Refuse to scab at American Axle

Rehired workers join picket lines

By Bryan G. Pfeifer
Detroit

During the fifth week of the American Axle strike, company President Dick Dauch escalated tensions in an attempt to crush the strike. But striking workers and their allies are courageously fighting back as the strike enters its sixth week.

About 3,600 workers at five American Axle plants in Michigan and New York have been on strike since Feb. 26, based on an unfair labor practice. The UAW says the company refuses to open its books. American Axle wants to cut the workers’ pay in half, eliminate pensions and gut benefits—despite the fact that the company made $37 million in profits in 2007. Dauch himself made $10.2 million last year while the workers make on average about $45,000-$50,000 before taxes.

A total of 30 GM factories, including a transmission plant in Ohio that closed March 31, have been fully or partly shut down, with more than 40,000 workers now on layoff. About 80 percent of American Axle’s products are sold to GM.

If American Axle gets its way it will be a mighty blow to the working class generally. This strike is a class-wide battle which includes about 70 laid-off workers and the local’s leadership. In the March 27 edition of the Detroit Free Press, Dauch said: “We have the flexibility to source all of our business to other locations around the world, and we have the right to do so. ... If we cannot compete for new contracts in the U.S., there will be no work in the original plants.”

American Axle then announced that it was recalling more than 400 laid-off workers at the five plants on strike in Detroit, Hamtramck and Three Rivers, Mich., as well as in Tonawanda and Cheektowaga, N.Y. These workers were told to report for work March 30.

In a blatant attempt to demoralize, bludgeon and starve the workers into submission, American Axle was forcing these workers to risk losing unemployment benefits. But it failed miserably as the workers organized to fight back.

‘Union staying strong’ despite scab ads

On March 30, the workers, with union reps, walked in, reported for work and walked right back out to the picket lines, where most had been anyway since the strike began. They were welcomed to the multinational picket lines with rousing chants and applause, then went to register for their $200-a-week strike benefits at their respective union halls.

“This is solidarity and it’s empowering. It’s important that the union stay strong,” declared Mario Bynum, a UAW Local 262 member, while joining the picket lines at the Hamtramck plant. He had just marched from his union hall with the local’s leadership and about 60 laid-off workers. A contingent from Local 235 included about 70 laid-off workers and the local’s leadership.

“This is touching. All of our union sisters and brothers working together,” said Harry Jemkort of Local 262 who also joined the picket line.

Continued on page 4
NEW YORK CITY

Homelessness is up

By G. Dunkel

The number of homeless people in New York City rose by nearly 6 percent in 2007, according to a March 27 report by the Coalition for the Homeless. The figures from the Department of Homeless Services indicate that the increase is being driven by families who will continue in 2008.

In the city's Fiscal Year 2007, which runs from July 2006 to June 2007, 102,187 different New Yorkers slept in homeless shelters—a 5.8 percent increase from FY 2006 and a 2.4 percent increase since FY 2002.

The last residence of a majority of the people in the shelter system was northern Manhattan, central Brooklyn or lower Manhattan. The department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is busy evicting your neighbors, relatives, friends and may-be you from your home—you is holding its annual policy conference in Washington D.C. on April 16 & 17. Their main goal is to make sure that bankers continue to get bailed out while families get hosed out!

If you're getting evicted under the threat of foreclosures, or are about to lose your home because of the housing crisis, you are not alone. About 50 percent of the homeless families in shelters have either a formal or informal eviction in their recent history, according to a Vera Institute study.

Homelessness is a nationwide problem; according to some estimates, 750,000 people are homeless in the whole country, with Los Angeles County having 73,000 people living on the street. Service providers in St. Petersburg, Fla.; Seattle; Baltimore; and the District of Columbia told the Inter Press Service March 8 that they had noticed a sharp increase in homelessness. But hard figures and even trends are hard to come by.

If you're not already a member of the Ad Hoc National Network to Stop Foreclosures and Evictions, now is the time to join. The network has chapters across the country and is working to stop the tide of foreclosures and evictions.

The network is also working to stop the housing policy conference in Washington D.C. on April 16. We're calling on politicians to take action on these issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples:

- affordable rent
- housing rights
- Black and white, Latino, Asian and Native peoples
- women, men, young and old
- lesbian, gay, straight, transgender, workers, unemploying and unemployed.

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

New York City

**The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA)**—the biggest national lobby of the all banks, including the criminal predatory lenders that are causing the existing your neighbors, relatives, friends and may-be you from your home—is holding its annual policy conference in Washington D.C. on April 16 & 17. Their main goal is to make sure that bankers continue to get bailed out while families get hosed out!

If you're getting evicted under the threat of foreclosures, or are about to lose your home because of the housing crisis, you are not alone. About 50 percent of the homeless families in shelters have either a formal or informal eviction in their recent history, according to a Vera Institute study.

Homelessness is a nationwide problem; according to some estimates, 750,000 people are homeless in the whole country, with Los Angeles County having 73,000 people living on the street. Service providers in St. Petersburg, Fla.; Seattle; Baltimore; and the District of Columbia told the Inter Press Service March 8 that they had noticed a sharp increase in homelessness. But hard figures and even trends are hard to come by.

If you're not already a member of the Ad Hoc National Network to Stop Foreclosures and Evictions, now is the time to join. The network has chapters across the country and is working to stop the tide of foreclosures and evictions.

The network is also working to stop the housing policy conference in Washington D.C. on April 16. We're calling on politicians to take action on these issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples:

- affordable rent
- housing rights
- Black and white, Latino, Asian and Native peoples
- women, men, young and old
- lesbian, gay, straight, transgender, workers, unemploying and unemployed.

If you would like to know more about what we do or to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.
Ruling of the 3rd circuit court

Another Mumia exception

Continued from page 1

ruled over both the 1982 trial and a 1995 appeals

However, the appeals court said that Abu-Jamal, who has been on death row in

Baton Rouge since 1980, deserves a new sentencing hear-

As recently as March 19, Judge John

Abu-Jamal, who has been on death row

for the first time there has been dis-

and he did not provide the court with evi-

sent from a judge involved,” referring to

Highly questionable manner to dismiss

they are selected. They also ignored evidence

pool’s ethnic composition, evidence that

sent from a judge involved,” referring to

the court’s rejection of the “Batson” claim

of International Concerned Family and

At a March 31 press conference outside the

Emergency protests: ‘Free Mumia!’

By Monica Moorehead

Emergency protests took place in a num-

in Philadelphia to demand freedom

Mumia supporter at Philadelphia


emergency protests

FRP, Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqin,

Mumia, like Jimmy are serving life sentences for their

in the Black liberation movement.
The protest was organized by the Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-

Members of the San Diego Mumia Coalition gathered at a busy central city

intersection at Friday evening rush hour to draw community attention to the 3rd

Circuit Court’s decision and to Mumia’s continuing struggle for justice.

In Houston, the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement called an emer-

gency protest in front of Harris County Courthouse. Harris County has sent more

people to death row than any county in the U.S. and has executed more than 100

people. Activists from National Black United Front, the Harris County Green Party and

the Anarchist Black Cross organized and spoke at a rally.

Contributors to this article are Judy Greenup, Bob McCubbin, Anne

Praden and Gloria Rabac-L

Rev. Wright, Obama & freedom of speech

By Chris Silvera

Secretary-Treasurer, International

Brotherhood of Teamsters

Local 808

Dear America:

Why are we judging Barack Obama by the words of another man?

