



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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500,000 in D.C. demand: 'Lesbian/gay rights now!'

People with AIDS lead march Crowd cheers Jackson, Chavez

By Leslie Feinberg
Washington

More than half a million marchers — lesbian, gay and straight, led by people with AIDS — jammed Washington, D.C., on Sunday, Oct. 11, to demand human and civil rights and an all-out government-funded effort to meet the AIDS crisis.

In sheer size the demonstration ranked as one of the largest in this country's history. It was the biggest gathering of lesbians and gay men ever. People flowed like a sea through the wide avenues of Washington all day. They came with a purpose — to redefine liberty and justice for all.

Presidential candidate Jesse Jackson and Farmworkers leader Cesar Chavez were among those who spoke in solidarity with the lesbian and gay movement. The demonstration was the high point of a week of militant events, which included a mass "wedding" on Saturday of thousands of lesbian and gay couples that dramatized how gay relationships are denied social and legal recognition.



WW PHOTO: GARY WILSON

GM PACT

New contract disregards plant closing crisis. Struggle for job security more important now. 3

ORTEGA

Nicaragua's president applauded at UN and in New York. 9



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS



LIFE AND DEATH Clarence Brandley wins a new trial in his battle against racist frame-up in Texas. Above, Brandley's mother and supporters. 11

Welcome!

Third World lesbians and gay men played a leading role in building this monumental protest, and their efforts showed in the politics of the demonstration. The morning rally at the Ellipse, organized by the People of Color Caucus, was opened by Indian people, following an old Native tradition that "whose land you're on is the first to speak."

The Paiute, Shoshone, Warm Springs, Pyramid Lake, Wascoe, Yakama, Lakota, Mayan and other nations were represented.

Clyde Hall from the Shoshone-Bannock, Idaho, began this historic day with a traditional welcoming ceremony, then explained that homosexual women and men, as well as the berdache (transvestites), had been respected among Native peoples since ancient times. It was the oppressors who murdered and declared this part of humanity "illegal" and "immoral," said Hall.

Randy Burns of the Pyramid Lake Nation and co-founder of Gay American Indians compared today's AIDS epidemic to the smallpox unleashed against Indian peoples by the U.S. government. "But we survived," he said. "And we will survive."

From Stonewall to Soweto, people fight back

"An end to racism in this country and apartheid in South Africa" was one of the major demands of the demonstration. A message of solidarity was sent to the march by the Women's

Continued on page 5

A governor meets his match

By Vince Copeland
Jersey City, N.J.

October 8 — Gov. Thomas Kean of this state was somewhat frustrated today and slightly short-circuited as the Billion Dollar Housing Coalition addressed him directly and constantly during one appearance here and one in nearby Hoboken, both of them this morning.

Joined by several residents of North Bergen who face eviction from condo conversion, the coalition appeared with about 20 people in Hoboken, where Kean was scheduled to open a Republican campaign headquarters. Standing about 15 feet from the

governor and 28 assorted henchmen and henchwomen, John Jones, chairman of the coalition, asked through a bullhorn:

"Governor Kean, when are you going to start representing the people? When are you going to declare a housing emergency?"

Jones kept talking every minute throughout the governor's address, which was full of inanities about the allegedly wonderful record of his administration.

Kean tried to keep cool and pretend that Jones wasn't there. But if Kean was cool, Jones was even cooler and in fact, unflappable. A cop tried to stop him from talking, but Jones, with one hand in his pocket, a bullhorn in the other hand, asserted his constitutional rights and continued his unnerving (to the governor) series of questions.

Jones persisted in questioning Kean about the latter's position on the suit of the Billion Dollar Housing Coalition. This suit calls on the governor to declare a housing emergency here, where rents have been doubled and tripled just in the last two or three years.

But Kean said nothing about this. In fact he could hardly be heard anyway more than ten feet away because Jones' rapid-fire verbal assault drowned him out. The Republican campaign headquarters was, in fact, almost completely undedicated insofar as the people of Hoboken could hear any gubernatorial words.

One of Kean's more indignant flunkies went to the extreme of blaming the Democrats, whose headquarters were just one block away, for this outrage upon the governor's dignity. But a Democratic spokesperson declared

that "we had nothing to do with it. They do it to us, too!" The housing coalition has protested both parties.

After the Hoboken event, Kean and his two-Cadillac entourage went to School 28 in Jersey City, about two miles away, where a repeat performance was played, this time without sound on either side.

Again the governor spoke, and again he wasn't heard — or heard only by his paid professional audience. And again Jones kept asking him to speak on the issues and answer the questions.

Jones kept speaking until the governor stopped and gave up for the day.



Protester in Hoboken, N.J.

Oct. 24 housing conference set

The Billion Dollar Housing Coalition of Jersey City has called for a convention of "tenants, homeowners and homeless" for Saturday, Oct. 24, to run all day at the Martin Luther King School (#11), 886 Bergen Ave.

The coalition includes a number of community groups and churches as well as the local chapter of the All-Peoples Congress.

"We intend to address all the issues having to do with housing," declared John Jones, chairman of the group, "and make the most militant statement to the legislature and state government that we possibly can."

"The government can change the situation," he said. "The money is there. And the people need it now."

For more information, he added, people should phone (201) 433-2332.

People from India in Jersey march against racism

Special to Workers World
Jersey City

Protesting a racist murder in Hoboken and an almost fatal beating in Jersey City, more than 500 people marched on Oct. 11 from Journal Square here to the Five Corners Library, repeatedly shouting, "We want justice!"

Mostly members of the Indian community here, many of whom are merchants and professionals, they were nearly all first-time demonstrators, moved to such action by the obviously racially motivated attacks against their people.

A gang of white youths in the "Heights" neighborhood of this city seem to be the ones responsible for the attacks.

In spite of the "respectability" of the

protest (which included an address by the Chief of Police), there was a note of desperation and a feeling in favor of self-defense by some of the people, especially the younger ones.

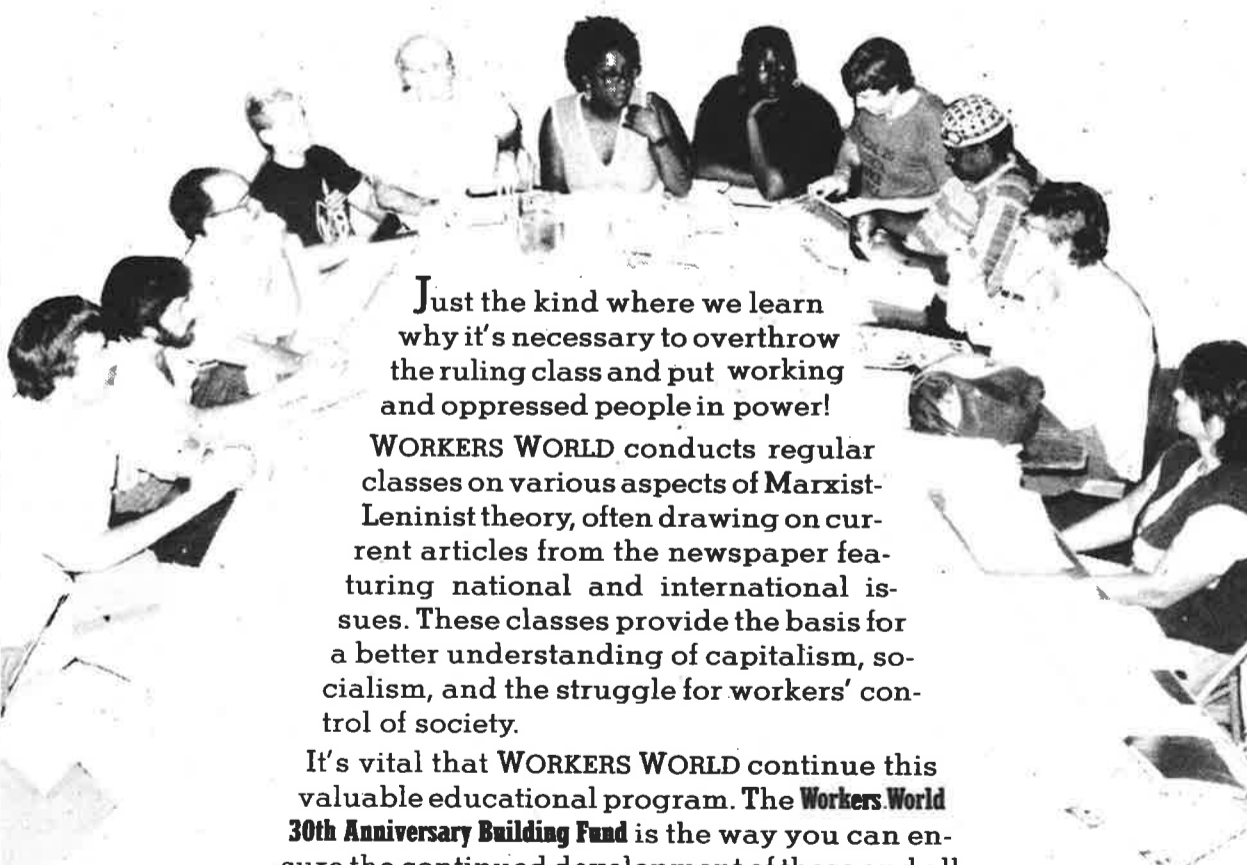
"We are a non-violent people," declared Dr. Lalitha Masson, a gynecologist of this city and president of the Garden State Hindu Culture Association. "But our youths have said they are not going to be passive if the violence doesn't stop. We are not going to stay quiet."

The Indian community leaders appealed to the police rather than to the non-Indian community. But it was noteworthy that a number of progressive people, Black and white, joined the protest.

Several from the U.S. Peace Council

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Do We Need Classes?



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WORKERS WORLD conducts regular classes on various aspects of Marxist-Leninist theory, often drawing on current articles from the newspaper featuring national and international issues. These classes provide the basis for a better understanding of capitalism, socialism, and the struggle for workers' control of society.

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GM settlement disregards plant closing crisis

Struggle to stop layoffs more urgent now

By David Sole
Member UAW Local 15
Detroit

A tentative contract reached between the UAW leadership and General Motors will go before the 350,000-strong membership for a vote by Oct. 25. The agreement represents a serious setback in the fight to stop plant closings.

