



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

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High court strikes a low blow at civil rights

Threatens to reverse gains of 1960-80

By Deirdre Griswold

The new ultra-conservative majority on the Supreme Court has just struck its first body blow at civil rights.

On April 25, in a 5-4 vote, the court decided to re-hear the 1976 case of Runyon v. McCrary. The Runyon ruling had reaffirmed and expanded the rights of oppressed people against discrimination in the private sector, such as schools, clubs, etc.

This new decision opens the possibility that, after hearing the case again, the Supreme Court could overturn the 1976 ruling. This would have profound implications for many anti-discriminatory laws and practices.

Justice Kennedy another Bork

Reagan's newest appointee to the Supreme Court, Justice Anthony Kennedy, joined Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Byron

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Stop overtime at GM!

Over 400 autoworkers marched outside the General Motors Building April 22 chanting, "Put the second shift back, stop the overtime." The majority of the protesters, members of UAW Local 22, were laid off from GM's Hamtramck Assembly Plant when that facility went down to one shift operation in January 1987. The workers are angry at GM for scheduling overtime at the plant of up to 11 hours a day, six days a week while they are still laid off.

WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

National actions on AIDS to open April 29

By Joan Marquardt
San Francisco

The Spring AIDS Actions taking place in over 50 cities across the U.S. this April 29 through May 7 are planned to dramatically call attention to the life and death issues of the AIDS epidemic.

Nationally coordinated by the AIDS Coalition To Network, Organize and Win (ACT NOW), the actions planned by AIDS activists include demonstrations — rallies, marches, pickets, sit-ins, civil disobedience and forums, all demanding positive action on AIDS.

"We are fighting for our lives," said Terry Beswick, national spokesperson for ACT NOW. "Two million people are infected with HIV in the U.S., as are millions more throughout the world," he stated. "We need the federal government to help in the search for AIDS treatments, not hinder our access to promising drugs."

Specific issues the week of actions will address include: Racism and AIDS; AIDS and Homophobia; Women and AIDS; AIDS in Prison; AIDS in Africa and Worldwide; Youth and AIDS; Care of People With AIDS, ARC, and HIV Positive; and AIDS Treatments.

Many groups are planning mass marches on Saturday, May 7, as the week's National Day of Protest, on city, county, state, and federal government offices, as well as hospitals, pharmaceutical corporations, and insurance companies.

In several states, including New York, California, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Georgia, Ohio, and Illinois, marchers will converge on the state capitol buildings. In Washington, D.C., an action at the White House is planned. In California, demonstrators plan to stay in Sacramento through May 9, to lobby state legislators and sit in at Governor Deukmejian's office.

Some of the many demands of the actions include: protection of the civil rights of PWA's; an end to anti-gay violence and discrimination; immediate access to Social Security; no mandatory HIV antibody testing of anyone, including immigrants; no quarantine; money to fight AIDS, not for war; available, accessible, affordable treatments; increased funding of education and treatment research; and a national healthcare system for all.

The demand for government attention is just as crucial now as ever. For example, the present leveling off of HIV infection in the gay communities in

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Northeast conference shows students on the move

Culminates in demonstration at Dukakis's office

By Frank Neisser
Boston

steps of the building.

The Homeless Union is demanding permanent housing and a memorial for homeless people who have died on the streets during this past winter. Students and homeless speakers called for the military budget to be turned toward the needs of the people.

While students chanted and spoke out at the doors of the state house, others infiltrated the building and held a sit-in in the governor's offices. They pointed out both Dukakis's failure to meet the needs of the homeless and people on welfare and also his support of U.S. intervention and military action from Panama to the Middle East. They also criticized his hostility to the basic human rights of lesbian and gay people.

Nine of the students were arrested, handcuffed, and treated roughly by the police. They spent the night in jail after refusing bail and were arraigned this morning. Two other students had been arrested earlier for spray painting actions during the course of the march.

Student activists report

The weekend conference at MIT included students from 20 or more schools from throughout the Northeast, including Boston University, Tufts, MIT, Harvard, the University of Massachusetts in Boston and Amherst, the University of Rhode Island, Brandeis, Mass. College of Art, the State University of New York, Colby, and many more.

Students from the University of Vermont shared the experiences of their victory this past week when a five-day takeover of the administrative wing of the Waterman Building by students of color and their support-

Continued on page 8

April 26 — Over 200 high school and college students from around the Northeast demonstrated throughout downtown Boston yesterday, culminating in an invasion of Gov. Michael Dukakis's office at the Massachusetts State House. Eleven of the students were arrested.

