



Widespread uprising calls for U.S. out of Afghanistan

By Deirdre Griswold

No longer can soothing words from the White House, the State Department or the Pentagon cover up the intolerable brutality of the U.S.-NATO war of occupation in Afghanistan.

Every attempt by the politicians and military commanders of these imperialist powers to justify the war is being shattered by a massive uprising of the Afghan people, who are not only marching and loudly demanding "U.S. go home!" but putting their lives on the line to do so.

Starting Feb. 22, huge protests erupted all over Afghanistan after it became known that troops at Bagram Air Base, the largest U.S. base in the country, had confiscated copies of the Quran from hundreds of prisoners held there and burned them. Since then, scores of Afghans have been killed as the foreign occupiers fired on demonstrators.

What happened next reveals how utterly hated the occupiers have become after 11 years of war — the longest war in U.S. history. The Pentagon cannot rely on the obedience, much less support, of the very troops and police they have been training for years and to whom they will supposedly "hand over" control of Afghanistan at the end of 2014, according to President Barack Obama's timetable.

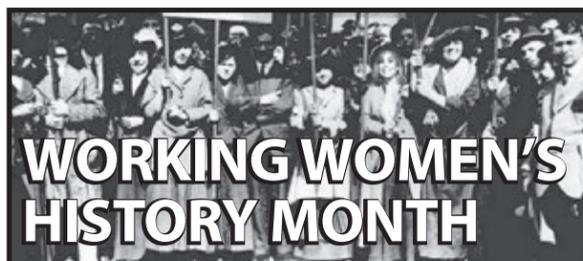
Nor can the U.S. rely on the continued participation of other imperialist countries in what has been essentially Washington and Wall Street's war, but one sporting a NATO flag with some 10,000 troops participating from other countries.

Explosion of anti-U.S. fury

The grim situation for the imperialists became clear when on Feb. 24, as protests rocked Afghanistan, the dead bodies of a U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel and an Army major were discovered in what was considered to be a super-secure room inside the Afghan Ministry of the Interior. An Afghan intelligence officer, who was believed to have shot them through the head, escaped and became an instant hero to the people.

That same day, an off-duty police officer who joined a protest in Kabul told a reporter, "I will take revenge from the infidels for what they did to our Holy Quran, and I will kill them

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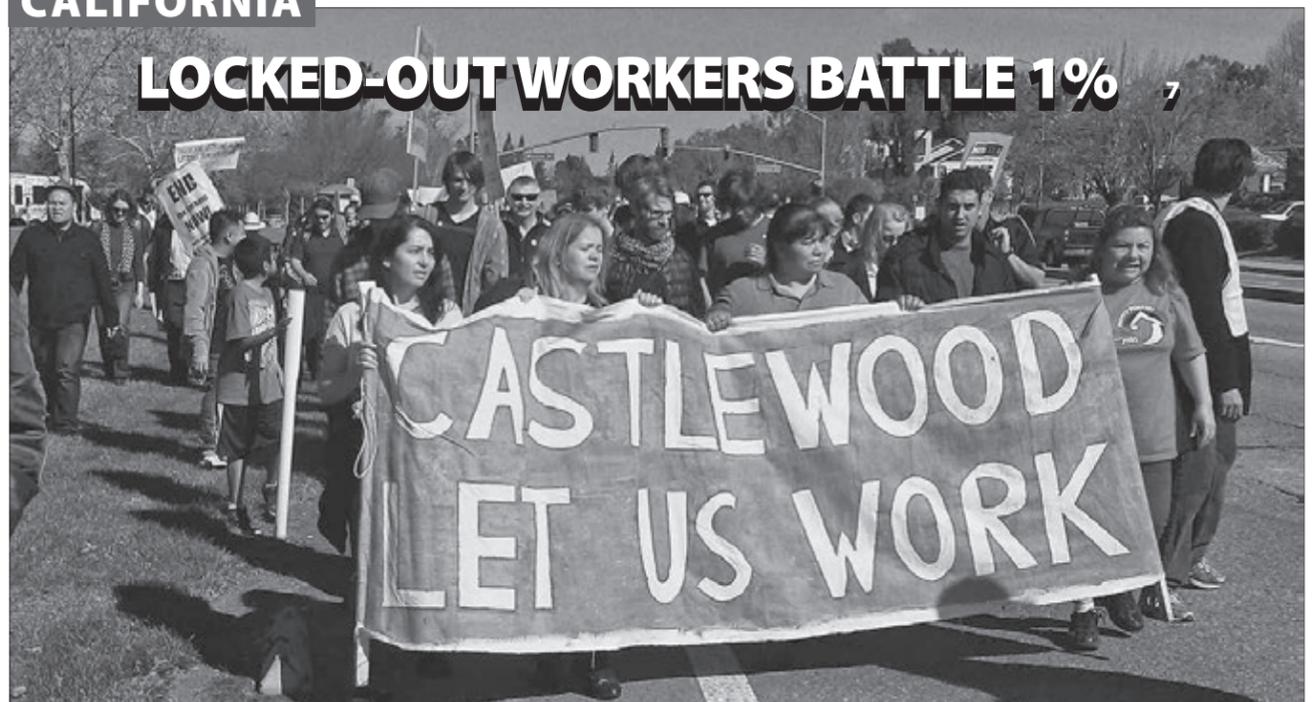
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Detroit kids the poorest

Millions of U.S. children live in poverty

By Kris Hamel
Detroit

The Kids Count report on child poverty in the United States was released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation on Feb. 23. Despite claims in the media and by the government lately that “jobs are being added,” “unemployment is down” and “the economy continues to recover,” the situation is extremely bleak for a huge, vulnerable section of the population.

The report used U.S. Census Bureau data and determined that the number of children in the U.S. living in poor communities went up 25 percent from 2000 to 2010. Eight million children lived in poor communities in 2010, an increase of 1.6 million from 2000.

Three-quarters of these children had at least one parent working at a job, although at wages insufficient to pull the family out of poverty. A poor community is one where 30 percent or more of the population is living in poverty, which means surviving on roughly \$22,000 per year or less for a family of four.

Of course, it is still a struggle for a family of four — or any size — to survive on \$22,000 in yearly income. Low wages or income must purchase housing (rent or mortgage with required taxes and insurance), food, heat and other utilities, transportation, child care, clothing, medical care, tuition and education-related expenses and other necessities of life. Under capitalism these are commodities to be bought and sold at a profit, instead of guaranteed human rights.

Detroit has worst child poverty

According to the report, Detroit has the dismal distinction of having the worst child poverty in the country. A staggering 67 percent of Detroit children live in high-poverty neighborhoods, more than in any other of the largest 50 cities in the U.S. That is 10 percent more than the next worst city, Cleveland, where 57 percent of children live in poor communities. (Detroit News, Feb. 23)

Detroit, a majority African-American city, lost 25 percent of its population from 2000 to 2010 due in large measure to the home foreclosure epidemic caused by the racist, predatory banks and their sub-prime mortgage schemes aimed at oppressed communities. Vast sections of the city are littered with vacant, abandoned and vandalized homes where once-thriving neighborhoods used to be.

The official unemployment rate for Detroit residents is more than 28 percent. If discouraged and part-time workers are included, it is at least 44 percent. Mayor Dave Bing has admitted he thought joblessness in the city was closer to 50 percent.

Tens of thousands in Detroit have had their water cut

off. Thousands of city workers face wage cuts, layoffs and speed ups while dozens of schools are closed and services for city residents are pared to the bone.

An emergency manager takeover is threatened for the city because of the fiscal crisis caused by the banks and their usurious debt servicing. Imposition of an emergency manager will not improve conditions for the children or any residents of Detroit. Instead, it will trigger an automatic default by the city, with \$400 million due immediately to the banks.

Even prior to the current crisis, the city was already hard hit by the racist deindustrialization of the auto industry, which closed virtually every auto plant in the Motor City and drove employment, wages and union membership sharply downward.

Some 1 million industrial jobs were lost in Michigan between 2000 and 2010.

Michigan’s homeless children

These job cuts by the auto giants and other corporations, along with the predatory lending of the banks and financial institutions, have created a crisis of survival for tens of thousands in Detroit and many more around the state.

Some 40,000 people in the state, including an estimated 15,000 children, were recently cut off from welfare cash assistance. Unemployment benefits in Michigan end after just 20 weeks.

The report says Michigan’s share of children in high-poverty neighborhoods rose from 8 percent in 2000 to 14 percent in 2006-2010. (Associated Press, Feb. 23) There were 341,000 Michigan children in impoverished neighborhoods in 2010, about 124,000 more than in 2000, or a 57 percent increase.

Many of the state’s children are homeless. According to a four-part series in the Detroit Free Press, “In the 2010-11 school year, more than 31,000 homeless students attended school — 8,500 more than in the previous school year, a 37 percent spike attributed to the weak economy, loss of jobs and the foreclosure crisis. Overall, the number of homeless students in Michigan has jumped more than 300 percent in the last four years.” (freep.com, Dec. 18)

These homeless students and their families live not just in Detroit, but in its suburbs, and in Flint, Grand Rapids and other cities, as well as in small towns and rural areas all over the state. The “lucky” ones have moved into cramped quarters with relatives; others live in the woods and in makeshift dwellings. The problems they face as students and growing children are immense and cruel, with long-lasting effects.