Without a fight, without even setting a strike deadline, the UAW leadership has agreed to the shutdown of 19 plants and the elimination of up to 50,000 jobs!

While local union leaders have been given 1,700 pages of contract language covering a wide variety of issues, the central question since bargaining began in July has been that of plant closings and job guarantees. Since Nov. 6, 1986, when GM Chairman Roger Smith announced plans to shut 12 plants and idle 29,000 workers, a movement has been growing to demand a moratorium on shutdowns and mass layoffs.

Campaign for moratorium

Rank-and-file committees and local union leaders at the GM plants scheduled to close marched, rallied, passed resolutions and spread the word nationwide for a moratorium. In April hundreds of GM workers forced their way onto the UAW Bargaining Convention floor to press this demand.

Other community, religious and political leaders joined in this campaign, expressing concern that plant closings will devastate the entire community.

Just last month a vigil against plant closings was called by UAW Local 599 president David Yettaw. Over 600 people attended, representing many sections of the Flint community.

This pressure was strong enough to make UAW International President Owen Bieber open contract talks with the demand for "job guarantees" for all current GM workers and 40,000 on indefinite layoff. Hopes were raised on the shop floor for a real fight to draw the line and stop the closings.

Potential for fightback

The potential for a broad fightback was revealed when the UAW published a public survey on the opening day of bargaining. Lauer, Laller and Associates interviewed over 1000 adults. Sixty-one percent agreed that a corporation's top priority should be to provide jobs and help the community.

Only 28% felt a corporation's first responsibility was to make profit. Seventy-two percent said that big business makes too much profit at the expense of the workers and community.

The settlement reached first at the Ford talks was an indication that the UAW leadership was ready to abandon this perspective to fight the closings. While a "moratorium" was included in contract language, it let Ford close two plants scheduled for shutdown.

Business Week magazine reported that some UAW bargainers wanted to hold out for "iron-clad job guarantees." But, according to the article, UAW Vice President Don Ephlin, who is in charge of the GM Department of the UAW, "argued that this approach would put GM in a straitjacket."

The agreement with GM apparently continues the approach of going along with GM's restructuring plans. On Oct. 9, Ephlin praised the proposed GM contract as "a launching pad in our joint efforts to turn around General Motors, to recapture some of the market share and some of the jobs we have lost. Our committee and our staff are all committed to that idea."

That idea, which ratifies the shutdown of 19 plants, can only be a green light to GM to close more plants down the road. The opportunity to draw a line and fight, which could become a rallying point for membership, other unions and the community, has not been taken by these leaders. Their ef-

forts are directed, at most, to cushioning the blow to those who lose their jobs.

Not everyone agrees. At the GM Council meeting of 300 local union leaders held in Chicago on Oct. 12, about one-third of the delegates voted against the proposal, according to Don Douglas, president of UAW Local 594 in Pontiac, Mich. Douglas also protested that no debate or questions were permitted from the floor and the vote was rushed through in a voice vote.

Opposition to contract

Pete Kelly, president of UAW Local 160 in Warren, Mich., opposed the contract. He estimated that one contract provision under which GM would hire one new worker for every two that retired, died or quit, would let GM eliminate 30,000 to 40,000 workers in the next three years. This is in addition to the 50,000 plant closing victims.

UAW Local 15 President Joseph Wilson, whose Fleetwood plant is set to shut down in two months, went on Detroit's TV 7 to oppose the contract. Explaining that the offer plays off workers who will keep their jobs against those who are going to lose theirs, Wilson said "our union is founded on the principle 'An injury to

one is an injury to all.'"

The "A Job is a Right Campaign" which has been organizing nationally to press for a plant closing moratorium has been very active during the GM contract talks. Campaign organizers in many GM plants distributed a special newsletter titled "GM: Public Enemy #1."

Ten thousand of these bulletins went out across the Midwest explaining, "Now is the time to press the demand for a moratorium to stop all GM's plant closings and layoffs! . . . All labor, the unemployed and the communities must be mobilized. . . ."

Meetings of organizers for the "A Job is a Right Campaign" were held in Saginaw, Flint and Detroit last week as details of the contract were released. Campaign organizer Bill Roundtree stated to the press, "Any moratorium that permits 19 plants to close is no moratorium at all. It is unacceptable, not just to the autoworkers, but to all the people of our communities who face economic and social ruin from GM's callous decisions."

"The GM-UAW contract just shows that the autoworkers cannot do it alone. The fight for a moratorium on shutdowns and layoffs must continue in order to force an end to shutdowns by GM and other corporations."

Jackson candidacy draws broad support

Starts campaign with speeches in N. Carolina, Iowa, D.C. and Jay, Maine

By James Lee

The most popular candidate in the country has announced that he is running for president.

At a meeting of the Rainbow Coalition in Raleigh, N.C., on Oct. 10, Jesse Jackson officially announced his candidacy. Jackson is currently the favorite of one-quarter of the voting Democrats, according to nationwide polls.

Jackson first ran in 1984, a campaign that represented a dynamic political and social movement of Black people, especially in the South.

He took note of this continuing movement in his speech to the standing-room-only crowd at the Raleigh Civic Center. He said that Southern voters, especially from the Black community, defeated right-wing senators and representatives in elections in 1984 and 1986.

And this year, following President Reagan's nomination of Robert Bork to sit on the Supreme Court, it was Black opposition that forced Southern senators to cast their nay votes, and, in the words of Jackson, "is the reason

Robert Bork will soon become a trivia question instead of a threat to basic rights."

A clear indication that Jackson's campaign hasn't got the same backing from big business as the other candidates can be found in the Jackson treasury. Jackson has raised just over \$1 million, substantially less than any other of the top contenders for the Democratic Party nomination.

However, that Jackson is the most popular candidate even without a multi-million-dollar advertising budget is a reflection of the strength of the grassroots Black political movement that is the base for this campaign as well as Jackson's long-time connection with the civil rights struggle since he led sit-ins as a college student in North Carolina a quarter-century ago.

Iowa, D.C. and Jay, Maine

After the official announcement of his intention to run for president, Jackson went the next day to Iowa to show his support of farmers who are being devastated by the big banks and giant agribusiness conglomerates.

Later that same day, Jackson drew enthusiastic shouts of support from

the half-million gathered in Washington, D.C., for the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights (see related article on page 1).

And on Monday, Oct. 12, Jackson travelled to Jay, Maine, to speak to a rally of 3,000 strikers from International Paper. Jackson is the only Democratic Party candidate to show solidarity with the workers, who are entering the fifth month of their hard-fought strike.

He declared, "This is a tremendous display of union solidarity." The chants of the crowd changed from "Scabs out, union in" at the beginning of the rally to "Reagan out, Jesse in" at the end.

If racism were not so pervasive and deep-seated in this country, Jackson would be treated as just another Democratic candidate and the issue would be his generally progressive platform. Instead, Jackson is treated by the Democratic Party and the media as a candidate who, even if he is the most popular, cannot and will not be allowed to win the party's nomination. The issue in the Jackson campaign at bottom continues to be fighting racism.



It's the poor families that were hurt most by the earthquake and parasitic landlords.

Poor left homeless by LA quake

By J. Marquardt
San Francisco

As the damage figures, currently at \$177 million, are daily revised upward in the wake of the Oct. 1 Los Angeles earthquake and aftershocks, it is clear that the damage is affecting the area's poor the most.

For example, Anna Maria Rios, of Rosemead Park, a native of Mexico, who speaks only Spanish, was driven by the earthquake from her third floor apartment on Oct. 1 when the floors and walls literally opened up. She got out alive, with her mother, seven children and two grandchildren, but with nothing else.

She has not been able to go to her job where she irons men's shirts be-

cause it's against Red Cross emergency shelter rules to leave children unattended. But without work she will not have the money for a security deposit, or first and last month's rent, if she finds another apartment.

Although federal disaster relief has become available, funds for poor families who rented are limited. The greatest beneficiaries are the owners of homes and businesses.

The cities of Whittier and Alhambra both have hundreds of damaged buildings and homes. Even an emergency shelter in Whittier had to be condemned after the strong aftershock on Oct. 4. And in Los Angeles alone, city officials estimated this week that 34,000 low-income housing units were

Continued on page 4

Aquino threatens martial law against workers, peasants

By Lydia Bayoneta

In an effort to smash the mass movement of workers and peasants in the Philippines, President Corazon Aquino has threatened to impose martial law.

The San Francisco Chronicle of Sept. 21 reported that the Philippine military pressured Aquino to declare a state of emergency and to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, and that the order had already been signed by Aquino but not yet put into effect.

The excuse of the government was to reestablish stability, law and order (which the government claims is disrupted by the communists), and to counter the factious military. So far, however, most of the over \$100 million in U.S. aid given to the Aquino government has been used, not against the extreme right-wing leaders such as Col. Honasan who have made several attempts against the Aquino government, but against workers and peasants and their organizations.

Why reimpose martial law?

The threat of martial law came on

the first day of a massive five-day general strike by the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), demanding that Aquino fulfill the promises of her regime. Washington has been hoping that the Aquino regime, which they back, would be able to placate the progressive and revolutionary movement with promises of "reconciliation" and "justice" — without redressing major grievances.

The continuing call of the Filipino masses for genuine land reform, increases in wages, better working conditions, as well as for the removal of U.S. military bases has been met with

a combination of stalling and Marcos-style repression. The popular support which Aquino enjoyed right after the ouster of the Marcos dictatorship has been squandered until, as one Filipino leader put it, "the only support which Aquino is getting today comes from Washington, not from Filipinos."

The threat of martial law has exposed not only the bankruptcy of the Aquino government, but the inability of any neocolonial state, such as the Philippines, to solve the fundamental problems caused by capitalism and imperialism.

— Earthquake

Continued from page 3

damaged by the earthquake.

Until they are inspected, these unsafe buildings still have tenants living in them. Once the property is inspected and condemned, hundreds are added to the ranks of the thousands of homeless.

Legal Aid Foundation attorney Deborah Dentler said that, "Not only do they have no money for new, low-cost rentals, but few such rentals are available because the vacancy rates for such units is just 1%. We have been inundated with requests for help from desperate people. There's no place to go. They have no money to go anywhere."