Rev. Jeremiah Wright served his country honorably as a U.S. Marine. As

such, he has earned enough rights under the Constitution of these United States of

America to vote for any and everything that results from the Civil War and the Spanish-American

War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Afghanistan and Iraq.

But Senator McCain has to renounce Farrakhan and denounce Pat Robertson to be

legal.

What frailty does white America

Sen. McCain and Clinton? Have they ever said anything inflammatory or controversial that we should know about?

Should those candidates be held account-

able for what their pastors have said? Are

those candidates even identified with any

specific church? Should McCain have to renounce and denounce Pat Robertson and Wright, why there is no call for McCain to renounce and denounce inflammationary

teachers who support him?

What frailty does white America

Continued on page 10

But Senator McCain has to renounce his mother and her words regarding

Mormons? Have we analyzed the past
ten years of sermons by the pastors of Sens. McCain and Clinton? Have they ever

said anything inflammatory or controversial that we should know about?

Should those candidates be held account-

able for what their pastors have said? Are

those candidates even identified with any

specific church? Should McCain have to renounce and denounce Pat Robertson and Wright, why there is no call for McCain to renounce and denounce inflammationary

teachers who support him?

What frailty does white America
Rehired workers join picket lines

Continued from page 1

On March 29 the company ran ads in newspapers and online soliciting scabs in Detroit. Three Rivers and Buffalo. The ad read in part, “Employment offered to appli-
cants responding to this advertisement will be to fill antiquated attrition replacement openings after negotiations or in place of employees involved in this strike.”

This effort to criminally take the jobs that belong to the strikers, their loved ones and the communities was also met by resistance from the ranks. Early on March 30 picket lines began to swell, as the striking workers and their allies attempted to stop the scabs from coming into the plant.

Management scabs are now operating various machines and trucks are being used to exit the plant. A signi-

ificant amount of management in the auto industry, including at parts suppliers like American Axle, are former UAW mem-

bers, many still receiving a pension from the union.

During the past few weeks, a couple of trucks have hit strikers upon exiting the plant but no trucks have been arrested for this crime, although the strikers are often harassed by the cops. Cars with Ontario plates are coming into the plant as well. Are management scabs now coming in from GM plants elsewhere to engage in production?

What’s this new militancy of the UAW transportation the more than 40,000 work-

ers now unemployed due to the bosses’ greed, and tens of thousands more at oth-

er workplaces to Detroit, to surround the plant and enact a “nothing moves” policy?

What about uniting this mighty force with labor-community-student organizations? Can solidarity committee—built and led by the rank and file—build a coalition to swiftly win the strike?

Solidarity growing internationally

The Coalition for Economic Justice in Buffalo helped organize a solidarity “walk with the strikers” action in Cheektowaga, N.Y., March 29. Machinists at the struck plants outside Buffalo have refused to cross the picket line as well.

On April 18 a demonstration at Hart Plaza in Detroit, sponsored by the UAW and other trade unions, attracted striking workers.

For more information: 313-926-5312 or www.uawaam.org.

End donations and support resolutions to UAW Local 253, 2140 Holbrook Ave., Hamtramck, MI 48212; 313-871-1190; adrianrking@hotmail.com or billal-
ford74@yahoo.com.

American Axle is in good company. During the past few weeks, a couple of trucks have hit strikers upon exiting the plant but no trucks have been arrested for this crime, although the strikers are often harassed by the cops. Cars with Ontario plates are coming into the plant as well. Are management scabs now coming in from GM plants elsewhere to engage in production?

What’s this new militancy of the UAW transportation the more than 40,000 work-

ers now unemployed due to the bosses’ greed, and tens of thousands more at oth-

er workplaces to Detroit, to surround the plant and enact a “nothing moves” policy?

What about uniting this mighty force with labor-community-student organizations? Can solidarity committee—built and led by the rank and file—build a coalition to swiftly win the strike?

Solidarity growing internationally

The Coalition for Economic Justice in Buffalo helped organize a solidarity “walk with the strikers” action in Cheektowaga, N.Y., March 29. Machinists at the struck plants outside Buffalo have refused to cross the picket line as well.

On March 28, the May 1st Coalition for Immigrant and Worker Rights held a news conference to announce plans for May Day 2008. The media event took place in front of the ICE detention center downtown Detroit and was covered by several news agencies including NY1. The conference made the front page of El Diario newspaper.

The news conference was co-sponsored by Silvia Henriquez, executive director of National Latino Institute for Reproductive Health, speaking on behalf of the National Coalition for Immigrant Women’s Rights, Joao Brando, commu-

nity organizer, Centro Asamblea and Brazilian immigrant rights groups, Walter Sinche, Ecuadorian Immigrant Rights Group Pachamama, Marina Diaz, Movement of Guatemalans in EEUU and Centro Guatemaltecos en los EEUU, Yancy Mark Garduno, Matt Chiries representatives of MACHON, National Filipino Concerns; Comrade Shahid, Pakistan USA Freedom Forum; and Teresa Gutierrez of the May 1st Coalition.

The MetroTimes, who covered the press conference but failed, The May Day rally will take place May 1st at 4 p.m. in Union Square. Organizers report that mobilizing efforts are going very well.

All of these current and historical attacks on unions are documented unashamedly on the NAM’s Web site, but there is one partic-
ularly sordid chapter left out. In 1924 both unions involved in the Devil’s Workshop or in the Industrial Workers of the World were expelled from the American Federation of Labor, not for their opposition to the Free Trade Agreement with Canada, but for their opposition to the 20th Amendment denounced as “Bolshevistic,” the outlandish claim was made that it was “a revolutionary transfor-

mation of the traditional relationship and respect between the federal government and the primary control of parents over the training and occupa-
tion of their children.”

With the help of Roman Catholic clergy the amendment failed in Massachusetts. NAM then turned its eyes on Minnesota. Ally Uriah Briggs of the Minnesota Citizen Alliance insisted that “Ninety-

time nine out of a hundred, the boy who has not learned to work before he is eight-

teen years old increases the idlers and street corner loafers, thieves and other criminals, and goes straight to prostitution.”

With the help of Roman Catholic clergy the amendment failed in Massachusetts. NAM then turned its eyes on Minnesota. Ally Uriah Briggs of the Minnesota Citizen Alliance insisted that “Ninety-nine out of a hundred, the boy who has not learned to work before he is eighteen years old increases the idlers and street corner loafers, thieves and other criminals, and goes straight to prostitution.”

With the help of Roman Catholic clergy the amendment failed in Massachusetts. NAM then turned its eyes on Minnesota. Ally Uriah Briggs of the Minnesota Citizen Alliance insisted that “Ninety-nine out of a hundred, the boy who has not learned to work before he is eighteen years old increases the idlers and street corner loafers, thieves and other criminals, and goes straight to prostitution.”

With the help of Roman Catholic clergy the amendment failed in Massachusetts. NAM then turned its eyes on Minnesota. Ally Uriah Briggs of the Minnesota Citizen Alliance insisted that “Ninety-nine out of a hundred, the boy who has not learned to work before he is eighteen years old increases the idlers and street corner loafers, thieves and other criminals, and goes straight to prostitution.”

With the help of Roman Catholic clergy the amendment failed in Massachusetts. NAM then turned its eyes on Minnesota. Ally Uriah Briggs of the Minnesota Citizen Alliance insisted that “Ninety-nine out of a hundred, the boy who has not learned to work before he is eighteen years old increases the idlers and street corner loafers, thieves and other criminals, and goes straight to prostitution.”