Increasing child poverty and homelessness are what the capitalist system offers the youngest and most vulnerable members of society, even in the richest country on earth. □

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Workers World

55 West 17 Street
New York, N.Y. 10011
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E-mail: ww@workers.org
Web: www.workers.org
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Editor: Deirdre Griswold
Technical Editor: Lal Roohk
Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, LeiLani Dowell, Leslie Feinberg, Kris Hamel, Monica Moorehead, Gary Wilson
West Coast Editor: John Parker
Contributing Editors: Abayomi Azikiwe, Greg Butterfield, Jaimeson Champion, G. Dunkel, Fred Goldstein, Teresa Gutierrez, Larry Hales, Berta Joubert-Ceci, Cheryl LaBash, Milt Neidenberg, Bryan G. Pfeifer, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Gloria Rubac
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Supporter Program: Sue Davis, coordinator

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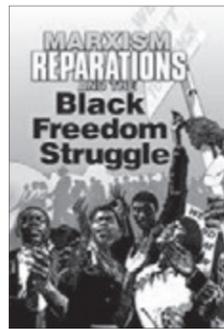
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National Office
55 W. 17 St.
New York, NY 10011
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta
P.O. Box 5565
Atlanta, GA 30307
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Baltimore
c/o Solidarity Center
2011 N. Charles St.
Baltimore, MD 21218
443.909.8964
baltimore@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
617.522.6626
Fax 617.983.3836
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
367 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14202
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Chicago
27 N. Wacker Dr. #138
Chicago, IL 60606
chicago@workers.org

Cleveland
P.O. Box 5963
Cleveland, OH 44101
216.738.0320
cleveland@workers.org

Denver
denver@workers.org

Detroit
5920 Second Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
313.459.0777
detroit@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
331 W. Main St., Ste. 408
Durham, NC 27701
919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Los Angeles
1905 Rodeo Rd.
Los Angeles, CA 90018
la@workers.org
323.515.5870

Milwaukee
milwaukee@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249
Philadelphia, PA 19101
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Pittsburgh
pittsburgh@workers.org

Rochester, N.Y.
585.436.6458
rochester@workers.org

San Diego
P.O. Box 33447
San Diego, CA 92163
619.692.0355
sandiego@workers.org

San Francisco
2940 16th St., #207
San Francisco
CA 94103
415.738.4739
sf@workers.org

Tucson, Ariz.
tucson@workers.org

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

Racism and voter rights in Georgia

March supports Quitman 10+2

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Quitman, Ga.

Feb. 25 — Several hundred people marched to the County Courthouse here today in support of the the Quitman 10+2 for a rally addressed by state and local leaders of numerous civil rights, faith and community organizations.

Labeled a blatant example of voter suppression, the speakers demanded that all the charges of voter fraud be dropped against the 11 women and one man who were active in registering voters in the 2010 School Board and County Commission elections in Brooks County.

Making use of early voting and absentee ballots, many people were able to vote, some for the first time. Two Black members were elected to the School

Board, and one African American was elected to the County Commission.

Almost immediately, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation was directed to look into charges of voter fraud, and ten activists were arrested on Dec. 21, 2010. Two more were charged last November. Then in January, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal suspended all three Black members of the School Board, although no one has been convicted of any wrongdoing. □

Edward DuBose, Georgia NAACP President, addresses rally.

PHOTO: ADRIANE HARDEN



New nuclear construction opposed in Georgia

By Courtney Hanson
Atlanta

Nearly a year ago, the world's eyes were on Japan as the worst nuclear disaster in history began to unfold at Fukushima. Images of nuclear reactors up in flames, workers in hazmat [hazardous material] suits and parents swiping Geiger counters over their radioactive children lit up television screens across the world. Germany and Switzerland have since begun phasing out nuclear power altogether. Italy canceled plans for their nuclear program.

But the U.S. is a different story, and now the world's eyes are on the state of Georgia as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved plans in early February for Southern Company's Georgia Power to build the first new nuclear reactors in the U.S. in 30 years at Plant Vogtle in Burke County, Ga.

The plant already houses two operating reactors and sits just across the river from the Savannah River Site, a nuclear weapons facility that houses so much Cold War-era waste it's designated one of the most contaminated nuclear sites in the country. The residents there worry about what these new reactors will do to their health and the environment.

People across the U.S. should be worried too. The industry hopes the Vogtle project will kick off a nuclear renaissance, and that has far-reaching implications.

One of the major safety lessons learned at Fukushima was what scientists call the cascade effect — if one nuclear reactor begins to melt down, it will have an adverse and similar effect on the reactor next to it. Currently, U.S. safety standards for existing and proposed reactors are only designed for single reactors at a site, even though most U.S. nuclear power plants house multiple reactors.

This is likely one reason NRC chair Gregory Jaczko voted against the construction and operating license at Vogtle. "I cannot support issuing this license as if Fukushima never happened," Jaczko said. His was the one dissenting vote in the 4-1 decision. (reuters.com, Feb. 9)

Jobs, health and who pays?

Plant Vogtle is housed in the community of Shell Bluff, in Burke County, a poor, rural, majority African-American area about 20 miles southeast of Augusta, Ga. In the first decade of the 21st century, the county's poverty and unemployment rates

were double that of the national average.

The promise of new construction jobs at the plant draws some community support, but just like the first round of construction, these jobs will be temporary. Area newspapers also report that many of the workers will come from out of state and will be nonunion.

For some Shell Bluff residents, these jobs are not worth the trade-offs.

"Some people did get jobs," Shell Bluff resident Annie Laura Stephens said, "but a lot of us got something else. We got cancer. I lost sisters, brothers and cousins to cancer, and every family I know has lost somebody to cancer." (thegrio.com, Jan. 25)

High cancer rates likely result from ra-

dioactive contaminants in drinking water and food, yet no comprehensive environmental monitoring is in place to determine if water, crops, fish or livestock are safe to consume.

The Department of Energy cut federal funding for environmental monitoring to Georgia in 2004, the same year that Southern Company expressed interest in DOE funding for a new nuclear plant.

Shell Bluff residents also live in fear of a nuclear meltdown. At a community meeting in January, residents raised concerns that the radios Southern Company issued to alert them in case of emergency are outdated and unreliable, and that area dirt roads might not hold up if an evacua-

tion is necessary during a rain storm.

Because of the cost and risks of nuclear power, Wall Street will not invest. Georgia Power is financing their \$14 billion project on the backs of taxpayers and Georgia ratepayers. The company received an \$8.3 billion federal loan guarantee, and is covering other project costs by charging every customer a monthly tax called a "nuclear construction cost recovery fee."

Already \$42 million over budget on the project, the fee is increasing and will probably do so until the new reactors go online around 2017. Considering that Vogtle reactors 1 and 2 went over budget by about 1,200 percent when they were built in the

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WWP celebrates Black History in south

By Dante Strobino
Durham, N.C.

The Durham branch of Workers World Party on Feb. 25 hosted a Black History Month film screening of "The Black Power Mixtapes, 1967-1975," followed by dynamic political discussion. The 60 people in attendance were mostly from the Black cultural Hayti district and North Carolina Central University — formerly North Carolina College for Negroes.

This Swedish-made film contains documentary footage from the height of the Black Power movement in the U.S. and features interviews with revolutionary leaders like Kwame Ture (aka Stokely Carmichael), Bobby Seale, Angela Davis, Huey Newton and others, along with contemporary artists and activists. Many of the interviews and footage that are included appear for the first time in this film, as they were discovered only recently.

Several scenes show banners in support of the Black Panthers carried by Youth Against War & Fascism, at that time the youth arm of Workers World Party. This is a must-see film for activists and revolutionaries, especially in the U.S. South, who want to gain a better understanding of the Black Power movement and the implications it has for our struggle today.

After the film, Workers World Party activist Lamont Lilly led a political discussion about the pressing issues of today and shared historical information on the role of the party in supporting the



Feb. 25 WWP meeting.

WW PHOTO: DANTE STROBINO

self-determination of oppressed peoples. He described WWP's support for Robert F. Williams, who fought against racist Klan terror in Union County, N.C., in the 1960s, and also for the Deacons for Defense and Justice in Louisiana.

Tameka Graham, a member of United Electrical Workers Local 150 — the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union, spoke about struggles of her Black-majority union fighting for collective bargaining rights for public workers and the passage of a Mental Health Workers' Bill of Rights.

Eva Panjwani, a member of the youth organization FIST — Fight Imperialism, Stand Together, talked about the work FIST is doing to fight racist resegregation of schools, threats of war on Iran, attacks on immigrants and more. Dante Strobino spoke about Workers World Party's

history in forming the Prisoner Solidarity Committee, which did work in North Carolina, Virginia, and all across the country in the 1970s in defense of Joan Little, an African-American woman who killed a white jailer as he attempted to rape her in Beaufort, N.C., in 1975.

In the discussion, several people raised issues affecting their community. Yao Lloyd McCarthy from World Africa Diaspora Union spoke about his support for WWP because of the party's firm internationalist stance, and also about the legacy of Marcus Garvey and A. Phillip Randolph. Indiana, a student at Durham Technical Community College, described how the system mis-educates youth. She said lots of work must be done to overcome that. There were several other good comments from the floor and a lot to follow up on. □

Racism, sexism and exploitation:

Behind the life & death of Whitney Houston

By Monica Moorehead

Under capitalism — a system that puts profits before human needs — genuine support needed for developing one's talent is generally not made available, much less encouraged. Luck, along with having influential connections, plays a central role in many instances on whether the individuals become famous or not. What usually happens is that many talented people are left to figure out on their own how best to display their creativity to others as opposed to hoping to be “discovered.”

Then, there are those whose talent is too unique and too obvious to ignore. Eventually, they are transformed, usually unconsciously, into a valuable commodity to be bought and sold — superexploited — to make millions of dollars for the entertainment industry but not without its taking its tragic toll on the artist.

This was certainly the case for the late, great Whitney Houston.

The shocking, untimely death of the extraordinarily talented Houston on Feb. 11 at the young age of 48 is a devastating blow to music lovers around the world. The medical reasons for her death in Los Angeles won't be known for weeks. Millions of people by live stream viewed her Feb. 18 funeral with only one TV camera placed inside the Newark church. The coverage of her death before the funeral was nonstop in all forms of media, especially TV and online. Her music and performances permeated every continent in



Nelson Mandela with Houston, Pretoria, 1994.

a multitude of languages in remembrance of her wondrous gifts.

A magnificent voice

If Michael Jackson was recognized as “the king of pop music,” then many critics and fans alike argue that Houston is “the queen of pop music.” Unlike Jackson, who was the consummate innovator of dance moves, all Houston had to do was open her mouth and sing without moving a muscle to totally transfix and mesmerize her audiences.

Dubbed simply as “The Voice,” Houston broke all kinds of music records more than 20 years ago which still stand the test of time. She is, to this day, the only artist to have seven consecutive number one recordings; in 1985, her first album, “Whitney Houston,” sold more copies than any other debut album in history. Houston could take a song previously made famous by someone else and turn it into a megahit, like “I Will Always Love You,” which remains the largest selling commercial single record ever.

Similar to Michael Jackson, Houston sold out concert arenas around the world, from Spain to Brazil to South Africa, as well as throughout the U.S., especially in the 1980s and 1990s. She won a total of six Grammy trophies. The Grammy is the highest honor bestowed upon artists within the U.S. recording industry.

