The U.S. then set up an occupation regime to seize Iraqi oil and to establish permanent military bases and a center of operations to control the Middle East and Central Asia.

In April 2003, when Secretary of State Donald Rumsfeld still believed he could “shock and awe” all of Iraq into accepting these plans, the U.S. leaders might have believed they could set up a single weak and submissive Iraqi puppet government. Within months of the April 2003 Pentagon takeover of Baghdad, however, the

Continued on page 11

What WW said 40 years ago:

How Johnson got Senate approval to escalate war

The following article, “How Senate voted for escalation and called it a ‘motion to table,’” is reprinted from the Workers World of March 10, 1966. It explains how the administration of Lyndon Johnson, through a parliamentary maneuver, was able to escalate the Vietnam War with the support of many in the Senate who wanted to be known to their constituents as doves. Many of the names will be familiar, even 40 years later. Al Gore’s father was a senator at the time and he voted with the administration, as did Robert Kennedy and Frank Church. Bill Moyers, seen by many today as a defiant liberal, was the president’s press secretary in charge of prettifying the war. As the article predicted, this vote laid the basis for a terrible blood-letting in Southeast Asia. It also turned a whole generation in the United States into militant anti-war activists who eventually forced the U.S. to pull out of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.

The March 1 congressional vote on appropriations for Vietnam was a major turning point for the so-called “great debate” on the war.

It quietly laid the “legal” basis for further escalation, while at the same time forcing a large number of the “loyal oppo-

sition” to raise their hands in favor of it.

Previously, the much-publicized Senate hearings on Vietnam reflected to some small extent the tremendous popular opposition to the war. But the imperialist politicians’ vote on March 1, which was a put-up-or-shut-up proposition, found nearly all the Senatorial “doves” lined up with the worst hawks.

Moods of opposition and grudging support were still clearly evident. But the voting on the \$4.8 billion supplementary military appropriation bill was rightly regarded as a true test of support for the war. And all the “doves” except [Sen. Wayne] Morse and [Sen. Ernest] Gruening folded their wings on this.

As the pro-fascist New York Daily News exulted on March 3: “The President got pro-hawk roll-call votes in the Senate of 93 to 2 ... and in the House, 392 to 4.”

There was another test of the opposition legislators’ seriousness in the same day’s vote on a motion to table a resolution by Senator Morse.

Morse had moved to rescind the so-called “Tonkin Bay Resolution” of August 1964. That resolution had provided the legal cover under which Johnson has constantly escalated the war. Morse’s move to rescind that resolution was in effect a proposal for a vote of no-confidence in Johnson’s conduct of the war and a

demand to stop the escalation.

A motion to table Morse’s motion—that is, politely kill it—was made by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (sometimes regarded as a “dove”), who said, “We’re in too deep by now.”

The motion to table was in reality a motion to escalate, disguised as a parliamentary maneuver. Senator [Richard] Russell, the chief hawk, made this clear on the Senate floor by saying that the defeat of the Morse resolution by means of the tabling motion would really be a re-endorsement of the Tonkin Bay Resolution.

Johnson himself threw down the gauntlet to the Senate. His press secretary, Bill Moyers, told reporters before the vote that Johnson believed that those senators who wanted the original (Tonkin Bay) resolution to stand should vote to table.

And Johnson said flatly in his own name that the Senate could “vote against the war” if it wanted to, by voting against the motion to table.

Just five senators took up the gauntlet—Senators [William] Fulbright, [Milton R.] Young, Eugene McCarthy, Morse and Gruening. The New York Times said the next day that “Sen. Fulbright broke completely with the President.”

This was true insofar as Johnson’s conduct of the war was involved, and very important from some points of view. But

Fulbright made the limited character of his “break” quite clear when he voted for the appropriation for money to carry on the war. He said at that time, “Nobody wants a white flag over the Capitol.”

The twenty or so senators like [Frank] Church, [Albert] Gore [Sr.], Mansfield, Robert Kennedy, etc., who are in apparent opposition to the war—or some aspect of the war—fell in line with Johnson on both the motion for military funds and the tabling motion.

Mansfield, Russell and Fulbright arranged the tabling maneuver in a clubby little meeting of “friendly enemies” the night before, when Russell agreed not to present a motion of open reaffirmation of the Tonkin Bay Resolution. Fulbright said he did not want a “long and divisive” debate “in time of war.” So it was agreed that the whole test of sentiment for escalation should be on the motion to table. And the motion to table would be made by the once-opponent, Mansfield!