With the help of Roman Catholic clergy the amendment failed in Massachusetts. NAM then turned its eyes on Minnesota. Ally Uriah Briggs of the Minnesota Citizen Alliance insisted that “Ninety-nine out of a hundred, the boy who has not learned to work before he is eighteen years old increases the idlers and street corner loafers, thieves and other criminals, and goes straight to prostitution.”
on May Day, and with the San Francisco letter carriers who will act in solidarity with the ILWU. The resolution also urged members "to wear a button, ribbon, badge or some symbol of protest of the war on May Day."

On March 24, the San Francisco Labor Council joined in solidarity with the longshore workers and S.F. letter carriers. In addition, the resolution "encourages other unions to follow ILWU’s call for a ‘No Peace, No Work, Holiday’ or other labor actions on May Day to express their opposition to the U.S. wars and occupations in the Middle East."

NYCCLAW condemns Israeli attack on Gaza

On March 23, New York City Labor Against War issued a precedent-setting statement of international solidarity. It joined the Congress of South African Trade Unions in denouncing Israel’s recent massacres in Gaza that killed at least 40 people and called for the AFL-CIO and Change to Win for backing U.S. support for Israel and U.S. Labor Against War the War for remaining silent. In addition, the statement included three demands: an end to U.S. military and economic support for Israel, divestment of U.S. business and labor investments in Israel, and withdrawal of U.S. and allied forces from the Middle East.

Student Labor Action Week

Spanning Cesar Chavez’s birthday on March 31 and the April 4 date when Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, March 28 through April 4 has been designated Student Labor Action Week. Students on campuses in 28 states are taking a variety of creative actions to demand living wages for all campus employees, university employees, and other industries that support that workers’ rights both on campus and overseas, development of “green jobs” that support workers in communities and promote a healthy environment, access to higher education for all, and fair wages and working conditions for those who grow food and grow the rest of our food.

Coca Cola, Nestle and Chiquita Brands, in conjunction with the Steelworkers, to pursue little action. As a result of their determination to bring into the hurricane-ravaged areas

Nurses staged strike in the Bay Area

On March 25, more than 4,000 registered nurses at eight Bay Area hospitals began a 10-day strike against Sutter Health. The members of the California Nurses Association are striking over serious problems with patient care, medical redlining and health care for nurses. This is the third time that nurses have struck Sutter Health Facilities. The main reason for the 10-day walkout is the safety risks the nurses see in the hospital’s schedule of RNs to care for patients when nurses are on legally mandated meal and rest breaks. The CNA is also concerned about Sutter’s failure to make legally mandated meal and rest breaks.

In a courageous action that made international news on March 6, some 100 guest workers from India walked off their jobs at a farm in central Mississippi, shipyard, charging they were being treated as modern-day slaves. Recruited largely from Mombai (Bombay) in India to work as computer literati and welders in Mississippi and Texas, the workers say they were promised “green cards” or permanent residency in the U.S. for themselves and their families as well as decent wages and working conditions.

Instead, after paying $15,000-20,000 to be brought into the U.S., they were given 10-month H2B guest worker visas, confined in a labor camp, housed 24 people to a trailer, forced to pay over $1,000 for their housing and food, threatened with deportation if they complained, and had their legal documents withheld from them.

The story of the striking workers with their signs declaring “I Am A Man” and “Dignity,” evoking the demands of the Memphis sanitation workers’ strike, supported by Dr. Martin Luther King some 40 years ago, were printed in newspapers around the world.

Coca Cola, Nestle and Chiquita Brands, in conjunction with the Steelworkers, to pursue little action. As a result of their determination to bring into the hurricane-ravaged areas

Indian workers protest ‘modern slavery’

On March 27, the workers crowded into the Indian Embassy where for three hours they passionately pressed Ambassador Sen to advocate on their behalf. While Sen offered little in the way of concrete action to correct the inhumane treatment practiced under the cover of this government-sanctioned program, the workers once again had reason to be proud of their strong stand for dignity.

During the remainder of their stay in D.C., they planned to hold public rallies and events, as well as meet with members of Congress about legislation being pushed by the Bush administration to expand the guest worker program. As a result of their determination to prevent any other worker from enduring such treatment, the Department of Justice has opened a human trafficking investigation into Signal’s use of the H2B program and a class-action lawsuit has also been filed against the company.

Previously, other foreign workers brought into the hurricane-ravaged areas of the Gulf Coast to do cleanup and construction, pick crops and work in hotels have similarly charged that they were lied to and abused under the guest worker program. For more information, go to www.neworleaneworkerjustice.org.

By Dianne Mathiowetz
Atlanta

In a courageous action that made international news on March 6, some 100 guest workers from India walked off their jobs at a farm in central Mississippi, shipyard, charging they were being treated as modern-day slaves.

This “sabayagrab” or truth action began March 18 and took the marchers to several of the cities where historic events in the U.S. civil rights movement took place.

For more information, go to www.neworleaneworkerjustice.org.
Four generations of women speak on important struggles

Workers World Party and the Fight Imperialism, Stand Together (FIST) youth group co-sponsored a March 28 forum, “Which way forward for the women’s movement?” that commemorated International Working Women’s Day in New York City. Ranging in ages from 21 to 82, the speakers included Christina Hilo, Filipinas for Rights and Empowerment (FIRE), Tyneisha Bowens and Leilani Dowell, FIST and WW; and Teresa Gutierrez, Monica Moorehead and Deirdre Griswold, WW secretariat members. Pam Parker, a singer and WW member in the D.C./Baltimore area, performed three songs. Joyce Kanowitz, WW member, recited poetry. Go to www.workers.org to listen to the meeting.

The following are excerpts from the speakers:

Tyneisha Bowens: Young women, the next generation of the women’s movement, are not just taking note of the increasing attacks on our rights as women; we are acting against these attacks. Youth and students are taking up initiatives to create a new women’s movement free of segregation and racism, built-in patriarchy and hetero-normativity and the class divide of what it means to be a woman today.

We are taking lessons from those that fought before us in creating a multinational sexually diverse women’s movement inclusive to the unique needs of women today and based on the elevation of queer women and women of color. We are redefining our sex, genders and sexualities as it is our responsibility to do. We are protecting the right of self-determination for all women in all nations across the world.

Christina Hilo: Filipinas first commemorated International Women’s Day in 1971 at the onset of the dictatorial rule of Ferdinand Marcos. With the establishment of GABRIELA in 1984, women under the alliance continued the militant tradition of commemoration of IWD from then on, recognizing the contribution of millions of working women’s struggles in the past.

Today, Filipino working women carry on the struggle at a time of worsening economic and political crises under the seven-year Macapagal-Arroyo regime—a regime most subservient to U.S. imperialist dictates, most corrupt and tyrannical, and almost equaling the Marcos dictatorship in its fascism. The military’s policy of rape and sexual abuse against women in captivity is indeed raging.

Our 8 March 2008 campaign is the persistence of the historic struggle and victory of the women’s movement as our own contribution to the intensifying struggle of the Filipino people. We will unleash a strong mass struggle of women against dire poverty, corruption and the tyranny of the Arroyo regime.

Teresa Gutierrez: We have so many shereros to look at. In the immigrant struggle comes to mind the case of sister Elvira Arellano, who is one example of many people, many workers, immigrant workers, who are having to spend 1,000 percent of their energy surviving and going to work, taking care of their families, but because of the repression, and because of the exploitation, are thrust into the political struggle and into the movement. It is inspiring to see someone like Elvira or Flor [Cristiñote], on the mother of Amadou Diallo [Kadiatou Diallo], also as examples of women fighting back in terms of immigration and the horrific attacks; someone like Elvira is one of the many examples of the potential that exists in the U.S. right now to organize and to elevate the class struggle. So Elvira, Flor and the mother of Amadou Diallo are all examples of what lies there in the future for us.