Houston made her movie-acting debut in “The Bodyguard” in 1992, opposite Kevin Costner as her love interest. Movie executives were very hesitant to hire her because, even though at the time she was the most popular female singer in the world, they were afraid that with Houston being Black, an interracial love story would alienate white moviegoers. This point was alluded to by Costner when he spoke at her funeral. The movie eventually grossed \$400 million worldwide and its original soundtrack, featuring music vocalized by Houston, is still the highest-grossing movie soundtrack ever.

A victim of the racist tabloids

Whitney Houston was born in Newark, N.J., in 1963. Her mother is the famous gospel singer, Cissy Houston. Her cousin is Dionne Warwick, one of the most popular singers during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Her godmother is the legendary Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul. Many popular African-American women artists, including Mariah Carey, Jennifer Hudson and Alicia Keys, give much credit to Houston for inspiring them to become singers. Music industry mogul Clive Davis first discovered Houston, when she was a teenager singing in a gospel choir. However, she quickly crossed over to pop music when she burst on the music scene at the age of 22. Her rise to stardom can only be described by words like “unprecedented,” “astounding” and “meteoric.”

All of the fame, fortune and admiration could not protect Houston from falling victim to drug and alcohol addiction. This is an all too familiar fate that many talented people are faced with when feeling the pressure to stay on “top” in their profession. Any less than that would be viewed as being a failure.

To make matters worse, when such illnesses and the treatments for them — which should be private affairs for the individual and their loved ones — become public, the tabloids demonize with vile language the very artist that they claim to respect and admire, so that they can make profits. Houston was grilled during almost every interview, whether in audio or in print, about her private life. The tabloids' treatment of her proves again that they may love and praise you one day, but they will then turn around and hate you the next day if they can make a buck — in other words, the “build you up to tear you down” syndrome. Consistent, unconditional sen-

sitivity and respect from the media do not exist under capitalism. In its recent issue, the notorious tabloid, National Enquirer, shows an unauthorized front page photo of Houston laying in an open casket.

Because Houston was an African-American woman, the situation was made even worse. For many years, the tabloids labeled her a “crack addict” — a racist term that stereotypes Black people, especially in urban areas. Despite Houston's stardom, she never forgot her roots in Newark, one of the most impoverished U.S. cities — and neither did the tabloids.

Whenever Houston made any public appearances during this difficult period, the tabloids would characterize her behavior as “bizarre” and “erratic.” They would publicly say that any problems with her voice had to do with “drug abuse,” though there was no substantial medical proof to back these claims. This woman with an astounding voice, who had given the world so much joy, had been turned into cannon fodder for the press. The media have now stooped very low in demonizing Houston's 18-year-old daughter, Bobby Kristina, claiming that she is also a drug addict and that she got “high” during her mother's funeral.

What really drove home the media's racist and sexist treatment of Houston occurred on Feb. 16, when two bigoted “shock jock” deejays, John Kobylt and Ken Chiampou, referred to her as a “crack ho” on their radio show. This is an outrage! These two should have immediately been fired for this disgusting racist and sexist slur. Instead, they were temporarily taken off the air, given a slap on the wrist.

Past efforts have been made by progressive groups to silence them from the airwaves for their racist tirades against immigrants. The two are scheduled to be reinstated on Feb. 27, which is an outrage. Once again, ratings, as well as big money from advertisers, rule the airwaves. Not even a world-famous artist like Whitney Houston is exempt from the racism and sexism faced by other oppressed peoples.

Her legacy will live on

Houston was far from being a political person, much less a political activist. She unfortunately sang “the Star-Spangled Banner” during the 1991 Super Bowl, following the First Gulf War. She became the poster person for U.S. patriotism.

She nevertheless performed in Johannesburg in 1994 before thousands of adoring fans, including from the Soweto Township, and met with Nelson Mandela. She supported community projects in Newark. In fact, a performing arts school there has been renamed in her honor.

Houston's real-life bodyguard, Ray Watson, put her life into perspective during his moving tribute at her funeral. He called her “a beautiful, caring lady.” He also said, “Entertainers need to be treated with dignity and love” and people need to “stop ridiculing them,” because they are constantly on the road, leaving their loved ones behind. He went on to say, “Whether they are on court or on stage, they provide entertainment to make our lives a little brighter.”

The greatest tribute one can pay to an extraordinary talent like Whitney Houston is to not only continue to keep her music alive for future generations to admire, but to fight for a more humane society that will enhance and nurture all levels of talent and culture, not exploit it. That will truly be “the greatest love of all” shown for the once-in-a-generation singer known as “The Voice.” □

Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal on

WHITNEY HOUSTON (1963-2012)

The death of songbird Whitney Houston hit like a thunderclap.

At the age of 48, she was found dead in a Beverly Hills hotel room; as of this writing, cause unknown.

Her voice was an instrument of which one can only marvel.

Apparently, many, many others felt likewise, for she sold an estimated 170 million records and videos.

She won virtually every award available. Grammys, it seemed, by the double.

But more important was her music: love songs, pop songs, ballads and show tunes that dazzled and delighted, like “I Will Always Love You,” “I Wanna Dance

With Somebody,” “Savin' All My Love For You,” “Run to You,” “You Give Good Love” — and many, many more.

Her voice, her pace, her phrasing, her stage presence and her beauty were a package that virtually defined “Star.” Indeed, she was that rarest of creatures: Superstar.

Ironically, the very media that savaged her for years, flipped into worship mode when she was gone and could no longer hear them.

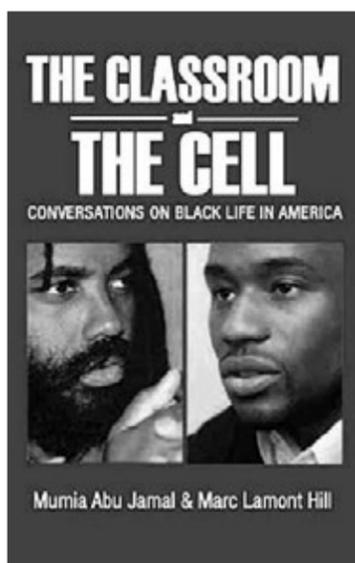
Whitney Houston was a daughter, wife, mother and actress. Her songs will be heard, sung and loved for generations. □

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MARCH 31 in Detroit

National conference to demand moratorium on foreclosures

By Mike Shane
Detroit

A national conference devoted to the fight to stop foreclosures and evictions is set to take place in Detroit on Saturday, March 31. The conference, initiated by the Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs, aims to bring together activists to share experiences about fighting foreclosures and evictions through direct action and to plan a national campaign to raise and win a national moratorium on or halt to all foreclosures.

Strategies for challenging the banks in the courts and in the streets will be shared. Demands to move people back into government- and bank-owned foreclosed homes, for a principal reduction on home mortgages, and for related demands and ideas will also be discussed.

The conference is extremely timely as already this winter there has been a tremendous upsurge in the struggle against foreclosures and evictions. Across the U.S., the Occupy movement has joined with community groups and unions to confront the banks — along with Fannie Mae and Freddy Mac — in challenging and stopping unjust evictions.

This spring promises a further intensification of the anti-foreclosure movement around the country. A nationally coordinated week of actions against the banks

and to save homes, proposed by Occupy Atlanta and coordinated by Occupy Our Homes, is taking shape for March 12-16.

Take Back the Land has announced a spring initiative to move families back into foreclosed homes.

On March 13 in Detroit, a coalition including Occupy Detroit, People Before Banks, Jobs with Justice, United Auto Workers Local 600 and Moratorium NOW! will hold a demonstration against Chase Bank in support of the national day of action against that criminal bank.

The coalition will “package” together Chase foreclosures threatening several Detroit and Detroit-area families — flipping the script on the banks that “package” and sell mortgages and routinely toss people out of their homes. Protesters will demand that the foreclosures against eight families be stopped immediately and that Chase place a moratorium on all foreclosures and evictions.

These important actions may prove effective in keeping a few more families in their homes. But they are not enough to stop the 2 million foreclosures currently in progress or the projected 4 million additional foreclosures anticipated over the next couple years. The demand for an immediate national two-year moratorium on foreclosures and evictions is what is needed.

Such a moratorium would help stabilize our communities, while giving homeowners, renters and families breathing room

needed to come up with a long-term solution to the worst economic crisis to hit working people since the 1930s. And if two years is not enough to solve the foreclosure crisis, then we can fight for an extension.

The conference takes on even greater importance in light of the recent announcement that the federally controlled — and taxpayer-funded — Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will sell several hundred thousand foreclosed homes to private in-

vestors at steep discounts. These homes belong to the people, and should be returned to families who have been evicted.

The March 31 conference will take place at Central United Methodist Church in downtown Detroit. The gathering will be streamed live using the internet for those unable to attend in person. For more information and to register for the conference, visit nationalmoratorium.org or call 313-680-5508. □

Chicago fights foreclosures

Detroit Moratorium NOW! organizer Jerry Goldberg spoke in the Chicago area on Feb. 26-27. At Rock of Ages Baptist Church in Maywood, Ill., he received a warm reception from more than 1,000 people at Sunday services when he spoke on stopping foreclosures and evictions. The church's Clinical and Social Services Committee plans to send a delegate to the March 31 National Moratorium Con-

ference in Detroit. (See nationalmoratorium.org.) Goldberg spoke Feb. 27 to a Dominican College social justice and diversity class, where a number of students said their families are facing foreclosures. Later he met with Chicago Anti-Eviction Committee organizers who are leading the fight to challenge and stop foreclosures and evictions through direct action and by asserting the right to housing for all.

— WW Chicago bureau

‘Banking on Vacancy’ study

Homelessness found amidst abundant housing

By Caleb T. Maupin

Picture The Homeless recently performed a great service to the people of New York City, the U.S. and the world. PTH describes itself as an organization “founded and led by homeless people” that opposes the “quality of life laws” that “criminalize homeless people.” PTH aims to “change these laws and policies as well as to challenge the root causes of homelessness.”

PTH, along with Hunter College, recently conducted a study called “Banking on Vacancy” that sent 295 volunteers to walk the streets of 20 of New York City’s 59 community districts to investigate the housing situation. They discovered that there were approximately 3,500 vacant residential buildings and about 2,400 vacant lots in those districts.

Researchers estimate the vacant buildings could house 70,000 people, while the lots could house more than 120,000 people if buildings were constructed.