A motion to table, according to the rules of parliamentary procedure, cannot be discussed on the floor.

Thus the lives of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, were disposed of without a “divisive debate.” And a large number of fallen doves can innocently say that they did not mean to vote for a bigger war—when they did just that. □



International Women's Day

International Women's Day, March 8, was born out of the struggles of working women, many of them immigrants, in New York City in the early 1900s. The day was officially proclaimed in 1910 at an International Women's Socialist Conference in Copenhagen after being proposed by German socialist Clara Zetkin. It became a day of solidarity with women's struggles against oppression, poverty and war worldwide.

Women garment workers in Russia began three days of strikes and demonstrations on that date in 1917. They were so militant and forceful that they sparked the revolutionary struggle that overthrew the czar.

Since then, International Women's Day has been commemorated by women's organizations, revolutionary groupings, national liberation movements and socialist countries. From sit-ins opposing globalization, to prison breaks to free political prisoners, to protests against U.S. militarism, this day has been marked with militancy and creativity.

What has happened to women in the U.S. since that historic demonstration nearly a century ago? Women have fought for and won many political and social gains, but there is no equality and their achievements are threatened. More than ever, a small grouping of billionaires holds the rest of society hostage to their insatiable greed for profits and dreams of world conquest. Income inequality is growing as capitalist owners and their executives grab more of society's wealth and resources. Through control of the government, they are hammering away at vital programs, such as

health care for poor women and children, while pouring hundreds of billions of dollars into the war budget.

This gang of robber barons is attacking the economic, political and social gains made by women, people of color, and all poor and working people. They never stop trying to divide the working class with reactionary ideologies of racism, sexism and anti-gay bigotry. A favorite target is women's reproductive rights, including contraception, sex education and access to abortion. Women with children are their target, too.

What will it take to counter the right-wing attacks coming especially from the Republican Right? Can women expect the Democratic Party to help? A look at how they caved in when faced with the nomination of anti-woman Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito tells the true story. (See accompanying editorial.) And Hillary Rodham Clinton, who wants to be the first woman president, is for sending more troops to Iraq and Afghanistan—which would be paid for by further cuts in the social programs that women of all ages rely on. There must be women at every level of the government, but bourgeois tokenism isn't the answer to women's oppression.

Women have an especially large stake in fighting for a society where the ownership of the wealth and resources is taken out of the hands of the few and shared by all.

In this struggle, working-class women will be leaders of the multi-national force—African American, Latino, Asian and Native—that can break politically with the capitalist parties and fight for a total overhaul of society. □

Dems finally find an issue

If you whisper "Fire" in a crowded theater, nothing will happen. Shout it at the top of your lungs and it's another story.

The heavies in the Democratic Party leadership have been very quiet over the continued suffering of thousands of Gulf Coast survivors, much of which results directly from institutionalized racism and rich people's contempt for the poor. They haven't squawked over the bleeding of this country's social services to fund vicious, imperialist wars. They want even more troops sent to Iraq and Afghanistan.

They didn't even kick up much of a fuss over Bush's appointment of Samuel Alito, an unregenerate right-winger, to the Supreme Court at a time when many are worried that women's reproductive rights are seriously in jeopardy. Yes, many Democrats voted against Alito—when they knew they didn't have a majority. But when even a minority could have stopped his nomination by sustaining a filibuster, many Democrats caved in—to the satisfaction of conservatives they are wooing for the next election.

Now comes the fraudulent, bogus issue of the ports. Suddenly New York senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton are agreeing with Republicans Bill Frist and Dennis Hastert that a deal made by the Bush administration allowing a company from the United Arab Emirates to manage six U.S. ports is a horrendous threat to "national security."

The company will have nothing to do with security, which is under the jurisdiction of U.S. agencies. Furthermore, the UAE rulers have shown again and again that they understand their privileged position rests on

collaboration with U.S. governments and corporations in the exploitation of the riches of the Middle East, and that's why they're in-tight with the Bush administration.

But finally, finally, Schumer and Clinton, who both have even bigger political ambitions, think they have found an issue that will appeal to those to the RIGHT of the Bush administration, especially anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bigots. And they are the ones who have much of the big money the politicians want for the coming congressional and presidential campaigns.

