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NOV. 16, 2006

VOL. 48, NO. 45

50¢

VOTERS SAY STOP THE WAR!

Next: Mobilize to bring the troops home now

By John Catalinotto

Voters angry over the disaster unfolding in Iraq, a decline in workers' living standards and the Bush administration's anti-worker policies, handed a significant setback to the Republican Party in the Nov. 7 midterm elections, including a clear loss of its House majority and possible loss of the Senate.

Much of the country and the world is elated, watching the usually aggressive and arrogant Bush gang squirm after this defeat. Adding to this mood, the figure most closely associated with the tactics

of the war on Iraq—Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld—was forced to resign in the wake of the election. (See editorial, page 10.)

But the battle to end the war has only begun. The challenge for all progressives in the U.S. and for the anti-war movement in particular is how to take this setback for Bush and turn it into a consistent struggle in the factories, schools, offices and streets to really challenge both the new Congress and the old White House.

As of mid-day Nov. 8, the Democrats had picked up at least 28 House seats. They hold a clear majority in the House

of 228 to 196, with 11 seats still undecided. Democrats also picked up five Senate seats, giving them 50 to the Republican's 49 with the close Virginia race headed for a December recount.

Democrats also replaced Republicans in six of the 34 state governorships contested this year.

Popular revulsion over the Iraq war, which has existed since the Iraqi people began a heroic resistance against the unpopular and brutal U.S. occupation, increased over the past few months. In that same period, Pentagon generals and top

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Breaking down borders in the workers' struggle



Day laborers and supporters march in Freeport, L.I.

WW PHOTO: HEATHER COTTIN

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Reminiscent of Cold War Mattachine divide

Early 1970s: Political split in gay movement

By Leslie Feinberg

National liberation movements fighting for sovereignty and self-determination in Asia, Africa and the Middle East inspired the left wing of early gay liberation. In addition, oppressed nations held as virtual domestic colonies within the borders of the U.S. were rebelling from Watts to Wounded Knee. Struggles of Black, Chican@/Mexican@, Native and Asian peoples were roiling, with militant leadership.

As Vietnam veterans returned wounded or in body bags, anger against the war built. Women's liberation was taking on social momentum.

Stonewall combatant Sylvia Rivera later recalled, "All of us were working for so many movements at that time. Everyone was involved with the women's movement, the peace movement, the civil rights movement. We were all radicals. I believe that's what brought it [Stonewall] around. You get tired of being just pushed around. We are people. We are gay people."

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people brought valuable experience to gay liberation that they had acquired as activists and leaders in the union movement, tenant and unemployed organizing, defense of political prisoners and the civil rights movement.

Left-wing gay liberation sought solidarity with all who were oppressed. The gay movement itself was made up of many nationalities, countries of origin, sexes, genders and ages.

The Gay Liberation Front, named to honor the national liberation fronts in Vietnam and Algeria, issued a founding statement of purpose in 1969 after the Stonewall Rebellion that articulated the anti-capitalist consciousness of early gay liberation, as well.

The language in the statement is dated—particularly regarding Asian peoples—but the solidarity from that period still rings clear: "We are in total opposition to America's white racism, to poverty, hunger, the systematic destruction of our patrimony; we oppose the rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer, and are in total opposition to wars of aggression and imperialism, whoever pursues them. We support the demands of Blacks, Chicanos, Orientals, Women, Youth, Senior Citizens, and others demanding their full rights as human beings. We join in their struggle, and shall actively seek coalition to pursue these goals."

Third World Gay Liberation, established by Black, Latin@ and Asian activists in the summer of 1970, stated in its first leaflet—issued in Spanish and English—"We are oppressed as people because our humanity is routinely devoured by the carnivorous system of Capitalism. We are oppressed as Third World people by the economically inherent racism of white Amerikan society."

U.S. finance capitalism—the ascendant capitalist and imperialist power after World War II—faced resistance domestically and internationally. The great struggles of the 1960s forced Democrat Lyndon Johnson to make some concessions on the home front while still waging war against Vietnam—new social programs like the "War on Poverty." This "guns and butter" policy, which aimed to buy some social peace domestically, plus the strong war economy, helped isolate the national liberation struggles and the growing activism of middle-class youth, and to keep rebellion from igniting the entire working class.

At the same time, the FBI worked hammer and tong to bust up unity among oppressed groups. That covert "dirty war" was COINTELPRO: the Counter-Intelligence Program.

J. Edgar Hoover, who is widely reported to have had a male lover, led the FBI at that time. That certainly demonstrates that same-sex attraction doesn't automatically make a person politically progressive. As the union song asks: "Which side are you on?" Hoover certainly knew which side of the class barricades he served.

The FBI used the weapons of spying, lying, infiltrating, disrupting and spreading smear campaigns on the oppressed. They assassinated and framed up progressive leaders in order to "neutralize" them. And they tried to drive a wedge between gay liberation and Black liberation.

Under this pressure, gay liberation developed an ideological fissure.

Reminiscent of Cold War split

The Gay Liberation Front was originally conceived not as an organization but as a political front—a left-wing umbrella group. In early November 1969, at a GLF meeting, a vote to support the Black Panther Party was defeated. A week later, a GLF member called for a recount. This time, the majority—including reportedly all the women—voted to support the Panthers, who were the target of vicious state repression.

Angered by the vote, GLF members Marty Robinson and Jim Owles resigned, walked out and became founders of the Gay Activist Alliance.

The split and the formation of GAA had national implications. Ostensibly, the divide was over "priorities." Those who created GAA claimed that Gay Liberation Front was not focused enough on gay issues.

But beneath that argument was an ideological fault line reminiscent of the Cold War anti-communist divide in the Mattachine gay mass organizing during the McCarthyite witch hunt. Harry Hay, a communist who founded the early Mattachine organization and was later driven out by red-baiters, helped draft the Los Angeles GLF founding statement in 1969.

Anti-communism reared its ugly head again in the GLF split.

In the summer of 1969, Marcus Overseth penned an article in the "San Francisco Free Press" about the growing chasm between what he termed "leftists" and "social revolutionaries"—in reality, between revolutionaries and social democrats.

"These people—whose emphasis is on left rather than Gay—might be called Gay leftists," he wrote. "The primary orientation of left Gay social revolutionaries is Gay. Gay leftists, however, look upon the Gay liberation movement as a means of furthering their peculiar notions about political revolution. They look at Gay liberation through leftist lenses—from a framework of Marxist-Leninist thought. To such persons the most important reason for their involvement is not freedom for Gay brothers and sisters but blood-in-the-streets revolution."

Overseth concluded that from New York to San Francisco, "Here lies the real reason for the current disruption within the Gay Liberation Movement. It has been co-opted by politicians who are still hung up on political

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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!



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Vol. 48, No. 45 • Nov. 16, 2006
Closing date: Nov. 8, 2006

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

A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Send an e-mail message to WWnews-subscribe@workersworld.net. Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 55 W. 17 St., 5th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10011.

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After beating of mother and daughter

Alliance forms against police brutality

By Larry Hales
Denver

A multinational alliance of community activists here is charging that on June 17, Aurora Police Sgt. Charles DeShazer, a supervisor of other cops, attacked a mother and daughter after the two had lodged a complaint over DeShazer calling them "f...ing n...rs" during a dispute over her disabled parking permit. Aurora is a city of 300,000 in the Denver metropolitan area.

The attack occurred in a dark area, after DeShazer followed the car with Loree McCormick-Rice and her daughter, Cassidy Rice, out of a mall parking lot and pulled them over.

Perhaps DeShazer thought the two were defenseless. Within the last month, however, this cop, the city of Aurora, the King Soopers market where the attack occurred and the owners of the strip mall that employed the moonlighting cop have found a community up in arms, ready to defend the 13 year old and her 51-year-old mother.

There have been three rallies. One was down the street from Aurora City Hall and the other two in the parking lot of King Soopers.

Communities United Against Police Brutality—a group formed by Black, Mexican, Latin@, Arab and white activ-

ists—was formed in the wake of community outrage over this latest case of police brutality. The group is made up of activists from the New Black Panther Party, International Action Center, Workers World Party, Mexican National Liberation Movement, Copwatch and other organizations. It is forming a broad campaign to fight back against state repression and to show solidarity among oppressed nations here and abroad.

King Soopers, the market where the mother and daughter had shopped before being stopped by the racist cop, has issued a public statement and handed out flyers to customers as part of a disinformation campaign.

King Soopers says that DeShazer is not officially on its payroll and that the company was not responsible for filing complaints that resulted in a "disturbing the peace" charge against Loree McCormick-Rice.

The supermarket issued the statement after the successful start of a boycott campaign. It had contacted McCormick-Rice's family, her lawyer and activists, stating that the boycott was hurting business and should be called off.

King Soopers was even able to convince a wayward Black activist to go on television and announce an end to the boycott. This person, who has a history of similar

acts, had never met the family, never participated in any actions supporting them, and hasn't even seen the security video that shows the brutal attack.

However, the Greater Denver Ministerial Alliance, at a press conference with activists and other victims of police brutality held in front of the Aurora Municipal Building, supported the boycott, showing it had never stopped.

The press conference was a great show of unity, even though the press chose not to print statements supporting the boycott and a television channel then replayed the clip of the person who said it was over.

Those supporting the McCormick-Rice family have decided to have public showings of the video to dispel the misinformation campaign.

King Soopers has admitted that McCormick-Rice was within her right to file a complaint against the store and that she was pleasant while doing so. It even has stated that the store supports her. But the video, Aurora City Attorney Tim Joyce and even Police Chief Daniel Oates reveal a different truth.

In court, when pressed to explain the disturbing the peace charge, Joyce said that King Soopers employees had said McCormick-Rice caused a "near riot" in the store. The video does not corrob-

rate this. In fact, it shows an understandably upset but restrained woman and her daughter filing a complaint.

Joyce added that the basis for the complaint of a "near riot" was customers remarking that they would not shop at the store any more.

DeShazer never witnessed anything McCormick-Rice said or did in the store, so the complaint against her had to come from King Soopers.

Furthermore, on the tape, DeShazer's unmarked police vehicle can be seen lurking outside. He makes a few passes. Before one of them, a King Soopers security guard who had been shooed away by the head clerk on duty, after the guard tried to goad McCormick-Rice into a confrontation, walks directly to DeShazer's automobile.

This same security guard, plus another from King Soopers, figure prominently in the video. During the attack, one of the security guards is seen kicking then 12-year-old Cassidy Rice.

King Soopers may figure that a technicality—it doesn't directly pay DeShazer—shows that it isn't responsible, but what is clear is that either DeShazer indirectly works for King Soopers or King Soopers security works for DeShazer.

Activists have promised to leave no

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'Justice for Lucasville 5!'

Forum calls for end to racist death penalty

By Sharon Danann
Toledo, Ohio

Student workers had to keep setting up chairs as the crowd swelled to over 250 in the University of Toledo Student Union on Oct. 29. The program was the last in a 10-stop tour called "Witness to an Execution," organized by the Campaign to End the Death Penalty. Community members of all ages and nationalities mixed with students to hear Barbara Becnel, long-time friend of the late Stanley Tookie Williams and editor of his books.

Conveners of the program called for a moratorium on the death penalty because it is racist, targets the poor, is barbaric and doesn't deter crime. In addition, it murders the innocent.

Washington Muhammad from the Nation of Islam expressed Minister Louis Farrakhan's support for Imam Siddique Abdullah Hasan, one of the Lucasville 5 wrongly convicted for the death of a guard in connection with a 1993 prison uprising in Lucasville, Ohio. He declared that the conviction of Imam Hasan was due to "fear of a warrior" and "fear that we might unite across racial boundaries, economical boundaries and religious boundaries."

Hasan was an imam, or prayer leader, for the Sunni Muslims in the Lucasville prison and their spokesperson before and



S.A. Hasan

during the rebellion, which led the prosecution to target him for capital crimes.

Hasan sent a taped statement from death row. A judge on Aug. 14 recommended denial of his petition for habeas corpus and request for an evidentiary hearing. Hasan's attorneys filed objections to the recommendations and the ACLU filed a friend of the court brief. However, Hasan

may be nearing the end of his appeals at the federal level.