The study shows that the 40,000 people in New York City’s shelter system, a number that has doubled since 2002, no longer have any rational reason to be homeless or to endure poor conditions in overcrowded shelters. A rational system could easily provide a decent home.

While the report concentrates on the findings, it also makes a strong argument that the rule of private property is an obstacle to a rational solution to the housing problem.

The report points out that often apartments are kept vacant for years so that real estate developers can remove a building from rent controls. PTH calls this “banking on homelessness.” It makes a proposal to restrict the amount of time a landlord can keep a property vacant — up to three years, which is modest but still challenges private property and its owners. It also asks that the city do its own study of similar

conditions throughout the entire city.

The report also argues that a construction program for empty lots would provide jobs for many workers, while resolving the housing crisis for many others, if it were combined with a program to provide affordable housing to low-income New Yorkers. PTH’s position is that the high cost of funding shelters would be much better spent subsidizing rent for currently homeless people and providing housing space.

This study illustrates the words of the labor anthem, “Solidarity Forever”: “We stand outcast and starving midst the wonders we have made.”

The current global capitalist meltdown was touched off in 2008 when the housing bubble burst. This “burst” did not occur due to any shortage of living space. Millions of construction workers, bricklayers, architects, engineers, electricians and other workers sweated hard and long to create countless private homes, apartment buildings, condominiums and other decent places of residence.

Yet, despite all this abundance, homelessness continues, and many housing units made by collective human labor remain vacant. They remain vacant because under capitalism housing is not provided because people need it. Housing is only useful if profits — in this example, very high profits — can be made.

This very important report will force many to rethink the “free market” that people in the U.S. have been taught to worship.

In the modern age of “We are the 99%,” this study conducted by PTH and Hunter College sheds light on the real problem. The fact that the basis of homelessness is that housing, production and all economic activity is conducted, not for human need, but to make profits.

To read a copy of the complete report, “Banking on Vacancy,” visit the PTH site at picturethehomeless.org. □

WISCONSIN

Meeting takes up struggle to stop foreclosures, evictions

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Milwaukee

Metro Milwaukee residents and others from Fondulac and Racine, Wis., Chicago and Detroit participated in a “Stop Foreclosures and Evictions” meeting Feb. 25 in the heart of Milwaukee’s African-American community at the Center Street Library. Members of the Occupy Wall Street movement, including the Milwaukee Occupy Coalition, participated, as did members of the Amalgamated Transit Union and the American Federation of Teachers.

The meeting began with an announcement honoring Black History Month and the reading of poems by people’s poet Eric Disambwa. Special mention was made of Whitney Houston, Etta James and Don Cornelius, three towering figures in the Black Nation who recently passed on.

Featured speaker Jerry Goldberg, people’s attorney and a leader of the Detroit-based Moratorium NOW! Coalition to Stop Foreclosures, Evictions & Utility Shutoffs, thanked the poor and working people of Wisconsin for their inspiring fightback. He gave a presentation on the banks’ and other capitalist financial institutions’ responsibility for the foreclosure and eviction epidemic that continues to sweep the U.S. Since 2007, there have been more than 20,000 foreclosures in Milwaukee alone, most in African-American and Latino/a neighborhoods.

Goldberg urged those present to join the growing movement fighting for a moratorium on foreclosures and evictions. He



WW PHOTO: BRYAN G. PFEIFER

Jerry Goldberg addresses meeting.

invited everyone to Detroit for a March 31 national conference on that topic. For more information on the conference, see nationalmoratorium.org.

Participants in the meeting held a lively discussion on how to defend poor and working people’s homes and apartments from the racist, predatory banks. They shared tactics of previous victories that saved people’s homes and many other related struggles such as the fight for jobs. The meeting was sponsored by the Wisconsin Bail Out the People Movement which is mobilizing for the March 31 Detroit conference. For more information on upcoming meetings see wibailoutpeople.org. □

CALIFORNIA

Locked-out country club workers stand strong

By Terri Kay
Pleasanton, Calif.

Hundreds turned out to support the locked-out Castlewood Country Club workers on Feb. 25, the second anniversary of management's lockout. Notably, Occupy Oakland and many union supporters came to this high-income suburb to challenge the club, which has been unrepentant in refusing to pay for health insurance for the workers and their families.

Occupy Oakland staged a counter-protest mocking club members. Their signs read "Golfing is a human right" and other demands of the 1%. Their fake press release read: " 'O.K., sure, they didn't really make enough money to actually pay the premiums, but sometimes a person hasn't really earned medical care for their children,' said member Roger Greenwell. 'I mean, I work in private equity, so of course my kids get good doctors. But the guy who pours my scotch? Really?'"

The workers, mostly Latino/a immigrants, are members of UNITE HERE Local 2850. For two years they have courageously been fighting for their livelihoods, their families' health care and for their right to bargain collectively with those in the super-rich 1%. Golfers pay thousands of dollars just to join the country club and then spend hundreds of dollars a month to remain members — yet they have no problem keeping health insurance out of reach for employees' families.

The club is demanding that any employee who wants family health insurance pay about \$850 per month, which amounts to almost half of some workers' wages. When UNITE HERE tried to negotiate, the club locked out the workers on Feb. 25, 2010, and told them they would be barred from returning to work while they remained unionized.

Community support is growing

The workers have stayed strong, and community support is growing. Francisca Carranza, one of the locked-out workers, said they have "always received a lot of support" and that she was "happy that Occupy Oakland supported" them. Since being locked out, Carranza has found some part-



WW PHOTO: TERRI KAY

Mock 'counter-protest by the 1%' outside swank country club.

time domestic work but says it's a struggle to make ends meet. Her spouse is disabled and two of her children live at home.

On Aug. 30, 2010, the National Labor Relations Board's general counsel issued a complaint against Castlewood Country Club, alleging that it has been "interfering with, restraining, and coercing" employees and "failing and refusing to bargain collectively and in good faith." The

complaint alleged the club threatened to discipline workers who distributed union flyers during non-work hours.

The union filed an Unfair Labor Practice case on Oct. 18, 2010, which charged: "During the past six months, the above-named Employer has failed and refused to bargain in good faith, including but not limited to, by refusing to meet for bargaining at reasonable times and by con-

New York City

WWP forum on Black liberation, OWS

The New York branch of Workers World Party held a Black History forum Feb. 25 entitled "Occupy Black Liberation: The Occupy Wall Street Movement and the Black Struggle." WWP members and activists opened up the discussion with remarks on the impact of the OWS movement on the struggles against racism, cutbacks and repression at home. They also discussed the struggle against austerity in Europe and elsewhere. Podcasts of the talks will be available at workers.org.

— WW New York bureau



Speakers Johnnie Stevens, Dinae Anderson, Monica Moorehead, Larry Hales, Imani Henry, LeiLani Dowell & Larry Holmes.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

SEATTLE

Port truck drivers end strike, make gains

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Seattle port truck drivers, mainly African immigrants, carried out a two-week strike, which ended on Feb. 14. These workers have taken a big step forward and exposed the terrible sweatshop conditions in their industry. The Seattle Truck Drivers Association now has a road map for advancement to dignity and unionization.

The 400 to 500 strikers stopped working on Jan. 31 to protest second-class working conditions in a highly profitable industry. The drivers are misclassified as independent contractors instead of employees. This means they get no Social Security, Medicare, or unemployment or other benefits. However, they have to make payments on their trucks and pay for vehicle repairs, gas, insurance which costs \$120 per week, and other fees.

The drivers make less than minimum wage. In addition to lacking a decent income, the drivers work in unsafe conditions, are treated disrespectfully and of-

ten face racism on the job. Yet, the bosses make a bundle from their labor.

The port drivers got a boost from the Occupy movement's Dec. 12 port shutdown, which was also in solidarity with the truck drivers. The years of organizing by California port drivers have also built the movement. The Seattle port drivers received good labor and community support during their strike, especially from the Teamsters union.

The drivers forced the trucking companies to negotiate with them. They received pay increases above the \$40 to \$44 price per shipping container that they had been getting. Their strike forced the State House to pass a bill requiring port trucking companies to change their classification as "independent contractors" to employees. Passage of this in the State Senate would open the way for them to unionize, as the workers have demanded.

The port truck drivers are among the new wave of workers rising up against the bosses' cutbacks, union busting, racism and war. □

Activists 'occupy' AT&T to stop layoffs

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

By Feb. 27, the occupation of AT&T had been going on here for two weeks. Activists have added more tents to the original 15, which stretch down Atlanta's West Peachtree Street in front of the communication giant's midtown office tower.

The action began on Feb. 13 when a dozen members of Occupy Atlanta, Jobs with Justice, the Communication Workers union and others started a sit-in in the lobby of the AT&T headquarters. Those sitting-in said they would stay until AT&T management rescinded its announced layoffs of hundreds of union workers. The activists were arrested immediately on charges of trespass.

Simultaneously, demonstrators began an occupation outside, pitching their tents on the sidewalk. That encampment has grown and support actions take place daily.

The issue is the loss of good-paying union jobs with health care and other benefits. Meanwhile, AT&T rakes in billions in profits yearly, and its CEO Randall Stephenson pocketed \$27 million in 2011.

The corporation claims its landline business is shrinking so much that these jobs are superfluous. Yet the technicians

continue to lock out employees in support of an illegal bargaining position. The Employer's proposal to eliminate seniority as the basis for scheduling work and layoffs and/or to allow replacement employees to displace locked-out employees after the lockout ends is unlawful."

The NLRB is conducting a hearing on the lockout, which isn't expected to conclude until sometime in March.

The workers continue to regularly picket the club. A few sympathetic members have brought them food and offered support. However, other club members have arrogantly demeaned the workers and shown disdain for their rights. One tried to physically harm a worker, and another flippantly said that since he paid for his own health insurance, why couldn't the workers pay for theirs?

In delegations of five to 10 people, the workers and supporters from Occupy Oakland have visited several club members' workplaces, attempting to embarrass them into pressuring the board to end the lockout.

Because of the union's outreach efforts, several major golf tournaments have cancelled their events at the club. Support is growing for this important workers' struggle. □

Occupy movement challenges prison-industrial complex

By **Betsey Piette**
Philadelphia

Demonstrators chanted, “Tear down Jailhouses! Build up School Houses!” outside Heery International Inc.’s Philadelphia office as part of a national call from Occupy Oakland to Occupy for Prisoners on Feb. 20.

Organized by DecarceratePA and endorsed by Occupy Philadelphia, the protest targeted the disparity between increased funding for prison construction while Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett slashes funding for education and is pushing for more cuts.