Yesterday's protests were called by the Northeast Student Action Network (formerly Radical Student Network) against the Wars at Home and Abroad. They called for the abolition of the CIA, U.S. out of Central America, an end to racism and to economic injustice. The activities came at the conclusion of a weekend action conference held at MIT.

The students, who traveled from as far away as Burlington, Vt., and Stonybrook, N.Y., began their rally at Government Center. Very quickly they moved to the First National Bank of Boston, any institution with heavy ties to both South Africa and the International Paper Company, which is engaged in a union-busting campaign against its striking workers in Jay, Maine.

The students burnt symbolic money in front of the bank and pointed out the bank's role in oppressing poor and working people at home and abroad. The demonstrators continued to other sites in the downtown area connected with the CIA, racism and the war in Central America, including the Armed Forces Recruiting Station where they held a "die-in" against the war and military recruiting.

The final stop was the Massachusetts State House, where the students united in solidarity with the Boston Homeless Union which had been holding a three-day encampment on the



WW PHOTO: REBECCA TOLEDO

Kelli Craig and Karen Murray, two leading activists of the anti-racist protest at Wesleyan College, Connecticut.

Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization — Black and white, Latino, Asian, Arab and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

If you would like to know more about **WWP**, or if you would like to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

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CALENDAR

ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM
April 21 to May 10: "SACTU
Solidarity Tour." Peter Mahlangu of
the South African Coalition of Trade
Unions visits Atlanta, Birmingham
and the Southeast. Various loca-
tions. Call (404) 688-7422.

ATLANTA
Sat., April 30: Jobs With Justice
Rally. Trade unions, community and
civil rights groups join in a rally for
workers' rights in the face of
shutdowns, cutbacks and "the new

generation of robber barons." Noon.
At the Georgia World Congress
Center.

BOSTON

Fri., May 6: "Racism and the U.S.
War Drive: The Need For a United
Working Class Fightback." Featur-
ing John Jones, Vietnam veteran,
chairperson Billion Dollar Housing
Coalition, Jersey City, N.J. Spon-
sored by Students and Youth
Against Racism/All-Peoples Con-
gress. Donation. Wheelchair acces-

sible. Childcare by reservation. 7:30
p.m. At Emmanuel Church, 15 New-
bury St. Call (617) 424-1176.

SAN FRANCISCO

Fri., May 6: A presidential forum
and debate of Peace and Freedom
Party, including Workers World
Party presidential candidate Larry
Holmes and four others. \$2 admis-
sion. 7:30 p.m. At Women's Build-
ing, 3543 18th St. Call (415) 826-
4828.

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Jackson rallies build working class unity in Pa.

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

April 27 — In the primary here yesterday, Jackson won this multinational city with 57% of the vote. While he lost the state by 2-1, it is significant that he doubled the number of votes he received in Pennsylvania in 1984.

Among the poor and oppressed in this city, the enthusiasm for Jackson was electric.

At a shopping plaza in working class, racially mixed Southwest Philadelphia Saturday, people went out of their way for literature, and gave thumbs up gestures of approval as the All-Peoples Congress sound car explained why poor and working people should vote for Jesse Jackson.

Just two and a half years ago, this community was the scene of racist violence, where one home was firebombed to prevent a Black family from moving

in. This time the response was warm and supportive from Black and white workers alike in West Philadelphia and Delaware County, wherever the sound car went.

Earlier this week, on Wednesday, about 7,000 people, Black, Latin, Asian and white, converged at JFK Plaza in Center City to hear Jackson at a "Rally Against Federal Budget Cuts." Roger Tauss of TWU Local 234 chaired, and several union leaders spoke, including representatives from ACTWU, AFSCME DC 33 and 47, PSSU, APWU and 1199C.

In the crowd were Justice for Janitors organizers, a table for petitions to raise the minimum wage, a number of women and men wearing gay and lesbian buttons and leafleters in support of International Paper strikers. Jackson, interrupted often by applause, was cheered the loudest when

he called for U.S. aid for the front-line states in their struggle against South African apartheid.