First written in 1971, and reprinted twice since then, this booklet gives a Marxist analysis of the role of women in history; love, marriage and monogamy; two lines on women’s liberation; the Bolsheviks and the sexual revolution.

Order from: WW Publishers 55 W. 17th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10011 $4.95 including shipping

Leilani Dowell: As the Party, we would never compare the various levels of oppression that different groups face—people of color vs. women or LGBT people, for example.

However, we do pay particular attention to the intersection of oppression, how women of color face a double oppression; how lesbians of color face an even greater oppression.

The leadership of the broader women’s movement, which has historically been seen as majority white, has not always been correct in its understanding of the intersection of oppressions and its support of those facing the most attacks. For instance, some mainstream groups have been unclear about the fact that abortion is not a right unless all women can afford to have one. Others have completely ignored the forced sterilization that particularly Black and Latina women faced in the 1970s.

More recently, some of the leaders of the women’s movement have made statements along the lines of, “If you don’t support Hillary Clinton, you’re a traitor to women.” How do Black women factor into this? Do you have to choose between being a so-called traitor to your gender, or a traitor to your race? This type of reasoning doesn’t factor in Clinton’s pro-imperialist politics. If you don’t vote for Clinton—who has supported policies that have brought absolute misery to immigrant women, in Iraq, and poor women in the U.S.—somehow you’re a traitor to women.

It’s been said here before and can’t be said enough in this particular, peculiar election year—we must be prepared to condemn any misogynist attacks against Clinton, just as we defend Obama against racist attacks against racists, no matter how we feel about their politics. And every pro-feminist and anti-racist should be thinking about this.

Monica Moorehead: Black and Latina® people are victims in disproportionate numbers of the subprime mortgage loans carried out by predatory loan companies. According to the United for a Fair Economy report, Black people account for close to 55 percent of all high cost mortgages while constituting just over 13 percent of the overall general population.

And within these oppressed communities, women are especially targeted by these companies, including single mothers seeking a better life for themselves and their children. For instance, Black women are five times more likely to end up with a subprime mortgage than white women according to the Consumer Federation of America, a reflection of racism and sexist policies interwoven within capitalism.

Black people were in a housing crisis long before this foreclose scandal erupted, especially with the attacks on public housing made even more acute in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita. But now this crisis affords the opportunity of merging together struggles of those facing the foreclosure of their homes with those facing evictions from the workforce.

Feminism and Marxism

In 1971, Dorothy Ballan, a founding member of Workers World Party, wrote the groundbreaking pamphlet, “Feminism and Marxism,” as the U.S. women’s movement was gaining momentum. Not only did the pamphlet point out the importance of recognizing the special oppression amongst women, but it answered the still-heard, erroneous idea that men are the enemy to women’s liberation. The pamphlet shows that patriarchal oppression was formed after the development of wealth in the form of private property. The following are excerpts from Ballan’s pamphlet read by Leilani Dowell at the March 28
Feminism and Marxism/Class view of women’s oppression

Died of dehydration because they refused

Commited by the Bush Administration to
crushed tortures there. Karpinski in 2006
Janis Karpinski, to blow the cover on how
soldiers. In fact, it took a former general,
tions began.

militant way.

movement in an independent, anti-racist,
tant vehicle for orienting the women’s
organized for April 16. This is an impor-
ting is having on oppressed and working

people fighting for their liberation, who
people and all working and oppressed
en soldiers will realize that it’s the Iraqi
blood relatives, descended through the
was not even understood, let alone deter-

Debbie Shanks worked nights at the
n
$417,000 was put into a trust fund to pay
the accident. Her settlement was $700,000

$417,000 was put into a trust fund to pay

For me, the struggles for reproduc-

at the cen-

deeded with brain damage and memory
trailer in rural Missouri, leaving her coma-
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-
could be at home during the day with her

Boston during this period was a city seeth-
ing with racist, right-wing forces, many of
shippers of political power. After a court ordered busing to desegre-
gate the public schools, racist white mobs
stoned busloads of Black school children

Restore Our Alienated Rights (ROAR),
a neo-fascist, Klan-type organization, was
the main anti-busing group and engaged in
demolished to fight tooth and nail for women’s
and a book that needs to be read far and

Dr. Kenneth Edelin’s story is both
American-African history and women’s

Their renter houses or apartments into a
national movement to win a moratorium
on foreclosures and evictions, a conces-
sion that only came from below in a
united way. And the April 16 demonstra-
tion offers a wonderful opportunity to
spark this kind of united fightback against
these greedy bankers and the politicians in
Congress whose pockets the bankers line.
In light of the devastating impact that
the crisis with foreclosures and public hous-
ing is having on ordinary working people,
a women’s contingent should be
included in an independent, anti-racist,
militant way.

Wal-Mart greed knows no bounds

By Kathy Durkin

April 1, Wal-Mart dropped its
claim against the Shanks due to public
outcry and threats of boycott.

Capitalist greed knows no limits, as
the Shanks family found out.

Debbie Shanks worked nights at the
Wal-Mart in Cape Girardeau, Mo., so she
could be at home during the day with her
three children. She stocked shelves for
low wages.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a tractor-

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.

In 2000, Shanks’ life turned upside
down. Her minivan was hit by a truck.
CULTURAL GENOCIDE: In Tibet or New Orleans?

By Larry Hales

The Dalai Lama claims that China is committing “cultural genocide” against the Tibetan people, and his claims and new events unfolding in Tibet are regional capital of Lhasa have captured a great deal of attention in the major media outlets around the world.

The “cause” of Tibet and the accusation of “cultural genocide” are not new. “Free Tibet” bumper stickers can often be seen at peace rallies, and it would seem that the case of Tibet is a real national liberation struggle of an oppressed people struggling for their freedom from an imperialist or colonizer.

However, the issue of Tibet has been foisted upon some sectors of the movement in the U.S. in order to weaken China. The relationship between the U.S., with its aim to undermine the gains of the Chinese revolution, and the Dalai Lama and his clique is an old one and goes all the way back to the CIA manufactured “uprising” of 1959. It is greatly ironic that the corporate media in the U.S., which operate as mouthpieces for the owners and rulers of U.S. society, can use the Dalai Lama’s demands to undermine Chinese society, especially considering that the U.S. has committed genocide against Indigenous people and cut the ethnic/tribal ties to Africa of 40 million Black people.

At a 2002 talk sponsored by the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, Barry Sautman pointed out: “The problems of Tibetans are typical of minorities in the era of large modern states.” Sautman is an associate professor of Political Science at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. (www.international.ucla.edu)

Sautman argues that, though Chinese culture has naturally influenced Tibetan culture, “By not defining cultural genocide the Tibetan exiles can label any changes from their own culture as cultural genocide, although many of these changes could be expected to have occurred without the issue of cultural genocide arising.”

Sautman refutes the claim that Tibet has been flooded by Chinese migration by showing data that are not denied even by the U.S., which show that most Chinese that go to Tibet usually stay for only a few years and that many who claim to live in Tibet only claim to do so in order to receive their pension. Western culture has infiltrated Tibet as well, as it has many other societies around the world, but this is rarely looked upon as “cultural genocide,” or even as cultural imperialism.

The Dalai Lama is a separator, connect ed to the old feudal relations that existed in Tibet before 1959, and his claims that Tibetan society was a free and open society where people lived harmoniously is a misrepresentation of history.