The tape pointed out that prosecutors played to anti-Islamic prejudice and racism in his trial. As an illustration of the racism of the death penalty, Hasan quoted statistics that 80 percent of executions are for killing whites, whereas only 13 percent are for killing Black people.

Hasan stated, "We have to strive, to

struggle to bring about change in the criminal justice system, just like the people of Toledo stopped the neo-Nazis from marching. Join forces. It's going to be a long road." (See "Nazis kicked out of Toledo," Oct. 18, 2005, and "Cops defend Nazis as



hundreds protest," Dec. 15, 2005, at

www.workers.org.)

The audience then warmly greeted featured speaker Becnel, who had been present at the execution of Tookie Williams on Dec. 13, 2005. She was also a witness at a hearing to determine if something was wrong with the way

the State of California had carried out

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Death row hunger strike gets outside support

By Gloria Rubac
Livingston, Texas

Protesters from Houston and Austin held a spirited demonstration in front of the Polunsky Prison Unit here on Nov. 4. Families arriving for or leaving from visits as well as cars traveling on the highway honked their horns in support.

Placards supported a hunger strike against conditions on death row that was in its fifth week.

Told by a prison official to move across the street, members of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement from Houston said they would not move and that the warden couldn't tell them where to stand during a legal protest.

Activists with the Campaign to End the Death Penalty in Austin also participated in the protest.

Four families visiting relatives in prison pulled off the highway and joined the protest. One Latina who had driven all the way from Brownsville on the U.S./Mexico border with her daughter told demonstrators it was hard having her nephew on death row and talked about the bad conditions.

She said the thought that Texas could kill her sister's son was sometimes too much for her to bear. Through tears she

explained that she couldn't even take advantage of an extra two hours of visiting time for those who travel such long distances because she had to be at work very early the next morning. She drives eight hours each way for a two-hour visit.

The Polunsky Unit houses the 380 men on Texas' death row. They are held in solitary confinement 23 hours or more each day, with no chance of ever upgrading their status. This super-max, super segregation unit is responsible for many death row suicides and attempted suicides, severe mental illnesses, and a number of men giving up appeals.

The cells have solid steel doors and prisoners are taken to shower or recreation alone. They eat alone in their single-person cell. No radios, televisions or newspapers are provided. Radios can be purchased only by those on the top disciplinary level.

Prisoners cannot even write letters and mail them to their friends. There are no religious services and they are not allowed to work at a prison job.

The isolation is torture and is causing serious mental problems.

The hunger strike was begun by Steven Woods, Justen Hall, Richard Cobb, Travis Runnels, Kevin Watts and Stephen Moody.

Woods wrote at the beginning of the strike about the abuses of prisoners in Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib: "You look overseas and ask yourselves, 'How can good, solid citizens behave like that?' You wonder, 'Where did that monster come from?' The question isn't very hard to answer. That kind of abuse isn't anything new. It's been happening here on Amerikkkan soil for decades. And while it's true that Amerikkkan prisoners don't suffer the depth of those held hostage by Bush and Co. here in Texas, on death row, we are forced to endure some of the harshest and most inhumane treatment imaginable."

Other death row prisoners who have joined the hunger strike include Kenneth Foster and Gabriel Gonzales with the DRIVE organization, Carlton Turner, Patrick Bryan Knight and John Rubio.

When Turner joined the hunger strike on Oct. 23, he wrote to friends that he was protesting the death penalty and "the horrid conditions that Death Row prisoners endure daily... I'm tired of the deprivation. I'm tired of accepting spoiled and undercooked food. Change must come!"

Woods wrote, "It's a shame that we have to starve ourselves to be treated decently. We're hoping we don't have to starve to

Continued on page 4

Black, white rally with immigrant workers

By Heather Cottin
Freeport, N.Y.

They gathered in the evening darkness in the parking lot near Dunkin Donuts and the Freeport, L.I., train station on Nov. 6. Latin@ day laborers called out to their fellow workers hurrying home, "Don't be afraid, compañeros, join us." And they did.

About 50 Latin@ workers and their supporters then marched to the Village Hall for a rally to demand an end to the racial profiling and persecution of day laborers in this town of 45,000 residents.

"We are workers who are here making your gardens beautiful, fixing your houses. We are day laborers trying to make enough money to send home to our families so they can survive," said Gustavo Flores, a leader of United Day Laborers of Long Island-Freeport (UJLI-F). Flores said all Freeport residents—Black, white, and Latin@—deserve to be treated with dignity.

The last thing Freeport Mayor William Glacken wanted was a demonstration that showed how his administration has racially profiled and bullied Latin@s, who number almost half of Freeport's population.

Working class Latin@s, many of them from Central America, who rent rooms and houses in the village have faced dawn raids by housing inspectors, arrests for trespassing in public malls, police harassment and raids by "La Migra"—the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division of the Department of Homeland

Security. The mayor is behind all this. Not even the Department of Homeland Security would proceed without official support from local authorities.

A worker-run group, Freeport Community Worklink Center, composed of UJLI-F members and community residents, has been confronting Glacken. Time and again, they planned demonstrations, but the mayor convinced local foundations to cut off material support for the legal day laborer shape-up site—a trailer hidden from public view. The site was set up in 2002 after the racist harassment of day laborers by Freeport police was exposed and after the New York state attorney general served Freeport village with a suit for housing discrimination.

Last spring, Glacken convinced the foundations to fire the worker-run group that administered the trailer and turned the shape-up site over to Catholic Charities. Then the foundations and the mayor forbade the workers from setting their own rules or hiring their own coordinator. UJLI-F members found they could no longer get work at the trailer.

The mayor and the foundations went further. They combined to cut funding to the main organizer of Latin@ day laborers on Long Island, the Workplace Project of Hempstead.

The workers in Freeport know that Mayor Glacken forced Vornado Realty Trust, a corporation with \$14 billion in U.S. real estate assets, to put up "no trespassing" signs in the Home Depot parking lot. Glacken's police department has been arresting workers there.

Freeport residents have seen that when contractors invite day laborers into their vans near the Home Depot, Freeport police cars often stop these vehicles. They have seen Freeport police physically wrestle workers out of the trucks, preventing them from earning a day's wages. But the contractors are never molested.

As Juan Hernández, a Salvadoran leader of UJLI-F, said, "They have been trying to clean Latin@s off the streets of Freeport. But we live here, and we need to work, and they need our work."

At the rally in front of Village Hall, Hernández compared Glacken to President George W. Bush. "How come [Mayor Glacken and] President Bush hate Latin@s so much, when the countries of Central America support the U.S. illegal war on Iraq. And who is illegal? Him or us?"

Teresa Gutierrez of New York City's May 1 Coalition said that the Freeport fight for justice represented the struggle of immigrant workers all over the country and was the cutting edge of the working-class movement in the U.S.

The group then stood in silence in the Village Court as Fred Brewington, a Black civil rights attorney for workers arrested for "trespassing" in the Home Depot parking lot, declared his clients "not guilty." When the supporters, the arrested and the lawyer left, emptying the courtroom, the judge was dumfounded.

Brewington told the supporters afterwards that their presence had put the Village of Freeport on the defensive for the first time. □

ON THE PICKETLINE

by Sue Davis

UMass nurses win 5-hour strike

It took only five hours—after a marathon 24-hour negotiating session—for registered nurses at the UMass Medical Center's University campus to reach a tentative agreement on Oct. 26.

The nurses were successful in fighting contract concessions that would have cut wages and benefits by upwards of \$8,000. Not only is their defined benefit pension plan intact but they preserved affordable health care benefits for both full-time and part-time nurses. The three-year contract also contains a 15-step salary scale with 5 percent annual step raises, as well as a cost-of-living adjustment in each year of the contract.

"It was the strength and unity of our union that has allowed us to push forward to such a successful settlement," said Kathie Logan, RN, chair of the 830-member UMass bargaining unit of the Massachusetts Nurses Association. "This is a win for all parties, and the biggest winners will be our patients."

Boston nurses to vote on strike

Elsewhere in Massachusetts, the 2,400 registered nurses at Brigham & Women's Hospitals in Boston are set to vote on a strike on Nov. 13. They have been negotiating a new contract since July. Their contract expired Sept. 30 but has been extended as negotiations continue.

Management is offering the nurses only a 1.5 percent pay hike, though the hospital's profits increased by more than 75 percent in 2005 and by another \$42 million through the second quarter of 2006. Management has the audacity to ask the nurses to pay for the raise by cutting their sick time benefits.

Two wins for campus workers

Campus workers at the University of Vermont and at Brown University won their first union contracts, bringing them closer to a livable wage.

On Oct. 11, members of UE Local 267 ratified a three-year contract guaranteeing all UVM workers a wage increase of 4 percent retroactive to July 1 and at least 4 percent in each of the next two years. All current workers will be making a minimum of \$11.46 per hour by the third year of the contract. The goal, which is supported by students, faculty, staff and the community, is "to implement a full Livable Wage for all UVM workers," reported a Jobs with Justice press release.

The food service workers at Brown, represented by SEIU Local 615, recently won a 3.5 percent wage increase for each year of the three-year contract as well as health care benefits for all workers and no increase in health care premiums. Strong student support organized by the Student Labor Alliance was seen as critical to the workers' victory.

Immigrant workers' rights violated

The American Civil Liberties Union, the AFL-CIO and other groups sent a petition on Nov. 1 to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights charging that the United States and five state governments have failed to protect basic workplace rights for immigrant workers guaranteed under international law. The commission is part of the 35-nation Organization of American States.

The petition charges that a 2002 Supreme Court ruling, known as Hoffman v. National Labor Relations Board, denies basic protection of labor laws to millions of undocumented immigrant workers in violation of universal human rights principles like equal protection before the law. It cites such violations as no compensation for workplace injuries, inability to hold an employer responsible for an injury at work and workplace discrimination and exploitation. □

What's in a name? Plenty, Ethiopia tells Starbucks

By Brenda Ryan

How does the "free trade" pushed by U.S. corporations really work?

Ethiopian coffee farmers don't make enough in one whole day to buy a latte at Starbucks. But the Ethiopian government has a plan to change that. It's seeking trademarks on Ethiopia's famous coffee names in hopes of getting a larger share of their retail price. The charity group Oxfam estimates that the trademarks could bring the Ethiopian coffee industry and farmers an additional \$88 million per year.

Starbucks, though, is standing in the way.

Last year the Ethiopian government filed applications with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to trademark the Sidamo, Harar and Yirgacheffe coffee names. While Ethiopia received a trademark for Yirgacheffe in August, the National Coffee Association and Starbucks are opposing registration of the other two names.

"Coffee shops can sell Sidamo and Harar coffees for up to \$26 a pound because of the beans' specialty status," Tadesse Meskela, head of the Oromia Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union, said in an Oct. 26 Oxfam press release. "But Ethiopian coffee farmers only earn between 60 cents to \$1.10 for their crop, barely enough to cover the cost of production. I think most people would see that as an injustice."

U.S. corporations are fiercely protective of what they regard as their intel-

lectual property. Patents on AIDS drugs have prevented the people of Africa from obtaining low-cost versions of the medicines. But when it comes to the resources of poor countries, they have a double standard.

Starbucks is calling on Ethiopia to register the coffee names as geographic indicators—names given to indicate the specific place where a food, wine or spirit it comes from. The PTO has registered more than 100 geographic indications, including Darjeeling for tea cultivated in Darjeeling, India. Once someone receives a registration, only products produced in that region may carry the geographic name.

Starbucks said in a press release that geographic certification systems "are far more effective than registering trademarks for geographically descriptive terms, which is actually contrary to general trademark law and custom."

That's not what Starbucks was saying two years ago when it tried to trademark one of Ethiopia's coffee names. In 2004 it filed an application to register "Shirkinia Sun-Dried Sidamo" as a trademark. According to PTO's website, the application was abandoned in July. The Guardian reported Oct. 26 that the PTO had rejected Ethiopia's application because the word "Sidamo" was already in Starbucks' application. The article says that once Starbucks' application became inactive, the National Coffee Association opposed Ethiopia's application at the request of Starbucks. The NCA and Starbucks both denied that the

firm asked the association to intervene.

