Specter of Iraq haunts Bush trip
Would-be world emperor forced to tone down rhetoric

By Deirdre Griswold

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

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

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

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

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

A colossus with feet of clay?
In some ways, Bush might seem at the height of his power. His party managed, by hook or by crook, to get him elected to a second term. The voting in Iraq that he promised would usher in a period of stability and “nation-building” has taken place. The loyal “opposition” at home, the Democrats, endorsed his Iraq and Afghan wars, as well as the Patriot Act, the creation of an expensive new police agency—the Department of Homeland Security, and of an “intelligence czar” to have authority over 15
FL S T leader pays tribute to Malcolm X

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Both Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. were working, unemployed, straight, trans, disabled, and old, lesbian, gay, bi, women and men, young Arab and Native peoples, and also traveled to Europe to speak with the youth there.

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

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

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

Ossie Davis said it best in his eulogy of Malcolm X: “In honoring him, we honor the best in ourselves.” So in the undying spirit of Malcolm X, let’s keep up the struggle!
The crucial importance of linking the anti-war and anti-racist movements was the theme of all-day conference held here on Feb. 19 that drew a standing-room-only crowd despite a day of severe thunderstorms and floods, part of the unseasonable weather plaguing southern California.

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

The rallying cry of the day-long conference was unity and the merging of numerous struggles represented by a wide range of speakers: John Parker, West Coast coordinator of the IAC, commenced the program by calling for solidarity because, “With war affecting everyone, we stand in the fight against war, U.S. imperialism and racism.”

Parker prompted audience members to join the movement by building community and labor activists who are trying to save the King/Drew Medical Center are planning a caravan, with a sound system, that will travel from the hospital in South Los Angeles to an anti-war rally on March 19 in Hollywood, called by ANSWER, the Fitzgerald Law, a representative of U.S. Congressman Maxine Waters, addresses the campaign of deception being waged against the Kings/Drew Medical Center by the media and administrators who are intent on reversing the gains won by the Black community in the 1960s.

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

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

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

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

Zahi Duman, national co-founder of Al-Awda, represented the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people against the U.S.-sponsored Israeli war of occupation. Duman spoke about the current situation in Palestine and called for solidarity.

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

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

Thomas announced that no cargo would be loaded at the port of Oakland on March 19. Thomas also addressed criticisms by people in the movement and from other quarters about his support for Haiti’s former Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry. “When people accused us of creat- ing fissures with our Million Worker March, I would say, ‘Those fissures were already present,’” commented Thomas.

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

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


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

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

The day’s conference came to a close with a showing of Aleida Guevara’s documen- tary, “Chavez, Venezuela and the New Latin American Revolution.”

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

Can economic draft be far behind war budget?

By David Hoskins

Bush’s proposed 2006 budget has a $4.5 trillion price tag. The cost of this budget places the country in record $427 billion deficit. (“Budget Analysis,” AP, May 11). A budget of this size could easily provide for a reorientation of the econ- omy to insure universal womb-to-tomb healthcare and education along with mas- sive investments in infrastructure and job programs.

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

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

The Bush war budget has already elimi- nated 360,000 students from Pell Grants and another 700,000 students from after- school programs. Bush has declared a vir- tual war on students at home as he seeks an additional 11 percent increase in military spending to sustain the war of occupa- tion in Iraq.

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

With nine out of 10 Army divisions cur- rently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan and the military falling far short of recruit- ment goals, the ruling class is forced to find new ways to sustain its overseas mil- itary presence.

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

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

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

On March 31, the Selective Service System will report to George W. Bush that it is able to implement the draft within 75 days of congressional approval. (“America Reads for Draft,” NewsMax, June 25, 2004) The renewal of military conscrip- tion would be an ominous sign that the current government will not be deterred in its push for foreign conquest, regardless of the consequences.

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

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

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

Bring FIST, SNAFU to your school!