Heery, which profits from private prison construction, was paid \$316 million in October to build a Graterford Prison extension to house 4,100 more inmates and a new death row facility.

Political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal’s statement was a rally highlight. Now housed in general population at Pennsylvania’s SCI-Mahanoy prison, a decades-long struggle won his December release from death row. He said of the call to Occupy for Prisoners, “It was not an especially radical call, but it was right on. Prisons have become a metaphor — the shadow-side ... of America. With oceans of words about freedom — and the reality that the U.S. is the world’s leader of the incarceration industry — it’s more than time for the focused attention of the Occupy Movement.

“Every state, every rural district, every hamlet in America has a prison, a place where the Constitution doesn’t exist and where slavery is all but legalized. And



Jamila Wilson addresses Feb. 20 rally.

where there are prisons, there is torture: brutal beatings, grave humiliations, perverse censorship — and even murders.”

Abu-Jamal called on the Occupy Movement to support the calls for freedom for political prisoners Leonard Peltier, the MOVE 9, Sundiata Acoli, Russell “Maroon” Shoatz and others, but urged the movement to do more to stop “a destructive, counter-productive, annual \$69 billion boondoggle of repression, better known ... as the Prison Industrial Complex.” He urged the Occupy Movement to build “a mass movement that demands and fights for real change,” and concluded, “Down

with the Prison Industrial Complex!”

Theresa Shoatz read her father’s statement; Russell “Maroon” Shoatz has been held for 21 years in solitary confinement at SCI Green. Former inmates also spoke.

More than 700 people demonstrated outside San Quentin on Feb. 20, stressing, “Unless all of us are free, we are all imprisoned.” Many protesters had been illegally arrested and imprisoned at Occupy Oakland.

Kevin Cooper, a San Quentin death row prisoner, inspired the call to Occupy for Prisoners initiated by Occupy Oakland. He urged the Occupy Movement to include prisoners in their movement for the 99%, saying, “No man or woman on death row ... is a ‘have.’ We are the ‘have nots.’ We are the bottom 1%.”

Protests took place in 19 cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington and Durham, N.C., where their flier noted, “Prior to incarceration, two-thirds of all prisoners lived in conditions of economic hardship, while the perpetrators of ‘white-collar’ crime largely go free.” No Wall Street banker has been jailed for stealing billions of dollars through mortgage fraud.

Occupy for Prisoners exposed mass incarceration in the U.S. — the world’s largest jailer — where more than 3 million people are behind bars.

More African Americans in prison today than enslaved in 1850

Michelle Alexander, author of “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,” says there are “more African-Americans ... in prisons or jail, on probation or parole — than were enslaved in 1850, a decade before the Civil War began.” Between 1970 and 1995, the incarceration of African Americans increased seven-fold.

African Americans make up 12 percent of the U.S. population but comprise 40 percent of the prison population — a legacy of more than three decades of the so-called “war on drugs” with its “three strikes” bills, mandatory harsh prison terms and jail time for minor drug offenses.

Occupy events targeted for-profit prisons and companies like Wells Fargo, which is heavily invested in the private prison industry with 3.5 million shares in the second largest prison operator, the GEO Group. Companies make money through prison construction and from prison labor, paying prisoners as little as \$0.23 an hour.

The disparity in funding for prisons versus education and the incarceration of juveniles as adults were common themes. The Broad Foundation says the U.S. spends \$9,644 to educate a student but \$22,600 per prison inmate. High school dropouts comprise 65 percent of U.S. prisoners.

Protesters condemned the widespread use of solitary confinement and outright torture inside U.S. prisons. Prison Legal News explains, “The kind of torture of prisoners at Abu Ghraib in Iraq ... is commonplace within U.S. prisons.”

Super max prisons hold an estimated 20,000 U.S. prisoners in solitary, while thousands more are so confined in state and local prisons, including hundreds of Muslims.

Prolonged solitary confinement is recognized internationally as torture, which violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the U.N. Convention against Torture and the U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination.

Abu-Jamal, who spent nearly 30 years in solidarity, told Occupy for Prisoners, “Justice demands the end of solitary ... it is no more than a modern-day torture chamber for the poor.” □

Theory, action and history

WWP leaders speak in Los Angeles

By **John Parker**
Los Angeles

The current crisis facing the working class is like none other, Workers World Editor Deirdre Griswold told a forum at the office of Workers World Party here on Feb. 18. Citing figures showing that the recovery of profits since the crash of 2008 has meant no recovery for the working class, Griswold, a WWP Secretariat member, explained that long-term unemployment has become a permanent feature of high-tech capitalism’s growth around the world.

Teresa Gutierrez, a national leader of WWP and Secretariat member, reported on the party’s work in solidarity with oppressed workers, especially immigrants.

The two talks illustrated how the capitalist crisis, by imposing immense burdens on hundreds of millions of workers, has also laid the basis for greater class unity. However, the crisis has come down especially hard on those already most oppressed. Whether people are struggling against foreclosures and evictions, layoffs, low wages, deportation, wars of intervention, environmental pollution or attacks on basic social services like public education and health care, the common enemy of the 99% is the super-wealthy 1%. This is the signature slogan of the Occupy movement, which has inspired many new activists and sparked a renewed interest in socialism and Marxism.

Gutierrez showed concretely how

Workers World Party carries out principled solidarity with oppressed workers. A co-coordinator and steering committee member of the May 1st Coalition for Worker and Immigrant Rights in New York, she related how the coalition is organizing for a united demonstration this year that encompasses immigrant groups, labor unions and the Occupy movement.

Very thoughtful questions and discussion followed the reports. Long-time members of the Communist Party USA and Southern California Immigration Coalition contributed their views in the exchange of ideas. All were in agreement by the end of the night that only a powerful, united, independent movement of the oppressed, workers and immigrant movements would be capable of making any progress toward overturning capitalism.

Earlier in the day at a class for members and candidate members of WWP, Griswold, a founding member of the party, reviewed its origins in the context of the world communist movement and the struggle against imperialism and neo-colonialism. She traced the party’s political perspective and struggle orientation, beginning with the early writings of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels to the victory of the Bolshevik Revolution. She stressed that the new conditions workers and oppressed around the world face today are pushing forward the struggle to tear down capitalism and build a better world, free of exploitation and repression. □



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Greeks struggle against a new colonialism

By G. Dunkel

While the stock markets in the United States and Europe have recovered — a bit — and the Greek workers have not had a general strike and massive protests for a few weeks, the struggle is far from over.

The Troika — the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund — which is the group directing Greece's second "bailout," will have permanent financial monitoring groups in Athens. Some 160 German tax collectors will be in Greece shortly to supervise tax collections. (democraticunderground.com)

That German officials will have direct control of Greece's internal affairs is evidence for the charge that German imperialism is treating Greece like its colony. Those making this charge also observe that life in Greece for working people is as bad as or worse than it was during the World War II German occupation.

While the popular anger over this arrangement is strong, major sectors of the Greek capitalist ruling class (banks, construction, tourism, the shipping industry, energy) are openly supporting the strategy of imposing austerity.

These new and very harsh austerity measures include cutting government employment by 15,000, lowering the minimum wage, and slashing pensions and social services. Some economists estimate these cuts will drive the Greek economy, which contracted about 7 percent in 2011, only deeper into recession. Even these bourgeois analysts see Greece heading for a third "bailout."

Hospital workers take over

The vicious attacks coming down on Greek workers have pushed hospital workers in Kilkis, a small city north of Salonika, to seize their facility. Like many Greek medical workers in the state-run



Banners outside the Acropolis in Athens.

system, the Kilkis workers have not been getting paid regularly.

According to an open letter by Leta Zotaki, president of the doctors' union in Kilkis and a member of the General Assembly running the hospital, some of the staff got only \$5.40 or \$12.00 in mid-February for a month's work. One worker, who instead of getting her \$1,070 salary got a demand to pay back \$225 if she wanted to keep her job, had a heart attack.

Who the 'bailout' really helps

The Troika's requirements for Greece are strict. They are quickly installing monitors to ensure that all the requirements are rigorously followed. Yet it's unclear exactly how much money the Greek government is borrowing and how much it must pay back. What is clear is that the loans Greece must pay back go directly to the banks that hold the bonds.

Eurogroup, the official name of the Troika directing Greece's finances, says: "The Eurogroup also welcomes Greece's intention to put in place a mechanism ... paying an amount corresponding to the coming quarter's debt service directly

to a segregated account of Greece's paying agent." This money would come from what was borrowed and from Greece's own funds. (zerohedge.com, a market blog to which the New York Times links.)

The Troika also requires Greece to change its constitution so that debt service takes top priority in state expenses. Thus, the Greek nation is reduced to a mechanism for bailing out the big European banks.

Greek's toxic debt

The corporate media distort the explanation of the debt crisis, by repeating over and over that Greece "borrowed beyond its means." (New York Times, Feb 26) In reality, much of the borrowing was imposed on the Greek people.

In an illuminating article, Eric Tossaint of the Committee to Abolish Third World Debt describes some of the components of Greece's public debt, which stretches back to the 1970s, when Greece was ruled by a military junta. Public debt quadrupled between 1965 and 1974. (tinyurl.com/4zq4hxn)

After the junta was overthrown, suc-

cessive governments borrowed heavily to pay for the tax cuts they gave to the big companies and the rich supposedly in an attempt to stimulate the economy.

Greece was also one of the major customers for the French, German and U.S. arms suppliers, spending far more in relation to its economy's size than any other EU country.

Major infrastructure projects, both for military equipment and to modernize Greece's telecommunications, saw huge cost overruns and equally huge bribes paid mainly by the big German firm Siemens.

And, of course, there were the 2004 Olympic Games, for which "Greece had spent some \$14.2 billion, pushing the country's budget deficit to record levels." (tinyurl.com/8678npl)

While there is no reason the Greek workers should be held responsible for any part of the capitalist debt crisis, large parts of the Greek debt are "toxic" even under capitalist law, as described above. An investigation could show just how much the Greek workers' suffering is due to open capitalist theft. □

Workers, youth hit streets in Spain and Portugal

By John Catalinotto

The European ruling class is still focusing its weapons against the Greek workers. But now all European workers are under attack. In the week that ended Feb. 26, some of the hardest class battles took place in the Spanish state. There, in the fourth biggest economy in the eurozone, official unemployment is more than 21 percent.