Many immigrants and their families, remembering their experiences with earthquakes in their homelands, continue to sleep in parks out of fear. Still others worry that their applications for amnesty will be in jeopardy if they go to emergency shelters because the government requires applicants for citizenship to be self-sufficient.

As if things were not bad enough, unscrupulous landlords are widely reported to be preying on these people's misfortunes. Dino Hirsch, tenant activist with Inquilinos Unidos, said his organization has been deluged with appeals for help from renters.

Apparently landlords are doing one or more of the following: urging residents to stay in buildings, despite the damage, so they may continue collecting rent; kicking out tenants for allegedly violating the city's overcrowding rule by taking in homeless friends and relatives; refusing to return security deposits; or kicking out people simply to avoid rent control and raise rents. Dino Hirsch said, "We've heard reports of landlords putting up 'crowd control' yellow tape to keep them out and make them think officials had condemned the building."

This outrageous situation prompted Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley on Oct. 8 to issue emergency housing regulations. The regulations order: the city Housing Authority to make available 200 units for shelter; landlords not to prohibit tenants from returning to safe apartments; and suspend until Nov. 15 the city's "overcrowding ordinance." Mayor Bradley stated, "We must ensure that the fear of these residents is not exploited by landlords, who because of confusion or opportunism are evicting tenants."

Generally, the number of people needing emergency shelter has increased as buildings are condemned, but in a few instances populations at particular shelters have actually declined. Red Cross spokesman Ralph Wright cautioned that, "This doesn't mean those people no longer need housing. It means they got tired of camping out under a tent on a football field. They've moved in with their friends and mothers-in-law. The long-term housing problem in this area has not gone away by any means."



Mamazane Xulu of the ANC.

WW PHOTO: PHIL WILAYTO

ANC, SWAPO demand release of political prisoners

Special to Workers World
New York

A multinational crowd of Black, Arab, Latino and white came out Oct. 9 to the Martin Luther King Center here for a program in solidarity with South African and Namibian political prisoners. South Africa has the highest political prisoner population per capita in the world, the majority of whom have been convicted for the so-called crime of fighting back against the fascist, apartheid regime.

Besides paying tribute to ANC leaders like Nelson Mandela and Walter

Sisulu, who have been languishing in apartheid dungeons for the past quarter of a century, special recognition was also given to 30 other prisoners. Of these, two have already been executed. The rest face the gallows or life sentences. The ANC has initiated an international campaign to demand the immediate release of these heroic freedom fighters through letter and telegram campaigns, petitioning, mass rallies and demonstrations.

The guest speakers at tonight's event were Mamazane Xulu, chairperson of the ANC women's section, and Helmut Pau Angula, chief repre-

sentative of the SWAPO Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Solidarity messages were given by the U.S. Peace Council, Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), American Committee on Africa, the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression and others.

Cultural presentations were given by the Sechaba Cultural Singers of the ANC, the Alwatan Palestinian Folklore Dance Group and the All-Peoples Singers. The program was chaired by Monica Moorehead of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of the People's Anti-War Mobilization.

Irish activist describes women's struggle for choice

By Sue Davis

"Since there is a close connection between Right-to-Life in the U.S. and Pro-Life in Ireland, we in the reproductive rights movement need to forge our own links," stated Ruth Riddick, an Irish pro-choice activist on a recent visit to the U.S.

Riddick explained to Workers World that what the right wing has not been able to institute in the U.S. — passage of a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to life of the unborn and closure of women's clinics that counseled women about legal abortion services — it has been able to enact in Ireland.

In fact, Reagan's recent regulations restricting public health clinics from counseling women about abortion are similar to the Irish law that shut down the only two pregnancy counseling clinics in the Republic of Ireland in December of 1986. The difference is that while U.S. clinics risk losing federal funding, anyone caught giving an abortion referral in Ireland is subject to a criminal offense.

Riddick attributes the severity of the Irish law to the grave economic recession in Ireland in the 1980s, which

Riddick says has emboldened the right. But Ireland is also a staunchly Catholic country. "Abortion is the great taboo in Irish politics," explains Riddick. "It's not taken up in the media. In fact, they help keep it invisible. That's why many progressive groups — even the trade unions — are very reluctant to take a public position on it."

Yet statistics show that for the last 20 years, 4,000 Irish women have traveled each year to England to use safe, legal abortion services, which opened there in 1967. Riddick estimates that from 1980 to 1986 the two pregnancy counseling clinics in Ireland were able to aid 10,000 women who sought referrals to English facilities.

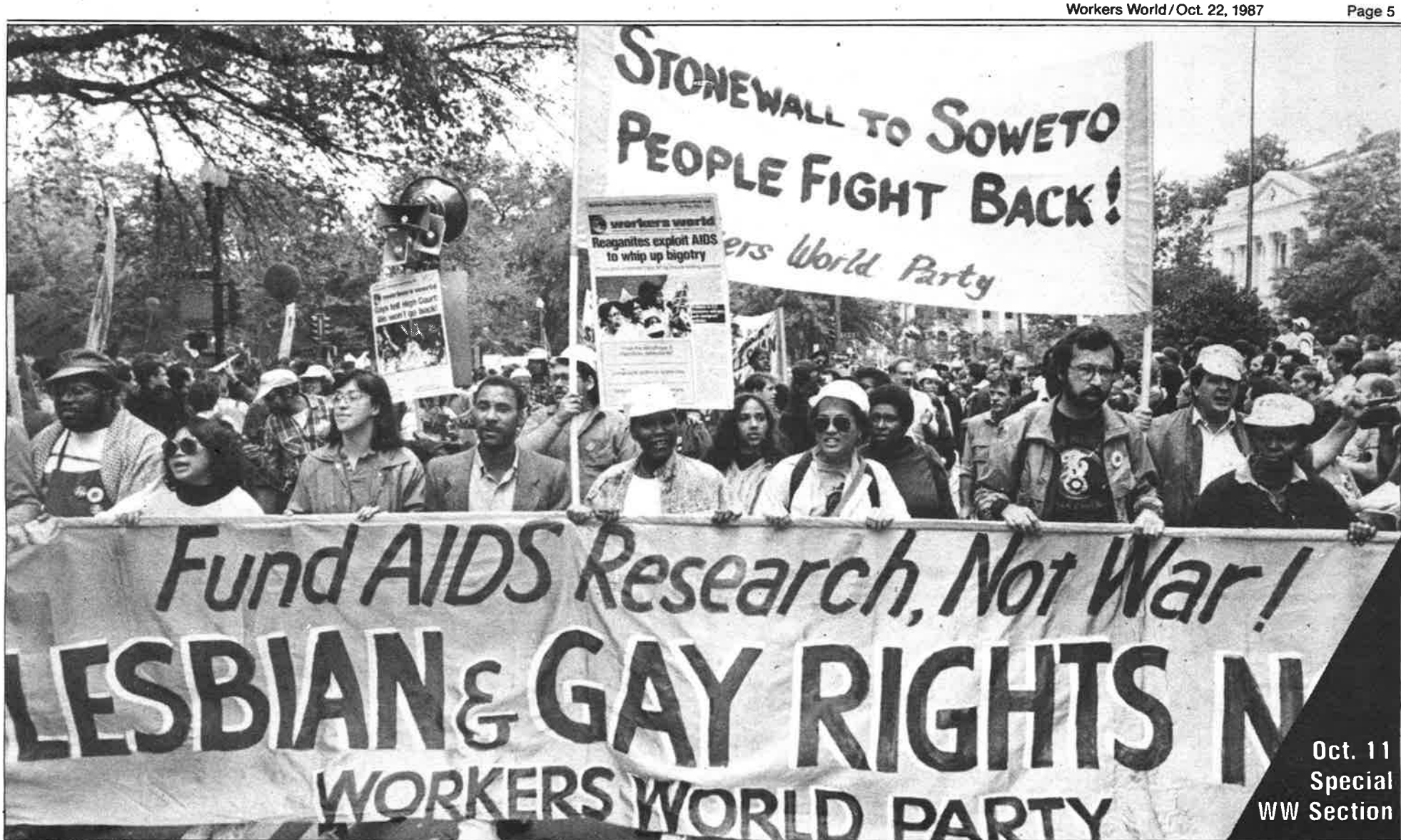
One of the founders and directors of Open Line Counseling, one of the two clinics, Riddick noted that cases of infanticide, women losing their jobs because of having babies out of wedlock, and a 15-year-old unwed mother and her newborn dying of exposure have recently rocked the Irish press. Yet no attempts are made, except by women activists, and groups like Sinn Fein, to link these issues with a woman's right to choose the conditions under which she will become a mother.

The women's movement is promoting a woman's right to control her body and her life on three fronts. One is a legal campaign to appeal the Irish law closing the clinics at the European Court of Human Rights.

Since the Republic of Ireland is a full member of the European Economic Community, the legal challenge is based on Article 19 of its Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Every one has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

In addition to a telephone helpline that women can call for referrals (its number is available through a national underground grapevine), a group called "Defend the Clinics" is openly disseminating information about abortion as widely as possible.

As the struggle for reproductive rights continues in the U.S., alongside demands for pay equity and funded childcare, it's good to be reminded by brave and dedicated women like Ruth Riddick that, like every workers' struggle, the struggle for choice knows no borders.



Oct. 11
Special
WW Section

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

— 500,000

Continued from page 1

Section of the African National Congress (ANC).

Loren Laureano, Puerto Rican activist and co-chair of the National Association of People with AIDS, showed how hard hit Latino, Black, Native and Asian communities are by the AIDS epidemic and related it to the racism, poverty and oppression they already face. "We already know who the enemy is," he concluded. "We choose to fight for life. Never, never surrender!"

Other speakers at the morning rally included Pat Parker, a Black lesbian feminist poet; John Bush, former co-chair of Black and White Men Together; Tana Marie Loy of the Peoples Anti-War Mobilization; and Renee McCoy, Executive Director of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. Shelley Ettinger of the Lesbian and Gay Labor Network extended greetings from many union representatives. Cultural performers included Wayson Jones and Essex Hemphill, Faith Nolan, and Lifeline.

The sweet sound of the Lavender Light Gospel Choir was interpreted in American Sign Language. Both rallies were signed for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Money for AIDS, not for war!