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

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

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

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

Teachers, parents and youth: You can arrange for speakers to come to your school or your child’s school. Contact SNAFU and FIST at (212) 639-6646.
By Cheryl LaBash
Detroit

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

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

The current board is the unelected remnant of a take-over board installed five years ago by the Black community overwhelmingly demanded and won its right to elect its school board. How can this rejected body overrule the students, community, unions and parent-teacher organizations who want to keep their schools open?

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

A “deficit elimination plan” proposes to reduce Detroit school spending by more than $950 million over the next five years, with the closing of 60 to 75 additional schools. According to the Detroit Public Schools website (www.detroit.k12.mi.us), the plan includes eliminating 4,000 jobs. The plan claims to adjust for an anticipated 25.2-percent decline in revenues and a drop in student enrollment from 140,000 to 100,000 by 2008/2009.

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

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

In a new twist, the money will be handled by African American business owner and former basketball player Dave Bing. His participation is a play to make the plan more palatable to the majority African American community, which highly values educational opportunities and has so far resisted the charter school movement.

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

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

According to “Cuba: Beyond Our Dreams,” a book published as a manual for Confederation of Cuban Workers (CTC) union organizers, Cuba manages “975 schools with 10 or fewer students, 656 with 20 students, and one single school with only one student.” Every child has a school. Classes have no more than 20 students in elementary grades and 15 in secondary school.

What if the Detroit school decision-making process was turned on its head? Instead of starting from the budget, start from the need for quality education and solve the problems to achieve that goal. Every one of the 34 schools now slated to be closed could be kept open and put into full use. Turning the DPS budget deficit into a surplus only takes two days of the $4.9-billion-a-month Iraq war budget.


By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Springfield, Mass.

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

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

According to Greer, principal of Robert M. Hughes Academy Charter School, he was viciously beaten by the cops when he drove his car into a South End gas station during a week earlier. A witness called police after he failed to rouse Greer, who had lapsed into the early stages of a diabetic seizure. When the cops arrived, according to multiple eyewitnesses, they smashed Greer’s window, dragged him through it and beat him unconscious on the pavement. Greer said he repeatedly attempted to tell the cops about his medical condition, but the four cops accused him of being “on drugs.”

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

Only two of the cops have long track records of racist, terrorist activity in the Black and other oppressed communities. Jeffrey Asher was suspended from the police force for a year in 1997 after a videotape showing him kicking an African American man was broadcast on local television. James Shewchuck, another cop involved in the Greer beating, has been accused of organizing a “welcome back” party for the cop who shot and killed Ben Schoolfield, an unarmed Black youth, during a traffic stop in 1994. Although Schoolfield’s family, after years of litigation, won some minimal monetary compensation due to a civil suit, all the cops involved were let off.

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

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

Resistance

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

“We have breathed the cries of our community, and it is our business to speak up so the truth can come forward,” said Cofield. A probable-cause finding by the commission would force a public hearing. If the commission’s investigation renders a lack of probable cause, the complaint will be dropped.

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

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

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

In the progressive communities in Western Massachusetts there’s a dawning awareness that the anti-war movement must connect the U.S. war in Iraq with the torture, the killing, the occupations of oppressed communities in the U.S.

A central component of these struggles must be anti-racism, especially in the struggle to free the oppressed peoples from the prison-industrial complex, which affects the oppressed communities most directly. Nick Camerota contributed to this report.
**1970:** Reviving the Fighting Spirit of IWD

By Minnie Bruce Pratt

I t’s March 7, 1970. A militant crowd of more than 6,000 women and male supporters are surrounding the Women's House of Detention in Greenwich Village, chanting “Free our sisters! Free ourselves!”

Women prisoners win the windows from the shouted, “Power to the people!”

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

The crowd yelled, “Women, let’s unite and fight!”