Light Years IP, a non-profit group that seeks to alleviate poverty by helping producers in developing countries gain ownership of their intellectual property and use it to increase their export income, has been helping the Ethiopian government register trademarks for Harar, Sidamo and Yirgacheffe.

While these gourmet coffees are sold at a premium price at stores like Starbucks, Ethiopia is exporting them at prices close to those of commodity coffee. "Ethiopia receives only around 6 percent of the retail price their fine coffees earn in foreign markets," Light Years IP says on its Web site. "In comparison, producers of Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee capture 45 percent of their product's retail price."

Light Years IP says Ethiopia has already been granted trademarks in more than 30 countries and plans to license the coffee names to individual companies around the world free of charge. Now that's a deal you're not likely to see at Starbucks. □

Prison strike

Continued from page 3

death, but we cannot allow ourselves to be denied our basic human rights. We cannot, we will not live like this any longer."

For more information, see www.anarchyinchains.com, www.drivemovement.moonfruit.com, www.freerobwill.org and www.freekenneth.com. □

Limbaugh vs. Fox

Right-wing attack on disabled backfires

By Gene Clancy

The reasons for attacking a disabled person are varied. Sometimes, however, there is a direct political motive.

On Oct. 23, actor Michael J. Fox was viciously slandered and ridiculed by Rush Limbaugh on his radio show. Limbaugh accused Fox, who has Parkinson's disease, of "faking" his illness in order to score political points. Fox has made several campaign videos on behalf of candidates who favor an expansion of stem cell research.

"He is exaggerating the effects of the disease," Limbaugh told his listeners. "He's moving all around and shaking and it's purely an act. ... This is shameless of Michael J. Fox. Either he didn't take his medication, or he's acting."

During his diatribe, Limbaugh shook his arms and head in a mocking exaggeration of Michael J. Fox's symptoms. Limbaugh's radio show has a live video feed to a number of television and online outlets. His syndicated radio program has a weekly audience of about 10 million.

Limbaugh was reacting to Fox's appearance in a televised campaign spot for Missouri Democrat Claire McCaskill, running against Republican Sen. James M. Talent. Debate over stem cell research looms large in Missouri, where voters are considering a ballot measure that would

amend the state constitution to protect all federally allowed forms of the research, including embryonic stem cell research.

The scientific study holds promise in the search to cure diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. McCaskill supports the measure; Talent opposes it.

The electoral battle in Missouri and several other states reflects a division within ruling class circles over embryonic stem cell research. On one side is the religious right, a mainstay of the Republican Party, which opposes the research on religious, anti-scientific grounds. On the other are those who favor the research, including many Republicans, not only for its possible benefits but because the research, dominated by pharmaceutical companies, has a great profit potential.

Response to Limbaugh's outrageous remarks was swift.

"Anyone who knows the disease well would regard his movement as classic severe Parkinson's disease," said Elaine Richman, a neuroscientist in Baltimore who co-wrote "Parkinson's Disease and the Family."

"Any other interpretation is misinformed," she concluded.

Fox defended his appearance in the political campaign ad, saying he wasn't acting or off his medication. In fact, at the time, he was over-medicated for his Parkinson's disease, Fox said in an exclu-

sive interview with CBS Evening News anchor Katie Couric.

"The irony is that I was too medicated. I was dyskinesic," Fox told Couric. "Because the thing about ... being symptomatic is that it's not comfortable. No one wants to be symptomatic; it's like being hit with a hammer."

Parkinson's is an extremely debilitating disease, with no known cure. It is progressive, meaning the symptoms, which include violent shaking of the limbs and extremities and lack of control over voluntary movements, worsen at varying rates until the person's death.

Parkinson's disease is widespread, with a prevalence estimated between 100 and 250 cases per 100,000 in North America (about 750,000 people in the U.S. alone.) The symptoms of Parkinson's have been known and noted since ancient times, although often there was a great deal of superstition and social opprobrium associated with the disease.

It was first formally recognized and its symptoms documented by James Parkinson in 1817. At that time it was known as the "shaking palsy." The underlying chemical changes in the brain that cause the disease were not identified until the 1950s. Only very recently, as a result of stem cell research and the introduction of gene therapy, has there been hope of finding a cure. (Wikipedia)

Apology as a form of attack

Limbaugh responded the next day with a weak "apology" that became the springboard for another attack: "Now people are telling me they have seen Michael J. Fox in interviews and he does appear the same way in the interviews as he does in this commercial," Limbaugh said, according to a transcript on his Web site. "All right then, I stand corrected. ... So I will bigly, hugely admit that I was wrong, and I will apologize to Michael J. Fox, if I am wrong in characterizing his behavior on this commercial as an act."

Then Limbaugh launched another attack: "Michael J. Fox is allowing his illness to be exploited and in the process is shilling for a Democratic politician."

When a right winger like Rush Limbaugh launches this kind of assault on a disabled person, it is more than just an ad hominem attempt to damage the victim's credibility. It is, in fact, a warning to the disabled: "Don't you dare take a public position on issues on your own behalf!"

There may be some, including many within the disabled community, who question the tactic of supporting bourgeois candidates, such as those supported by Fox. What is beyond question, however, is the right of Fox or any other disabled person to choose to advocate such a position.

Clancy is a long-time disabled activist.

Youth host women's fightback conference

By Mary Tamburro
Raleigh, N.C.

Young people from North Carolina and three other states gathered together on Nov. 4 to have a conference with the goal "to push the struggle against gender oppression to the very front of the social justice movement—to look at where we are, how we relate to each other, and how to move forward." The Women's Fightback Conference reached and exceeded this goal with the help of youth from North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, local Raleigh high schools, the Socialist Unity League of UNC at Asheville, the N.C. Green Party, and Raleigh FIST (Fight Imperialism, Stand Together).

This conference brought together 95 people of many ages, genders, sexualities and nationalities in a safe space to talk about the disempowerment of women in society and how it affects the movement.

The all-day event included four workshop sessions with topics ranging from "Imperialism, Women and War" to "Sexist Language and Meeting Dynamics."

One workshop entitled "Women in the Workplace and the Labor Movement" featured a young woman who is currently incarcerated and being exploited in a work release program. She talked of not being able to confront her boss because she had no one at the women's facility to back her up. She said it was their word against hers, and that no one would believe her. She also explained that she gets paid \$1 a day and that they take rent out of her meager checks every month.

A member of UE Local 150 was on the panel to discuss their struggle as well.

The conference culminated with a cultural event that combined speakers, spoken word performances and some inspirational music. Fruit of Labor, which is the cultural arm of Black Workers for



NORTH CAROLINA

Raleigh FIST and other participants at Women's Fightback Conference. PHOTO: TONY MACIAS

Justice, had the crowd singing, "Organize, organize, organize!" They ended the night with the Diane Reeves song "Endangered Species," and conference participants all

joined in the chorus: "I am an endangered species / But I sing no victim's song / I am a woman, I am an artist / And I know where my voice belongs." □

Lavender & Red: Early 1970s

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revolution."

In an interview with a New York Times Magazine editor in June 1970, Jim Owles—GAA's first president—stated, "In its beginnings, GLF, aside from being revolutionary, was doing things that were related to the homosexual cause. ... [But] the majority ... considered themselves revolutionaries, and they wanted the group to identify and align itself with the other like groups. There was the beginning of a split, very early."

Anti-communism was rife in the 1960s and early 1970s—as it still is today. The communist leadership that had won so many gains during the class struggles of the 1930s was driven out of the unions, tenant organizations and campuses during the Cold War. The class lessons of those struggles were lost with them.

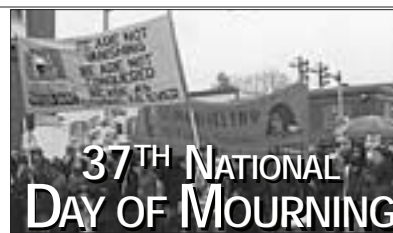
The legacy of McCarthyism hung heavy

on the "New Left." The reactionary political positions and internal membership policies regarding same-sex love in parties that called themselves communists helped fan the flames of anti-communism, too. Each of those parties and organizations is responsible for explaining its own political history.

But in one communist organization in the United States, the demand to end oppression based on sexuality, gender and sex became a genuine and dynamic part of its revolutionary program: Workers World Party.

Next: *Theory and practice: Workers World walked its talk.*
E-mail: lfeinberg@workers.org

Since 1970, Native Americans have gathered on Cole's Hill to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands, and the relentless assault on Native culture. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection as well as a protest of the racism and oppression which Native Americans continue to experience.



Thurs., Nov. 23
12 Noon - Cole's Hill
(the hill above Plymouth Rock)
Plymouth, MA

Join us as we dedicate the DOM to Native political prisoner LEONARD PELTIER. Help shatter the untrue glass image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and war. Contact: UNITED AMERICAN INDIANS OF NEW ENGLAND/LPSG 617-282-5135 or 212-633-6646 for NY transportation information info@uaine.org www.uaine.org

Bush election setback opens door to struggle

Continued from page 1

politicians, including former supporters of the war, openly expressed their pessimism about its outcome and their criticism of the Bush administration's war tactics.

Meanwhile, sections of the corporate media finally began to focus on the growing casualties among U.S. troops in Iraq and the instability of the Iraqi puppet regime.

It is significant that the Democrats collected \$25.9 million in contributions in 18 days in October, more than the Republican's \$18.6 million, although the Republicans collected more over the year.

A referendum on Iraq—through a glass, darkly

This split in ruling circles over the war and the growing ruling-class disillusion with the Bush administration's unilateral management opened a space for ordinary working people to express their own opposition to the war. And they did. In exit polls, over 60 percent of voters disapproved of the Iraq war. In about a third of Massachusetts' towns, a popular referendum calling for a U.S. withdrawal also won approval from about 60 percent of the half-million people voting.

The national election itself became a referendum on the Iraq war, distorted because the Democratic Party candidates presented no program to extricate the U.S. from Iraq. Still, George W. Bush and Dick Cheney locked onto a "stay the course" position and accused the Democrats of wanting to "cut and run." The perception was that the Republicans were more pro-war than the Democrats. This helped the Democratic Party.

The anti-war movement, however, has no reason to expect the Democrats to take concrete anti-war measures. The Democratic national leadership—like Howard Dean and Sen. Hillary Clinton—have openly said they would not propose troop withdrawals. Some Democrats—like Hillary Clinton and John Kerry—have said

they would even consider increasing U.S. troop levels. They focus their criticism on Bush's management of the war, but never disavow the imperialist objective of ruling Iraq.

From the White House, Vice President Dick Cheney had claimed that, whatever the election outcome, the administration would go "full speed ahead" on Iraq. He told ABC News in an interview Nov. 3, "It doesn't matter in the sense that we have to continue the mission and do what we think is right. ... We're not running for office."

The Rumsfeld dismissal shows that the administration has been much more on the defensive than it liked to admit. But the real message these events bring to the anti-war and progressive movements is that they too had better go "full speed ahead" to mobilize against the war. It would be foolish to wait in hopes that the Democratic Party success will in itself help end the war and occupation.

Along with the Iraq war, the precarious economy and especially the deterioration of living standards for working people were important factors in the election. Voters passed all the referendums on the ballot to increase the minimum wage from the \$5.15 national minimum—in Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, Montana, Nevada and Ohio.

Ohio has been hit severely by unemployment and a shift to low-wage, non-union jobs caused by factory closings in the "rust belt." Ohioans, many with a strong union consciousness, voted for the referendum on the minimum wage and also punished incumbent Republicans, voting the governor and the senator up for re-election out of office.

The limitations of elections

At best, elections in capitalist countries take a measure of popular sentiment and reflect the state of the class struggle. In the contemporary United States, elections are even more limited. Only the two big parties, both pro-imperialist in their national

leadership and both committed to preserving and extending capitalism, are able to play a significant role. During the elections an avalanche of pro-capitalist ideology is imposed on the population.

In addition, even within the limitation of Democrats v. Republicans, the election rules are weighted to favor more conservative politics. The makeup of the Senate—two senators from each state, no matter its size—favors the mostly Western states with small, more rural populations instead of giving proportional representation to populous states with large cities having many workers and people of color. Even the House districts have been gerrymandered, that is, distorted so as to favor the more conservative Republican candidates.