Three to four thousand people with AIDS and AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) led the march, many in wheelchairs. When asked what they had to tell the government, one after another called out: "Too many have died! Release the money now!" They hit the high cost of experimental drugs, the difficulty of getting any social services and the threats of quarantine.

Scores of AIDS- and ARC-related support groups who provide a caring community network marched with the lead contingent and helped out the disabled throughout the entire march. Many carried the names of friends and loved ones who have died.

Health care workers marched in solidarity with those they provide care for. Buses and car caravans of disabled people followed those on foot. The medical care available today, the accessible transportation and other

services showed how march organizers and participants alike took the rights of the disabled seriously.

The march was endorsed by Marion Barry, Jr., the mayor of Washington. Thousands of people, Black and white, lined both sides of the avenues applauding, chanting and cheering as the demonstration passed.

Popular chants were "Gays si, contras no," "Money for AIDS, not for war, U.S. out of El Salvador," and "Fight AIDS, not Nicaragua!"

The "anti-sodomy" laws and the violence of the police, prisons, courts and the military against gays and lesbians was another focus of the marchers, who pointed to the "Justice" Department building as they passed and chanted "Shame! Shame!"

"Never another jailed for love!" read thousands of signs carried by the National Gay Task Force.

There was strong opposition to Reagan's appointment of Robert Bork to the Supreme Court, along with pride at the strength of the lesbian and gay movement in the challenge to Bork.

Many marchers carried signs in support of Sharon Kowalski and her lover Karen Thompson (who helped carry the lead banner). Sharon received a brain stem injury in an auto accident and today is quadriplegic. Her parents put her in a nursing home far from Karen and have used the courts to bar visits from her partner since August 1985.

A coming together of many nations

There was a noticeable increase in the participation of people of color in this march. Black and Latino people came from all over the country, many from D.C. itself. Black and White Men Together and the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays helped organize for the event.

Latinas and Latinos from throughout the Americas met together this weekend for the first time to form the National Association of Latino Lesbian and Gay Activists. Special committees will address the impact of AIDS among Latin Americans and support the liberation struggles in Latin America.

A group of lesbian Latinas carried a banner reading "P'afuera y P'alante" (Out and Forward!).

Groups marching included Gay and Lesbian Hispanics Unidos, Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos, Enlace, Buenas Amigas and the Lesbian and Gay Latina Alliance of California.

Large numbers of Mexicanos-Chicanos marched from the Southwest states. Gay Mayans and other indigenous peoples marched together with gay Mexicanos. Women and men came from Venezuela, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Peru and Chile.

A contingent of 200 people carrying a banner proclaiming "We're Asian — Gay & Proud!" called out where they were from: Thailand, Indonesia, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan, Taiwan, Kampuchea and Hong Kong.

Tana Marie Loy, an Asian lesbian activist and member of the Peoples Anti-War Mobilization (PAM) who spoke at the morning rally, pointed out that the U.S. government could mount a crash program to conquer AIDS if it really wanted to. "We who are Asian know what happens when this government mobilizes its resources. The Manhattan Project brought together top-notch scientists — to build the atomic bombs dropped on the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima."

But, Loy said, the Reagan administration has no program to fight AIDS. Instead, it advocates "quarantine and concentration camps — it's the same bigotry whether used against the Japanese in World War Two or whipped up against people with AIDS."

Redefining "family"

Young and old and in between contributed their experiences to the demonstration. Buffy Dunker, an 82-year-old high school music teacher who came out as a lesbian ten years ago urged the cheering crowd at the morning rally to struggle actively and

persistently. "We're an irresistible force!" she said, adding, "We have to feel our power and our ability to change ourselves and the world around us."

Another senior told of the struggle to survive as a gay man in the 1950s and expressed his delight at seeing a new generation emerge, proud to be lesbian and gay. "I'm a survivor," he said. "I didn't let them kill me. We must fight back!"

Large contingents of Seniors Active in a Gay Environment (SAGE) and Wise Wonderful Over 40 marched with their banners that asked, "How do you know your grandma's straight?"

At a time when the media likes to philosophize about "apathy" among youth, large numbers of gay and straight youth came with banners and hand-made signs from their community groups, high schools, and college campuses across the country. A straight youth said, "I'm sick of gay people getting picked on or beaten up just for wanting to hold hands."

"We are your kids," read one sign, "Dignity and Rights for my lesbian mother, her lover, and everyone!" read another.

Groups of parents and friends of gay people came from more than 20 cities, as did associations of lesbian mothers and gay fathers fighting for the right to raise their own children.

Many in the march marveled at how supportive their families, friends and co-workers had been, and many of them were there together.

Out of the closets and into the streets

Original participants in the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City in

Continued on page 8

Plan week of national actions for next spring

Washington

October 12 — AIDS activists from around the country met here today and agreed to call for nationally coordinated actions around the country during the week of April 30 to May 7. These activities will target the government and the medical establishment, including the pharmaceutical companies, for their insufficient attention to finding a cure and treatment for AIDS. Activists will demand more funding for research and care of people with AIDS. The actions planned include marches, sit-ins and civil disobedience.

Faces of the lesbian and gay rights march



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



840 arrested at Supreme Court protest

Washington

October 13 — It was the biggest mass civil disobedience arrest since 1971. Wave after wave of defiant gay rights activists were taken into police custody while protesting in front of the Supreme Court here today. Attorneys said that 840 people were arrested in all. The militant civil disobedience participants, organized into 50 affinity groups, protested the high court's bigoted Hardwick decision upholding the Georgia anti-gay "sodomy" law.

Some of the police, in line with the ultra-right and government attempts to whip up a hysteria over the AIDS crisis, wore surgical gloves. The demonstrators taunted them for their cowardice.

About 3,000 other lesbian and gay demonstrators stood by, chanting and supporting the civil disobedience action.



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



WW PHOTO: GARY WILSON



WW PHOTO: GARY WILSON

Labor support historic

Some 500 lesbian and gay trade unionists and straight supporters attended a Solidarity Celebration to build labor support for the lesbian and gay struggle on Saturday, Oct. 10. The historic event took place at the AFL-CIO national headquarters in Washington, D.C., and speakers included Joslyn Williams, president of the D.C. Metro Labor Council, Anna Padia, vice president, CLUW, Willie Baker, vice president, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Bill Olwell, vice president of the UFCW, and several others.

It was co-chaired by Howard Wallace of San Francisco's Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance and Shelley Ettinger of New York City's Lesbian and Gay Labor Network, and was characterized by rousing spirit and optimism for the future of the struggle.

The next day, at the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, unionists from around the country formed a labor contingent. Participants represented AFSCME locals in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Washington, UAW District 65, SEIU and many other unions from around the country. Chanting "Gay rights is labor's fight," "An injury to one is an injury to all — gay rights now," and "Get your lover covered — equal benefits now," the labor contingent was met with an enthusiastic response from the marchers.

Why they came — from Pensacola to Oahu

By J. Marquardt
Washington

October 11 — A group of nine gay men traveled from Pensacola, Fla., representing the Escambia AIDS Service and Education organization. They carried a banner which read, "Compassion Without Judgment." Billy Scanlon, a person with AIDS, explained that they came "to show that AIDS affects the rural community, too."

Elizabeth Terry, a Black woman from Philadelphia, said she decided "months ago" to come to the march. She was in Washington since Thursday, when she participated in the lobbying for gay civil rights and for greater attention to the AIDS epidemic. At home she is active in abortion rights work and has been opposing the Bork nomination.

Totty Dunham was at the march in her wheelchair. She said she decided to come to the march eight years ago, following her participation in the last Lesbian and Gay Rights March in 1979. "I was so moved by that first march," she said, "when I truly began to realize what being 'out' really means." Totty works on the "Gay News Telegraph" back in St. Louis, where she also coaches gay softball. She plans to be coaching in 1990 at the Gay Games III in Vancouver, too.

A young Asian man wore a sweatshirt reading "Gay Asians and Friends." He declined to give his name for fear of adversely affecting his hearing to become a U.S. citizen scheduled for this coming week. He explained, "The group doesn't technically have membership. Instead, we have a subscription newsletter," because of immigration harassment.

Elise Young, an Asian woman and student at the University of Hawaii, came all the way from Oahu to the protest. She said she was here "to lobby and march for AIDS legislation and gay rights."

'Latina Lesbiana'

Some women from "Latina Lesbiana," with groups in Austin, Houston, and San Antonio, planned this trip for months. In Texas they work to educate Latina lesbians on issues affecting them. They say they plan to get involved in AIDS education work when they get back.

Randy Burns, a co-founder of Gay American Indians in San Francisco, was "real happy at the size of the crowd." Judy Tallwing, Native Indian woman from Portland, Ore., and the current "International Ms. Leather" said, "I wouldn't have missed this march for anything."

Jeff Pearson came to the march from Wichita, Kan., where he is a member of the Kansas AIDS Network. The group does AIDS education work all over the state. Jeff said, "The seminars are well received in the small towns in 'town hall type' meetings," perhaps because many have learned from the mistakes of others."

Members of the "Maine Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance" came as a group. Harvey Gordon explained that back home their organization annually sponsors a gay rights bill, and although it still hasn't passed, "we increase the number of votes for it each year." They are also active in AIDS work, initiating an effort to get more state money to people with AIDS and a state AIDS Advisory Commission. They are also active in a coalition representing virtually all the oppressed groups in the community to change the state's harassment law.

tion representing virtually all the oppressed groups in the community to change the state's harassment law.

'From Stonewall to Soweto'

Jeremy Edmonds, a Black woman from Hartford, Conn., said, "I was never 'political' about anything in my life before this." She marched behind the Workers World Party banner, "From Stonewall to Soweto," because, she said, "It stated things exactly right. As a Black woman, I can understand the oppression lesbians and gay men feel."

For many, like one gay man from San Francisco recently diagnosed with AIDS-Related Complex (ARC), it was their first big protest march. "I'm just so glad I came. It was wonderful!"

A gay man from Oakland, Calif.,

carrying a homemade sign saying, "Closets are health hazards," listing the cities and stages of his "coming out," said, "I thought in 1970 that I was the only one!"