These "liberal" Democrats aren't concerned about the majority of people in the U.S. who are against this war—including most of the soldiers and their families—and who have come to understand more clearly that the "homeland security" issue and Arab-baiting are just ways for the warmongers to push through their agenda.

If they made a real clamor about the growing divide between rich and poor, about the billion-dollar compensation for some executives while workers' real incomes fall, about the health care crisis—all of which are tied to Washington's costly imperialist expansion—they could pick up a lot of votes from the huge number of people who have given up on politics and don't go to the polls.

But they are not the ones who can throw millions of dollars into the Democrats' campaign coffers.

However, they are the ones who can breathe life into a REAL opposition to the Bush gang's right-wing offensive by taking it to the streets, the workplaces, and wherever workers and poor people struggle to survive this greedy, oppressive capitalist system. □

S. Dakota bill would ban all abortions

Continued from page 1

don't exist for millions of young, poor, rural women who are disproportionately African American, Latina and—especially in the state of South Dakota—Native people.

But reproductive rights aren't related merely to sexuality, though they include full rights for lesbians, bi and trans women, freedom from stereotyped gender roles, an end to sexual harassment and violence against women and no forced sterilization. Reproductive rights are a constellation of social, economic and cultural conditions that allow every woman to make informed decisions about her life.

It's really a program for women's right to control their lives—a platform of demands needed for women's liberation.

The minimum wage is only \$5.15 an hour. Most new jobs pay no more than that. Meanwhile, the cost of education, transportation and housing are rising steeply. It's getting harder and harder for women, young and old, to get by.

How can you make a real choice if you're unexpectedly pregnant and you're a single mother with a minimum-wage job and two kids to feed, clothe, educate and house? That isn't a choice. That's between a rock and a hard place.

Wake-up call for women activists

What can women do to counter these attacks on their right to life? They can take a lesson from history about how abortion became legal.

It's estimated that, during the first half of the 20th century, between 200,000 and 1 million women sought illegal abortions each year. Approximately 5,000 of them died from unsanitary, botched, back-alley procedures.

As women came of age during the huge civil rights struggles of the 1950s and 1960s, and marched against the war in Vietnam, they more and more rejected their subjugated-class status.

Recognizing they couldn't be equal with men as long as they couldn't control their bodies, women raised the cry for "free abortion on demand." And they took to the streets in cities from coast to coast. A spontaneous demonstration of thousands of women—

Black, Latina and white—in New York City on Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26, 1970, was a watershed. Later that year anti-abortion laws were overturned in Colorado, Hawaii and New York.

The momentum mounted as doctors and lawyers joined the campaign. A Texas abortion case was soon appealed to the Supreme Court. Even though the court had three Democratic appointees versus six Republican appointees, it ruled in a 7-2 decision to legalize abortion, but set limits after three months of the pregnancy.

So religious and political foes began to coalesce. Starting with the Hyde Amendment in 1977, which outlawed Medicaid payments for abortions for poor women, attacks on legal abortion began. Since then most states have passed parental notification laws and other restrictions. Forty clinics have been bombed, and there have been more than 100 cases of arson and assault on clinics and hundreds of incidents of stalking and bomb threats. Seven health care providers have been murdered, with 17 attempted murders. Clinics have been blockaded in many cities, including week-long sieges in New York City, Wichita, Kan., and Buffalo, N.Y.

Organizers of clinic defense in 1992 in Buffalo believe the lessons they learned then are needed now. "The only way we were able to defend the clinics was by putting the struggle in the general context of fighting for health care for all poor and working people. The thousands of women and male allies who came out recognized the need for unity and solidarity," says Ellie Dorritie.

"It was truly a mass mobilization on the order of a general strike," says Beverly Hiestand. "We need to organize a new women's movement, with women of color, youth and lesbians in leadership. That will ensure it includes all aspects of women's rights—national health care, good-paying jobs, affordable housing and free, quality public education from pre-school through college—not just legal abortion. We need to link up with other progressive struggles, like organized labor, the anti-war movement, the fight for LGBT rights and against all forms of racism. History shows that the only way to change things is through struggle." □

MUNDO OBRERO

Cubanos intensifican sus esfuerzos

Continúa de página 12

Arbitraria de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas [la ONU]. Esos cinco jueces también decidieron en mayo de este año [2005] que los Cinco no tuvieron un proceso justo en Miami. En otras palabras, este caso ha sido revisado por no menos de ocho jueces, tres en este circuito, y cinco de la ONU. Los ocho estuvieron unánimemente de acuerdo con que los Cinco no tuvieron un proceso justo.