Non-citizens can't vote, even though they are an important part of the working class in this country and highly aware of the issues, as this year's huge May 1 demonstrations for immigrant rights showed. Nor can ex-prisoners vote in many states. Biased voting rules and unequal enforcement minimize the votes of African Americans, Latin@s and Native people.

Despite these limitations, the 2006 election showed clear popular opposition to the war and anger against Bush's anti-worker policies.

Victory for abortion rights

There was also a significant electoral victory in South Dakota for women as 55 percent of voters rejected a referendum to support a law whose acceptance would have made abortions illegal under almost any circumstance.

After the referendum was introduced, the state became a national focus of mobilizations by both pro-choice and anti-abortion groups. Planned Parenthood's Sarah Stoesz, who organized the successful campaign against the referendum, said Nov. 8 of the victory, "This means that there has been a rebellion against social, right-wing wedge politics that have been dominating this country."

A balanced view

But not all the voting results were progressive, and it is important to keep a bal-

anced view of what happened. A detailed examination of the many referendums is beyond the scope of this article, as is an examination of "third-party" results, and both will have to await a future analysis by participants in these struggles.

In Michigan, the misnamed "Michigan Civil Rights Initiative," a measure to scrap affirmative-action programs in university admissions and government hiring, was approved on a 58 percent to 42 percent vote. In another backward vote, the African American Democratic candidate for the Senate, Harold Ford, lost the election in Tennessee, most likely because of a blatantly racist and sexist television ad run by the Republicans.

Four anti-immigrant measures were approved in Arizona. They would deny bail to undocumented immigrants charged with a serious felony, make English the state's official language, bar undocumented immigrants from receiving punitive damages in lawsuits, and prohibit them from receiving certain government services and benefits. On the other hand, two of Arizona's most violently aggressive anti-immigrant politicians, Reps. J.D. Hayworth and pro-"Minuteman" Randy Graf, lost their House seats.

Reflecting continued social backwardness, measures aimed at banning same-sex marriages were approved in Colorado, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin. In Arizona, however, voters rejected such a ban for the first time in a statewide referendum.

In a progressive move, Missouri voters narrowly approved a measure guaranteeing that all federally allowed stem cell research, including on embryos, can occur in the state.

The main accomplishment of the 2006 midterm elections was to open a breach in the wall surrounding the Bush gang, who had ruled almost by edict since the 9/11 events. Now is the time to step into that breach and mobilize a massive movement to really get the U.S. troops out of Iraq, to win rights for immigrants and for all workers in the U.S., and to promote the struggles for women's rights, against racism and for lesbian, gay, bi and trans rights. □

Sheehan calls for 'Troops home now!'

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Milwaukee, Wis.

"Millions of people around the world are counting on us" to stop the U.S. war on Iraq, declared Cindy Sheehan at a "Troops Home Now!" rally Nov. 4 in downtown Milwaukee. Hundreds attending the rally greeted Sheehan as the hero she is with rousing applause and cheers.

Sheehan began by announcing that, to date, over 600,000 Iraqis and 2,800 GIs from the U.S. have died with hundreds of thousands injured. She then spoke of what it had been like at "Camp Casey," the encampment near George W. Bush's ranch named after her son, who died in Iraq. Sheehan said "at least 15,000" people in 26 days visited the camp in 2005 and thousands of solidarity actions such as candlelight vigils and demonstrations took place internationally.

Hailing those such as Army First Lt. Ehren Watada who have refused to fight in Iraq, she said, "It takes so much more courage to stand up than to kill innocent children and to fight for corporate interests." She called Watada and his parents, who attended and spoke at the rally, "heroes."

Sheehan ended with a call for independence and for mass action in the streets to stop the war. "The Democrats and

Republicans are different sides of the same coin. Our attitudes are not those of the corporate war machine. We don't countenance liars and murderers."

Many at the rally hoisted placards with "Troops Home Now: Yes!" slogans.

Rae Vogeler of Madison, Wis., a Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate, said, "We the people are opposed to endless wars of aggression. No to endless war against Iraq, Iran and North Korea." Vogeler then asked the crowd if they agreed and wanted money for people's needs as well and they roared back, "Yes." She closed by saying, "Do not vote for pro-war candidates, either Democrat or Republican." Sheehan endorsed Vogeler at the rally.

Will Williams, an African American member of Madison Veterans for Peace and a two-tour Vietnam veteran, said, "It's us, the people, that will change the policies of this country. We must stop our children fighting for the corporate interests and from marching off to war." Williams' spouse Dot then joined him on stage for a stirring a cappella rendition of the song "How long will it be?"

The rally was sponsored by Call to Action, Peace Action Wisconsin, Veterans for Peace and supported by many labor and community organizations throughout the Metro Milwaukee and Madison areas. □

End racist death penalty

Continued from page 3

Williams' execution.

According to Becnel, the California standard is that "some pain is okay but excruciating pain is unconstitutional." She stated, "I knew that Stan had been tortured to death. When I came out and spoke my truth, they said I was hysterical. They said, 'Don't believe untutored eyes.'"

This is the first time in the history of San Quentin prison that a federal judge ordered an execution team to testify under oath. By the end of the first day of testimony, it was admitted that the execution was "bungled."

Becnel related the testimony of a veterinarian at the September hearing who stated that the protocol used by the State of California is a process he would never use to euthanize an animal. Asked why not, he answered, "Because I have ethics. I have standards. I wouldn't do something that would cause the animal pain."

The hearing revealed that the state of California uses a "three-drug cocktail" to kill. The first drug makes the prisoner lose consciousness instantly, but it has a rapid half-life, losing its potency in two to three minutes. The botched process that Williams was subjected to took 10 minutes, allowing him to regain consciousness.

The second drug is a paralytic agent, affecting all parts of the body, including the lungs. The veterinarian at the hearing stated there is no medical purpose for this drug. "Its purpose is to fool everybody in the audience." As his consciousness returned, Williams' inability to breathe "was like someone was choking him to death."

The third drug provokes a heart attack. With returning consciousness, Williams was forced to experience the severe pain of the heart attack. In Becnel's words, "It was a torture. It was a murder."

Becnel summarized, "We're waiting to hear if the judge will rule that the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment. But we already knew that it was."

"We have an opportunity to unravel the death penalty. Let us all come together. Stop the injustice, inhumanity and immorality of the death penalty."

Activists in Ohio plan to step up the fight to free the Lucasville Five.

In a recent letter from death row to Workers World Party's Cleveland branch, Hasan declared, "I am committed to ending this racist and barbaric practice which targets the poor, so look for us to make an immense amount of political and revolutionary noise in Ohio." □

Anti-war slate rallies in Detroit

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

A campaign rally of anti-war Green Party candidates, members and supporters was held Nov. 4 at the historic Central United Methodist Church in downtown Detroit. About 100 people attended the event, which was hosted by the Stop the War Slate. The evening began with a delicious meal prepared by Debbie Johnson and Joyce Sole, including desserts and beverages that activists contributed.

The audience heard short talks and remarks by candidates on the Green Party ticket in Michigan: Fred Vitale (State Rep., Dist. 3), Derek Grigsby (State Rep., Dist. 7), Kristen Hamel (State Rep., Dist. 1), Bill Opalicky (State Senate, Dist. 14), Candace Caveny (U.S. Congress, Dist. 10), Kevin Carey (State Board of Education), Michael

Merriweather (Wayne State U. Board of Governors), Margaret Guttshall (WSU Board of Governors), Lauren Elizabeth Spencer (MSU Board of Trustees), Doug Campbell (Governor) and David Sole (U.S. Senator).

Sylvia Inwood, a leader of the Green Party of Michigan and the National Women's Caucus of the GPUSA, emceed the rally and introduced the speakers. Other participants included Abayomi Azikwe, a founding member of the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War and Injustice (MECAWI), whose organization allied with the Greens in an effort to make the election a protest against the war in Iraq.

Lou Novak, chair of the Wayne County Greens, urged activists to take campaign literature to get out in the final three-day push before Election Day, including mass

distributions at polling places on Nov. 7.

Elena Herrada, a Chicana community leader and advocate for the rights of immigrants, spoke about the daily struggle to stop deportations and detentions of undocumented workers.

Mee recited three of her political poems, each a call to awakening and struggle. Mee has presented her poetry to students on college campuses as well as high school students, using her poems to try to raise consciousness and ideas of solidarity in young people.

David Sole, Stop the War Slate candidate for U.S. Senator on the Green Party ticket and a member of Workers World Party, was endorsed by the Western Michigan U. newspaper, the Western Herald, in its Nov. 2 issue. Based on the majority vote of the editorial board, the paper stated: "For United State[s] Senator, we would

like to endorse David Sole. He is anti-war and has fought hard against many of the injustices of American Foreign policy. Being from a third party, the Green party, he should make for a positive change in the Senate."

Stop the War Slate member Lauren Elizabeth Spencer, an MSU sophomore, on Nov. 6 received the endorsement of the State News, the MSU newspaper. The editorial stated in part, "Spencer will, without a doubt, stand up for students' rights and issues, while bringing a much needed viewpoint to the board."

It was announced at the Nov. 4 rally that Sole's anti-war campaign for U.S. Senate has succeeded in raising more than the \$5,000 in donations needed to make his candidacy "official," according to Federal Election Commission standards. □

Spark urges:

'Oppose aggressive U.S.-South Korea alliance'

In mid-October, four members of Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea (Spark) visited the U.S. from South Korea, including Secretary General You Youngjae, Co-Secretary General Kim Jongil, Chief of Disarmament Team Park Seokboon and Co-Representative Pyon Yeonshik. WW Editor Deirdre Griswold conducted an interview with Secretary General You, which is excerpted here. Read the full interview at: workers.org/2006/world/spark-1109/.

Workers World: Why did Spark decide to send a delegation to the U.S. at this time, and what did you do while you were here?

You Youngjae: The 38th South Korea-U.S. annual security consultative meeting (SCM) was held on Oct. 20 in Washington. In this meeting, the nuclear test issue of North Korea was a key point on the agenda, as well as consultation to transform the South Korea-U.S. alliance into an alliance for aggression. ...

Spark decided to send a delegation to the U.S. to convey our voices directly to American society that we oppose the hard-line sanctions against North Korea by the U.S. and the U.N., which are being escalated since the nuclear test of the North. We urge a peaceful resolution of the issue, and we oppose the transformation of the South Korea-U.S. alliance into an aggressive alliance.

The Spark delegation met the first secretary of South Korea's Permanent Mission to the U.N. in New York on Oct. 18. ... In this meeting Spark pointed out that the root cause of the nuclear crisis lies in the U.S. and, in that respect, the U.N. sanctions resolution is unfair and will aggravate the situation. Spark emphasized that the issue could be solved only through dialogue and negotiations

after the U.S. withdraws its hostile policy against North Korea. In regard to this, the Spark delegation urged that the South Korean government firmly refuse the demand by the U.S. to participate in President George W. Bush's so-called Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). ...

On the 19th we moved to Washington where we tried to convey our letter to South Korean Minister of Defense Yoon Kwang-woong, who was visiting the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Facing him and other delegation members, we demanded and shouted: "Oppose PSI participation," "Oppose aggressive South Korea-U.S. alliance," "Koreans want peace--No more war on Korean peninsula," and "No U.S. base expansion to Pyongyang."

That evening the Spark delegation held a candlelight vigil in front of the White House and then tried to convey our appeal letter to the South Korean delegation attending the SCM meeting, including the defense minister, by visiting the hotel where they were staying.

Finally, on the morning of the 20th, we picketed in front of the hotel and, as the delegation was departing for the Pentagon, the SCM meeting place, handed over our appeal letter to them.

In the afternoon, we tried picketing near the Pentagon, in an area where we had heard it might be possible. However,

it was difficult. Only with the arrival of Dustin Langley of the International Action Center could we proceed.

However, as soon as we began picketing, six police came with a repressive attitude and deleted a photo from our camera that showed us picketing with the Pentagon in the background. They warned that they would arrest us if we came into the Pentagon area or picketed in the neighboring area.

WW: What is your view of the sanctions resolution against the DPRK passed in the U.N. Security Council?