One couple, Dino and Andy, from the San Francisco Bay Area, got to Washington just in time to get to the wedding ceremony on Saturday. What they'll never forget, they said, was "how beautiful it was. The friends of the couples all formed a human ring around the hundreds of couples." And they were also impressed by the way hecklers were drowned out by a lengthy chant of "shame, shame, shame."

Another couple, Gail and Mary from Chicago, were also married in the wedding ceremony. After the march today they were tired but, "excited to meet all these gay people from all over the country."



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Names Project quilt lists those who died of AIDS



WW PHOTO: GARY WILSON



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



WW PHOTO: GARY WILSON

Reception

Just ten minutes from the gathering site on the mall at the Capitol Quality Inn, Workers World Party held a reception for the Oct. 11 marchers through the late afternoon. Dozens of friends, including some of the many new Workers World subscribers, viewed a slide show depicting WWP's role in the struggle for lesbian and gay rights, while having something to eat and quench their thirst.

EDITORIALS

AIDS commission decomposes

When Reagan's AIDS commission was appointed at the end of last July, government officials announced that it would turn out a preliminary report on the dimensions of the epidemic "in 90 days."

Now 3 months have passed, but the only report from the commission is that its chairman, vice chairman and only Black member, and its chief medical staff officer are all resigning. In addition, Dr. Frank Lilly, the sole gay person on the body, has announced that he may be going as well.

"The AIDS epidemic is out of control and, it seems, so is the Presidential Commission on AIDS," commented a leader of the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

The White House AIDS panel was a bad joke from the start. One commission member was convinced that AIDS could be transmitted "just by shaking hands." Several have connections to the insurance industry, which is trying to figure out how to deny coverage to those affected by this new epidemic.

Many are wealthy right-wingers, people with homophobic prejudices who are more interested in persecution than in finding a cure. Two of the most notorious of these elements on the panel are New York's Cardinal O'Connor, a real bigot, and Adm. James D. Watkins. Watkins, of course, is a staunch defender of the Pentagon's stance which criminalizes gay and lesbian members of the U.S. armed forces. He is to replace the departing chairman, Dr. W. Eugene Mayberry, as head of the commission.

What the resignations show is that no serious person from the medical community thinks it wise to sit on a panel loaded with ultra-rightists whose anti-scientific views serve the political ends of this administration. The struggle against AIDS will certainly continue, but it will be despite the President's Commission on AIDS, not because of it.

— Oct. 11 march

Continued from page 5

1969 that ignited this young movement marched today saying, "We are still fighting for our rights."

Enormous contingents came from the West Coast, the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest, including 25 from Alaska. One man from Alaska had bet 15 of his friends \$1,000 each that he could hitch-hike all the way. He succeeded in 14 days and presented the \$15,000 to the march.

People marched together as swimmers, musicians, radio enthusiasts, to celebrate their sobriety, to name their town, to speak their mind.

Coming out of the closet and taking to the streets at a gay and lesbian demonstration takes a lot of courage. Each gay person at one point in their lives felt they were alone in their feelings. "I'll never feel alone again," was heard many times today as that isolation was shattered.

The Names Project

Almost 25,000 people have died from AIDS by official count. But because of the lack of concern about why the poor, and especially IV drug users, die, the numbers are really many more.

These were not mere statistics here today. Each was a human life valued. Everywhere people carried the pictures, names, mementos, and memo-

ries of loved ones who have died battling AIDS.

At the Mall where the march ended was a quilt covering an entire city block made up of almost 2,000 individual panels, each honoring a person who died from AIDS. Prepared by lovers, family and friends, each found different ways to capture that person's life with a photo, a favorite quote, or a piece of clothing. A constant videotape showed panels still being sent in too late to be sewn into the quilt that day. Other panels were carried in the march and will be added to the quilt later.

Afternoon rally sign of political maturity

Late in the afternoon, while the closing rally at the Capitol was already teeming with people, there were still huge crowds at the Ellipse.

The Capitol rally included an impressive list of speakers. Actress Whoopi Goldberg had marched in the lead contingent, pushing the wheelchair of her friend Jim Manness who has AIDS. At the rally she made a stirring appeal for children who have AIDS.

Cesar Chavez, president of the United Farm Workers, said that his union's experience with the lesbian and gay movement goes back almost 25 years. When striking farmworkers in Delano County were beaten and arrested, he said, they sent out a call for help and received a strong response from the lesbian and gay community in San Francisco. Chavez said the farmworkers will never forget that solidarity and stand committed to the

Plutocracy

The number of billionaires in the United States doubled last year, jumping from 26 to 49. Back in 1985 there were eleven.

What does this doubling and redoubling of the monstrously rich mean for the rest of society? Is it just a curiosity, a new fact for economic statisticians to feed into their computers? Hardly.

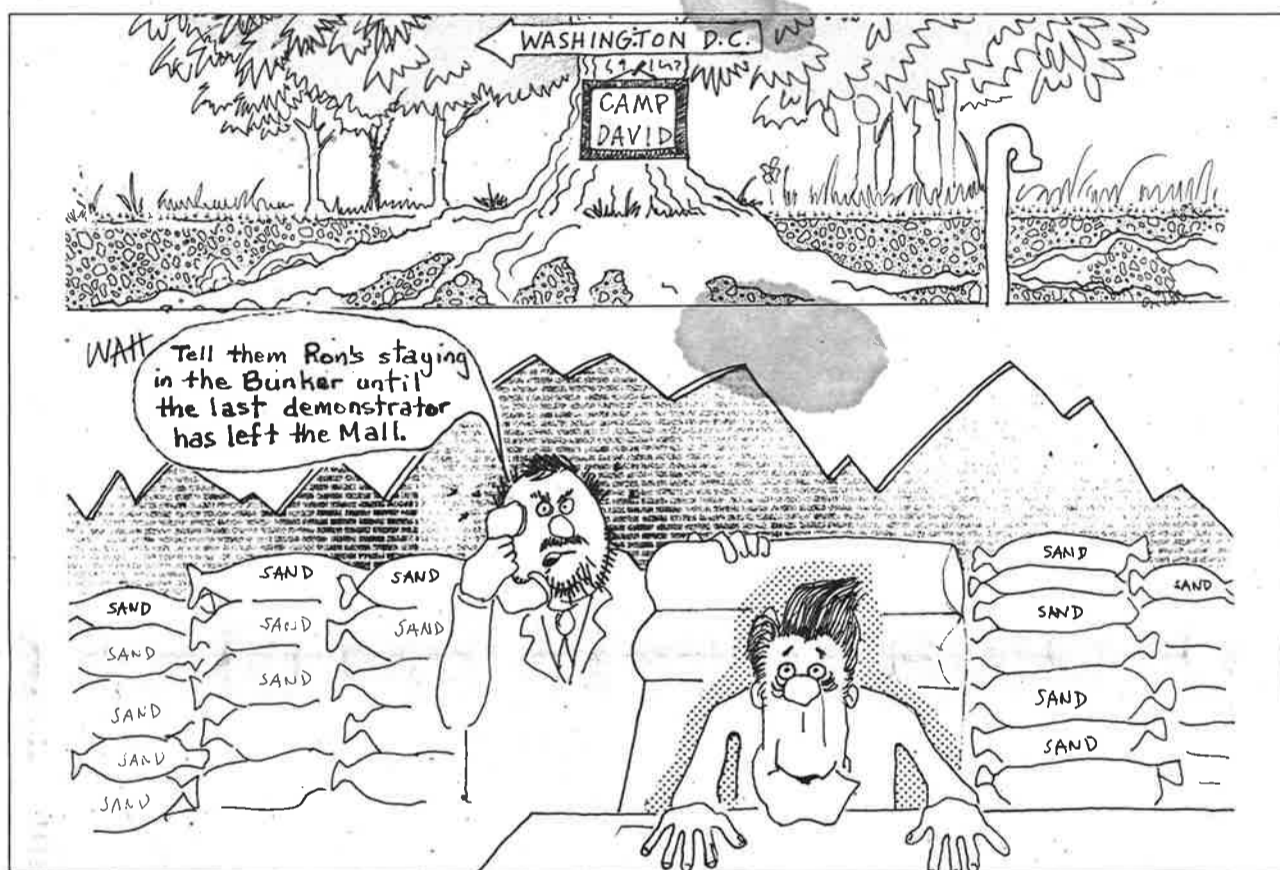
These super-rich individuals are the true rulers of the country. That is the dirty little secret which the wealthy ruling class of oil barons, real estate moguls, media bosses, big factory owners and bankers try to conceal day after day with a lot of propaganda about "the world's greatest democracy."

They don't want people to see how this "democracy" favors the rich few, how foreign policy is tailored to suit the wishes of big overseas investors, how Pentagon contracts have be-

come a source of endless profits for billionaire war merchants like Lester Crown of the General Dynamics corporation and David Packard, the Star Wars contractor.

TV and newspapers are in their control as well, Laurence Tisch at CBS, the Newhouse brothers with their huge chain of dailies and Rupert Murdoch, the racist with his empire of rightwing tabloids. At the very top, Rockefellers, Mellons and Duponts still hold the financial and industrial strings, like their ancestors before them. This is not a real democracy, where the majority of people really count. It is a plutocracy, a dictatorship of the rich. And while their numbers grow, another group is growing even faster. By the millions, workers lose their union jobs, and wind up working part time behind a counter. Farm families lose their land, the unemployed and sick are forced to live on the streets. The privileged life of a minority, the rich, is being purchased at the cost of misery for the many.

That's something to think about the next time one of those billionaire's TV stations or newspapers extols "the great benefits of our free market economy."



struggle for lesbian and gay rights.

Jesse Jackson compared the persecution of gays and lesbians in the U.S. to that of the Nazi period. He told the cheering audience, "We gather today to insist on equal protection under the law, for workers' rights, for civil rights, for women's rights, the rights of religious freedom, individual privacy, and sexual preference."

He strongly linked the battle against AIDS with the struggle of all who are displaced and locked out of this society, from the laid-off auto worker in Detroit, to the Iowa farmer, to Black people under attack in Howard Beach.

Also speaking were actor Robert

Blake; former NOW president Eleanor Smeal; Dan Bradley, a person with AIDS and former Legal Services Director; lesbian rights activist Virginia Apuzzo; Rev. Troy Perry, co-founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches; Barbara Smith, Board member of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays; Karen Thompson; comedian Robin Tyler, and others.