Historian Michael Parenti, in a piece titled “Friendly Feudalism: The Tibet Myth,” states: “Until 1959, when the Dalai Lama last presided over Tibet, most of the arable land was still organized into manorial estates worked by serfs. These estates were owned by two social groups; the rich landlords and the rich theocratic lamas. ...”

“Old Tibet has been misrepresented by some Western admirers as ‘a nation that required no police force because its people voluntarily observed the laws of karma.’ In fact, it had a professional army, albeit a small one, that served mainly as a gendarmerie for the landlords to keep order, protect their property, and hunt down run-away serfs.” (www.michaelparenti.org)

It is the destruction of the old mode of production and property relations that angers the separatist movement that surrounds the Dalai Lama. The U.S. cares nothing about Buddhism, Tibetan monks or Tibetan culture, so it never mentions how the culture has been preserved, or that Tibetan has been a part of China for centuries.

Jin Zhigui, chief editor of the magazine China’s Tibet, says that the Dalai Lama and those that support him use the fact that people are increasingly interested in Tibetan culture to influence attitudes by crying “cultural genocide.” But what culture would there be to spark anyone’s interest if it were being wiped out and the process of “cultural genocide” was nearing its fifth decade?

Jin says, “With the continuous social progress and the advancement of productivity, it’s a natural thing for cultural phenomena that are attached to relatively backward means of production to fade out of history. But the cultural activities closely connected with the salt-transporting, such as singing and dancing, rituals and taboos, have been preserved.”

“We needn’t have to keep black slavery in the United States just in order to enjoy the Blues,” he said. “The disappearance of salt-transporting by yaks won’t lead to the vanishing of the cultural elements it gave birth to.” He points out the millions of yuan, Chinese currency, that have been and are being spent to maintain both the intangible and structural parts of Tibetan culture.

This attempt at cultural preservation is greatly different than what happens in the U.S. The Hurricane Katrina tragedy and aftermath provide a clear illumination.

“The roots run deep in New Orleans” is a popular saying amongst Black New Orleanians. New Orleans is sacred ground, but this has not stopped local, state and federal officials from denying the right to return for evacuees, destroying public housing and entire neighborhoods, denying the right to jobs and re-imagining and attempting to rebuild the entire city for wealthy whites. Is this not cultural genocide? The capitalist system cares nothing about culture. Capitalism sees culture as a commodity or subterfuge, something to use for profit or to undermine a people. Is this not what has happened to Black culture? Think of hip-hop music, the musical aspect alone, and look at its history and its current state. Where hip-hop music is now from where it was is the difference between self-determination and a people determining their culture, and a system that is perpetuated by exploitation.

Anyone with a scant knowledge of the history of the U.S. can see its hypocrisy when it comes to supporting the Dalai Lama’s “cultural genocide,” and can see the real motive is to undermine the People’s Republic of China.

By LeiLani Dowell

Okinawans protest U.S. military

A March 23 rally in Okinawa, Japan, protested the continued presence of the U.S. military on the island, after the rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl by a U.S. Marine.

The protest cited a series of crimes involving U.S. service members, including the recent murder of a taxi driver in which a man from the U.S. Navy is being questioned.

According to Agence France-Press and XinHua, the protest was organized by local parents’ groups, lawyers, labor unions and women’s rights activists. (March 23) Despite driving rain and wind, about 6,000 people turned out to denounce the U.S. military—making it the largest demonstration against the U.S. military there since 1995, after U.S. service members gang raped a 12-year-old girl.

In the current case, the soldier was handed over from Japanese custody into the hands of U.S. military authorities. Their response was simply to impose a two-week, round-the-clock curfew on U.S. soldiers and relatives at the Okinawa base and two others in Japan. The survivor has started charging U.S. military commanders with sexual misconduct for the coverage of the case—some of which were hidden from the world. This is something that people are increasingly interested in, in that it shows how the culture has been preserved, or that Tibetan has been a part of China for centuries.

Jin says, “With the continuous social progress and the advancement of productivity, it’s a natural thing for cultural phenomena that are attached to relatively backward means of production to fade out of history. But the cultural activities closely connected with the salt-transporting, such as singing and dancing, rituals and taboos, have been preserved.”

“We needn’t have to keep black slavery in the United States just in order to enjoy the Blues,” he said. “The disappearance of salt-transporting by yaks won’t lead to the vanishing of the cultural elements it gave birth to.” He points out the millions of yuan, Chinese currency, that have been and are being spent to maintain both the intangible and structural parts of Tibetan culture.

This attempt at cultural preservation is greatly different than what happens in the U.S. The Hurricane Katrina tragedy and aftermath provide a clear illumination.

“The roots run deep in New Orleans” is a popular saying amongst Black New Orleanians. New Orleans is sacred ground, but this has not stopped local, state and federal officials from denying the right to return for evacuees, destroying public housing and entire neighborhoods, denying the right to jobs and re-imagining and attempting to rebuild the entire city for wealthy whites. Is this not cultural genocide? The capitalist system cares nothing about culture. Capitalism sees culture as a commodity or subterfuge, something to use for profit or to undermine a people. Is this not what has happened to Black culture? Think of hip-hop music, the musical aspect alone, and look at its history and its current state. Where hip-hop music is now from where it was is the difference between self-determination and a people determining their culture, and a system that is perpetuated by exploitation.

Anyone with a scant knowledge of the history of the U.S. can see its hypocrisy when it comes to supporting the Dalai Lama’s “cultural genocide,” and can see the real motive is to undermine the People’s Republic of China.

By LeiLani Dowell

Okinawans protest U.S. military

A March 23 rally in Okinawa, Japan, protested the continued presence of the U.S. military on the island, after the rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl by a U.S. Marine.

The protest cited a series of crimes involving U.S. service members, including the recent murder of a taxi driver in which a man from the U.S. Navy is being questioned.

According to Agence France-Press and XinHua, the protest was organized by local parents’ groups, lawyers, labor unions and women’s rights activists. (March 23) Despite driving rain and wind, about 6,000 people turned out to denounce the U.S. military—making it the largest demonstration against the U.S. military there since 1995, after U.S. service members gang raped a 12-year-old girl.

In the current case, the soldier was handed over from Japanese custody into the hands of U.S. military authorities. Their response was simply to impose a two-week, round-the-clock curfew on U.S. soldiers and relatives at the Okinawa base and two others in Japan. The survivor has started charging U.S. military commanders with sexual misconduct for the After rape of schoolgirl
Cuba, Venezuela govt’s denounce China bashing

By Prensa Latina
Havana

The Cuban government condemned the attempts to organize a politically motivated crusade to undermine the 2008 Olympic Games in the city of Beijing, China, fail this year.

The Cuban National TV News Report published a statement pointing out the Cuban authorities’ opposition to actions aimed at denigrating Chinese democracy.

“A media campaign is being carried out, followed by actions destined to undermine international trust in the capacity of the Chinese government to fulfill its commitments,” the statement said.

The Cuban statement added that “it is evident these disturbances have been prepared and promoted from abroad.”

CONFUSED OF DISTORTING TIBET EVENTS

By Prensa Latina
Havana

Chinese internets (internet activists, tr.) accused CNN and other Western media today of distorting violent actions in Tibet aimed at damaging China’s image.

Internets, according to Xinhua news agency, are using their personal Web sites and chat forums to post pictures of real events in Tibet, which are later cut and edited by CNN and other media.