"Así que como estamos ante los 13 jueces, que incluye a dos de los jueces originales, nos sentimos esperanzados e incluso optimistas de que, por fin, después de siete años, habrá un

reconocimiento de que los Cinco no tuvieron un proceso justo, y que sus convicciones deben ser revocadas."

Las organizaciones están redoblando sus esfuerzos para movilizar el apoyo para liberar a los cinco héroes en los meses antes de la decisión de la Corte del Circuito 11. La Fundación para la Libertad de los Cinco está recaudando \$250,000 para un anuncio en el NY Times y otros proyectos publicitarios para romper el bloqueo mediático.

Para más información, comuníquese con: www.freethethefive.org, www.antiterroristas.cu, www.freethethefive.ny.org, www.cubasolidarity.com. □

HAITI

Election fraud thwarted, struggle continues

By G. Dunkel

The Haitian people, who chose René Garcia Préval in the Feb. 7 presidential election, then reinforced their votes with massive, militant demonstrations that forced the imperialist-installed interim government to finally concede Préval's victory. This was a stinging defeat for U.S. imperialism as well as its partners France and Canada and their local allies in the Haitian bourgeoisie.

The imperialists had spent two years and \$75 million on this election, trying to legitimize their overthrow of the very popular President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004. They sent Canada's federal supervisor of elections there. Over 10,000 UN troops, the armed wing of the UN's "stabilization" mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), were supposedly protecting the polling stations and ballots. But the polls never opened in some poor neighborhoods and rural areas—places where support for Préval was especially strong. Nevertheless, the Haitian people voted against the imperialist-backed candidates in such massive numbers that it was clear Préval was the winner.

But the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) refused to acknowledge even that

he had a majority. It attempted to cook the books. Tens of thousands of ballots were tossed into a garbage dump at Trutier, north of the capital, Port-au-Prince. MINUSTAH was supposed to guard them, but somehow slipped up.

Tens of thousands of ballots were declared blank or defective, even though voters had waited for hours in long lines in the hot sun to cast their votes.

With protests mounting in size and intensity, but still relatively peaceful, and more revelations every day about the CEP's attempts at fraud, the interim government in Haiti and the UN, backed by the U.S., France and Canada, offered Préval a deal.

The CEP said it would change the way it regarded blank and defective ballots so Préval would slide over the 50 percent mark and be declared the winner. He could have demanded a recount, but instead he took the deal and currently is scheduled to assume office March 29.

This deal, however, lets his opponents in Haiti's bourgeoisie and abroad dispute his election and claim that he really is not the "legitimate" president of Haiti. Nothing has been said about the outcome of parliamentary elections also held on Feb. 7. As of Feb. 27, their results have yet

to be announced.

Runoffs for the parliamentary elections are scheduled for March 19. Préval can't take office until the Parliament has been seated. This is another way in which pressure will be applied to pull him away from the masses and their tremendous needs, such as jobs, clean water and education.

The U.S. has been pushing Préval to "reconcile" with his opponents—people like Louis Jodel Chamblain and Guy Philippe. Chamblain has been convicted in absentia of mass murder; Philippe worked in the death squads of the Duvalier dictatorship, was trained by U.S. Special Forces in Ecuador, was a police chief and had to flee Haiti when his plans for a coup in 2002 were uncovered. Both had their convictions and sentences overturned after they returned to Haiti in 2004 as leaders of the armed forces that, with the help of the U.S., overturned Aristide.