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

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

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

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

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

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

The arrest of three YAWF women at the protest led to the formation of a Women’s Bail Fund. To show solidarity with their sisters in prison, the group raised money to help other women get out of jail and back on their feet financially.

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

Red roots!

IWD, traditionally held on March 8, began in 1808 as a day of action organized by socialist women in the U.S. A male misconception about IWD is that it began simply as a strike by women garment and textile workers in New York City, instead of in 1807 or in 1908. However, research by feminist historian Temma Kaplan shows that this explanation is erroneous, and perhaps arose in an attempt to separate IWD from its communist origins. Although there were strikes by women shirtwaist workers during those years, they were not related to the establishment of an International Women’s Day. (Feminist Studies, Spring 1989, 163-171)

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

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

The next year, the American Socialist Party initiated an annual “woman’s day.”


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

Kollontai described IWD as “a day of international solidarity in the fight for common objectives and a day for reviewing the organized struggle of working women under the banner of socialism.” (Encyclopedia of Marxism, marxists.org)

The fiery power of working women in class struggle erupted on International Women’s Day in 1917 in an event that culminated in the first of two revolutions that year. In St. Petersburg (later Petrograd), in an IWD walk-out, thousands of women needle-trade workers marched through the streets, chanting their demand for “Peace, bread and land!” As working-class men joined them, the Peasant Shopkeepers’ Union of 1905, and the spark of revolution lit that day led first to the overthrow of the czar and a class struggle that culminated nine months later in a communist revolution in Russia.

**Reviving IWD as a day of struggle**

Spanish women demonstrated against the fascist forces of Gen. Francisco Franco to mark International Women’s Day in 1937. And Italian women observed IWD in 1945 with militant protests against fascist dictator Benito Mussolini sending their sons to die in World War II. (WILPF Newsletter, findarticles.com)

But in the U.S., during the Cold War witch-hunts of the McCarthy era, IWD demonstrations in the streets ended. By the 1990s, IWD celebrations were mainly small, in-door commemorative meetings.

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

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**Women’s brains & ‘myths of gender’**

By Leslie Feinberg

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

Why? he broods. He is six years old.

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

Clearly, he’s trying to talk to a scientist about this matter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Most of these differences that are cited about the brain—first of all there is no idea what they mean in terms of function—but most of them aren’t present in newborns, in little kids. They develop during childhood and into adulthood.”

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

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

Who’s being subjective?

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

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Iran defiant despite U.S. threats

By Sako Sefiani

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

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

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

The small, unmanned planes, penetrating Iran's airspace from U.S. military facilities in Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, China, and in both Iraq wars. “By coaxing the Iranians to turn on their radar and防空 systems, including the frequencies they are operating on, the range of their radar and how they perform, what we can call ‘the radar lie,’ said Thomas Keane, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and executive director of the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins University.

After a briefing by their air force three weeks ago, Iran's national security officials ordered their forces not to turn on the radar or come into contact with the drones in any way. “Our decision was: Don't engage,” an Iranian official said. Leaving the radar off deprives U.S. forces of vital information about the country's air defenses, which is needed for better planning. The officials added that the Bush administration is partially built underground, making an air attack difficult.

Iran warned it would both retaliate and accelerate its drive to master nuclear technology if the United States or Israel attacked its atomic facilities. (Reuters, Feb. 13)

Iran’s nuclear technology is in the hands of its scientists and workhorses throughout the country. All of them have the ability to produce centrifuges. Therefore, America will not be able to destroy our nuclear facilities and mine them with a small drill, he said.

The broadcast said Iran had begun a new round of nuclear talks with the Europeans in Geneva. This new round of talks comes in response to Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

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

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Assassination of former Lebanese prime minister

Who stands to gain, who to lose?