A picture widely spread shows participants in riots throwing stones and inflammable bottles against a military truck, but in CNN the image is cut, showing only a bunch of people running.

Xinhua reported that it had tried to obtain some comments on this from the CNN office in Beijing, but CNN’s phones were either permanently busy or else nobody answered the calls.

A second way the information is presented also was highlighted by China Daily, which showed how a German daily newspaper published photos of clashes between Nepalese police and youths, presenting them as “a mass anti-China riot.”

The Berlin Morning Post published a photo of a youth of the Han ethnic group—the majority in China—sounding in Lhasa and turned over to a safe place, but daily reporters turned him into “a Tibetan insurgent arrested by the police.”

Some Western media have intentionally omitted mention of the cruelties of the rioters, revealing the media’s hypocrisy when talking of violence and impartiality, said Xinhua.

100,000 teachers fight govt’s attack

By André Levy
Lisbon, Portugal

Public sector workers in Portugal, with teachers in the lead, have opened an impressive fightback struggle against a government attack that threatens both public services and the workers themselves. Following dozens of protests throughout the country, on March 8 some 100,000 of Portugal’s 150,000 teachers marched down one of the main avenues of downtown Lisbon in a massive protest.

Over the last three years, the Portuguese Socialist Party (PS) government of José Sócrates—which is socialist in name only—has carried out a full blown, broad attack on the public services and public service workers. This includes reducing the network of maternity wards and emergency clinics, and introducing public administration changes called “reforms” that have reduced wages and pensions of government workers.

One of the most targeted sectors is that of public schools. The state budget for schools was cut and thousands of schools closed. These closings increase student commutes and strengthen the forces that are leading to a massive depopulation and aging of school buildings.

The government imposed a profound change of school management that erodes the schools’ democratic character. The changes places boards of school committees to the more powerful figure of the school director and broadens school councils (which determine school policies) to include parents and a broader base, placing teachers and other school workers in the minority.

The minister of education, Maria de Luz Rodrigues, has been set on changing the rules so that how much time public school teachers work. By counting only class time, she claims that teachers work a lot less than in other countries. The new rules have cut preparation and student evaluation time. One rule requires that teachers spend more time in school performing administrative duties.

The new career structure creates divisions among regular teachers and so-called “titled” teachers with the purpose of limiting the access to higher-level positions. These positions are now subject to quotas. Even long-term teachers with impeccable evaluations may be unable to reach higher-paying positions.

The minister introduced a new teacher evaluation system in the middle of the school year. Teachers will be evaluated by their colleagues and based on student grades. This creates an incentive to inflate grades and an imbalance between teachers in rich and poor socioeconomic districts. In all, the “reforms” are dictated by administrative and financial priorities, rather than educational and pedagogical aims, aiming to punish teachers and destroy the public schools.

Teachers have not accepted these reforms and have been involved in a continuous mass struggle for more than a year and a half. The government has been inflexible and has attempted to isolate and divide teachers. A massive public relations campaign has characterized teachers as “privileged” public servants and responsible for poor education results. The aim of this campaign is to create a conflict between teachers and other public servants and the general public. Police have harassed unions. Schools have been ordered to keep a record of which teachers take part in the struggle.

But still, teachers have continued their struggle. The massive March 8 “March of Indignation,” had the participation of two-thirds of the professional sector, the most massive protest of any sector in Portugal’s history.

Teachers expressed their indignation at the government’s disrespect and disregard toward teachers and their unions. They waved white handkerchiefs demanding the minister of education resign. They demanded a change in education policies and the renegotiation of the Teacher Career and School Management “reforms.”

Demonstrations and strikes spread across the country to demand an end to the repression and for teachers’ rights. The protesters denounced the government’s harshness toward the professional character and union rights of teachers and for academic freedom and freedom of association. They demanded measures to promote the quality of education and reduce the levels of unemployment and job insecurity that afflict teachers.

Despite the massive turnout and the impressive show of force and unity, the minister of education downplayed the demonstrations and restated his policies. Faced with such stubbornness, teachers have promised to continue their struggle.

André Levy is a correspondent of the weekly newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party.

Venezuela’s Chávez blames U.S. for Tibet unrest

By combined wire services

On March 24, Venezuela’s socialist President Hugo Chávez charged that the United States was behind the violent protests in Tibet. He said the protests were aimed at trying to destabilize China.

“The U.S. imperialists want to divide China. And they’re causing problems there in Tibet,” Chávez said in his speech. “They’re trying to sabotage the Olympics in Beijing, and behind that is the hand of imperialism.”

“Let the world support China to neutralize this plan, which aims to sabotage the Olympics,” he added.

“You see the images of the violence in Tibet. Who is that against? Against China,” Chávez said. “It’s the U.S. empire that wants to weaken China, because China is ris- ing,” Chávez said.

Reuters, which could not just report this news, added a commentary: “Leftists in Latin America see the Tibetan independence movement led by the Dalai Lama as a pro- Washington group of conservative monks.”

Longtime activist sent to federal prison

By Sara Flounders
New York

Ed Lewinson is 78 years old and blind. On April 2 he leaves for the federal prison in Elton, Ohio, to serve a 90-day prison sentence based on his 2007 arrest protesting the School of the Americas (U.S. School of Torture) at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Lewinson is one of a dozen people who were arrested at the SOA Watch protest for crossing the line on to the base. More than 20,000 people participated in this year’s annual November protest. It was Ed’s fourth arrest at the Ft. Benning protests. When offered a lesser lenient sentence, he insisted that all the defendants be treated and sentenced equally.

Although Lewinson is blind from birth he has always been determined to participate fully in political struggles and in all aspects of life. He has been a political activist for almost 60 years and has been arrested numerous times for sit-ins and civil disobedience actions and participated in hundreds of picket lines, demonstrations and rallies.

He is active in political struggles in Newark with Peoples Organization for Progress and N.J. Peace Action. He has been an active volunteer with the International Action Center for 20 years since first attending an event linking war causes and in the 1970s arrested for crossing the base. He is one of a dozen people who were charged with the 2007 SOA Watch protest. He has been active in the early 1980s in sit-ins to desegregate restaurants along the Route 40 Baltimore-Washington corridor. In Brooklyn he participated in actions to desegregate housing, and he was part of the earliest struggles of Local 1199 to organize hospital workers.

In the mass civil disobedience actions to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Lewinson was arrested twice—one in Philadelphia at the Liberty Bell and once in Washington, D.C.

He participated in actions to end the U.S. starvation sanctions against Iraq, including making several difficult trips to Iraq with IAC delegates to take des- perately needed medical supplies there and several trips to Gaza under the banner of Peace and the IAC to break the blockade.

He has also traveled to North Korea. He is an active IAC volunteer in the International Action Center is orga- nizing an April 1 Solidarity Send-Off for Ed Lewinson in New York.
It is now fashionable for ob-su- cious faddists, who claim yes, the workers who have lost their jobs and/or homes may be suffering, but so are the poor bankers and others who invested in high-risk schemes. Why, they have seen millions melt away before their very eyes!

Excuse us for our mean-spiritedness toward the very, very rich, but, to quote Dick Cheney, “So?”

Some statistics have come to light that show how a worker who is really up against it has nothing in common with a bashed banker. They show how very stark, painful and wrenching poverty has become in this country. These statistics have to do with food stamps.

You have to be desperately poor to qualify for food stamps. You have to prove that without them, you’d be more than just hungry—you’d be starving.

Take the income qualifications, for example. If you’re a single person, a gross income of more than $220 a week (a $1,062 a month), you’re not eligible. Can you imagine trying to survive on, say, $200 a week being able to get enough food for their family.