YY: The sanctions resolution of the U.N. Security Council against North Korea is unfair and retaliating. The root cause of the North Korea nuclear issue lies in the U.S. hostile policy against North Korea. As former Secretary of State Colin Powell exposed in his recently published biography, the hardliners in the Bush government like Rumsfeld and Cheney are aiming to collapse North Korea, and the six-party talks were also used as an instrument to isolate the North. ...

Furthermore, it is unfair that the U.N. keeps silence about the U.S., which has the most nuclear weapons and has conducted the most nuclear tests. ...

We'd like to emphasize that first of all sanctions against the North will only aggravate the situation. The North

says it developed nuclear weapons as an unavoidable self-defense measure against the Bush government's obviously aggressive operational plan, its war capacity enforcement and its combined war exercises, especially including its preemptive nuclear strike policy. ...

The North warned that it would regard the sanctions as a declaration of war. The UN sanctions resolution includes provisions that can lead to invoking Bush's PSI, including the inspection of cargo. This is very dangerous and can lead to armed clashes. ...

WW: What is the nature of the military agreement between the U.S. and the South Korean authorities, and what changes are being pushed by the Bush administration?

YY: South Korea and the U.S. have made about 200 treaties and agreements, including a Mutual Defense Treaty. The common aspects with most of them are that they violate the military sovereignty of South Korea and their contents are unequal and humiliating. ...

The Bush government is imposing on South Korea a support system for its Global Posture Review (GPR) and "strategic flexibility" strategy, which allow the U.S. to intervene anywhere in the Asia Pacific region through a rapid deployment force and a precision strike force. □



Forum takes stand against sanctions on Korea

"Who is the threat to world peace—the U.S. or Korea?" was the provocative title of a forum held in New York Nov. 1 at a meeting hall near the United Nations.

Organized by the Congress for Korean Reunification, International Action Center, Korea Truth Commission, and Korean Americans Against War and Neoliberalism, the meeting took a strong stand against the threat of sanctions on North Korea by the U.S. and the U.N.

Korea's tortured history—colonized by Japan, divided by U.S. troops after World War II, the North invaded by the U.S. in 1950 with acquiescence by the U.N., a

horrible three-year war that killed millions, and then more than half a century of economic sanctions and nuclear threats from Washington—was described by both Korean and U.S. speakers.

Hwa Young Lee from the Korea Truth Commission explained the intricacies of U.S. efforts to cut off North Korea's access to international banks and commerce. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark made clear the enormity of Washington's crimes against Korea, emphasizing that constant U.S. threats had forced the North to find ways to defend itself at a time when the U.S. government

was threatening it with nuclear attack.

Kwan Ho Choi of the Congress for Korean Reunification went over the pain caused by the division of the Korean nation and the desire of all Koreans to reunify.

Larry Holmes of the Troops Out Now Coalition and Omowale Clay of the December 12th Coalition related the struggle against U.S. militarism abroad to the movements at home for jobs, equality and an end to all forms of racism and oppression.

—Report by Deirdre Griswold, photos by Monica Moorehead

'Rachel Corrie'

A play about Rachel Corrie is arousing much interest. The young woman from the state of Washington was crushed by an Israeli bulldozer while supporting Palestinians whose home was being demolished. Workers World has received two worthy reviews of the play—by Sue Davis and Deirdre Sinnott. Because of space constrictions in our print edition, we have put them both up on our Web site, www.workers.org. Just search for "Rachel Corrie." □

Iraq in the week before U.S. elections

By Robert Dobrow

In the week before the U.S. elections, resistance to the U.S. occupation of Iraq reached new heights, breaking out in areas and regions of the country thought "secure" by U.S. forces only months ago.

Renewed fighting was reported in Fallujah, a city of 200,000 that was nearly destroyed by massive U.S. attacks two years ago. In Operation Phantom Fury, the U.S. had hurled white phosphorus, cluster bombs and napalm against the people of Fallujah. Some 36,000 of the city's 50,000 homes were destroyed along with 60 schools and 65 mosques, according to the city's compensation commissioner. Over 5,000 civilians were killed.

Now, attacks in Fallujah against the occupation forces "have increased in frequency and severity," according to a report from the Inter Press Service (IPS). "The Americans brought five dead civilians whom they shot in the city streets in revenge for their casualties," a man at the former football field now called Martyrs Graveyard said. "We are going to need another graveyard, this one is going to be full soon."

At the University of al-Anbar in Ramadi, some 30 kilometers from Fallujah, the entire school has been under siege. "The students or teachers who approach must lift their shirts from 50 meters away and listen to nasty comments of arrogant soldiers who give body checks before admitting people in," said Saif al-Juboori, a student. Ramadi had been facing electricity and water cuts for about two weeks. "Most

residents believe this is punishment for the popular support for Iraqi resistance," according to the IPS report.

Anti-war sentiment is also growing within the U.S. military, with many soldiers more emboldened to speak out publicly against the war. Numerous stories of individual resistance are breaking through the media, as are heart-breaking tales of how the horror of war affects both Iraqis and U.S. soldiers.

Take the case of Army Spec. Alyssa Peterson of Flagstaff, Ariz. Peterson was an Arabic-speaking interrogator assigned to the prison at the Tal-afar airbase in northwestern Iraq. She died a few months after the invasion, at the age of 27, from a "non-hostile weapons discharge," according to the Army.

Unsatisfied with the official explanation for her death, activist reporter Kevin Elston spent over two years trying to get to the bottom of what happened. Just weeks ago, a Freedom of Information Act document revealed the truth.

Peterson had shot herself rather than participate in interrogations and abet torture.

"According to the Army's investigation into her death, Peterson objected to the interrogation techniques used on prisoners," reported Flagstaff's public radio station KNAU on Oct. 31. "She refused to participate after only two nights working in the unit known as the cage. Army spokespersons for her unit have refused to describe the interrogation techniques Alyssa objected to. They say all records of those techniques have now been destroyed.

... "On the night of Sept. 15, 2003, Army investigators concluded she shot and killed herself with her service rifle," the documents disclose.

Voters to Dems: 'Out now!'

Anger and disgust with the U.S. war in Iraq was the centerpiece of the 2006 midterm elections, which were perceived by millions of voters to be a referendum on the war.

But two-thirds of the Democratic Party candidates, in 45 of the most closely contested House races, not only opposed withdrawal but opposed so much as a timetable for pulling out. Only one, Peter Welch from Vermont, supported bringing the troops home in 2006.

The House of Representatives, as specified in Article 1, Sections 7 and 8 of the U.S. Constitution, has the power of the purse. It can cut the budget for any federal program, including the military.

With one stroke of the pen, the House could stop the war by stopping the flow of money to the military. But the vote in the Senate last month on the military budget was 100-0 to approve the GOP-sponsored spending bill. Not one Senator had the backbone or the inclination to stand up and vote "no" to war, torture, aggression and occupation.

Nevertheless, there has been an important shift in the thinking at the top, including in the military, which led to the resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

A joint editorial in four leading newspapers for the military, published the

day before the elections, had called for his resignation. The papers—the Army Times, Navy Times, Air Force Times and Marine Corps Times—are published by the Military Times Media Group, a subsidiary of the Gannett Co., and widely distributed on military bases around the world.

The fact is that the military know the war is lost. The U.S. is unable to conquer Iraq. Even some of the original ideologues and architects of the Iraq invasion—neocons Richard Perle, Kenneth Adelman and David Frum—turned their daggers on the Bush administration in a recent series of interviews in Vanity Fair magazine.

These are not nice people. Perle, the assistant secretary of defense under Reagan and often called the "Prince of Darkness," has advocated first-strike nuclear attacks on North Korea and Iran. Adelman, former Reagan aide and Pentagon official, is best known for his pre-invasion editorial column in the Washington Post, "Cakewalk in Iraq." And we can thank Bush speechwriter Frum for coining the phrase "Axis of Evil."

Once among the loudest apologists and cheerleaders for the war, the three cronies are today filled with pessimism and doubt. "I think if I had been Delphic," says Perle, "and had seen where we are today, and people had said, 'Should we go into Iraq?' I think now I probably would have said, 'No, let's consider other strategies.'"

With the neocons on the defensive, the people's struggle to end the war and bring the troops home should take heart and be able to press forward with greater vigor and militancy. □

Justice is impossible under occupation

Workers World statement on the verdict against Saddam Hussein

The U.S.-machinated "trial" and the Nov. 5 guilty verdict and death sentence against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and two of his colleagues are nothing more nor less than a continued attack on the people of Iraq and all the peoples of the region threatened by U.S. imperialism. No good for the people can come from a U.S.-dictated punishment of the Iraqi president. The "trial" is a frontal attack by the

conquering power on Iraqi sovereignty at a time when the 2003 U.S. conquest of Iraq is collapsing under the determined assault of Iraqi resistance fighters.

The whole conduct of the Baghdad kangaroo court was intended to justify the completely illegal and aggressive U.S.-British assault on Iraq in 2003 and their subsequent seizure of the Iraqi people's resources, especially Iraq's oil and natural

gas reserves. No one should be deceived that it has anything to do with the charges in the indictment against the Ba'athist leaders. With Washington responsible for the deaths of over 2 million Iraqis during 16 years of wars and sanctions, it should be apparent to all that the verdict has nothing to do with U.S. concern for the Iraqi people.

Even if the trial had been conducted in an impeccably fair manner in all its details, the court and the charges could not stand up as legitimate. But its conduct was far from fair. There is no legal basis for such a trial under the Geneva Conventions. The acts the prisoners were charged with did not take place as acts of war.

Three defense lawyers were among nine people associated with the trial who were assassinated. Another defense lawyer was wounded. A judge was replaced when others decided he was too soft on Saddam Hussein and gave him too much opportunity to speak in court.

Even Malcolm Smart, director of Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa Program and no friend of Hussein, said of the verdict, "We don't consider it was a fair process. The court was not impartial. There were not adequate steps taken to protect the security of defense lawyers and witnesses."

Given the obvious bias of the court, the verdict was no surprise. Nor was its timing, as the administration of President George W. Bush is presenting this news as a victory for the occupation forces and for his Iraq policy.

The timing of the verdict shows the utter subservience of the court to the most minute demands of imperialism. The timing alone should disqualify the verdict, inasmuch as it is prima facie evidence that the proceeding was closely coordinated with Bush, showing the dominant political role

of Washington. It demonstrates the impossibility of there being any judicial validity behind the sentence. If Bush dictated the timing, it must be presumed that he also had a hand in the verdict.

Bush has already welcomed the verdict as a "milestone in the Iraqi people's efforts." He says this when the disastrous Iraq war and occupation has become a milestone around the neck of the Republican Party in its attempt to maintain control of Congress in the midterm elections.

It should also be clear that this verdict has nothing to do with evaluating Saddam Hussein's historic role. An extensive Workers World Party statement at the time of Hussein's capture in December 2003 evaluated his often contradictory historic role and especially the negative impact of his government's decision to "wage a reactionary bourgeois war of conquest against Iran." (workers.org/ww/2004/hussein1225.php) The U.S. took advantage of that war in the 1980s to the detriment of both Iran and Iraq. At this time, too, none of the forces struggling against imperialism for sovereignty and self-determination in the Gulf region can gain from the U.S.-imposed verdict against Saddam Hussein.

While the verdict's impact on the Iraq occupation and on the U.S. elections is still a question, there is no doubt that anyone who opposes the U.S. war on the people of the Middle East should also stand up and protest Washington's criminal attempt to impose an illegal verdict against an individual who represented the sovereign state that U.S. imperialism is attempting to conquer.

The verdict will bring no justice to Iraq. As Workers World said in its Dec. 25, 2003, statement, "Justice for the Iraqi people will begin on the day that the war criminals in Washington are put on trial."

—Workers World, Nov. 5



Israelis fire on Palestinian women

Gaza military siege 'made in USA'

By Leslie Feinberg

Tel Aviv is carrying out a massacre in the Gaza Strip and there's not a peep of protest from Democrats or Republicans in Washington—not even after Israeli troops opened fire on unarmed Palestinian women demonstrators.

Operation "Autumn Cloud"—the Israeli offensive against the population in the Gaza Strip—began on Nov. 1. Within six days, some 57 Palestinian women, men and children had been killed and hundreds more wounded. Metal shrapnel dug out of their bodies was stamped "Made in USA."