On Feb. 19, the two largest union confederations, the CCOO and the UGT, which represent 80 percent of organized labor, called a countrywide protest. According to the organizers, more than 1 million people joined the actions, held in 57 cities across Spain, that attacked the government's new labor "reforms."

Many consider these laws the biggest attacks on workers' rights since the fascist Franco dictatorship, which ended in the mid-1970s. Those in the M15 movement of "the indignant ones," analogous to the Occupy movement in the U.S., joined the mass action. They also joined shout-outs to the union leadership to call for a general strike on Feb. 29.

So far, only the independent unions in the Basque Country have called for the Feb. 29 strike. In the Basque Country especially, as well as in Galicia in the northwest and Catalonia, the working class has been more actively engaged in the class and political struggle.

The official union leadership on the federal level has called only one general strike — with limited success — on Sept. 29,

2010. They also signed an agreement with the government accepting cuts in workers' wages and protections. Because of this capitulation to the bosses, the leadership has lost much, if not all, of its authority with militant workers and revolutionary elements. Still, the depth of the economic crisis has resulted in a situation where the masses are demanding that the union leadership call a struggle with the bosses and the now right-wing government.

Students vs. cops in Valencia

Overall youth unemployment in Spain is more than 49 percent. This means many young people have had to put their lives on hold. In Valencia, a port city on the Mediterranean, the third-largest city in Spain with about 2 million people in the metropolitan area, youth unemployment is even higher than average.

When government budget cuts led to cutting off heat, water and electricity in Valencia's schools in mid-February, it was no surprise that students began to protest, sometimes occupying buildings. On Feb. 20, 10,000 youth and students took to the streets. The police responded bru-

tally, first with batons, then rubber bullets and teargas. Forty youth were arrested.

By the end of the week, there were demonstrations in dozens of other cities in solidarity with the students and youth of Valencia, which has become the epicenter of the youth struggle.

Portugal general strike set for March 22

The major labor federation in Portugal, the CGTP-IN, has called another general strike for March 22. As in most of the countries on the eurozone's periphery, Portugal's working class faces cutbacks to social services and an attack on such workers' rights as job protection, vacations and other benefits. These cuts have been demanded not only by the Portuguese bosses but also by the eurozone bankers.

The CGTP-IN has declared that its actions are in the interest of all workers, not just its own members, and has called on all the unions — whether or not they are affiliated with a federation — to help build a united workers' action against the new labor contract that increases the exploitation of all workers.

The peripheral countries — Greece,

Portugal, and Ireland — had up to now been treated as part of the imperialist club, but now their workers are being clubbed into semicolonial status. Even Spain and Italy face these pressures, resulting to a direct assault on the working class in those countries.

Protests in Italy, Germany

In Italy, where workers also face an austerity program from a government imposed by the European banks, the metalworkers (FIOM) have called an 8-hour general strike on March 9.

In Germany, the most powerful imperialist state at the center of Europe, the government workers' union, Ver.di, called a protest Feb. 27 in Berlin in solidarity with the workers' struggle in Greece under the slogan "Today Greece, tomorrow it's us." (Junge Welt, Feb. 27)

The European ruling class has coordinated its assault on the working class using the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund — with the support of U.S. banks. Up to now Europe's workers have responded on a country-by-country basis.

In Greece and Portugal, where communist parties have influence among the workers, these parties have made it clear that they see no solution to the crisis under the capitalist system. The challenge to workers' leadership throughout Europe, as well as in the U.S., is how to defend the workers even though a struggle to overturn the system does not appear to be an immediate option. □

The Lavender and Red series of articles by Leslie Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues*, is now available online. The series includes:



Rainbow Solidarity In Defense of CUBA



workers.org/lavender-red

This groundbreaking book documents revolutionary Cuba's inspiring trajectory of progress towards liberation of sexualities, genders and sexes. Book available at Amazon.com

INTERNATIONAL
WORKING WOMEN'S DAY

People all over the world are in motion in response to the global economic crisis. They are refusing to be ground down under the heel of the capitalist boot.

Women in many countries are actively leading and organizing struggles — from the Philippines to Palestine, Honduras to Greece, Spain and Portugal. The same goes here too — from Detroit where women take the lead in stopping foreclosures and evictions to Los Angeles and New York where immigrant women workers are organizing for rights and dignity.

This year how will women observe March 8, International Working Women's Day, with its focus on ending the oppression of women?

We hope they'll continue to ramp up their struggles against the capitalist beast. The origin of women's oppression — private property — is central to the inequality and injustice built into capitalism.

The ruling class of capitalists owns the means of production, from which it extracts profits created by and stolen from the workers. That owning class is increasingly desperate to maintain control of their property and wealth. They perpetuate male supremacy so they can exploit women workers even more than men and keep working-class men and women divided — with low wages for everyone.

The capitalist system is in crisis because private ownership is on a collision course with the urgent needs of the world's working class. That's why more women are in struggle today than ever before.

Women in the U.S. will continue to be in the forefront of many battles — opposing U.S. wars and occupations while demanding funding for human needs, defending collective bargaining in their unions, demanding wages that allow their families to keep up with the cost of living, stopping foreclosures so they can stay in their homes, demanding contraceptives and other free preventive health care, and fighting for basic rights to affordable education, quality health care and housing, and good-paying jobs.

Women in public sector jobs — who are a majority women of color — are coming under heavy fire now as they defend their right to belong to unions. And they are rising to the challenge. Immigrant women are blazing ahead despite obstacles and organizing new unions for domestic workers.

On International Working Women's Day 2012, we remember the women garment workers in New York City who marched for better working and living conditions on March 8, 1908, and the socialist women who founded IWW in 1910 in their honor.

And we salute the millions of women all over the world fighting to overthrow capitalism's many chains and hasten the birth of a better world. □

Nuclear construction
opposed in Georgia

Continued from page 3

1980s, and that the Georgia Public Service Commission last fall struck down a risk-sharing mechanism that would hold Georgia Power, not the public, responsible for their cost overages, Georgia residents can expect this financial burden to become heavier over time.

'Stop Vogtle' campaign gears up

People across the Southeast will gather in Shell Bluff on March 11, the Fukushima disaster anniversary, to stand in solidarity with the community. Buses from Atlanta and Asheville, N.C., have been organized.

Georgia environmental groups have several lawsuits against the NRC for safety violations. Activists have launched a pledge drive to encourage ratepayers not to pay the nuclear construction cost recovery fee on their bills, as well as a "Stop Vogtle" outreach and education campaign. For more information visit georgiawand.org, georgiapowerrippoff.wordpress.com and nonukesyall.org.

Courtney Hanson is Public Outreach Director for Georgia Women's Action for New Directions.

Inequality, Capitalism
and Socialist Revolution

By Fred Goldstein

The Occupy Wall Street movement has made the inequality in capitalist society an issue that has put the rich on the defensive, at least in public. The growth of inequality in the last 30 years, and especially in the last decade, has been talked about for years in many quarters by economic analysts and even some politicians. But before the Occupy Wall Street movement raised the slogan of the 1% versus the 99%, this condition went entirely unchallenged and was merely observed as an inevitable, undesirable (unless you were part of the 1%) fact of life.

The inequalities that gave the OWS its battle cry are truly obscene, reminiscent of the gap between monarchs of old and the peasant serfs. On the one hand, 50 million people live on food stamps, 47 million live in official poverty, half the population is classified as poor [i], 30 million are unemployed or underemployed, and tens of millions of workers live on low wages.

On the other hand, from 2001 to 2006 the top 1 percent got 53 cents out of every dollar of wealth created. From 1979 to 2005 the top one tenth of 1 percent (0.001 percent) — 300,000 people — got more than 180 million people combined.[ii] In 2009, while workers were still being laid off in huge numbers, executives at the top 38 largest companies "earned" a total of \$140 billion.[iii]

These numbers are just one reflection of the vast income inequality between the bankers, brokers, and corporate exploiters on the one hand and the mass of the people on the other. This has become a scandal, but no one made a move to do anything about it. So the Occupy Wall Street movement began its struggle in the name of the 99% versus the 1%. And it caught on like wildfire.

Since the fundamental moving force of the movement is the struggle against obscene income inequality, Marxists must give support to and participate fully in the struggle. But Marxism must also address this question and give it a class interpretation.

One can begin by asking the question: What does it mean to fight against obscene inequality of wealth?

It certainly means fighting to tax the rich and using the money to help the workers and the oppressed survive the economic hardships of capitalism. It means fighting for jobs. After all, being unemployed makes a worker about as unequal as you can get under capitalism.

Equality within the working class
and inequality between classes

Usually, when we think of fighting for economic equality, we think of the struggle for affirmative action in employment for Black, Latino/a, Asian and Native peoples. The fight for equality entails fighting for equal wages and working conditions with whites.

It also involves fighting for equal pay for equal work for women workers — i.e., for women to get the same pay as men for comparable work.

And the fight for equality includes the struggle to ensure economic equality for lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and queer workers with straight workers.

Demanding equality for immigrant and undocumented workers with workers born in the U.S., especially with white workers, is an essential ingredient in building solidarity and advancing the class struggle of all workers.

Indeed, the struggle for economic equality within our class and between the oppressed and the oppressors is fundamental to building solidarity against the bosses. Inequality and division within the working class is both an economic problem and a dangerous political problem. It breaks solidarity and strengthens the bosses and their government.

But the problem of gross economic inequality in capitalist society is not fundamentally a problem of inequality within our class or between the middle class and the working class. The fundamental problem of massive inequality is inequality between the capitalist ruling class and all other classes, but primarily the multinational working class.

The inequality between the working class and the capitalist class is built into the system and is at the root of the question. So-called "excessive" inequality between the ruling class and the rest of society is constantly under attack, as it should be. But the general inequality between the ruling class and all other classes is taken for granted as a given and rarely questioned.

Inequality built into capitalism

That is because of the way income is distributed under the profit system. The income of the capitalist class comes from the unpaid labor of the workers in the form of profit, or surplus value. Everything created by the workers belongs to the bosses. And everything created by the workers contains unpaid labor time in it. The bosses sell goods and services and get the money for the unpaid labor time of the workers — that is, profit. They keep part of it for themselves and become rich. The other part they reinvest so that they can get richer in the next cycle of production and selling.