Despite the toll that AIDS has taken, and the right-wing anti-gay offensive of recent years, the mood today was defiant and optimistic. The proof was in the tremendous numbers who came from everywhere to vow: "For love and for life, we won't go back!"

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U.S. attacks on Iran boats heighten war danger

Protest action set for Oct. 31 in New York City

By Joyce Chediak

On Oct. 8, the Pentagon sank a small Iranian boat and damaged two others in the Persian/Arabian Gulf, killing at least two Iranians. This blatant act of aggression by Washington further heightens the war danger in the Gulf.

The media here immediately reacted as mouthpieces for the Reagan administration and portrayed the oppressed nation of Iran as the aggressor. The reality, however, was just the opposite. Days later, the Oct. 12 Washington Post revealed that the small Iranian speed boats, the latest targets of the huge Pentagon war machine, were in Iranian territorial waters when they were hit, and U.S. helicopters were violating sovereign Iranian territory! This is further evidence that the Reagan administration is not in the Gulf to stop the Iran-Iraq war. It has used this war as an excuse to increase imperialist intervention against the oppressed people of that oil-rich region.

In order to protest U.S. war moves in the Gulf and to oppose Washington's threats against Nicaragua, a demonstration has been called in New York City on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 12 noon. The action will demand: U.S. out of the Persian Gulf! Hands off Nicaragua! No war against Iran! Stop the U.S. war drive!

Every day that U.S. ships remain in the Gulf the workers and oppressed people are brought closer to war. As of this writing, the U.S. and other NATO

forces will have amassed the largest military armada in history in the Gulf — some 70 warships, with over 17,000 U.S. military personnel alone.

At the very same time, Washington is already waging a ruthless contra war against the people of Nicaragua, and every day that the CIA-backed contra mercenaries remain in the field, more Nicaraguans die. Now, the Reagan administration has escalated its threats and pressure against Nicaragua since the announcement of the Central American peace agreement to go into effect on Nov. 7.

A call for the Oct. 31 protest put out by the People's Anti-War Mobilization (PAM) explains that "Washington and the Pentagon are threatening to drag the people of these countries into wars that they have no interest in — wars which would only bring death or injury to thousands of poor and working class youth, many from the Black and Latino communities. U.S. military intervention, whether in the Gulf or in Central America, only serves to further enrich the already bloated military-industrial complex, the giant banks and the huge oil companies.

"Like U.S. military and CIA operations in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Panama, the U.S. military presence in the Gulf has already cost billions of dollars. This money could be much better spent on jobs, housing, education, medical care, food and to rebuild the cities."

Kathy Durkin, a PAM organizer, pointed out that the protest was timed to coincide with the assembling of the

huge U.S.-NATO armada in the Gulf, and a week before the deadline for the Central American peace accord. She urged all progressive people in the New York City area to attend this timely demonstration against U.S. aggression.

The protest on Saturday, Oct. 31, will begin at 12 noon at Herald Square (34 St. and 6th Ave.) and will march to the Times Square Recruiting Station for the Army, Navy and Air Force (42 St. and 7 Ave.). For more information, contact PAM at (212) 741-0633.

U.S.-backed Egypt regime stages an election

"Defense of democracy" has become the standard justification for the right of the Pentagon to intervene wherever it pleases — attacking Nicaragua, overthrowing the Grenada government, bombing Libya or sinking Iran's ships in the Persian Gulf. What does democracy mean, anyway? Can it be a code word for nothing more than the unrestrained rule of U.S. big business?

Most often official U.S. commentators equate democracy with elections, particularly when the representatives of the rich and powerful get elected (like in this country).

This month U.S.-approved "democracy" was at work in Egypt, where the government cooperates with imperialism and therefore has the warm approval of the White House. The Interior Minister, the

man who is in charge of the police, announced happily on Oct. 6 that President Hosni Mubarak had been reelected to another six-year term in office by an overwhelming 97.1 percent of the vote.

Oh, one small thing. There were no other candidates. (Unlike the 1984 election in Nicaragua, for instance, when there were seven candidates for president.)

So how come we haven't heard grand denunciations from the Senate, the White House and innumerable editorial writers who say they love democracy so much? Can it be that the real deciding factor in U.S. foreign policy is not elections or democracy at all, but which governments will collaborate with U.S. corporations in the exploitation of their people and resources — what Reagan calls "free enterprise"?

Ortega blasts Reagan policy at UN

Nicaraguan president applauded in New York City

By Teresa Gutierrez
United Nations

On Thursday, Oct. 8, the President of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York City. His address was part of a several day trip to the UN and New York, where he spoke to a crowd of journalism students at Columbia University and met several hundred Bronx residents at a neighborhood community center.

President Ortega commenced his presentation at the UN by dedicating his address to the memory of Ernesto "Che" Guevara on the 20th anniversary of his death.

Che Guevara was a revolutionary martyr born in Argentina who participated in the armed struggle to free Cuba from imperialist domination as well as many other liberation struggles throughout Latin America. He was killed by the Bolivian military on Oct. 8, 1967, in Bolivia under orders of the CIA. To this day Che Guevara is a dynamic symbol of revolutionary struggle against imperialism throughout the world and especially in Latin America.

Ortega's address to the United Nations comes at a crucial juncture in Nicaraguan history. Since the 1979 triumph of the Sandinista liberation movement to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship, the U.S. has relentlessly pushed to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. Washington has propped up ex-Somoza guards and manipulated these contras to fiercely attack the Nicaraguan people. For the past 8 years, the U.S.-contras have created an intense atmosphere of war in the entire region.

The Central American heads of government last August met in Guate-

mala to draw out their own plans for peace in their area. The Arias plan, as it has come to be called by the U.S., was at first endorsed by Reagan, but only in words. Since day one of the plan drawn up in Esquipulas, Guatemala, the U.S. government has done everything to undermine the efforts of the Central American governments to determine their own program to end the fighting.

At the UN, President Ortega made it clear that Nicaragua would not concede to any demands by the U.S. government to dictate policy to them in their country.

Ortega commented that perhaps Reagan should read the Esquipulas accords, as it was evident that he hadn't. By calling for further aid for the contras, he continued, President Reagan violates the peace accords. This showed a "flippant and disrespectful attitude" toward Nicaragua, Ortega said.

Ortega called for direct talks between the U.S. and Nicaragua as a means of reaching agreement on ending the contra war. He noted that Nicaragua had willingly met with the U.S. in 1985 in Manzanillo, Mexico to discuss negotiations but that Washington, not Nicaragua, had suspended the talks after nine meetings.

The Reagan administration has continuously called for Nicaragua to meet with the contras and negotiate with them terms for their participation in the government. But Nicaragua has rejected that idea. And rightly so, as the contras are only a prop of the U.S. government and represent nothing more than the bunch of thugs that the Nicaraguan people fought so hard to kick out.

President Ortega stated that, "Even though the United Nations was created at the end of WW II to avoid fu-



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Daniel Ortega

ture wars, there exist today many new wars in different regions of the world." He said that the victims of such conflicts are for the most part Third World people. Workers and oppressed from the Persian Gulf, to Iran and Iraq, to South Africa every day experience war-like conditions. Ortega blamed the U.S. for these conflicts and called for the end of the crises, especially in the Persian Gulf and South Africa regions.

Ortega stated that U.S. policy has historically been one of interference in Nicaragua. It was the original Somoza, backed by the U.S., who assassinated Nicaraguan hero Augusto Sandino in 1934. U.S. policy, Ortega said, has been one of arming, financing and manipulating the enemies of the liberation movement in Nicaragua. "But," he continued, "we still triumphed."

Under the regime of the Somoza dictatorship, Ortega noted, the U.S. did not worry about liberty in Nicaragua, or the lack of human rights or justice.

At that time, Washington did not worry about the thousands of prisoners brutalized under the Somoza government. And without asking U.S. permission, the Sandinistas defeated the Somoza dictatorship. Today, the U.S. government does everything in its power to return back to the days of Somocismo.

That same night in New York City, President Ortega held a question and answer period at Columbia University in the Waldham Auditorium of the Journalism School. Speaking to a very friendly crowd of over 500 students, Ortega stated that the people and government of Nicaragua were clear that Nicaragua's struggle was with the U.S. government, and not with the people of this country.

A spirited group of over 250 students and activists rallied outside the auditorium and were able to greet President Ortega as his car took him to the meeting.

President Ortega's trip to New York showed one thing very clearly: that the people of this country, when given the chance, are receptive to respecting Nicaragua's right to self-determination. The response to Ortega's presentations showed that the people do not want another Vietnam war in Nicaragua. As Ortega said, the people everywhere want men and women of peace, not the Rambo types that Reagan pushes.

**No U.S. aid
to the contras!**

**No U.S. aid
to the contras!**

Political prisoners

Supreme Court refuses to hear Peltier appeal

By Joyce Chediac

In yet another blow to Native people, the Supreme Court refused Oct. 5 to hear Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier's appeal. Peltier was "disappointed but not surprised" said Karen Koassechony, office manager of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee in Kansas City, Missouri.

William Kunstler, Peltier's attorney, denounced the decision as a "national disgrace," adding, "Those members of the Supreme Court who refused to accord Peltier even a hearing on whether he should get a new trial violated their oaths of office and decided this case on political rather than legal grounds."

The struggle to free this Native leader has not stopped with the Supreme Court refusal, Koassechony told this reporter. She explained that Peltier, his defense committee and his legal team "want to take Leonard's case for a hearing before the World Court. We also urge supporters to push for a full congressional investigation

of the FBI and its misconduct in this case. The FBI is not above and beyond the law."

Leonard Peltier has become a symbol of the U.S. government's continued oppression of the indigenous people of this country. This Native leader has spent more than 12 years in jail under the most brutal conditions imaginable. He is serving two consecutive life sentences, wrongly convicted in the death of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in North Dakota.

FBI misconduct

Blatant and repeated FBI misconduct has marked this case from the very beginning. Peltier was extradited from Canada to the U.S. based upon affidavits that Washington now admits were fabricated by the FBI. In addition, a key FBI ballistics report, which stated that the weapon attributed to Peltier could not have fired the shots that killed the FBI agents, was suppressed by the FBI and not disclosed until long after his convictions.