A party held Feb. 18 in a wealthy area in the mountains above Port-au-Prince, near Petionville, was attended by both Préval and the U.S. ambassador to Haiti, Timothy M. Carney. Ambassador Carney was duplicitous and divisive when he told a reporter, "We believe we can work with Préval. Haitians clearly believe he is his own man. I think what he's doing now is

proving he has the force of character, by reaching out to the opposition, by beginning to move forward with no Aristide in sight." (New York Times, Feb. 20)

While France, Canada and the U.S. all congratulated Préval on his victory, Cuba and Venezuela got there first. Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, noted on Feb. 16 that Cuba and Haiti had good relations during Préval's earlier term and added that Haiti needs fewer occupying troops and more aid for health and education, which Cuba has been providing.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez congratulated Préval in a telephone conversation on Feb. 17. He told Préval he would like to visit Jacmel in southeastern Haiti on March 12 to mark the 200th anniversary of the arrival there of Venezuelan independence hero Francisco de Miranda. He also said he was taking steps for Haiti to enter Petrocaribe, a Caribbean oil initiative promoted by Venezuela.

Miranda had gone to Jacmel to visit Jean Jacques Dessalines, the hero of Haiti's slave revolt, to ask him how to petition for independence. Dessalines told him the best way was to seize it with arms in hand.

The key immediate issue for Préval is how he handles the return of Aristide and other political exiles to Haiti. He agrees that Aristide, under the constitution, does indeed have the right to return, but also says he could be subject to prosecution based on trumped-up charges.

Berthony Dupont, an editor for *Haiti Progrès* who monitors local Haitian radio shows, says the Haitian community in New York, reflecting opinion in Haiti, is split over Aristide's return. Some—both opponents and supporters—see his return as provoking a new U.S. intervention. Others feel that Aristide should hand Préval his sash of office on March 29.

Progressive political forces in Haiti are warning Préval that he can't ignore the people in his attempt to achieve reconciliation. The National Popular Party (PPN) released a statement Feb. 21 noting that "any government which has benefited from the masses' mandate but which tramples on [their] demands will meet with opposition."

The statement continues, "The PPN once again recognizes and respects the people's victory. The battle has just begun." □

After mosque bombing, Iraqis condemn occupiers

Continued from page 9

Iraqi resistance made it clear that the U.S. occupation would not be easy.

Washington considered other strategies.

By November 2003, U.S. think tanks were already proposing that Iraq be split into three parts. Leslie H. Gelb, president emeritus of the powerful Council on Foreign Relations, wrote, "The only viable strategy, then, may be to correct [Iraq's] historical defect and move in stages toward a three-state solution: Kurds in the north, Sunnis in the center and Shiites in the south." (New York Times, Nov. 25, 2003)

Toward the end of 2004, the Rand Corporation conducted a study on behalf of the U.S. Air Force. One of the primary objectives of the study was to "identify the key cleavages and fault lines among sectarian, ethnic, regional and national lines, and to assess how these cleavages generate challenges and opportunities for the United States."

The U.S.-drafted Iraqi Constitution and all the rules for selecting representatives in Iraqi elections included elements of this three-way split. This institutional split encouraged battles among communities, even where their differences were considered unimportant in the past.

Provoking a civil war among communities in Iraq is a dangerous move for the U.S., but the growing strength of the resistance has put the imperialists in a desperate situation. There is evidence that the U.S. is already using what has been called the "Salvador option," that is, setting up death squads in Iraq to run a secret war against anyone there who opposes the occupation.

Hundreds of Iraqi scientists and academics have been mysteriously assassinated. As journalist Robert Fisk wrote on July 14, 2004, in the British newspaper the Independent, "University staff suspect

there is a campaign to strip Iraq of its academics to complete the destruction of Iraq's cultural heritage, which began when America entered Baghdad."

John Pace, a United Nations official who left Baghdad in mid-February, told the Independent (Feb. 27) that "much of the killing was carried out ... under the control of the Interior Ministry" in the U.S.-backed puppet government.

Elements in the Iraqi resistance, for example from the Baath Party, object to and attack intervention by any Iranian elements in Iraq, whether by pro-Iranian groups like the Badr Brigades or by Iranian agents. Pro-Iranian groups likewise target the Baathist role in the resistance.

This hostility stems in a great part from the 1980-1988 war between Iraq and Iran, both capitalist nations oppressed by imperialism. The U.S. was able to manipulate their antagonisms to weaken and set back both Middle Eastern countries. The peoples of Iraq and Iran have an interest in overcoming this hostility to better combat the direct threat from imperialism they both face today.

U.S. allies in the region, especially the British, have their own experience in using "divide and rule" against colonial nations. The British instilled hostilities by encouraging the partition of colonial India into India and Pakistan in 1948. In the northern part of Ireland, the British colonialists provoked sectarian violence to justify their occupation and repression of the mostly Catholic community that was for freedom from British rule. The U.S. and European imperialists used differences among the peoples of Yugoslavia to break up that socialist federal republic into a half-dozen more easily ruled mini-states.