The siege began on Nov. 1 as convoys of Israeli tanks and other armored vehicles rolled into the town of Beit Hanoun, tearing up the asphalt streets and crushing cars; 24 tanks cordoned off the local hospital alone.

Ground forces took over the farming community, backed up by helicopter gunships and warplanes. All Palestinian males ages 16 to 45 were rounded up in the town square and the agricultural building, hundreds loaded onto trucks and driven away for interrogation—some later released, others detained indefinitely.

The military cut off Palestinian radio broadcasts, ordering the population of 30,000 to stay in their homes. Troops went from house to house, breaking down and exploding walls to enter.

The bloodletting began immediately. By Nov. 3, at least 20 Palestinians had been killed.

A man who identified himself as Mahmoud stressed, "The situation is very, very bad. The Israelis have destroyed Beit Hanoun—they have destroyed the infrastructure. They've cut the water pipes and the telephone lines. They put explosives at the doors of the houses—and then they enter on the women and children."

Edible food and potable water quickly ran out as the military cordoned off the town, blockading its entrances with sand barricades. Diab al-Bassioni, in his 70s, was cut down by a military sniper when he stepped outside to get water, his neighbors told reporters.

Essential medications and medical supplies ran short as casualties mounted. Paramedics who came to the aid of the wounded were themselves killed and wounded.

The Union of Palestinian Medical Relief Committees called for world support to "End Gaza Carnage." The group charged that Gaza's health system was at "the breaking point" and that the indiscriminate attacks on civilians, including children, "represent a form of reprisals and collective punishment in violation of article 33 of Fourth Geneva Convention."

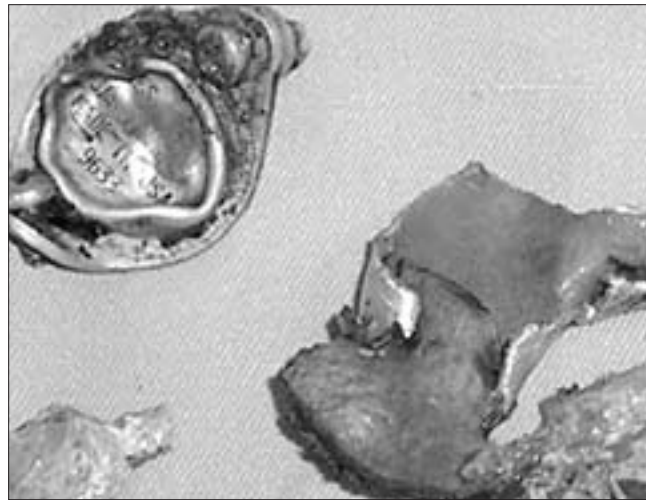
Two protests reportedly erupted in the first two days, during which demonstrators were said to have fired on the invading forces.

As a result, the army lowered its street profile, pulling back troop patrols. However, Israeli snipers positioned themselves on town rooftops, shooting anyone who dared to leave their home. Canadian television reported that armored tanks locked down the streets and air strikes sent missiles hurtling into neighborhoods. (CTV.ca, Nov. 3)

'Women lead protest to break the siege'

At dawn on Nov. 3, Israeli troops had surrounded the Al Nasir Mosque in which scores of Palestinian men were barricaded for safety. The military had for 19 hours fired tear gas, smoke bombs and stun grenades to drive the men out. The Army had bulldozed the outer wall of the mosque, collapsing the roof.

As word of the standoff traveled over telephone lines, the local Hamas radio station, Al Aqsa, broadcast an appeal at daybreak for women to come to the mosque. Hundreds of Palestinian women left their homes and walked a mile or more to the Israeli military confrontation. Vastly outnumbering the infantry, they surrounded the mosque.



Shrapnel taken from the bodies of Palestinians killed in recent Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip. Imprint reads: "Made in USA."

Israeli soldiers opened fire on the unarmed women. The army later claimed to have film showing that its troops were firing at men hiding among the women, who it said were being used as human shields by gunmen. Of course, Tel Aviv claimed that all 57 people killed by its troops in the town—which included a four-year-old child—were "gunmen." Reuters aired film of the first shots being fired; no men were visible in that footage.

Troops killed two Palestinian demonstrators—both 40-year-old women—and wounded at least 10 more.

The women, however, were successful in helping the Palestinian men escape the troops.

Tahrir Shahin, a 36-year-old with seven children, walked for an hour with her sister at dawn to the mosque. Troops shot her in the leg, which later had to be amputated above the knee. She stated from her hospital bed that she had no regrets about her decision to mobilize. "I was so upset about what was happening, so I answered their call."

The women were hailed as heroes. Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh "saluted the women of Palestine ... who led the protest to break the siege of Beit Hanoun."

Later that day, some 1,000 women marched to the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Gaza City to condemn Israel and

call on Egypt to intervene.

Loudspeakers throughout the Gaza Strip rallied people to come out after Friday prayers in solidarity with Beit Hanoun. Tens of thousands of Palestinians from across the political spectrum filled the streets of the coastal area.

A young Palestinian woman, Mervat Masaoud, detonated her body near Israeli troops in Beit Hanoun on Nov. 6, injuring at least one soldier.

U.S.-Israel: Stop the massacre!

Israeli troops pulled out of Beit Hanoun on the morning of Nov. 7. Thousands of Palestinians marched in funeral processions through the town, some firing weapons, to mourn and honor the dead.

The Israeli military had bulldozed cultivated land and orchards, uprooting the lemon and orange groves that are the livelihood of the farming community. The town's mayor said 40 homes were demolished and 400 damaged. Utility poles were toppled, water pipes wrecked, telephone and electricity wires downed, tombstones unearthed.

Troops and tanks took up positions outside the town and also redeployed to three other areas in the northern Gaza Strip, including the Jabaliya refugee camp and Beit Lahia.

The evening before, an Israeli air strike on the refugee camp had wounded at least seven civilians, including six children.

Within hours after the redeployment on Nov. 7, the Israeli military had already killed eight more Palestinians.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh and Palestinian Authority Chairperson Mahmoud Abbas denounced the bloody Israeli offensive as "acts of massacre."

Since Tel Aviv opened up a military offensive against Gaza four months ago, more than 300 Palestinians have been killed. (Muslim Public Affairs Council)

Palestinians are calling for international pressure on Israel to stop the offensive.

This military operation in Gaza, like the shards of shrapnel, bears the stamp: "Made in the USA." □

China and Africa strengthen cooperation

By G. Dunkel

China's diplomatic greeters rolled out red carpets for 48 delegations from African countries arriving in Beijing on Nov. 3-5 for the "Forum on China-Africa Cooperation."

Malawi, Swaziland, Burkina Faso, and Sao Tome and Principe—which have diplomatic relations with Taiwan—were invited but did not send delegations.

Throughout Beijing banners and billboards proclaimed the meeting and its intention to build solidarity between the Chinese and African peoples.

Thirty-five of the delegations were headed by the top official from that country. Thabo Mbeki from South Africa, Olusegun Obasanjo from Nigeria, Hosni Mubarak from Egypt and Omar Bongo from Gabon were among the presidents who turned their trip to Beijing for the forum into a state visit.

During the conference, Chinese and African authorities announced 14 trade and investment deals totaling nearly \$2 billion.

The final declaration at the Beijing forum was jointly delivered, read in

turn by Chinese President Hu Jintao, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Egyptian President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak. It proclaimed a strategic partnership featuring "political equality and mutual trust, economic win-win cooperation and cultural exchanges."

The statement called for increasing the representation and full participation of African countries in the United Nations Security Council and other UN agencies. "We urge the developed countries to increase official development assistance and honor their commitments to opening market and debt relief," it read.

Priority should be given to cooperation in agriculture, infrastructure, industry, fishing, information technology, public health and education, to draw on each other's strengths for the benefit of the peoples, according to the declaration.

The declaration concluded that, "We hold that the establishment of a new type of strategic partnership is both the shared desire and independent choice of China and Africa, serves our common interests, and will help enhance solidarity, mutual support and assistance and unity of the developing countries and contribute to

lasting peace and harmonious development in the world."

Africa runs surplus in Chinese trade balance

Bilateral trade between Africa and China amounted to \$10 billion in the year 2000. Five years later, that amount grew to more than \$40 billion. Projections at the recent Beijing summit estimate that in 2010 that annual trade will grow to roughly \$80 billion to \$100 billion, which would supplant European Union trade with Africa.

China imported 38 million tons of oil from Africa last year, making up about 30 percent of the country's total oil imports. It also imports a significant amount of minerals, timber and other raw materials its economy needs.

Chinese investments in Africa in 2005 were mainly in building ports, railways, roads and dams.

In an Oct. 30 announcement made in the Nigerian capital of Abuja, China and Nigeria reported signing an \$8.3 billion multi-year agreement. China is providing Nigeria a \$2.3 billion "soft" loan. This will help finance a major power plant, improve and modernize the railway sys-

tem, develop a rural telephone project, and help implement efficient communication systems.

Africa runs a slight surplus in its balance of trade with China, which destroys the foundation of the charge, common in the imperialist media, that these trade deals are just a refashioned version of 19th century Western mercantilism.

The 19th century colonial powers like Great Britain, France and Belgium also severely limited or denied access to higher education.

Today several hundred students from Gabon, for example, are in China studying medicine, engineering, science and finance.

The news service InfoPlus from the country of Gabon—which is a major West African oil producer with aging fields—explains that China "invests in petroleum fields that the Western majors judge only slightly profitable. Their policy is skillful: it is not a question of immediate profitability but of guaranteeing the future."

It is telling that this event, so important for Africa's development, received little notice in the U.S. media.

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Rumsfeld takes the fall

There is enormous satisfaction around the world at President George W. Bush's abrupt firing of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. For six years Bush praised Rumsfeld highly and doggedly defended him against all critics. Just a week before axing him, Bush pledged to the world that he would keep Rumsfeld on until the end of his term.

Yet the day after the mid-term election debacle for the Republicans, Bush summarily threw overboard his hated, arrogant architect of the Iraq invasion and occupation in a terse ceremony lasting under five minutes.

All progressive humanity cheered with satisfaction at the ouster of the man responsible for the torture chambers of Abu Ghraib, Baghram Air Base and Guantanamo; for his defense of the CIA policy of rendition; for the tactics of mass roundup and arbitrary imprisonment of tens of thousands of people; for the implementation of a war and occupation that has taken hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives, and for the wholesale destruction brought down upon both Iraq and Afghanistan.

But these are not the reasons why Bush fired him. Rumsfeld's policies are Bush's policies.

Among the numerous reasons he was cashiered is the fact that weeks ago the Bush administration heard the anti-war rumblings in the electorate. All Bush's denials to the contrary, he and Karl Rove fully expected that the Republicans would be swamped at the polls. Looking for some way to placate the anti-war sentiment in the country, Bush began negotiating behind the scenes to find a new secretary of defense.

In addition, Rumsfeld was fired because of a revolt in the military establishment that he had ordered to carry out Mission Impossible: to conquer and subdue the anti-colonial masses of Iraq. A procession of retired generals called for Rumsfeld's resignation earlier this year. But the

final straw came when the Military Times, owned by the Gannet newspaper chain and reflecting the opinion of the active-duty brass, called for Rumsfeld's resignation two days before the election.

Above all, Rumsfeld was fired because the determined Iraqi resistance has destroyed the Rumsfeld Doctrine. This doctrine conceives of winning wars through the use of high technology, rapid deployment of special forces, and "shock and awe" massive air power, thus avoiding having to resort to the unpopular draft. His doctrine completely underestimated the determination of the anti-colonial Iraqis to fight enslavement.

Bush could hold on to Rumsfeld only until it was clear that the U.S. forces in Iraq had slipped from maintaining a stalemate into losing control on the ground—in Baghdad and other key cities.

Rumsfeld's replacement, former CIA Director Robert Gates from the administration of the first Bush, is a member of the Iraq Study Group. James Baker, a senior adviser to that administration, and former Congressperson Lee Hamilton, a Democrat, head this group, whose goal is really to find a solution for U.S. imperialism regarding its crisis in Iraq.