There are lots of people who make even less than that and still are not eli-gible: the undocumented. They can get up at 5 in the morning to line up for a day job, or maybe to clean motel rooms or work in the fields, all for miserable wages. And if those wages are less than $220 a week, as they often are, they’ll get no government help at all. They may be picking the beans others eat, or the strawberries, and not be able to afford enough food for their families.

Another reason to be rejected for food stamps is if you have assets of more than $2,000. Have you saved a little bit in an IRA? Do you have a savings bond put away for those really, really rainy days? Which is why it’s all the more amaz-ing that so many people qualify for food stamps is skyrocketing.

The Congressional Budget Office has just released its projections for the num-ber of people expected to receive food stamps this fiscal year and next—the 2009 fiscal year starting this coming Oct. 1. While 26.5 million got food stamps in fiscal 2007, that figure rose by over 10 million to 37.8 million, and will grow even more, to 28 million, in the next fiscal year. The future figure is expected based on increased unemploy-ment and government spending.

Already, 14 states had seen their food enrollment rise to record num-bers by last December. Top among them is Michigan, once a state with a strong economy and many well-paying union jobs. In every eight people there now receives food stamps—more than twice the number back in 2000.

The rise in poverty, as measured by food stamp eligibility, is not confined to any one region or state. Country. States where the increase was more than 10 percent last year were Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Nevada, North Dakota and Rhode Island. Altogether, 40 states expe-rienced an increase over the previous year.

In New York, the “Empire” state and home to both rich Westchester County and Wall Street, one of every 10 people is on food stamps.

What do people on food stamps receive? The average is about $100 a month worth of groceries. That figure would be much higher if the federal govern-ment hadn’t frozen its allowance for household expenses at 1990 levels.

With prices rising, wages dropping and layoffs everywhere, the country is in a dry, getting government assistance is becoming critical for survival for many millions. But this government of and for the capitalist class is too busy bailin-out the billionaires and waging wars for oil companies’ profits to care about the workers.

In this rich country, poverty is ris-ing rapidly even as there’s an ex cess of everything. Just as during the Great Depression millions of acres of coins from which the capitalists are too busy bailin-out the billionaires and waging wars for oil companies’ profits to care about the workers.

In this rich country, poverty is ris-ing rapidly even as there’s an ex cess of everything. Just as during the Great Depression millions of acres of farmland were left fallow. The White House, the Pentagon, the Department of Defense would never dare to “mar-ry” the entire image of the Democratic Party unless it had received explicit orders from the party hierarchy to do so.

The bourgeoisie used strong-arm meth-ods to brush the liberals aside and thus demonstrated the violence and the futility of imperialist democracy.

If the liberal politicians folded up at the first sign of force by the ruling class, the military youth did not.

In general the Chicago events have shown that the capitalists will always resort to force if popular will stands in the way of their imperialist objectives.

These events have confirmed the Marxist analysis of the state. This revolt to demonstrate the violence and the futility of imperialist democracy.

Rev. Wright, Obama & freedom of speech

believe exists in the hearts and minds of the descendants of enslaved Afnicans that like the rest of the America, we can go to any church, pray to any god to be preached to by anyone; leave church and then ignore everything that was said by the preacher and break the promises we made to God.

For over forty years, our government knowingly and with purpose ignored infiltra-tion and armed black violence. In light of the Tuskegee experiment as it was known, America must understand why we look at the HIV epidemic with the same slurs on African Americans with a raised eyebrow. America should understand why the descendants of Africans see the greatest of all transgressions by the society: enslavement, Jim Crow, Ku Klux Klan, Dred Scott, Plexy, lynchings, police bruta-lity, inferior educational and employ-ment opportunities.

The test of whether we have made racial progress toward equality will be seen through future primaries. We must not allow the most segregated time in America to destroy the legitimate campaign of this African American, Barack Obama. No other candidate/citizen will have their love and patriotism questioned in this manner and overtone. African Americans believe that this is a negative legacy from the period of enslavement. What history suffers America to question the patriotism and loyalty of any Descendant of enslaved Afnicans. Only a Black person would suffer the indignity of being judged by the words of another.

If they have achieved equality, then we will judge Barack Obama solely on his character, his ideas and what we believe he can offer in the rebirth of America; and we will not use the words of one man to characterize the humanity of another; and all the while we continue to die for America.

E-mail the writer at fitzverity@aol.com.

The lessons of Chicago

By Fred Goldstein

Sept. 13, 1968—The violence openly inflicted on liberals and radicals alike at the Chicago Democratic Convention confirms that the U.S. ruling class is entering a new phase in which their reliance upon democracy is too be increasingly abandoned in favor of the use of force. The use of vio-lence against the white population (after centuries against the black) is part of the preparations for stepped-up attacks on the oppressed people around the globe.

All attempts to place the responsibility on the insignificant hired thugs of the bosses is not enough. The Richard Nixon administration is calculated to mask this fundamental shift. Thousands of U.S. troops, tanks, jeeps, and all the other necessities of combat cannot be shifted around the country at the cost of creating great political unrest (to say nothing of the expense) on the say-so of such relatively small radicals as the Radical stogue as Daley. Nor can National Guard troops be called upon by a mayor.

For that matter, the Chicago Police Department would never dare to “mar-ry” the image of the entire Democratic Party unless it had received explicit orders from the party hierarchy to do so.

In short, Mayor Daley was working for the class rule and not they for him, as the picture news is implying why they either condemn or condone “Daley’s handling” of the fascist attack on anti-war protesters in Chicago. Of course, the billonaries did not shift from force to force arbitrarily. It’s just that their bag of tricks is just about empty and their two war candidates are about equally discredited.

In no coincidence that they started clubbing, gassing and breaking heads just at the moment when the “peace” campa-ign of Eugene McCarthy was about to come to an ignominious end.

The rulers who rigged the convention long in advance knew that McCarthy was to be discarded in Chicago. And they also knew that thousands of youths whom the McCarthy campay had kept off the streets would be back on the Chicago streets together with thousands of radical youth who had never fallen for the imperially dirigible McCarthy in the first place.

So the bosses prepared well ahead of time to deal with the anger and indig-nation which was as inevitable as the Humphrey-Nixon race. They decided to give the white youth a taste of the treat-ment hitherto reserved for the Black lib-eration movement.

The bourgeoisie used strong-arm meth-ods to brush the liberals aside and thus demonstrated the violence and the futility of imperialist democracy.

If the liberal politicians folded up at the first sign of force by the ruling class, the military youth did not.

In general the Chicago events have shown that the capitalists will always resort to force if popular will stands in the way of their imperialist objectives.

These events have confirmed the Marxist analysis of the state. This revolt to demonstrate the violence and the futility of imperialist democracy.

If the liberal politicians folded up at the first sign of force by the ruling class, the military youth did not.

In general the Chicago events have shown that the capitalists will always resort to force if popular will stands in the way of their imperialist objectives.

These events have confirmed the Marxist analysis of the state. This revolt to demonstrate the violence and the futility of imperialist democracy.

Despite gov’t repression, mounting deaths, Mexican students fight back fearlessly

Sept. 24–Mexican students fought an all-night battle using bullets, gasoline bombs and barricades made out of buses after riot police fired tear gas blank into a crowd attending an anti-government rally in Mexico City.

More than fifteen students were killed, many more wounded and hundreds arrested, including leaders, as the struggle against the repression of the Diaz Ordaz government entered into its third month.