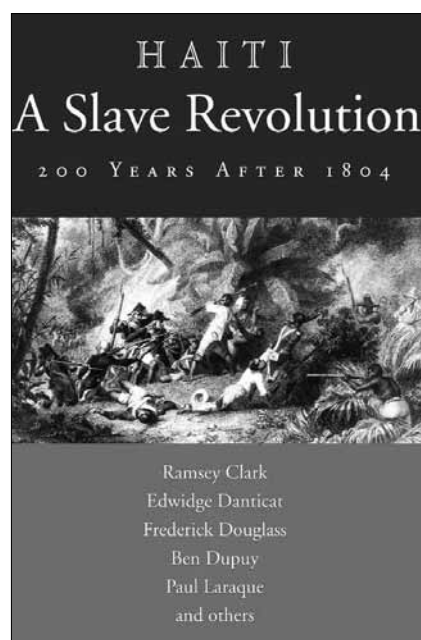
In addition, Israeli government policy has always aimed to weaken Iraq by splitting it into three parts and/or leave it com-

pletely ungovernable.

The U.S. occupation has brought death and destruction to Iraq and has been unable to set up a functioning society there. More and more people in the U.S. are aware of that failure and of the horrible costs of the war.

A Zogby International/Le Moyne College poll published Feb. 28 found that 72 percent of U.S. troops said the U.S. should withdraw within 12 months, including 29 percent who said they should pull out immediately. A CBS News poll reported that only 30 percent of respondents in the population approved Bush's handling of Iraq.

It is time—beyond time—to mobilize that popular sentiment in order to force the U.S. to end its occupation of Iraq. □



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FILADELFIA

¡Somos trabajadores, no terroristas!

Por Betsey Piette
Filadelfia

Más de 1500 valientes trabajador@s de América Latina, África y Asia arriesgaron ser arrestad@s y deportad@s el 14 de febrero al participar en una acción proclamada “Día Sin Un Inmigrante” para llamar la atención al papel que los inmigrantes juegan en la economía y para protestar por la pendiente legislación federal anti inmigrante.

Este histórico encuentro, que atrajo una muchedumbre de inmigrantes y sus partidarios del sur de Pennsylvania, Nueva Jersey y Delaware, tuvo lugar frente a la Campana de la Libertad y el Salón de la Independencia donde fue escrita la Constitución de los Estados Unidos. Mientras ondeaban banderas de México, Guatemala y la República Dominicana, oradores mexicanos, chinos, ecuatorianos, colombianos, africanos, indonesios, salvadoreños, argentinos y filipinos se dirigieron a la multitud en sus idiomas respectivos.

“Estamos unidos y lucharemos por la libertad,” dijo Angel Cordero, un activista comunitario de la ciudad de Camden en Nueva Jersey. El llevaba un cartel que decía, “Todos Somos Inmigrantes.”

Brad Baldia, activista filipino-americano y organizador del evento, dijo a Workers World/Mundo Obrero, “Nosotros queríamos incluir un máximo de inmi-

grantes. Las reuniones para este evento se hicieron en la comunidad mexicana, pero también planeamos reunirnos en la comunidades asiáticas y africanas.” Baldia dijo que las acciones recibieron cobertura en la prensa de México, Corea y la India como también en la prensa estadounidense.

La protesta se dirigió específicamente a la legislación anti inmigrante escrita por los Representantes Republicanos de Wisconsin y Nueva York, James Sensenbrenner y Peter King que fue ratificada por la Cámara de Representantes en diciembre del 2004 y cuyo objetivo es el de tratar a l@s indocumentad@s como criminales sujet@s no solo a la deportación sino al encarcelamiento. El Acta dada a conocer como Sensenbrenner-King Act (HR 4437) incrementaría las multas contra los empresarios que den empleos a l@s indocumentad@s y clasificaría a estos empresarios como “traficantes de extranjeros.” La legislación HR-4437 también arremetería contra grupos religiosos y comunitarios que proveen asistencia para l@s indocumentad@s y sus familias.