While in the Philadelphia area, Jackson also visited the Dignity Shelter for the Homeless, spoke to AIDS patients at the Philadelphia Nursing Home, led a rally against drugs in North Philadelphia, and in West Chester, pushed for federal funding of child-care centers and after-school programs. Today, he also joined the picket line at British Petroleum (BP), on strike in Marcus Hook since January.

4,000 steelworkers at rally

The campaign this week also included a rain-soaked rally of 4,000 predominantly white workers in support of strikers at a steel foundry in Columbia, Lancaster County; a United Mine Workers' rally at a mine south of Pittsburgh; and a boat tour through

the economically depressed Monongahela Valley.

Over 2,000 supporters greeted Jackson at Monongahela, where plant closings have caused massive unemployment. Five thousand also came out for a rally for Jackson in Erie.

Media act like it's over

The big business press meanwhile has made it seem as though the race for the Democratic Presidential nominee is over, with the only question left being the vice presidential candidate. But the fact is that Dukakis only leads Jackson by 1% (30% to 29%) if all the primary votes are added up.

But beyond the primary contest, the struggle for jobs, peace and justice will benefit every community where the Jackson campaign has been, as the seeds of a new working-class unity take root.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Philadelphia workers cheer Jackson.



WW PHOTO

Labor for Jackson rally in Buffalo, N.Y.

Paper strikers step up fight as IP stonewalls on scabs

Union members vote down company's surrender demands

By Phil Wilayto

April 25 — Striking and locked-out International Paper Company (IP) workers have overwhelmingly rejected the company's latest contract proposal.

"The company's bargaining position leaves 3,500 of its long-term employees with no assurances that they could return to work. That's an alternative we simply cannot accept," said Wayne E. Glenn, president of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU).

Union members in DePere, Wis., Mobile, Ala., Lock Haven, Pa., and Jay, Maine, had voted during the last week on the proposal, the result of national talks which began in late March. The results were announced April 22 at the union's Nashville headquarters.

In its proposal, the giant paper

company had actually hardened its position on the central issue in the strike, the right of the union strikers to take back their jobs from the scabs who are now operating the four mills.

Rather than give the union members their jobs as part of a strike settlement, IP is "offering" the workers "preferential hiring rights" at the four mills and "outplacement" preference at other IP locations. In addition, the company is still demanding the deep concessions that were the original cause of the dispute.

"The company's position is basically an insult," Workers World was told by Local 14 spokesperson Gary McGrane, a ten-year veteran of the Jay mill.

Corporate campaign takes off

The union's attention has returned to its corporate campaign, which was temporarily suspended during the national talks. In addition to a series of demonstrations in April and May outside boards-of-directors meetings of companies that have corporate ties to IP, speaking engagements and car caravans are now moving into southeastern New England and Ohio.

The union has also launched "Outreach '88," a program to reach out to 33 other IP plants, meeting with the workers there, explaining the company's demands and building further support for the union's fight.

Despite close to a year of bitter hardship, court injunctions, attacks by the state police and arrests, the paperworkers have remained strong and determined, with less than 5% of their numbers crossing the picket lines.

In the process of defending their un-

ion, the paperworkers have become a focal point for the entire labor movement in its battle against the union-busting of the last decade.

In Maine, Local 6 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers represents 5,700 workers at the Bath Iron Works, the state's largest employer. Local 6 Vice President Mickey Meater said his membership turned down a contract earlier this month in part because they were inspired by the Jay strikers' stand against concessions.

Over the past year, Jay has been the site of the largest labor gatherings since the 1930s. Another massive march and rally there has been called by the state AFL-CIO for April 30.

In central Pennsylvania, many companies have tried to take advantage of high unemployment and widespread plant shutdowns to force concessionary contracts on the unions.

"We were beginning to see the opening of a fightback spirit here, and the Lock Haven strike has really helped to galvanize that," District 1199-P Vice President Dave Cormier told Workers World.

Cormier, a leader in Lock Haven's Paperworkers Support Committee, cited a number of examples of area locals that had tightened up their internal structure in preparation for their own upcoming negotiations.

In Alabama, where labor and civil rights issues have long been intertwined, the Mobile struggle has helped to deepen the ties between union members fighting concession demands and Black organizations and leaders resisting attacks on the hard-won gains of the civil rights movement.