It is widely believed among Native people and progressives nationwide that the railroading and continued jailing of Peltier is part of a far-reaching government attempt to break the back of the Native movement.

While Peltier's plight has been censored out of the national media in this country, it has received worldwide attention. Tens of thousands of people in Western Europe and 17 million Soviet citizens are among those who have petitioned the U.S. government to give Peltier a new, fair trial.

Key religious leaders and organizations worldwide, including Nobel Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Episcopal Bishop of New York, the Union Theological Seminary, Rabbi Balfour Brickner and more than 70 others, have filed a brief to the court on Peltier's behalf.

Thirty-two members of the U.S. Congress have also submitted a friend-of-the-court brief on Peltier's behalf. Ironically, on the very day that the high court announced its refusal to hear Peltier's appeal, 17 other Congress members were filing a statement to add their names to the congressional support brief.

Major benefit concert planned Oct. 27

The work to free Peltier has not stopped with the Supreme Court. Koassechony explained that the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee plans to continue doing outreach to inform wider layers of the population about the injustice done to Peltier. Among upcoming activities is a major benefit concert on Oct. 27 in Costa Mesa, Calif., which will feature such well-known performers as Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Joni Mitchell.

Koassechony urges supporters to subscribe to a new magazine put out by the defense committee, called Crazy Horse Spirit, in order to keep abreast of activities in support of Peltier. A year's subscription is \$12.

To find out more about the concert, or how you can help free Leonard Peltier, phone the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee at (816) 531-5774 or write them at P.O. Box 10044, Kansas City, Mo., 64111.

New evidence shows cop coverup in Santiago case

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

October 9 — Relatives and supporters of Wilfredo Santiago protested outside the chambers of Judge Charles L. Durham after it was revealed that Durham withheld key evidence from defense attorneys that might have prevented Santiago's conviction last year for the killing of a Philadelphia police officer.

Almost 18 months after the frame-up trial, Durham released transcripts of a pre-trial conversation with a key prosecution witness that clearly contradicted testimony at the trial considered central to Santiago's conviction. The demonstrators held a news conference outside the Common Pleas Court judge's chambers to demand either a new trial or Durham's dismissal.

At the trial, witness Jose Rosario testified that he saw Santiago drop a gun while riding a bicycle only an hour before the slaying of police officer Thomas J. Trench. In the interview in Durham's chambers, Rosario

said he had seen Santiago several hours before the slaying and made no mention of a gun. He also reported that police investigators had "given him a pretty rough time" while interrogating him, and had intimidated him by accusing him of having the gun that killed Trench.

In the statement to Durham, Rosario also testified that he was not allowed to read a statement (used at the trial) that police falsified and then made him sign under duress.

Police conduct condemned

Police conduct leading to Santiago's arrest and conviction has been publicly condemned on numerous occasions since the murder in May 1985. To find a "suspect," police conducted unlawful, mass round-ups of Puerto Rican men of all ages in the Spring Garden area where Trench was shot. A subsequent law suit filed by the Spring Garden United Neighbors resulted in a \$45,000 fine against the Philadelphia Police Department for violating the rights of over 80 residents.

— Jersey City

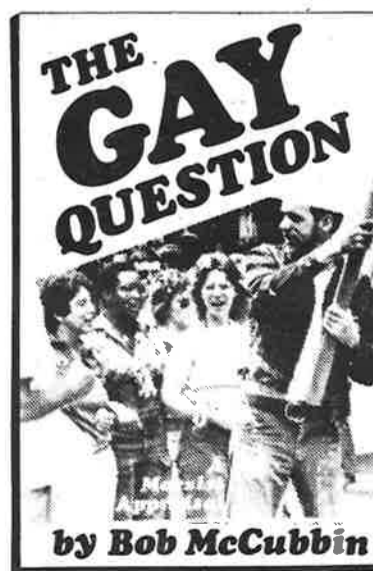
Continued from page 2

were on hand, as were some from the Community Awareness project. A group was there with a big banner that said, "The Billion Dollar Housing Coalition condemns racist attacks against the Indian community."

And Ruth Hines, an official of the housing body, declared that "this was a racist attack, plain and simple. No matter who it is, they have a right to work and live in peace."

Some of the people on the sidelines applauded the march and raised their fists in solidarity.

The daily press gave front-page coverage to the event and even the New York Times across the river reported extensively on it. The TV news programs broadcast the story, prominently showing the above-quoted banner.



THE GAY QUESTION: A MARXIST APPRAISAL

By Bob McCubbin

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Clarence Brandley wins new trial in Texas

By Joanne Gavin
Galveston, Texas

It has been a long, hard struggle by many people, and it isn't over yet. But on Friday, Oct. 9, in a courtroom in this island city on the Gulf of Mexico, the people had a victory. The two-week evidentiary hearing for seven-year death row inmate Clarence Lee Brandley ended with a "conclusive and unequivocal" recommendation for a new trial.

The hearing really began Sept. 28 with a precedent-setting change of venue from Montgomery County. There, in the racist town of Conroe, Brandley was "elected" to take the blame for the August 1980 rape and murder of a visiting female student at Conroe High School. The student was white; Brandley is Black and was supervisor of an otherwise all-white maintenance crew in the school.

Truth is often stranger than fiction, and had this hearing been a stage presentation, critics probably would have faulted it for being too outlandish, too unreal, too populated with unlikely characters. And they surely would have thought that the setting, in the 1980s, in a town less than 50 miles from the nation's fourth-largest city, was a printer's error.

At the time of the murder, Brandley was nearly 29 and the father of five children. The rest of the maintenance crew were bullied by the police into testifying against Brandley.

For example, Henry "Ickie" Peace, Jr., is illiterate due to dyslexia. Yet he was forced by Conroe police to sign a statement he could not read.

Peace has tried for eight years to tell the truth about what he knew. The authorities were not interested. They ignored him; they intimidated him; they threatened him with physical harm, with perjury charges, with ridicule, with the loss of his job.

Cops 'elect' Brandley as murderer

Early in the case, they threatened him with indictment. But then a Conroe cop told him, "One of you is going to hang for this. You aren't tall enough or strong enough to have done it. The n--- is tall enough and strong enough. So, he is elected."

Over the years since, the DA's office has told Peace he was "hallucinating," or "imagining" or "lying" about what he said he saw and heard. One of the most important things Peace maintains is that fellow janitor Gary Acreman knew a girl was missing before the staff was notified and instructed to search for her.

Another crew member, John Henry Sessum, is fighting a drinking problem. He says it got worse during the years since the Brandley trials, where he was frightened into giving false testimony. He can barely read.

At 47, he rides a bicycle 10 miles each way to work and back. A few months ago, two men in a car forced him off the road and beat him so badly he had to be hospitalized. His attackers warned him to watch what he said in court. What he said at this hearing was that fellow janitor Acreman grabbed 16-year-old Cheryl Ferguson and dragged her, screaming, into a restroom.

A few minutes later, Sessum said, another man, who earlier had been asking for Acreman, followed the attacker and victim into the restroom, where the girl was still screaming for help. Sessum was afraid to intervene.

After Acreman threatened him, he was afraid to tell what he knew. But he couldn't live with himself. He had allowed an innocent girl to be murdered.

And now he was allowing an innocent man to die for the crime, out of fear of physical and economic reprisals.

But nightmares kept him from sleeping. So, regardless of the consequences, Sessum told what he knew to the defense team last spring on video tape, and then again in this hearing.

Last spring, Gary Acreman also made a video for the defense investigators. He admitted to having spoken to the girl, but blamed the murder on another man, James Dexter Robinson, a former co-worker. He retracted that story in this hearing.

Robinson claims to have been in South Carolina at the time of the murder. But his witnesses at this hearing could only place him there six days earlier, on Aug. 17, and offer only blurred Polaroid photos of a family birthday party to "prove" even that. Conroe people testified to seeing him in town on Aug. 22, and even at the school itself on Aug. 23, the day of the murder.

Two distinguished elder Black ministers from Houston testified about the racist, intimidating atmosphere in Conroe, especially at the two Brandley trials (the first ended in an 11-1 hung jury). All the rest of the witnesses in this hearing — like the jurors at both trials — were white.

But, in common with the hold-out juror in the first trial, those testifying, some of them employees of the court, refused to be used in this conspiracy for a "legal" lynching.

Among them were Janet Dial, secretary to Judge John C. Martin, who presided at Brandley's second trial. She testified to secret meetings between Martin and then-District Attorney (now Judge) John Keeshan to decide in advance what rulings would be given in court.

A 'company project' to convict Brandley

Dial said there was an atmosphere of a "company project" to convict Brandley. Even neutral statements were not tolerated. Much less could anyone raise doubts about Brandley's guilt.

Mary Lee Johnson, the court reporter at Clarence Brandley's second trial, testified that physical evidence from that trial was stolen from her office. This is in contrast to the official finding that an unknown janitor "accidentally" threw it away.

Johnson testified also to a conspiracy between Martin, Keeshan and District Clerk Peggy Stevens to keep defense attorneys from knowing that exhibits were missing.

The testimony obviously has and will cost Dial and Johnson dearly, and there could, therefore, be no possible reason for them to fabricate it.

Texas Ranger Wesley Styles went to Conroe in 1980 to assist local authorities with the investigation. But questioning by the defense team revealed that there simply was no "investigation," only a project to build — by any means necessary — a case against Brandley.

Physical evidence, such as a Caucasian pubic hair found on the body and cotton swabs of fluid from the victim's vagina, were never checked against anyone. Blood from her clothes was type "A," the same as Acreman's and Robinson's. Clarence Brandley has type "O" blood. None of this was brought out in the trials.

Styles admitted he "made some mistakes in the investigation." Since he had made about 150 investigations before this one, some of the spectators at the hearing wondered how many victims of his "mistakes" have been executed or are languishing in prison.

It was only a massive people's movement that exposed this "mistake," this gross miscarriage of justice. Clarence Brandley was within a week of his second execution date this past March when over 200 supporters stormed the State Capitol in Austin demanding that new evidence be heard.

The governor hid from them. The attorney general finally yielded to the pressure and ordered an investigation, which, in turn, required an indefinite stay of execution. The struggle continued, led by the Coalition to Free Clarence Brandley, which includes the Concerned Citizens of Conroe.