Después de la protesta frente a la Campana de la Libertad una delegación de trabajadores visitó las oficinas del Senador Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) cerca del lugar de la protesta. Specter es presidente del Comité Judicial del Senado, el cual esta considerando una ley migratoria conciliatoria.

Quizás el componente más importante

del evento “Día Sin Un Inmigrante” fue una huelga de un día por l@s trabajador@s indocumentad@s para demostrar su papel en las industrias de construcción, mantenimiento y de servicio. El impacto de la huelga fue calculado para hacerse sentir particularmente en los restaurantes del Centro de la Ciudad de Filadelfia el Día de San Valentín, uno de los días más ajetreados en ese sector.

L@s trabajador@s indocumentad@s querían demostrar en este día la contribución que ell@s aportan a la economía del país y a la vez instar a los dueños de los restaurantes a que voten en contra de la ley HR-4437.

La acción en el Día de San Valentín estuvo inspirada en la película del 2004 “Un Día Sin Un Mexicano” que trata del posible impacto que California sufriría si sus residentes latin@s desaparecieran. Mientras que algunos propietarios de restaurantes amenazaron a l@s trabajadores con despedirlos si participaran en la huelga, otros admitieron la dificultad de mantener el auge de esa industria sin l@s indocumentad@s que limpian las mesas, lavan los platos y preparan la comida—trabajos que pagan desde el salario mínimo hasta \$10 dólares la hora. Y en muchos casos menos del salario mínimo obligatorio.

Se calcula que hay 11 millones de trabajador@s indocumentad@s, un 5% de la fuerza laboral estadounidense. De esta

cifra se calcula también que entre 100.000 y 150.000 trabajan en Pennsylvania y 350.000 en Nueva Jersey. La Asociación Nacional de Restaurantes se ha comprometido a parar el proyecto de ley Sensenbrenner-King en el Congreso este año.

Ricardo Díaz, otro organizador del evento, reportó que la meta principal del Día sin un Inmigrante fue concientizar al público. Durante las semanas antes de la huelga hubo rumores ampliamente circulares sobre una posible ola de represión de parte de las autoridades contra la gente inmigrante y deportaciones masivas en el área de Filadelfia, posiblemente con la intención de disminuir la participación, pero notó Díaz, “De hecho, lo que resultó fue que la gente se volvió más conciente de su vulnerabilidad y les alentó a participar”.

Esto estuvo reflejado en el comentario del participante del encuentro José Águila quien dijo, “Estamos aquí para forjar una vida mejor para nuestros hijos, y tenemos que defendernos y no ocultarnos más llenos de miedo”.

El tercer propósito de la protesta fue el de alentar a l@s inmigrantes a que no compraran ese día, y a l@s inmigrantes que tuvieran pequeños negocios, a que los cerraran por el día. Más protestas están siendo planeadas en Trenton, NJ y en Washington, D.C. para marzo. Fotos y videos de las acciones del 14 de febrero son accesibles en www.daywithoutanimmigrant.com. □

Partidarios de los Cinco Héroes

Cubanos intensifican sus esfuerzos

Por Cheryl LaBash
Atlanta

Los abogados defensores de los Cinco Cubanos presentaron un argumento sólido sobre justicia y libertad el pasado 14 de febrero. Todos los 13 miembros de la Corte del Circuito 11 escucharon a los abogados Leonard Weinglass y Richard Kugh defender la decisión unánime de un panel de tres jueces que había invalidado las injustas condenas de los Cinco.

En agosto del 2005 ese fallo determinó que un juicio justo e imparcial había sido imposible en Miami, cuna de los mercenarios anticubanos apoyados por la CIA.

El fiscal del gobierno nacional sin embargo, decidió prolongar lo que una comisión de la ONU ha caracterizado como una “detención arbitraria”. La fiscalía no ha respetado la decisión de agosto del 2005 que pedía un juicio nuevo en un lugar imparcial. Tampoco ha repatriado a los Cinco a sus hogares junto a sus seres queridos en Cuba. En vez de eso los Cinco: Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero, Fernando González y René González, han seguido en prisión donde ingresaron en 1998 en los Estados Unidos. Están injustamente tras las rejas por trabajar en este país para evitar ataques terroristas contra Cuba.