The income of the workers, on the other hand, comes from the sale of their labor power to a boss, an exploiter. The workers receive wages or salaries from the bosses. The amount is always kept somewhere within the range of what it

takes to survive. Some workers are paid somewhat more than that and can have a degree of comfort. Many workers, more and more these days, get just about enough to live a life of austerity while others barely get enough to survive. Wages under capitalism are basically what it costs a worker to subsist and to keep the family going so that the bosses are assured of the next generation of workers to exploit.

Workers' wages always remain within a narrow range when contrasted with the income of the bosses. No workers can ever get wealthy on wages, no matter how high-paid they are. But the capitalist class as a whole automatically grows richer, even if individual capitalists go out of business or are swallowed up. The bosses continuously reinvest their capital and keep alive the ongoing process of the exploitation of more and more labor.

The bosses leave their personal wealth to their children as well as their capital. Their descendants, as a rule, get richer and richer from generation to generation, while the workers leave their children their meager possessions generation after generation. The workers have to struggle to preserve whatever they can through the ups and downs of capitalist crises and periodic unemployment.

How do you ever achieve social and economic equality under these circumstances?

In this context, for the OWS movement and all others who are for genuine equality, the question arises as to what exactly they are fighting for. If the ultimate goal is to reform the tax code, or to reduce corporate money in politics, or to regulate the predatory capitalist class and the greedy bankers — then the ultimate goal reduces itself down to a fight for a less obscene form of inequality.

That is certainly a progressive goal and should always be pursued as a means of giving relief to the workers and to the mass of the people in general. But no matter how you boil it down, if you limit the fight against inequality to keeping it within the framework of capitalism, then it means fighting to lessen inequality, but also to retain it and allow it. Extreme class inequality is built into the system of class exploitation.

[i] "Census data: Half of U.S. poor or low income," Associated Press, Dec. 15.

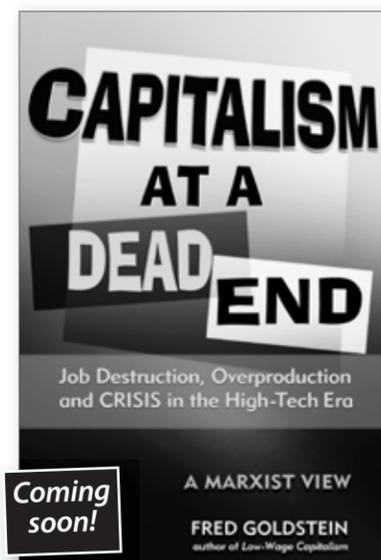
[ii] Jacob S. Hacker and Paul Pierson, "Winner-Take-All Politics" (New York: Simon & Schuster, Kindle Edition, 2010), p. 3.

[iii] Perry L. Weed, "Inequality, the Middle Class & the Fading American Dream," *Economy in Crisis* online, Feb. 12, 2011.

Next, Part 2: How the character of wealth distribution flows from the mode of production, and Control of corporate wealth: The source of extreme personal wealth.

Reprinted from the addendum to the forthcoming book, "Capitalism at a Dead End" by Fred Goldstein. Goldstein is also the author of "Low-Wage Capitalism."

Goldstein's books, articles and talks can be found at lowwagecapitalism.com and on Facebook at lowwagecapitalism.



Imperialist-backed conferences set stage for intervention in Somalia & Syria

By **Abayomi Azikiwe**
Editor, Pan-African News Wire

Back-to-back conferences held Feb. 23-24 to determine the destiny of Somalia and Syria took place outside the respective countries with the full backing of the imperialist states, guaranteeing that these efforts oppose the best interests of the two countries' people.

Somalia has had no legitimately recognized government since 1991. In London, the British government promoted the conference on Somalia as a turning point to purportedly stabilize the country.

Representatives of the U.S.-backed Transitional Federal Government attended the conference. The conference organizers invited no one from al-Shabab, the Islamic resistance movement. The imperialists support outside military forces occupying Somalia that put al-Shabab under siege.

The African Union Mission to Somalia, composed of troops from Uganda, Burundi and Djibouti, is attacking al-Shabab supporters in the capital of Mogadishu. The Ethiopian Defense Forces have launched a major offensive in the central region, taking control of the city of Baidoa.

U.S. drone surveillance and strikes, along with French naval forces and Israeli intelligence, have supported the more than 2,000 troops from the Kenyan Defense Forces that entered Somalia last October to attack supposed al-Shabab bases.

British interests in Somalia

Several reports indicate that Britain is seeking to exploit the emerging oil industry in Puntland — a breakaway region of Somalia — and within existing Somalia.

"Britain is involved in a secret high-stakes dash for oil in Somalia, with the

government offering humanitarian aid and security assistance in the hope of a stake in the beleaguered country's future energy industry. ... away from the public focus ... talks are going on between British officials and Somali counterparts over exploiting oil reserves that have been explored in the arid north-eastern region of the country." (British Observer, Feb. 27)

Abdulkadir Abdi Hashi, the minister for international cooperation in Puntland, said, "We have spoken to a number of UK officials, some have offered to help us with the future management of oil revenues. They will help us build our capacity to maximize future earnings from the oil industry." (Observer, Feb. 27)

Conservative estimates of Somalia's oil reserves put them at 4 billion barrels, worth approximately \$500 billion today. Others estimate up to as much as 10 billion barrels in Puntland alone. The Observer article says that "it is the extent of oil deposits beneath the Indian Ocean" that have a potential "comparable to that of Kuwait, which has more than 100 billion barrels of proven oil reserves. ... If true, this would ... make Somalia the seventh largest oil-rich nation."

In addition to Britain, where BP has expressed an interest, Canada, the U.S. and China are also seeking ways to get involved in the initial onslaught of production.

This is not the first time that imperialist-oriented efforts to shape developments in Somalia have taken place. Previous direct and indirect military interventions in Somalia have failed to stabilize the country in the interest of the West.

In 1992-93, Somalis rose up and resisted the U.S. Marines and the United Nations so-called peacekeepers, forcing them to leave the country. A 2006-2009 invasion and occupation by Ethiopia at the aegis of

the U.S. failed to resolve the internal crises.

The current politico-military situation in Somalia is not caused by the conflict among Somali politicians but by the role of the imperialist states that will stand to benefit the most from the forceful subjugation of the country and the exploitation of oil, waterways and other strategic resources throughout the Horn of Africa region.

U.S. policy in Somalia represents the continuation of the same policies from successive administrations as it relates to the region. "Terrorism" is abstractly used as a justification and rationale for escalating the destabilization of Somalia.

Tunis hosts 'Friends of Syria' conference

On Feb. 24 in the capital of Tunisia, another conference was held under the sponsorship of the so-called "Friends of Syria." This initiative grew out of the failure of the U.S. and other imperialist states to get the U.N. Security Council endorsement for a war against Syria.

Russia and China vetoed the resolution calling for the total isolation of Syria. Both Russia and China refused to recognize the conference in Tunis, which was attended by over 60 nations and numerous opposition groups claiming to represent dissidents in Syria as well as high-ranking officials from the Western states and their Arab allied governments.

The conference was condemned by the Syria government, which called the gathering, the "Enemies of Syria." Several hundred pro-Syrian-government demonstrators attempted to storm the conference, saying that it should not be held inside Tunisia, which is undergoing a political transformation process since January 2011 after a popular uprising toppled dictator Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali.

Ezz Eddine Koutali, the spokesman for

the Tunisian section of the Baath Party, said that the "Friends of Syria" conference was held "under the supervision of American imperialism." He also rejected the Tunisian government's collaboration in this effort and said that U.S. imperialist figures such as Hillary Clinton and John McCain were behind it.

A statement issued by the Russian government said: "The invitations to attend the Tunis meeting were issued to some parts of the opposition, but representatives of the Syrian government were not invited. ... This means that the interests of the majority of the Syrian population, which supports the authorities, will not be represented. We cannot accept the offer to attend this meeting." (Middle East Online, Feb. 21)

Oppose imperialist intervention in Somalia and Syria

Inside the Western capitalist states, it is important for the peace and anti-war movements to protest the current efforts by the imperialists to determine Somalia and Syria's future. The people of Somalia and Syria must be allowed to resolve their own internal conflicts, without imperialist interventions.

In Somalia, the imperialists have regional designs on the Horn of Africa and other areas of the continent. The war against Syria is also directed against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Hezbollah resistance party in Lebanon and the Palestinians.

Also, both destabilization campaigns are directed towards weakening the influence of China and Russia, which have opposed U.S. and British imperialism in Syria and Iran. Both Syria and Somalia will continue to be a focal point for Western intrigue in Africa and the Middle East in the months to come. □

Widespread uprising calls for

U.S. out of Afghanistan

Continued from page 1

whenever I get the chance. I don't care about the job I have." (New York Times, Feb. 24)

Even a bloc of members of the Afghan Parliament, elected in the stifling political climate of a country occupied by foreign troops, "called on Afghans to take up arms against the American military." (New York Times, Feb. 22)

If people who work for the state express these sentiments, what must be the views of ordinary people?

In response to this explosion of anti-U.S. fury, General John R. Allen, overall commander of the U.S. war in Afghanistan, ordered all U.S. military personnel in the country to undergo 10 days of "sensitivity training."

Obama made a weak apology for the Quran burning and said the military commanders would investigate this "accident." This only further enraged the Afghan people, as such apologies after U.S. atrocities have become routine and have led nowhere.

With the killing of the two U.S. officers, Washington and NATO — in the arrogant style that colonial overlords employ at their own peril — immediately withdrew all their civilian and military personnel

from Afghan ministries where they had been calling the shots.

The French and German foreign ministries quickly followed up with announcements that they were "temporarily" withdrawing all their advisers from Afghan government institutions. Just a month earlier, France had said it would withdraw all its forces by the end of 2013, a year earlier than expected. President Nicolas Sarkozy is in a close election race at a time when the French population is overwhelmingly against the war.

Der Spiegel reported Feb. 24 on the closing of a German base in Afghanistan: "Germany's military, the Bundeswehr, reported that thousands of people protested in the area covered by Regional Command North, which is headed up by the Germans. The military reported that protests attracted between 100 and 2,000 people in different cities including Talokan, Maimana, Baglan and Faizabad. In Talokan, 300 protesters gathered in front of the Bundeswehr base. A reporter for German public broadcaster ZDF said protesters attacked the base with stones."

Thousands of Afghans were in the streets all over the country, fighting heavily armed foreign troops with nothing more than sticks and stones. Even after being

fired on, they continued to battle, resulting in the death of several U.S. soldiers.