By Joyce Chediac

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

Who was Rafik Hariri? He was the richest man in Lebanon, worth $4 billion, and the prime minister on and off since 1992. Hariri's corporation, Solidere, re-built downtown Beirut. This city was reduced to rubble by 19 years of civil war and 1982 Israeli invasion. Under Hariri's watch, international banks returned to Beirut and the tourist industry revived. After his assassination, foreign investors are considering pulling back and rich Gulf state tourists are wondering if they are safe in Beirut.

While Hariri had disagreements with Syria at the time of his death, according to Dawn/The Guardian News Service of the UK, "Hariri was not fundamentally opposed to the Syrian presence in Lebanon. Indeed, he was a key architect of the agreements that formalized and legitimized Syria's hegemony." (Feb. 19)

The forces in Lebanon now demanding that Syria withdraw from Lebanon have the very worst education system in the middle east, which is the worst for the age of 5, 80 percent of them from preventable diseases, one of the worst rates in the world. Only 25 percent of the population has access to clean drinking water, and one in eight children die from lack of clean water." (New York Times, Feb. 22)

What is Hezbollah?

Hezbollah, or Party of God, is a revolutionary organization based in Lebanon's Shia community, the largest and poorest community in Lebanon. Hezbollah gained international press coverage in 2006, and throughout the Arab world for leading popular Lebanese militias to victory against Israel in 2000, ending Israel's 22-year occupation of South Lebanon. Syria and Iran are Hezbollah's main international supporters. Hezbollah receives material support from Iran via Syria. Hezbollah, feared by Lebanon's pro-imperialist forces, is being watched closely in Washington. In an article entitled "Lebanese wary of a rising Hezbollah," the Dec. 19 Washington Post said that Hezbollah virtually runs its own government in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah is armed and has drone planes. It has a television station, runs schools and hospitals, and provides jobs and social services. Hezbollah has begun expanding into other areas of Lebanon.

Hariri governed Lebanon by rewarding his friends with lucrative contracts and tax breaks and charging others with illegal and corrupt activities. While a quarter of the people of Lebanon live below the poverty line, Hariri cut social services and public sector wages. (BBC News, Feb. 22)

In marked contrast, Hezbollah is known for its clean and fair government, says the Post, which calls Hezbollah's agenda "populist." Explaining that it is filling a public need left by the Lebanese government's inability to provide sufficient health care for the region, Hezbollah is expanding its 50-hospital network into northern Lebanon. Hezbollah does not just service the Shiite community. For instance, last year, its hospital in the northeastern town of Jezzine treated 5,000 Lebanese of all denominations.

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

Lebanon is a tiny country of only 4 million people, but its strategic location makes it important to imperialism. Will the Bush administration permit Hezbollah to continue to grow in influence, or will the Pentagon or the Israeli military intervene yet again in Lebanon? Two U.S. invasions, in 1982 and 2006, both in Lebanon. The 1982 Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon left tens of thousands dead.

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

Women suffer most of all

Afghan desperation grows

under U.S. occupation

By Deirdre Griswold

John McCain led a bipartisan group of U.S. senators to Afghanistan in February, where he told the world media that they "had come to congratulate the Afghan people for the progress made since U.S.-led forces overthrew the Taliban in late 2001." (Reuters, Feb. 18)

Bad timing.

On the very same day that McCain, Hillary Clinton, Russ Feingold and two other senators were giving the Bush administration's occupation of Afghanistan their stamp of approval, the United Nations released a report titled, "Liberation and Development Index. The report, which compares conditions in 178 developing countries, showed that Afghanistan ranks six out of 178 countries.

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

The report concluded that Afghanistan has the very worst education system in the world, and one of the worst adult literacy rates in the world. "Most glaring are the inequalities that affect women and children, still some of the worst social indicators in the world today, said Altair Mckechnie, country director of the World Bank, which financed the report along with the Canadians and the United Nations. One woman dies from pregnancy-related causes about every 30 minutes, and maternal mortality rates are 60 times higher than in industrialized countries, the report said.

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

Afghanistan, Feb. 16.

What was behind decades of war?