Student heroism reached new heights as the government sent the army to occupy the huge vocational school complex in the city’s southeast. Army troops and patrol wagons guarded school buildings as the school was put under siege. The National Guard was occupied by the army shock-troops of the Federal Police; student faith not in the police to save democracy.

The latest atrocities against the students began outside the National Polytechnic Institute when several thousand students gathered in the streets for an anti-gov-ernment rally. The police fired into the unarmend crowd. The students, seasoned by two months of battle against the army and the hated Grenadears (Mexico City’s T.V. gang stuff Force), were ready and they answered back.

“For the first time,” read a New York Times dispatch of Sept. 24. “The students, most of them of high school age, used firearms on a large scale...; students fired on police from school buildings and from nearby houses.”

Gasoline bombs were a principal weap-on of the Mexican youth, just like the Black youth of the United States who fired gasoline filled missiles into one of the schools occupied by the army, teenagers were stopping cars and asking for contributions of gasoline. “For the people of Mexico,” the youths implored the motorists.

The students also seized a gasoline tanker truck, according to an Associated Press dispatch of the same day, during what was described as the fiercest fight-ing “since the revolutionary days of the 1920s.” The students hurled the Molotov cocktails at buses commandeered by the Grenadears.
Eyewitness report from Zimbabwe

The Brooklyn-based December 12 Movement issued the following statement titled “West launches pre-emptive propaganda strike to depose presidency of Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe” on March 30 from Harare, Zimbabwe.

D 12’s International Secretariat sent an urgent observer team to Zimbabwe for the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The 8-year Western-led campaign to oust Mugabe’s government, led by President Robert Mugabe and the ZANU-PF Party is quickly escalating. Western media, in particular CNN and the BBC, are banning from reporting in Zimbabwe, but have nevertheless acted as conduits for disinformation reports circulated by Western intelligence sources. 

It is apparent that the United States and Britain's government and the Pentagon argued that the attack was completely the initiative of the Maliki government. According to American New York Times, however, the U.S. forces had all along been pushing Maliki to attack the Mahdi army, which Washington considers too close an ally of Iran. Bush had called the clashes "a defining moment in Iraq." (March 31)

The U.S. was also determined to defend the failed enterprise. Al-Maliki regime's spin was his claim that Iraqi troops were not targetting the Mahdi army, but only "criminal elements" that had taken over Basra. As it is apparent that Al-Maliki was weakened as a result of the failed enterprise, both Al-Maliki and the U.S. Embassy had to publicly thank al-Sadr for declaring the ceasefire.

The U.S. may impose another on a national vote set for October. Even before the fighting, al-Sadr's group was expected to win this vote big.

The attack on the Mahdi Army turned into a small-scale version of the U.S.- Israeli abortive attack on Lebanon in the summer of 2006, when forces led by Hezbollah repelled the powerful Israeli army. An Iraqi Interior Ministry official said that "in the aftermath of the failed assault, the government has dismissed the security forces and 400 police for refusing to fight in the conflict." (New York Times, April 1)

As of the morning of April 1, the media reported that the ceasefire was holding. One Mahdi army official, however, said that al-Sadr's order to prohibit fighting applied to "only" the chars that control Sadr City, he said, the fight goes on. "Maybe our case with the government is over," he said. "But not with the occupiers." (New York Times, April 1)

A defeat for the U.S. occupation

Faced with a military debacle, the U.S. military command argued that the attack was completely the initiative of the Maliki government. According to the Western press, however, the U.S. forces had all along been pushing Maliki to attack the Mahdi army, which Washington considers too close an ally of Iran. Bush had called the clashes "a defining moment in Iraq." (March 31)

The U.S. was also determined to defend the failed enterprise. Al-Maliki regime's spin was his claim that Iraqi troops were not targetting the Mahdi army, but only "criminal elements" that had taken over Basra. As it is apparent that Al-Maliki was weakened as a result of the failed enterprise, both Al-Maliki and the U.S. Embassy had to publicly thank al-Sadr for declaring the ceasefire.

The U.S. may impose another on a national vote set for October. Even before the fighting, al-Sadr's group was expected to win this vote big.

The attack on the Mahdi Army turned into a small-scale version of the U.S.- Israeli abortive attack on Lebanon in the summer of 2006, when forces led by Hezbollah repelled the powerful Israeli army. An Iraqi Interior Ministry official said that "in the aftermath of the failed assault, the government has dismissed the security forces and 400 police for refusing to fight in the conflict." (New York Times, April 1)

As of the morning of April 1, the media reported that the ceasefire was holding. One Mahdi army official, however, said that al-Sadr's order to prohibit fighting applied to "only" the chars that control Sadr City, he said, the fight goes on. "Maybe our case with the government is over," he said. "But not with the occupiers." (New York Times, April 1)

A defeat for the U.S. occupation

Faced with a military debacle, the U.S. military command argued that the attack was completely the initiative of the Maliki government. According to the Western press, however, the U.S. forces had all along been pushing Maliki to attack the Mahdi army, which Washington considers too close an ally of Iran. Bush had called the clashes "a defining moment in Iraq." (March 31)

The U.S. was also determined to defend the failed enterprise. Al-Maliki regime's spin was his claim that Iraqi troops were not targetting the Mahdi army, but only "criminal elements" that had taken over Basra. As it is apparent that Al-Maliki was weakened as a result of the failed enterprise, both Al-Maliki and the U.S. Embassy had to publicly thank al-Sadr for declaring the ceasefire.

The U.S. may impose another on a national vote set for October. Even before the fighting, al-Sadr's group was expected to win this vote big.

The attack on the Mahdi Army turned into a small-scale version of the U.S.- Israeli abortive attack on Lebanon in the summer of 2006, when forces led by Hezbollah repelled the powerful Israeli army. An Iraqi Interior Ministry official said that "in the aftermath of the failed assault, the government has dismissed the security forces and 400 police for refusing to fight in the conflict." (New York Times, April 1)

As of the morning of April 1, the media reported that the ceasefire was holding. One Mahdi army official, however, said that al-Sadr's order to prohibit fighting applied to "only" the chars that control Sadr City, he said, the fight goes on. "Maybe our case with the government is over," he said. "But not with the occupiers." (New York Times, April 1)
Erica Báez y los trabajadores del Silver Star señalan que lo que necesitamos es una lucha masiva que haga avanzar los logros de acabar con el desmantelamiento de las viviendas y de las calles. Solo una lucha masiva puede ver que el daño se desvanecerá sin embargo si una sola conexión se desvanece.

El verdadero culpable no es la administración de Bush sino el propio sistema capitalista, que históricamente se ha aprovechado de la mano de obra inmigrante y el pueblo trabajador. Cuando la economía está en declive se convierten los inmigrantes en chivos expiatorios.

Bill Richardson dijo, “Todos nosotros sabemos que el verdadero culpable (de convertir a inmigrantes en chivos expiatorios) es la política económica desastrosa de la administración de Bush!”

Eso no es toda la verdad. El culpado verdadero no es solamente la administración de Bush, Miren los hechos de la administración de Clinton. Miren la manera en que el Partido Demócrata ha tratado cada cuestión importante para las masas: los ataques sobre la vida y el trabajo, el debate sobre inmigración, la guerra en Irak, entre otras. No ha sido que el Partido Demócrata haya encontrado una solución para un cambio fundamental.

El verdadero culpable no es la administración de Bush sino el propio sistema capitalista, que históricamente se ha aprovechado de la mano de obra inmigrante cuando la ha necesitado. Cuando la economía está en declive se convierten los inmigrantes en chivos expiatorios.