Después de la audiencia, el Comité Nacional para Liberar a los Cinco (NCFP por las siglas en inglés) organizó una conferencia de prensa y una reunión comunitaria en el Colegio Spelman. Las activi-

dades destacaron a partidarios que habían viajado hacia Atlanta para apoyar a los Cinco Cubanos desde alrededor de los EEUU y del mundo.

Un bloqueo mediático impide que la mayoría del pueblo de los EEUU sepa cómo Washington protege a terroristas anticubanos confesos como Luis Posada Carriles y Orlando Bosch. Mientras tanto, persigue a estos cinco hombres quienes sólo monitoreaban planes de intentos violentos contra Cuba, su patria.

Sin embargo, observadores internacionales en la audiencia demostraron un amplio conocimiento y apoyo para los Cinco Cubanos.

Gloria La Riva, coordinadora del NCFP, presentó a estos distinguidos observadores. Incluían a Kart de Loor, miembro del Parlamento de Flandes, en Bélgica, quien es el responsable de una nueva declaración sobre la violación de derechos humanos en el caso de los Cinco. La declaración fue firmada por 32 MP belgas, por miembros del parlamento de Flandes, del parlamento belga, de la Casa de Representantes y del Senado, y por un miembro del parlamento europeo.

Otr@s partidarios internacionales fueron Eberhard Schulz, miembro de la Asociación de Abogados de Berlín, de la Liga Internacional de Derechos Humanos en Berlín y del Gremio de Abogados Republicanos; Edith Flamant, abogada belga; el Padre Geoffrey Bottoms, líder de la Campaña Británica para Liberar a los Cinco Cubanos quien está haciendo una gira por

los EEUU con el documental “Misión Contra el Terror”; Bernie Dwyer de Irlanda, quien es el co-director del documental; Fabio Marcelli, abogado italiano representando a la Asociación Internacional de Abogados Democráticos; la Jueza Claudia Morcom, activista por muchos años en Detroit y jueza de la Corte del Circuito del Condado Wayne entre los años 1983 y 1998; y Carlos Zamorano, distinguido abogado muy conocido de Argentina.

Alto al terrorismo—creado en los EEUU

En la rueda de prensa, Andrés Gómez—director de la Brigada Antonio Maceo en Miami—demandó “el fin del apoyo estadounidense para las organizaciones terroristas de los derechistas cubanos que, desde tierra estadounidense, han planeado y dirigido ataques terroristas contra el pueblo cubano en la isla por los últimos 47 años, y también han sido responsable por asesinatos y otros ataques terroristas contra aquellos que se oponen a los métodos y objetivos políticos de los Estados Unidos.”

Gómez además dirige la revista Areíto Digital y es uno de los activistas dirigentes de la Alianza Martiana, una alianza de organizaciones cubanas en Miami. Declaró que “Los cubanos y los cubano-americanos en Miami son las primeras víctimas del terrorismo dirigido por las organizaciones derechistas extremas. No pueden hablar libremente sobre tópicos relacionados con Cuba a causa de la ame-

naza de violencia dirigida contra ell@s. Ésto no es una imaginación. Cientos de actos terroristas han sido cometidos por esas organizaciones en los Estados Unidos, específicamente en Miami.”

Los Comités de Libertad para los Cinco—de Los Ángeles, Nueva York, Louisville y Detroit—la Red Nacional sobre Cuba y el Centro de Acción Internacional participaron en las acciones de apoyo en Atlanta. Miembr@s de las familias de los Cinco Cubanos expresaron su profunda gratitud por la solidaridad y el apoyo.

Leonard Weinglass, abogado de Antonio Guerrero, concluyó diciendo: “La última vez que argumentamos este caso ante un panel de esta corte, en una decisión unánime de 93 páginas, tres jueces decidieron que el caso tendría que ser revocado porque el caso representaba una perfecta tempestad de prejuicio contra los Cinco Cubanos que estaban acusados.

“Yo creo que esta corte no convertirá esa perfecta tempestad de prejuicio en un día soleado de neutralidad resplandeciente en Miami, porque cualquier persona que examine los 119 volúmenes de transcripciones, de lo que fue el proceso más largo en los Estados Unidos en el momento en que ocurrió, además de las 800 pruebas instrumentales, que consisten en más de 20,000 páginas, llegará a la misma conclusión.

“Este caso ha sido examinado no solo por los tres jueces del circuito que llegaron a esta conclusión, sino por cinco jueces del Grupo de Trabajo sobre la Detención

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