Apologists for the U.S. will point to the decades of war in Afghanistan as responsible for its deplorable state, and urge that the U.S.-invaded country be left alone.

Hamid Karzai be given a chance. But this argument leaves out a crucial factor: U.S. imperialism, including both Democratic and Republican administrations, is responsible for these decades of war.

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

Because the revolutionary government was led by leftists, the U.S. within months began covertly organizing an armed opposition. The CIA spent billions creating an armed force out of various landlord militias, many of them extreme religious fundamentalists. That was the period when Osama bin Laden, among others, worked with the CIA in attempting to overthrow the government led by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. Anabita Ratebaha, one of the leaders of that party, had founded the first women's rights organization in the country. Afghan women were set way back when the progressive government was finally overthrown, but Washington was gleeful. It had drawn the USSR into the conflict—Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, Zbigniew Brzezinski, later bragged about it—and that had helped weaken the Soviet Union.

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

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

Like Iraq, Afghanistan can only begin to make real progress when it is free of imperialist intervention and occupation.
Brussels protest: 'Bush is not welcome!'

By John Catalinotto
Brussels, Belgium

“Bush is not welcome!” was the message here on Feb. 20-22 from the Belgian peace movement, progressive groups and a good portion of the population. U.S. President George W. Bush arrived here the evening of Feb. 20 to try to mend the relations with his imperialist ally in Western Europe that he had shattered unilaterally launching the war on Iraq in 2003.

How much he offered to the European working class, youth and students.

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

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

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

A representative of the Troops Out Now Coalition in the U.S. told protesters about plans for demonstrations there on March 15 and of the growing resistance among U.S. citizens participating in the occupation of Iraq.

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

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

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

Coordinated local protests are expected throughout Germany on Feb. 22. The following day, when Bush meets German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in Mainz, thousands are expected to be there from all over the country — in another city under police siege.
'Imperialism cannot stop history!' Packed event builds stronger ties with Venezuela

By Rebecca Toledo

New York

A standing-room-only crowd of several hundred people attended an historic event here on Feb. 11. The activity was organized by the Alberto Lovera Bolivarian Circle, Fuerza de la Revolución, International Action Center, Cuban Solidarity N.Y. and others. It was held at the 1109 Health and Hospital Workers’ hall.

The event brought together many different movements for an evening in solidarity with the Bolivarian Revolution of Venezuela. It was dedicated to the memory of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration to eradicate poverty. The Bolivarian government under President Hugo Chávez in 1999 started to change the laws and the structure of the government and declared that it was responsible for the basic rights of the people—housing, education, healthcare, jobs, women’s rights and Indigenous rights.” The social indicators in 2000 and 2001 quickly started to show a decrease in poverty in the country.

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

Instead of giving in to the tremendous pressure the Bolivarian government turned to developing social programs that would raise the standard of living of the people. “Mission Robinson has brought health services to 80 thousand living in less than a year. Mission Barrio Adentro has brought healthcare to the most excluded. Mission Zamora has begun to distribute land to the peasants. Credits have been made available and the peasants have begun to be organized into cooperatives.”

"U.S. is destabilizing force"

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

"Political will finds a way"

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

In December 2004, Venezuela and Cuba signed a broad range of accords, including the Bolivarian Alternative for Latin America (ALBA), a direct response to the U.S.’s Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Requeijo explained, “ALBA is based on the integrative, complementary use of resources. Some of the things we are trying to do are to end customs tariffs between the two countries, develop industries both in Cuba and Venezuela and we trade in kind or in other currencies. We do not have to rely on the U.S. dollar for anything.”

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

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

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

Chance to see a revolution in the making

This year’s world youth festival to be in Venezuela

By Julie Fry

Chicago

Caracas, Venezuela, has been designated as the host city for this year’s 16th World Festival of Youth and Students, which is to take place in August. The festival, which has been a traditional gathering for young people since 1948, usually draws thousands of youth and students from more than 50 countries. The slogan for this year’s festival is “For peace and solidarity—we stand against imperialism and war.” Therefore, it is fitting that the festival is taking place this year in Venezuela—a country whose people are standing so strong against imperialism and the U.S.-backed right-wing forces. Now youth and more still being organized.