You can help

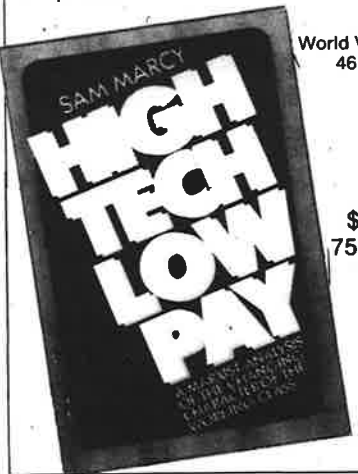
Strike supporters suggest the following as ways to aid the paperworkers:

- Introduce a resolution in your union, school or community organization to support the IP strike. Send a copy along with a donation to one of the locals (listed below).
- Take up a collection in your factory, office or mill, school or church.
- Contact the nearest local for speakers, literature and more information.
- Send messages of solidarity and financial contributions to: UPIU 14, F&O 246, P.O. Box 272, Jay, Maine 04239, (207) 897-5423; UPIU 1787, P.O. Box 773, Lock Haven, Pa. 17745, (717) 748-2097; UPIU 6288, 342 Maine St., DePere, Wis. 54115, (414) 337-6501; UPIU Locked-out Local 265, 1105 N. Wilson Ave., Pritchard, Ala. 36610, (205) 457-0265.

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Special notice to striking and locked-out IP workers

Workers World is the only newspaper covering this struggle that is offering free subscriptions to any union member on strike or locked out. To start your free subscription, just fill out the coupon on page 10, write "IP striker" at the bottom and send to: Workers World, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010. When you win the strike and go back to work, we hope you'll continue to subscribe at the regular rate.

AIM leader Peltier put in solitary

By Bob Gustafson
and Leslie Feinberg

Unexpectedly and for unexplained reasons, American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier has been placed in isolation in Leavenworth Penitentiary in Kansas.

Because of past threats against his life by U.S. government officials, a matter of documented public record, the eyes of the world are now on the administration at Leavenworth.

Peltier, an Anishnabe/Lakota warrior, is serving two consecutive life terms. He was convicted of killing two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in June 1975 although an FBI ballistics test showed that the bullets which killed the agents were not fired from Peltier's weapon.

The determination of the U.S. government to keep Peltier behind bars is such that last October the Supreme Court refused to even consider his peti-

tion for a new trial.

"I've said from the beginning that my freedom will come from the people, not from the courts," said Leonard Peltier in a telephone interview with Workers World from Leavenworth on Feb. 12. Peltier is asking people to become involved in the international struggle to win his freedom.

A struggle for justice

Despite bourgeois media censorship in the U.S., the case of Leonard Peltier is well-known internationally. He is as much a symbol of the Native struggle here as Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned leader of the African National Congress, is of the struggle in South Africa.

Peltier has received worldwide support in his struggle for justice, and those endorsing his freedom from this political imprisonment include Jesse Jackson, five Nobel Prize winners including South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 55 members of the U.S. Congress, 60 members of the Canadian Parliament, Amnesty International, the U.S. National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and millions have signed petitions worldwide.

Native leaders across North America have repeatedly stated that the



Leonard Peltier

unjust imprisonment of Leonard Peltier is part of a coordinated U.S. government attack on the Native struggle for justice on this continent.

A worldwide grassroots support network has organized meetings, demonstrations, speaking tours, concerts and other events to keep Peltier's case before the people.

May 7 conference

On May 7 there will be an all-day conference in Philadelphia on Peltier's case. Speakers will include Ellen Moves Camp, Lakota elder and veteran of Wounded Knee 1973; Nilak Butler, an Inuit woman who was eyewitness to the government shoot-out at Pine Ridge, a long-time AIM activist and organizer for the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (LPDC); local

Continued on page 10

Williamsburg Bridge closing highlights state of decay in New York

By Betsy Davis
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Working people and other residents of this city are facing economic hardship and dislocation as a result of the abrupt closing of the decaying 85-year-old Williamsburg Bridge on April 12. This bridge was used by 240,000 car, bus and train commuters daily to get between Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Over half of the 2,024 bridges in New York City are listed as structurally deficient, and the Williamsburg is the 32nd to be closed or restricted for safety reasons, while 371 others are urgently in need of repairs.

At the same time these bridges are decaying, construction on upper-income housing has soared in Manhattan, suggesting that rich people get all the priorities, while poor and working people are left to fend for themselves.

On the Lower East Side on the Manhattan side of the bridge, where there is a major shopping area, stores immediately began to lay off workers as Brooklyn residents could no longer get to the area.