The Democratic Party leaders, whenever they are pushed to say what they are going to do about Iraq, uniformly refer to the Iraq Study Group and its expected report as the magic savior of the situation. In short, the Democrats have no plan.

U.S. imperialism's dilemma in Iraq is the following: it cannot stay there because the resistance is growing stronger every day; it cannot leave because it wants to avoid conceding defeat (and leaving all that oil behind). The Pentagon is powerless to stop the resistance but the ruling class fears being a "superpower" humbled by a people's army. No study group can find a way out of this dilemma. □



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50 years ago

What really happened in Hungary

By Stephen Millies

Why did George W. Bush just send New York Gov. George Pataki to Budapest to praise the 1956 uprising of the "Hungarian freedom fighters"?

It's also the 30th anniversary of the heroic Soweto rebellion, in which hundreds of African youth were killed fighting apartheid. But Pataki didn't go to South Africa.

No capitalist politician commemorates the 1919 Hungarian Soviet Republic, which was the second socialist revolution following the victory of the Bolsheviks in Russia.

The Hungarian Soviet Republic lasted 133 days. Allen Dulles, at that time a young U.S. diplomat, played a role in coordinating the invasion that drowned it in blood. In the 1950s, after he became CIA director, Dulles overthrew progressive governments in Guatemala and Iran.

Admiral Miklós Horthy, a leading player in the overthrow of that early soviet republic, later became Hungary's fascist dictator and allied himself to Hitler. Under fascist rule, over 400,000 Hungarian Jews were murdered.

During World War II, many Hungarian soldiers who had been press-ganged to fight against the Soviet Union died during the failed Nazi attempt to seize the city of Stalingrad.

The Soviet Red Army finally liberated Hungary from fascism at tremendous cost.

Unlike in Yugoslavia and Albania, the main agent of change in Hungary was the Soviet Army, not revolutionary forces inside the country. The country had been devastated. Few communists had survived the decades of death camps and torture.

Nevertheless, workers took over the factories. Two-thirds of the land had been owned by 40 families while 3 million peasants didn't have any. "Hungary remained one of the last strongholds of feudal or semi-feudal forms of tenure in Europe up until 1945," wrote scholar Alexander Eckstein in August 1949. Peasants chased the landlords off their huge feudal estates, which were divided up.

Schools were opened to the poor. College enrollment rose 400 percent by 1955. The number of women students increased five times. Workers and peasants were guaranteed 60 percent of college seats.

Health care was made free. A campaign against tuberculosis—called the "Hungarian disease"—saved thousands of lives.

Socialist economic planning made these advances possible. Industrial production increased by 14 percent per year in the early 1950s, but from a very low base.

Meantime the "cold war" was intensifying. Pentagon brass were preparing for a nuclear war against the Soviet Union. They launched a massive invasion of Korea in 1950.

Despite the Hungarian Communists' attempts to bring about greater equality, they were under tremendous pressure.

By the mid 1950s, with an infusion of U.S. capital through the Marshall Plan, Western Europe was becoming prosperous again. But Eastern Europe—where the fascist offensive had claimed millions of lives and destroyed most of the infrastructure—remained poor.

Many collective farms had been established in Hungary, but too hastily, alienating the peasants, who didn't have enough tractors to work large spreads because the industrial base was weak.

Mass discontent in Hungary was fanned by the formerly privileged classes who had been expropriated. Struggles within the

Communist Party made things worse.

In the background was the extremely influential Catholic Church. This wasn't the church of El Salvador's martyred Archbishop Romero. Hungarian Cardinal Mindszenty was ideologically far to the right; he wrote that Darwin should have been burned at the stake.

A "secret speech" by Nikita Khrushchev at the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party in February 1956 denounced Stalin—but from the right, seeking an accommodation with the imperialists. It gave a green light to pro-capitalist elements throughout Eastern Europe.

In October Imre Nagy became Hungary's premier and opened the door to reaction—in the same way that Mikhail Gorbachev later did in the USSR.

Workers had grievances in Hungary. But their discontent was misused in a bloody struggle that was welcomed by Wall Street.

Book burnings of Marxist literature were carried out, just as the Nazis had done. Red stars were removed from buildings. Socialist symbols were cut out of the Hungarian flag. And Communists were lynched.

Hungarian workers were told they could keep their socialized factories and other achievements after they "overthrew communism."

"Workers' councils" allowed pro-capitalist parties like the Smallholders to be brought into the government. Fascist Mindszenty was released from prison. Hungarian "freedom fighters" called for U.N. intervention, which, as in Korea, really meant U.S. intervention.

The Soviet Union was compelled to send in troops to stop this counter-revolution.

The reaction was thrown back. The first job of new Communist leader János Kádár, who himself had been imprisoned under a previous Communist regime, was winning back the workers. A workers' militia was formed.

After 1956 socialist Hungary advanced economically, but Washington spent trillions of U.S. workers' taxes to defeat the socialist bloc, initiating a terribly costly arms race. They were finally victorious in 1989-91 throughout Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

This was a real tragedy for the world working class and nations fighting neocolonialism. Cuba and People's Korea suffered terribly, losing most of their foreign trade.

While the new ruling class now flaunts its wealth, the workers gained nothing from these counter-revolutions. Hungary's unemployment rate skyrocketed from 1.7 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1996. Fifty thousand Hungarians were made homeless by capitalist "freedom." Tuberculosis cases increased 18 percent between 1990 and 1999.

Now current Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany is under attack from even more right-wing forces.

All this shows why it was important to defend the Hungarian workers' state in 1956 and stop the right wing. The counter-revolutionaries had masqueraded as friends of the workers, just as Hitler had disguised his reactionary program as "national socialism." But in fact they were totally allied with world imperialism and, as partners of global monopoly capital, were ready to exploit the workers doubly.

Today Bush may boast about the defeat of the socialist bloc in Europe. But the rising resistance to U.S. imperialism all over the globe demonstrates more clearly than any words that the tide is once again turning in favor of the workers and the national liberation struggles. □

Resistance continues throughout Mexico

By LeiLani Dowell

Resistance continues in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, where a popular movement has held its ground as well as its demand for the removal of the governor there. As widespread state repression has led to an increasing death toll—17 at this writing—solidarity continues to escalate throughout the country and the world.

In a victory for popular forces, federal police who attempted to enter Oaxaca's Benito Juárez Autonomous University on Nov. 2 were forced back by members and supporters of the Popular Assembly of the Peoples of Oaxaca (APPO).

The university is a stronghold of the movement and the location of Radio APPO—a main source of information and communication. George Salzman wrote from Oaxaca on Nov. 2: "It was brazenly emphasized on the early Monday [Oct. 30] Televisa/Government version of 'the news' that the last powerful transmitter aligned with the people's movement was to be a high priority target of the so-called Federal Preventive Police." (narconews.com)

APPO, a coalition of more than 350 organizations, was formed after Oaxaca Gov. Ulises Ruiz ordered armed forces in to violently break up a May 15 encampment of teachers in Oaxaca's central plaza. The teachers were demanding a wage increase, increased educational funding and the resignation of Ruiz.

Laura Carlsen of the International Relations Center reports, "Suddenly there was no middle ground in Oaxaca. Indigenous communities mobilized by their own grievances, students, professionals sick of the pretence of democracy, vendors, and workers, joined ranks with the teachers to demand the ouster of the governor. ... Now they have emerged not just to protest, but to build. Networks of solidarity, autonomous forms of communication, and spontaneous expressions of frustration and hope have come together." (americas.irc-online.org)

Mass march in Oaxaca

More than 20,000 people marched

to Oaxaca's center on Nov. 5 demanding that the force of 4,000 federal police recently stationed there—occupying the plaza that protesters had held for the last five months—leave the city. A group of about 400 threw stones and bottles at the police—who were heavily armed behind barbed-wire barricades, with water cannons, bulldozers and sharpshooters on the roofs of buildings. Others formed a "human chain" between the police and demonstrators. The AP reported on Nov. 7, "Most of the demonstrators came from farming villages to express their discontent with the grinding poverty that forces them to migrate to the United States."

That same day, protesters supporting the march in Oaxaca interrupted Sunday Mass at Mexico City's metropolitan cathedral. Prensa Latina reports that police opened fire at the Benito Juárez Autonomous University, wounding one student.

On Nov. 6, four bombs exploded shortly after midnight, targeting the Institutional Revolutionary Party headquarters, the Federal Electoral Tribunal building and a branch of Canadian-owned Scotiabank. Two other unexploded bombs were found; no injuries were reported.

While some suspect the hand of the Mexican right wing in the bombings, a message from five Oaxacan groups claimed responsibility, declaring, "Those responsible for the social and political violence in our country are the people with power and money who have unleashed a neo-liberal dirty war against the Mexican people." (Los Angeles Times, Nov. 7)

The Mexican Senate has asked Ulises Ruiz to step down, which he still refuses to do.

Struggles united in solidarity

Throughout the country of Mexico various struggles for justice are working together in solidarity.

On Nov. 20—anniversary of the Mexican Revolution of 1910—Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) will be sworn in as Mexico's legitimate president in a people's inauguration after an election tinged with corrup-



WW PHOTO: BOB MCCUBBIN

Mexico's assault on the people of Oaxaca sparked international protests, like this march in San Diego.

tion and fraud. The official inauguration of Felipe Calderón as president is slated for Dec. 1. APPO has announced it will disrupt the Dec. 1 inauguration if troops have not been withdrawn from Oaxaca.

López Obrador has announced his cabinet. According to the National Democratic Convention, it includes such posts as Claudia Sheinbaum in charge of the Defense of National Resources, including Mexico's national oil industry, from attempts at privatization by foreign companies, and Raquel Sosa to head the Secretariat of Education, Science and Technology, "which will have as its priority the defense of free, secular and public education at all levels."

They continue: "History has taught us about the criminal actions by the different USA governments aided by their accomplices in countries like Guatemala, El Salvador, Cuba, Chile, Venezuela, the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, to name just a few nations that have suffered the abusive intervention of the White House. ... It is of paramount importance to continue our efforts to counteract the attacks of the retrograde right-wing mafia supported by the powerful corporations and banking institutions."

The PRD has announced it will again call for a Senate vote to remove the Oaxaca executive and judicial powers, and will release a new report on human rights violations by the Ulises Ruiz government.

(Prensa Latina, Nov. 6)

Meanwhile, the Clandestine Revolutionary Indigenous Committee of the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN) Sixth Commission issued a call Oct. 31 for nationwide actions in solidarity with the people of Oaxaca, including the partial, total or symbolic closure of Mexican highways, streets, and airports; and a national general strike on Nov. 20.

Protests also continue throughout the United States.

The U.S.-based International Action Center released a statement on Nov. 3 that condemned the paramilitary attacks in Oaxaca and added: "We also blame the government of the United States for its complicity by silence regarding this great crime. This is no surprise because it is the same government which has declared a war against the Mexican people, whether in Mexico or in its Diaspora, by approving \$2.2 billion to construct an apartheid wall between the two countries. The United States is the true culprit in this situation through the robbery of the Mexican people, which began with the theft of their land and has continued with economic impositions (policies) like NAFTA which have destroyed the economy that sustained thousands of families, forcing them into exile and particularly into emigrating to the U.S. ... We send our firm solidarity to the people of Oaxaca from the heart of the empire." □

Women say,

'Free Cuban Five—stop double standard!'

By Cheryl LaBash
Windsor, Ontario, Canada

Detroiters from the United States, a country whose media boasts of "all news, all the time," had to cross the border to this city in Canada on Oct. 31 to hear firsthand the story of Irma González and Elizabeth Palmeiro.

Both women are relatives of Cubans imprisoned in the U.S. for the "crime" of monitoring terrorist paramilitaries in Miami who had been responsible for organizing violent acts against Cuba. Irma is the 22-year-old daughter of René González; Palmeiro is the spouse of Ramón Labañino. These two men, plus three others also in U.S. jails, have become known as the Cuban Five.

The two women are touring Canada. Their testimony about their loved ones exposes the U.S. government's glaring double standard of imprisoning anti-terrorists while bombing populations halfway across the globe in a supposed "war on terrorism."