Committees in more than 20 cities already are preparing to take part in this year’s festival. The Preparatory Committee for the Festival in Venezuela is working on organizing more than 40 youth and student organizations from across the country. They represent a range of struggles—from farm worker organizers to anti-imperialist activists. There are Local Organizing Committees in more than 20 cities already and more still being organized. The 14th World Youth Festival, held eight years ago in Havana, Cuba, drew more than 800 delegates from the U.S.—the largest U.S. delegation to date. Many of those youth wanted to see the revolutionary process in Cuba for themselves and show their solidarity with the Cuban people.

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

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

People interested in participating can contact usnpe@riseup.net.
Specter of Iraq

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

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

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

This focus is coupled in the media with exposés on the use of crystal methamphetamine in the gay community, which lowers inhibitions. As usual with discussions on community drug abuse, the social factors that contribute to that abuse, such as poverty and discrimination, are ignored. Is this the same false idea that crystal meth is itself an epidemic that is rampant through the country, and every state is vacating rural as well as urban areas.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration’s proposed 2006 budget calls for cuts to the tune of $4 million to AIDS prevention and surveillance programs. A $388-million increase is earmarked for “abstinence-only” programs that have been proven to increase the likelihood of unsafe sex.

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

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

This is the “morality” for which the Bush administration congratulates itself. The real culprit for the spread of the pandemic is the capitalist system of private ownership, exploitation and greed that makes a planned, global effort to slash the world’s reservoir of human, financial and material—so difficult.

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

Los Angeles

Koreans demand repeal of National Security Law

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

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

On January 31, at least nine Korean protestors began a vigorous campaign to repeal the NSL has been waged in South Korea by a coalition of over 500 civil organizations and popular movements, including the National Alliance for Democracy & Reunification of Korea, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, the Korean Peasants League, People’s Solidarity for Participatory Democracy and the Korea Truth Commission. Even the South Korean government’s own Human Rights Commission has recommended the repeal of the NSL.

The law is especially anachronistic now that the two halves of the Korean peninsula are engaged in a process of dialogue and exchanges long prohibited. While government officials and business figures from the South regularly visit the North, private citizens can still be arrested for appearing in front of their families.

Social Security, here in the U.S. has been a casualty of the more general benefits being cut. It is hard to imagine a more repressive state than South Korea’s National Security Law...
Continued from page 5

Many women, of all nationalities, were increasingly inspired by the power of a people’s fight—the Black civil rights and anti-war movements, La Raza and the American Indian Movement. The women’s liberation movement emerged out of the confluence of these great mass movements. And many women began to study Marxism and communist history, as well as the Vietnamese women “holding up half the sky,” armed and fighting in a communist-led war for national liberation.

In 1970, Laura X wrote an article calling for a renewal of IAWD after watching Paulovskij’s 1929 Soviet film, “The End of St. Petersburg,” which highlighted the 1917 women workers’ demonstration on IWD. The next year she joined with members of Berkeley Women’s Liberation to organize an IWD street demonstration, which she believed to be the first such in the U.S. since 1947.

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

The YAWF revival of celebrating IWD as a women’s liberation holiday that year arose from bi-weekly meetings of the group’s Women’s Caucus. YAWF women combined theory with practice. They created a working paper called “The Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State.” But they studied other writings, including works by Zetkin, Kollontai and VI Lenin, that chronicled the revolutionary communist origins of IWD.