Even in the face of a hostile, biased report from the "investigation" by the Attorney General's office (released to the Montgomery County DA's office before its completion was announced), the people kept the pressure on and finally won the evidentiary hearing.

Wearing "Free Clarence Brandley" T-shirts and buttons, supporters packed the Conroe and Galveston courtrooms every day. Many traveled 50 miles each way from Houston, but it was a 200-mile daily roundtrip for supporters from Conroe to come to Galveston and return home. T-shirts

and buttons were sold inside the courthouse and many county employees were wearing the buttons at work.

Visiting (retired) Judge Perry Pickett of Midland, who could have taken 30 days to announce his recommendation to the Court of Criminal Appeals, read a statement immediately after the defense and prosecution made their closing arguments. In language referring to constitutional rights, Judge Pickett said that, "Justice, and more significantly, injustice" had "been on trial" in the hearing.

It will probably be December before the Court of Appeals decides if it will grant a new trial. This seems very likely to happen. Coalition Chairperson J. Don Boney of Houston says, "The pressure will be kept on." As soon as a new trial is ordered, Brandley will be eligible to be bailed out.

Chief defense counsel Mike DeGuerin says it now looks as if that trial will never take place because the prosecution has nothing left with which to prosecute, what with the "lost" evidence and all the conflicting testimony. This is the only point upon which he and DA Peter Speers agree, since Speers has also stated that no further trial is likely.

Imani death sentence overturned

By Sharon Shelton

After many long years of court battles and militant protests by supporters, Johnny Imani Harris' death sentence was finally overturned at a Sept. 30 hearing in Bay Minette, Alabama.

"Obviously, this is a great victory," declared Ruth Bourquin, Imani's attorney, in a telephone interview with Workers World. At the same time, however, she noted that the victory is colored by the fact that the state plans to try to appeal the decision.

"We still have the sense of when is this going to end?" she said.

In 1975, Imani was unjustly convicted on charges of first degree murder in the death of a guard during a rebellion over terrible prison conditions at Atmore Prison Farm in 1974. He was sentenced under an 1862 Confederate statute which mandated death for a prisoner serving a life term and convicted of murder.

Although the state never presented a shred of evidence linking Imani to the killing, he was nevertheless found guilty by an all-white, all-male jury. Witnesses present at the trial noted it was permeated by racism.

Even after this first conviction was overturned, the state stubbornly kept up its efforts to execute Imani. A later trial in 1983 with yet another all-white jury once again sent him to death row.

Imani's ordeal actually began in 1970, when his family moved into an all-white Birmingham neighborhood. A campaign of harassment by both the Ku Klux Klan and the cops against his family culminated in Imani's being framed up and railroaded to prison on phony rape and robbery charges.

Throughout his two trials, Imani has remained strong. To his many supporters who have packed the courtroom during his trials, held rallies and demonstrated for his freedom, Imani has sent the message, "I'm not giving up. Don't get discouraged. The fight is not over."

Alabama State Judge Leigh Clark,



Imani (Johnny Harris)

who has been through both of Imani's trials and is familiar with the details of the case, has admitted on record that Imani should not be on death row.

It is Imani's determination and spirit of struggle as well as the militant protests of his supporters that is responsible for this latest victory. Progressives must keep up the pressure to free Imani and end the racist death penalty.



THE KLAN AND THE GOVERNMENT: Foes or Allies?
By Sam Marcy

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Ortega rechaza Reagan y los contras

Por Teresa Gutierrez
Naciones Unidas

El día 8 de octubre, el Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra, presidente de Nicaragua presentó una charla frente la gran asamblea de las Naciones Unidas. Esto fue parte de varias actividades que tomaron lugar durante varios días que estuvo en la ciudad de Nueva York. El comandante también se presentó frente un grupo de estudiantes de periodismo, como también en la ciudad de Bronx donde estuvo como invitado de honor de un centro comunal.

La presentación del comandante frente las Naciones Unidas fue dedicada a la memoria del gran revolucionario Ernesto "Che" Guevara, gran héroe de la revolución cubana que fue asesinado hace veinte años.

Esta charla fue presentada durante una coyuntura crítica de la historia nicaragüense. Desde el triunfo de la revolución sandinista cuando las fuerzas revolucionarias desenmarcaron las fuerzas somocistas, el gobierno de EE.UU. no ha cesado con su ataque contra el pueblo de Nicaragua. Durante los últimos 8 años el gobierno estadounidense ha puesto millones de dólares en ayuda militar e entrenamiento para los ex-guardias de Somoza más bien conocidos como contras causando una guerra intensa en toda la región.

En un triunfante encuentro cinco cabecillas de gobierno de naciones centroamericanas llegaron al acuerdo de un plan de paz. El plan Arias, como

es conocido el plan, habla de como pueden los mismos pueblos centroamericanos llegar a la paz sin la intervención de los EE.UU. Pero la administración Reagan no ha hecho más que atacar el plan desde antes que fuera firmado, violando el derecho de los pueblos centroamericanos a la paz y su autonomía.

En las Naciones Unidas, el comandante Ortega reafirmó bien claro que el pueblo nicaragüense no permitira que EE.UU. le diete como debe conseguir la paz. Tal vez lo que el presidente Reagan debería de hacer dijo el comandante, es leer el plan Esquipulas (El Plan Arias) por que parece que no lo conoce bien. Reagan con pedir más ayuda para los contras está violando el Esquipulas, y al mismo tiempo enseña "falta de respeto" hacia el pueblo de Nicaragua dijo Ortega, causando que la delegación estadounidense abandonara la asamblea, siendo encabezada por Vernon Walters. Las palabras de Ortega fueron muy bien recibido por la asamblea y la audiencia.

El comandante dijo que la única manera que se puede hablar de paz, es si hubiera un diálogo entre la administración Reagan y Nicaragua. Dijo que Nicaragua estaba de acuerdo en dialogar en la última convención en Manzanillo, México, el año 1985, pero fue Washington quien canceló las charlas después de 9 encuentros. Sin embargo Reagan pide que Nicaragua tenga diálogo con los contras pero eso no es lo que quiere el gobierno sandinista.



FOTO MUNDO OBRERO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Por todo el mundo, desde Irán y Irak como también Sudáfrica y todo Centroamérica, el pueblo obrero y oprimido se encuentra en estado de guerra y Ortega culpa a EE.UU. por esos conflictos y pide que le pongan un fin a ese crisis, especialmente en el Golfo de Persia y Sudáfrica.

La historia de Nicaragua ha sido la de ser invadida por EE.UU., siendo ellos los que asesinaron el héroe

nicaragüense Augusto Sandino. Su idea de paz ha sido de armar, financiar y manipular los enemigos del frente de liberación en Nicaragua, "pero de toda manera llegamos al triunfo," dijo Ortega. Ahora lo que la administración Reagan quiere hacer es quitarle a Nicaragua esa liberación y entregársela a los contras, "pero aquí nadie se rinde."

Que Viva Nicaragua Libre!

Huelga general en Chile contra la represión

Por Santiago Manque-Milla

El 7 de octubre se llevó a efecto la huelga general convocada por el Comando Nacional de Trabajadores (CNT) con un saldo de tres muertos entre ellos un niño de dos años, Felipe Gutiérrez Garrido, alcanzado por una bala de grueso calibre que le impactó en el abdomen, además del joven de 21 años Jorge Guzmán Urrutia. Hay en estos momentos alrededor de 400 detenidos a consecuencias de la represión efectuada por los elementos de seguridad del régimen que se centraron en operativos efectuados en las poblaciones más pobres de la capital donde se concentra la clase obrera, ya que esta constituye el factor aglutinante para encabezar los llamados a las jornadas de protesta, que son a no dudar las herramientas de mayor eficacia que han demostrado en la lucha en contra de la dictadura. Ya que ahí es donde el poder popular y sus organizaciones son más fuertes creando un poder alternativo al régimen. Los estrechos espacios de libertad que se han abierto, como el alzamiento de la censura de prensa y las medidas a reducir el número de exiliados etc. son logros concretos conseguidos a través de la movilización social.

Mientras tanto, el canciller chileno firmó dos tratados en contra de la tortura — uno en la Organización de las Naciones Unidas y el otro en la sede de la O.E.A. tratando con este de minimizar el aislamiento en que se encuentra la dictadura del General Pinochet que en esos mismos momentos los servicios de seguridad secuestraban a cinco jóvenes opositores, y una estudiante era baleada por carabineros y los presos políticos están llevando a cabo una huelga de hambre para exigir a las autoridades el cumplimiento de tres puntos básicos: libertad, y derecho a la vida, no a las penas de muerte y cese a la represión y dispersión de los presos políticos.

Mientras el régimen reaganista da su apoyo a la dictadura y aprueba nuevos préstamos y apertrecha a las fuerzas armadas para llevar adelante su doctrina de seguridad nacional, y los funcionarios del régimen firman tratados en contra de la represión y la tortura ante asambleas vacías, el pueblo chileno sale nuevamente a las calles a luchar por su libertad y conquistar una democracia, socialista, popular y representativa, anhelado apoyado por todos los pueblos oprimidos del mundo sojuzgados por el imperialismo norteamericano. ¡Solo la lucha nos hará libres! ¡Venceremos!



FMLN: 'El poder popular crece'

Por David Pérez

En medio de octubre se celebra el séptimo aniversario de la fundación del Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN). En un evento político y cultural que se llevó a cabo en Nueva York, un representante oficial del FMLN y del Frente Democrático Revolucionario (FDR), habló de la importancia del reciente diálogo entre el FMLN-FDR y el gobierno títere de Napoleón Duarte.

El portavoz del Frente enfatizó sobre la dualidad de poderes existentes en El Salvador, uno represen-

tando al imperialismo de EE.UU. y la oligarquía salvadoreña liderado por Duarte y el otro, el poder del pueblo representado por el FMLN-FDR.

El diálogo representa para el Frente un triunfo político ya que fuerza al gobierno de Duarte a escuchar la voz del pueblo salvadoreño. Esto no significaba que el proceso revolucionario vaya a detenerse. Al contrario, el representante de las fuerzas populares dijo que el Frente sigue con la predisposición de continuar la lucha hasta la victoria final.