The U.S. government has welcomed admitted terrorists like Orlando Bosch, who now freely lives in Miami. Luis Posada Carriles, wanted in Venezuela for the murder of 73 people killed when a mid-air bomb blew up a Cuban airliner 30 years

ago, is being held in Texas for entering the U.S. illegally. But he may soon be released because Attorney General Alberto González has failed to label him a terrorist. Posada was also convicted in Panama of planning to bomb a university assembly when Cuban President Fidel Castro was speaking there.

The Five are heroes in Cuba because they provided a vital early warning system to protect their homeland from such Miami-based terrorists.

The speeches by their loved ones revealed the deep sacrifices they have made. Not only are the Five now imprisoned in super-max prisons, but they are denied their international and constitutional right to family visits as additional punishment against them.

Palmeiro described how Adriana Pérez and Olga Salanueva, spouses of two others of the Five, have been denied visas to enter the U.S. since 2000. Palmeiro herself cannot even apply for a visa to see Labañino until March 2008, due to changes in



WW PHOTO: CHERYL LABASH

Irma González and Elizabeth Palmeiro.

regulations.

Gonzalez began her story in tears after seeing a picture of her father on a banner in front of the room. She said, "We need people to help us put an end to this double standard. Solidarity is the

cornerstone. We need a movement inside the U.S. to free the Cuban Five, like the one for Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Puerto Rican Independence prisoners and that freed Nelson Mandela."

González began her story in tears. Pointing to pictures of her father on a banner in front of the room, she said, "This has destroyed the life of my family. I was six when my dad left Cuba. Terrorism against Cuba is not paranoia. I was 12 when my mom took us to live with our dad in Miami. I knew what the revolution meant. My dad was the same person I knew before. He took me to the meetings of the terrorists. I heard them planning to destroy my system through violence. Then when we went home my dad taught me the opposite. When you hear these things, you see the difference."

González ended, "It's not fair—we're going to fight."

The meeting in Windsor, part of a 13-day cross-Canada tour organized by the Canadian Network on Cuba, was co-sponsored by Canada-Cuba Friendship Association—Windsor and supported by the Detroit-based Justice for Cuba Coalition and U.S./Cuba Labor Exchange.

More information about the case of the Cuban Five and the international campaign to free them and fight for family visits can be found at www.antiterroristas.cu, www.freethefive.org and www.freethefive.org. □

Correction

The article "Freedom sought for Lucasville Five" (Workers World, Oct. 26) discussed an uprising that occurred at a Supermax prison in Youngstown, Ohio. According to a letter from Siddique Abdullah Hasan, one of the Lucasville Five: "The 'small uprising' you referred to in your article happened on Sept. 5, 1997, while we were on death row at Mansfield Correctional Institution, not at the Supermax prison in Youngstown. The Supermax did not start housing former Lucasville prisoners until May 4, 1998, and the Lucasville Five arrived here on May 7 and May 15." □

EDITORIAL

Se requiere mucho más que votar para acabar la guerra

Una elección a mediados del mandato presidencial ordinariamente no provoca mucha pasión. Sin embargo, esta es diferente.

La razón del gran interés no es porque hay claras distinciones entre los programas pronunciados por los partidos Republicano y Demócrata sobre lo obvio: el pantano en el cual el imperialismo de los EEUU se encuentra atascado en Irak, y lo que hay que hacer sobre eso.

La razón por la cual esta elección parece ser tan dramática es que ha habido un gran cambio en la opinión pública desde los años inmediatamente después del 9/11 cuando una mayoría de los votantes aceptó la guerra en Irak —luego de haber sido engañado por la administración de Bush— hasta ahora que la mayoría quiere que las tropas regresen a casa. El establecimiento político predice que esto implica un avance para los Demócratas.

Si el partido que no controla el gobierno actual — queriendo decir los Demócratas — tuviera una posición clara para salir de Irak y Afganistán, esta elección podría ser vista razonablemente, como un referéndum sobre la guerra. Pero ésta no es la posición del Partido Demócrata. Al contrario, el liderato de los Demócratas, los más cercanos a los poderosos intereses económicos que dirigen el país y auspician ambos partidos, no llaman al retiro de las tropas. De hecho, han criticado a los Republicanos por no haber enviado más tropas a Irak.

Entonces, ¿dónde deja esto a los votantes? Sin recurso. Pero solamente si se considera que las elecciones son el único factor que determina el curso político en los Estados Unidos.

Esta elección llegará y pasará. Es probable que debilite el control que tienen los Republicanos en la administración del estado capitalista y dé ventajas jugosas a los Demócratas. Pero no va a determinar el destino de la ocupación militar de los EEUU en el Medio Oriente. Tampoco va a determinar el destino del pueblo de Irak, que ha demostrado con tanta claridad que prefiere morir a entregarse a un régimen neocolonial impuesto desde Washington o Londres. Tampoco va a determinar el destino de las tropas estadounidenses, la mayoría hombres y mujeres jóvenes, pero también mucha gente de edad mediana en la reserva militar quienes han sido forzosamente separadas de sus familias, y ahora están comenzando a romper con la disciplina militar y expresar su oposición a la ocupación y su deseo de volver a casa.

¿Qué decidirá el destino de los cientos de millones cuyas vidas están entretreídas con las ambiciones y la codicia de los intereses imperialistas estadounidenses que están firmes en subyugar el Medio Oriente, con sus recursos enormes de petróleo que pueden definir quién controla la economía mundial?

Las millones de personas que esperan que sus deseos de terminar la guerra puedan ser cumplidos al tirar de la palanca el día de las elecciones se quedarán sin duda desilusionadas, no importa cuál partido capitalista gane, pero sí tienen el poder de cambiar la historia. Ellas son las masas, l@s trabajador@s y l@s oprimid@s nacionalmente. Fueron

estas fuerzas las que, simultáneamente con las luchas del pueblo vietnamita, finalmente obligaron a Richard Nixon— ¡un Republicano!— a retornar las tropas estadounidenses a casa.

De muchas formas, ésta es una lucha mucho más difícil. El control sobre el Medio Oriente es más importante para la dominación del imperialismo estadounidense sobre el mundo — lo cual explica la falta de una oposición seria a la guerra por el Partido Demócrata o el Partido Republicano. No obstante, Estados Unidos está perdiendo la guerra en Irak, y los estrategas para el imperialismo tienen que tratar de pensar y trazar alguna manera de rescatar su posición.

No es la hora para que el movimiento contra la guerra deje de estar vigilante.

Mientras la fuerza del capitalismo monopolista estadounidense se va desgastando por todo el mundo—desde Irak a Venezuela a Corea—l@s progresistas deben estar en guardia por el peligro que un tratado pueda ser arreglado en Washington el cual ocasionaría nuevas aventuras militares y nuevos ataques contra nuestros beneficios sociales que han sido ganados a costa de mucho esfuerzo.

Mientras los grandes ladrones están en la defensiva, el movimiento debe apresurarse. Ahora es el tiempo para fortalecerse las alianzas entre todos sectores de la sociedad que luchan día a día para sobrevivir mientras que la riqueza que creamos se está quemado en el horno de la guerra. (Recuerden, el voto reciente del Senado para aprobar el presupuesto enorme del Pentágono fue 100 a 0.)

L@s trabajador@s y las nacionalidades oprimidas son l@s que están obligad@s a sacrificar más—sus vidas, su salud y sus ingresos—en cada guerra imperialista. Cuando ést@s se hacen la base sólida del movimiento contra la guerra, los días de los militaristas estarán contados.

Una estrategia para unir y fortalecer a todas las fuerzas contra la guerra está siendo promulgada por la Coalición Tropas Fuera Ya, la cuál se destaca dentro del movimiento estadounidense por su conexión orgánica a las luchas de l@s trabajador@s más oprimid@s de esta sociedad. Está convocando a una reunión cumbre de activistas en Harlem el 18 de noviembre, y a una manifestación unitaria contra la guerra en el cuarto aniversario de la invasión de Irak, el 17 de marzo de 2007.

El Partido Mundo Obrero apoya el llamado de la Coalición Tropas Fuera Ya, y exhorta a tod@s l@s que quieren terminar toda guerra imperialista a colaborar en estos eventos como un paso importante para fortalecer el movimiento al unirse a l@s que ya están en la lucha contra racismo, contra la opresión de sexo y género, por los derechos de l@s inmigrantes, por un sueldo justo, y por los derechos de tod@s l@s oprimid@s. □

Más de 1000 soldados firman petición contra la guerra

Por John Catalinotto

Una simple petición iniciada por unos soldados en el servicio militar de los Estados Unidos se ha popularizado y ha comenzado a atraer un sentimiento masivo de oposición contra la actual ocupación estadounidense de Irak entre los soldados.

Comenzando alrededor del 24 de octubre, un anuncio de que 65 soldados habían firmado la petición—promovida por el grupo “Pidiendo un Desagravio”— fue tomado por la prensa capitalista. Para el 30 de octubre la cifra de firmantes, “incluyendo las tropas activas y no activas,” había crecido a “más de 1000” según un voluntario de Pidiendo un Desagravio quien pidió permanecer anónimo.

La organización estaba buscando una forma de validar todas las firmas. David Cortright, un organizador veterano y autor del libro “Soldados en Revuelta,” dijo al periódico Biloxi Sun Herald, que cuando las cifras habían ascendido a más de 700, estaban siendo examinadas, y que menos del 10% “eran sospechosas” (Oct. 28) El libro de Cortright había inspirado a uno de los soldados que comenzó la petición.

La apelación en sí es moderada, aún patriótica en tono, pero los altos oficiales del Pentágono quienes dependen de la obediencia ciega de los soldados seguramente ven esto como un desafío a su comando. La apelación dice:

“Como patriota americano orgulloso de servir a mi nación en uniforme, respetuosamente insto a mis líderes políticos en el Congreso a apoyar el retiro pronto de todas las fuerzas y bases militares americanas de Irak. El quedarnos en Irak no funcionará y no vale el precio. Es hora de que las tropas estadounidenses regresen a sus hogares.”

La declaración no llega a exponer los objetivos agresivos de los Estados Unidos o los crímenes de guerra cometidos en Irak, como las declaraciones hechas por los refractarios al ejército como Stephen Funk, Abdullah Webster, Camilo Mejía, Pablo Paredes, Jeremy Hinzman y Kevin Benderman. Pero para muchos soldados que no están listos todavía para tomar esta posición heroica, la declaración ofre-

ce una oportunidad para dar el primer paso en la oposición a la ocupación y en la protección de sus propias vidas.

Además es legal para las tropas activas tomar esta posición. El acta militar “The Military Whistleblower Protection Act, (directiva 7050.6 del Departamento de Defensa), garantiza derecho de l@s miembr@s del ejército y de la Guardia Nacional y de los reservistas activos a enviar un comunicado a un miembro del Congreso sobre cualquier tópico sin ser objeto de represiones. Por supuesto, la gente en los servicios militares de los Estados Unidos puede verse sujeta a castigos extrajudiciales. Pero el conocimiento de que una acción es legal provee el apoyo necesario para aquellos que desean tomar el primer paso.

El que la apelación causó escalofríos a los oficiales del Pentágono y a los ultra derechistas se pudo ver cuando el noticiero Fox News la atacó diciendo que era una maniobra de grupos activistas. Su verdadero temor es que tal apelación se extienda rápidamente por las fuerzas armadas y cree un clima en el cual más acciones decisivas puedan recibir apoyo.

Según un reporte en el noticiero del Internet The Raw Story, tres soldados activos (uno de ellos hablando anónimamente) tuvieron una conferencia de prensa el 25 de octubre para discutir la apelación. Un abogado militar retirado les acompañó.

“Muchos de nosotros, quienes tenemos que seguir órdenes y jurar defender la Constitución contra todos los enemigos extranjeros y domésticos, también tenemos reservas sobre las órdenes”, concluyó Jonathan Hutto, un marinero basado en Norfolk, Virginia, “ahora algunos de nosotros nos sentimos obligados a que el público sepa nuestras reservas y que la ocupación termine ahora mismo”. www.rawstory.com, 25 de octubre)

El plan actual es presentar las firmas recogidas al Congreso el Día de Martin Luther King a mediados del mes de enero próximo.

Catalinotto fue un organizador civil en la American Servicemen's Union, un grupo de soldados contra la guerra, desde el 1967 al 1971.