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

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

Professor Zibakalam of Tehran University’s political science department said that “if the United States or Israel attack on the Syrian government, and nothing is knowable. If I thought that, I don’t agree that science is all subjective science. And that’s simply true in any walk of life, whether it’s science or whether you’re figuring out whether to put boots on your kid when you send them out the door. You have to make conclusions about the world and how it’s working in order to put one foot in front of the other.”

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

“The problem is—well, there’re many other points. One other point I want to make, which is there’s huge overlaps. Between any two individuals. And the really interesting thing is that brains can be easily grouped as “female” or “male”. And that’s the way you’re defining your group. And that’s the way you’re defining your category. And that’s the way you’re defining your science questions they’re going to ask is going to be based on that theory. And so the question is: Is that the right way to do this? And is the right question to begin with?”

“Some come in with these social definitions which are often nothing more than stereotypes, and if you use those and call that science then your science is going to be constrained by that initial definition.”

“The same, but by analogy, to race. If you were to do the same for one another, you would have that battle about teaching evolution and whether you’re doing it based on chromosomes, on the degree of masculinity or degree of femininity, in terms of male-presenting and female-pre- 

Continued from page 6

Irran defiant despite U.S. threats

Continued from page 6

but sooner or later they will stand up again and wage their battle in whatever form they see fit. If I were in the state they’re in, I would be doing the same thing. And that’s the sort of science questions they’re going to be looking at. If I were in the state those people are in, I would do what they’re doing. And the really interesting thing is that brains can be easily grouped as “female” or “male.” And that’s the way you’re defining your group. And that’s the way you’re defining your science questions they’re going to ask is going to be based on that theory. And so the question is: Is that the right way to do this? And is the right question to begin with?”

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Professor Zibakalam of Tehran University’s political science department said that “if the United States or Israel attack on the Syrian government, and nothing is knowable. If I thought that, I don’t agree that science is all subjective science. And that’s simply true in any walk of life, whether it’s science or whether you’re figuring out whether to put boots on your kid when you send them out the door. You have to make conclusions about the world and how it’s working in order to put one foot in front of the other.”

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“The problem is—well, there’re many other points. One other point I want to make, which is there’s huge overlaps. Between any two individuals. And the really interesting thing is that brains can be easily grouped as “female” or “male”. And that’s the way you’re defining your group. And that’s the way you’re defining your category. And that’s the way you’re defining your science questions they’re going to ask is going to be based on that theory. And so the question is: Is that the right way to do this? And is the right question to begin with?”

“Some come in with these social definitions which are often nothing more than stereotypes, and if you use those and call that science then your science is going to be constrained by that initial definition. And the same, but by analogy, to race. If you were to do the same for one another, you would have that battle about teaching evolution and whether you’re doing it based on chromosomes, on the degree of masculinity or degree of femininity, in terms of male-presenting and female-pre-
El Nuevo Ejército Popular reconoce el derecho a casarse a parejas del mismo sexo

El 4 de febrero, el Nuevo Ejército Popular (NEP) celebró la primera boda de parejas del mismo sexo. Los dos gue-
rilleros, Ka Andrés y Ka José, camaron que han participado en la lucha armada contra el régimen pro-estadounidense de Maliki, afirmaron que protegieron a las matrimonias del mismo sexo. El comité general del NEP demandó al gobierno filipino que legalice el matrimonio de personas del mismo sexo.

La boda incorporó imágenes simbólicas del compromiso de los dos camaradas hacia el otro, y también de su compromiso a la lucha revolucionaria. Los dos hombres se tomaron de manos durante la boda, y en la otra mano cada uno llevaba una bala como signo de su compromiso con la lucha armada.

La Organización Progresista de Homosexuales (Pro Gay) respaldó a la boda NEP con un reto a la administración de la Presidenta Gloria Macapagal Arroyo a que apruebe una ley que defina matrimoniales como matrimonios de personas del mismo sexo.

La meta de esta farsa era la de establecer que los cuadros homosexuales se adhieren a una ciencia más fuerte con la ayuda de sus camaradas y de las masas.