Latest in long line of atrocities

The burning of the Quran was the last straw after years of vicious war and occupation against the Afghan people. Shepherd boys have been attacked and killed by U.S. planes. U.S. soldiers have made videos showing themselves urinating on the dead bodies of Afghans.

A photo of Marine snipers in Helmand province posing in front of a U.S. flag and a Nazi SS banner turned up on the Internet site of arms manufacturer Knight's Armaments. A news release on the website of the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team referred to their base as Combat Outpost Aryan. (Military Times, Feb. 14)

Clearly, the problem is not just a "few bad apples." The day-to-day work of wielding brute force to subjugate a nation of people fosters the vilest racism and chauvinism, akin to the Nazi "Übermensch" worldview that was cultivated by German imperialism prior to World War II. Then it was the Jewish people who were scapegoated. Today, Muslims are under attack because the imperialists want control over their countries' oil and other valuable resources. It is no wonder

that many of those who resist are rallying to the banner of Islam.

What people in the U.S. should not forget, however, is that in 1978 there was a secular, progressive revolution in Afghanistan that promoted equal rights for women and an end to debt slavery to the landlords. The U.S. government, through the CIA, organized a clandestine army in collaboration with the enemies of that revolution which brought it down, all in the name of fighting "godless Communism."

The only consistent thread in imperialist foreign policy is to protect the profit interests of the ruling U.S. corporations and banks. These capitalists and their military view the world only as a source of superprofits; if the people impede this process they must be pacified or gotten out of the way.

But the Afghan people refuse to be pacified.

There is only one way out: Bring all the troops home now. That's what working people in the U.S. want and need too. Demanding an end to the war in Afghanistan must be brought into every struggle here — for jobs, housing, health care, education, decent wages and all the other rights that have been sacrificed on the altar of profits. □

SEGUNDA PARTE

Las contradicciones en el capitalismo

A continuación se presentan extractos de una charla dada por Richard Kossally, miembro de Workers World Party/ Partido Mundo Obrero durante un foro del mismo en Nueva York el 3 de febrero.

Anarquía está incorporada en la producción capitalista

Es necesario que los capitalistas rebajen el precio del producto con el fin de socavar a sus competidores. Pero al bajar los precios, tienen que producirse y venderse muchos artículos más para que el capitalista pueda mantener o aumentar sus ganancias. Pronto la producción supera el consumo, ya que la competencia eventualmente conlleva a que haya más productos en el mercado que lo que se puede vender obteniendo ganancias.

Si el capitalista tiene más artículos que lo que puede venderse de manera rentable, entonces, las fábricas se cierran y los trabajadores son despedidos dejándolos inactivos y sin ingresos. No pueden comprar los productos que han producido. Entonces hay un estancamiento prolongado hasta que baja la saturación del mercado, el exceso de los productos es fi-



WW PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

Richard Kossally

nalmente vendido, y la producción se recupera. Este estado de sobreproducción es el resultado de lo que nosotros, los comunistas, nos referimos cuando decimos que hay anarquía en la producción.

El capitalista calcula de forma muy precisa la cantidad de materia prima y la maquinaria que son necesarias y cuántos trabajadores hay que explotar con el fin de tener una cantidad dada de producto final; pero no tienen un plan general para satisfacer las necesidades de la sociedad. Sus únicos objetivos son el lucro y la supervivencia.

La competencia que acabó con el modo de producción feudal se ha convertido en competencia entre capitalistas. Esta competencia se intensifica y los más débiles siempre están bajo amenaza de ruina. Ésta, sin embargo, no es el tipo de ruina que los trabajadores enfrentan. Una empresa capitalista puede ser absorbida por una empresa más fuerte o tiene que cerrar e invertir su capital en otro lugar. En cualquier caso, la ruina del capitalista no merece ni una lágrima del trabajador.

El sistema en sí es inestable. Estos capitalistas que compiten entre sí, están impulsados por una ley fundamental del capitalismo — expandir o morir. En un momento de estancamiento prolongado los capitalistas más fuertes absorben a los más débiles. El sufrimiento de los trabajadores se intensifica. Como dice Engels, “A la masa de los trabajadores les falta los medios de subsistencia, ya que han producido demasiado medios de subsistencia”.

La guerra no es uno de los inventos del capitalismo, pero bajo el capitalismo, los instrumentos de guerra se han revolucionado a tal grado que no se hubiera imaginado antes de que la producción fuera socializada. Hoy, un solo dispositivo puede matar a más personas que las que murieron en guerras enteras en los períodos anteriores. Los gobiernos capitalistas no son tímidos a la hora de emplear sus armas. Ellos están en pie de guerra permanentemente.

Capitalismo engendra monopolio

Los capitalistas que sobreviven estas crisis cíclicas y emergen vencedores son menos en número pero más grandes y más fuertes — monstruos que explotan más aún la fuerza de trabajo de los obreros. Así es como la anarquía de la producción en la sociedad capitalista conduce al monopolio. Hoy en día, la clase capitalista, a través de unos cientos de bancos, corporaciones y otras instituciones, controla el comercio a nivel mundial.

En búsqueda de mercados y recursos, los capitalistas han demostrado que harían cualquier cosa. Como en las palabras de un famoso Señor Dunning citado por Marx, “Asegúresele un 10 por 100 y acudirá a donde sea; un 20 por 100, y se sentirá ya animado; con un 50 por 100, positivamente temerario; al 100 por 100, es capaz de saltar por encima de todas las leyes humanas; el 300 por 100, y no hay crimen a que no se arriesgue, aunque arrostre el patíbulo”.

En estos días, sin embargo, la horca o cualquier otro castigo es poco probable para el capitalista. Después de todo, es su sistema y, como tal, está diseñado para servirles. El rápido avance de la capacidad productiva del mundo con los medios de producción principalmente en las manos de la clase capitalista ha concentrado tanta riqueza en manos de los capitalistas que ya es una obscenidad.

El capitalismo era una dialéctica inevitable en la evolución de la sociedad humana. Los anteriores sistemas sociales se desarrollaron lentamente. El capitalismo ha desarrollado los medios de producción muy rápidamente, pero en un tiempo relativamente corto ha sobrepasado la utilidad que algún día tuvo. El capitalismo no puede absorber las masas desempleadas de trabajadores. Ha llegado a un punto donde ahora hay una nueva situación: Vivimos en la era de la recuperación sin empleos.

Las contradicciones fundamentales de la producción capitalista dan lugar a otras graves contradicciones. Estas contradicciones del capitalismo son inherentes al propio sistema: La competencia capitalista conduce inevitablemente a la crisis. Estas contradicciones no pueden ser eliminadas dentro de los límites del sistema capitalista. Se presentan de forma independiente, fuera de la voluntad y el control de los propios capitalistas.

Sistema irracional crea sus propios sepultureros

El capitalismo no es un sistema racional. Los capitalistas no tienen ninguna función necesaria en la sociedad actual y son responsables de casi todos los problemas de la sociedad. Las atrocidades cometidas contra el planeta en su búsqueda desenfrenada de riquezas son alucinantes. La búsqueda de petróleo y gas natural, sin un estudio previo o medidas de precaución contra los posibles riesgos es una de las más perjudiciales. El mismo aire que respiramos y el agua que bebemos, dos de los elementos esenciales que sustentan la vida, han sido envenenados por los capitalistas. Es una contradicción increíble que la competencia capitalista los haga tan temerarios que puedan causar una reducción en la calidad del agua que bebemos y el aire que respiramos.

Mi contradicción favorita de este terrible sistema es la siguiente: Al revolucionar incesantemente los medios de producción, la comunicación y el comercio, los capitalistas han creado un proletariado mundial masivo. Esta clase, nuestra clase, será su perdición. Ellos han creado sus propios sepultureros. La tarea histórica del proletariado es la abolición del capitalismo y la construcción del socialismo.

Si pensamos racionalmente, el aumento en la productividad del trabajo no debería crear miseria para los productores, ni la productividad debería conducir a la escasez. La abundancia no debería ser fuente de angustia y de miseria. Sin embargo, mientras el producto social de la clase obrera sea robado por la clase capitalista, la sociedad no podrá avanzar de manera significativa.

Ningún país hasta ahora ha logrado aún el objetivo del socialismo, pero los que lo han intentado, y los que aspiran a la construcción socialista de la sociedad tienen más que comprobado que una economía planificada es lo que los pueblos del mundo necesitan. Una importante lección aprendida por el intento de tomar el poder del estado por la Comuna de París en 1871, es que el capitalista debe ser erradicado. Tiene que haber un cambio revolucionario y no ha habido una revolución sin un partido revolucionario. ¡Bienvenidos a Workers World/Mundo Obrero! □

LIBERTAD POR LOS CINCO CUBANS



Agenda la fecha del 17 al 21 de Abril:

5 Días por los 5 Cubanos en Washington D.C.

En este año crucial para los 5 Patriotas Cubanos necesitamos incrementar las acciones en la misma capital de los Estados Unidos. El Comité Internacional por la Libertad de los 5 hace un llamado a todas las organizaciones solidarias y amigos dentro de los EEUU y en el mundo para apoyar la realización de “5 Días de acciones consecutivas por los 5”.

Las jornadas de denuncia y solidaridad se llevarán a cabo del 17 al 21 de Abril en Washington D.C.

Entre ellas destacamos:

- Evento público con la participación de personalidades de EEUU y otros países;
- Lobby y entrega de información a miembros del Congreso y el Senado de los EEUU;
- Muestra de documentales en universidades y espacios públicos;
- Contacto con los medios de comunicación;
- Reunión con grupos religiosos de diferentes denominaciones; y
- Mesas con información y actividades culturales.

Paralelamente se colocarán miles de carteles “Obama Give me Five” en puntos claves de la ciudad y se publicarán anuncios en distintos medios.

Participe y apoye estas acciones para dar a conocer el caso de los 5 cubanos

Diferentes formas de participar y apoyar las acciones de 5 días por los 5 Cubanos:

- Endosar las acciones enviando el nombre de su organización a info@thecuban5.org;
- Participar en las acciones de Washington DC;
- Enviar una donación

Muy pronto enviaremos la información detallada sobre cada actividad.

Comite Internacional por la Libertad de los 5 Cubanos

Mesa Consultiva del Comite Internacional

Para informacion actualizada visite: www.thecuban5.org