People who used the bridge to get to and from work have been directed either to the subways or to bus routes over other bridges. Ferry service was also set up within a week to take people from Brooklyn to Manhattan.

The bridge is clearly another victim of the cutback mania running ram-

nant in the city since the mid-1970s. While the nearby Brooklyn Bridge alone used to have 200 maintenance workers and engineers attending it year round, now there are only 160 maintenance workers for all of the bridges in the whole city.

While officials say they are discussing possible solutions, commuters are finding themselves as neglected as the bridges. After 8:00 p.m., most public bus routes and the ferry between Manhattan and Brooklyn cease operation, and on weekends most don't operate at all.

Especially hard hit by this are many disabled people who cannot use the subways due to all the stairs.

Brooklyn itself is predominantly populated by national minorities, and some are wondering if that has something to do with this lack of service between the boroughs.

Brooklyn residents who must work or go to school late find they must go many miles out of their way to take buses home by way of the Bronx, about a five-hour trip. This is even longer than a round trip to Philadelphia, and almost as costly, since the Transit Authority now allows free transfer only once for every two buses.

Disabled activists have long been mobilizing to force the city to provide accessible public transportation seven days a week, 24 hours a day on all interborough routes, especially important now that the Williamsburg Bridge is closed.

Women and Disability conference shows what can be done

By Shelly Buslowitz

On April 16, this reporter attended the Third Annual Conference on Women and Disability: Moving Up and Out Together III in New Haven, Conn., sponsored in part by the Connecticut Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

There were 250 disabled women and a handful of disabled men who had gathered at Southern Connecticut State University for the exciting all-day conference. The group was multinational, lesbian, gay, and straight with various types of disabilities: developmental, physical, mental, hear-

ing impaired, and visually impaired.

As the conference began, welcoming remarks were given by disabled women who are prominent in the disability movement. Judy Chamberlain, former mental institution patient, author of *On Our Own* and founder of the Mental Patients Liberation Front of Boston, Mass., gave the keynote address.

The conference consisted of three sets of workshops with seven concurrent workshops in each set. The first set of workshops ranged from Building Relationships — Women with Disabilities as Mothers — Lesbians with Disabilities — Independent Living.

Panelists from each workshop were mainly disabled women representative of the topic each workshop dealt with. This was true for workshops throughout the day.

The second set of workshops covered topics such as Older Women with Disabilities, the Culture of Deaf Women with AIDS, Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Perspectives on the Disability Movement and Substance Abuse.

There were more presentations during lunch, including a short, autobiographical story of herself by Geri Jewel, a young woman with cerebral palsy who is an actress (formerly of the Facts of Life) and getting to be a well known comedian from California.

Among the afternoon workshops were Building Coalitions, Violence against Women, Dealing with the Medical Profession, Educational and Vocational Equity, and Women with Disabilities in the Arts.

The conference ended with a celebration of all of us who made the trip to New Haven from places in Connecticut, New York City, New York State, New Jersey, Georgia and elsewhere. Geri Jewel did one of her routines which was very funny. Elaine Kolb, disability rights activist, singer/songwriter, gave a stunning performance.

This reporter came home filled with much positive energy from meeting new people and knowing that this all-encompassing conference had been pulled together by disabled women.

(The writer is a disabled activist.)

Troubles at the Castle

New York's most infamous landlords get hauled into court

By Andy Stapp
New York

April 25 — In New York City the news media has taken to playing up big landlords as heroes, giants who know how to "get things done," saviors who "provide jobs and urban development."

Billionaire real-estate moguls LeFrak, Trump, Rudin and Kalikow are lionized on the society pages, congratulated in editorials and asked their opinion on every topic under the sun, from U.S.-Soviet relations to bridge repair.

The self-styled King and Queen of the megabucks property owners here are Harry and Leona Helmsley. They own the Empire State Building, the Helmsley Palace on Madison Avenue, the Flatiron Building, the whole complex at One Penn Plaza and a chain of 26 hotels. Along with all the other properties they possess, this makes them the largest landlords in New York City.

The Helmsley real-estate empire is valued at some \$8 billion.

Everybody in this town knows about Harry and Leona Helmsley. They're simply inescapable.

Now it is an interesting tribute to the good sense of the millions of aver-

age working people of New York City that the more they read about Harry and Leona's "fairy-tale rise to realtor royalty," about their "storybook marriage," about their great wealth and power, the more these same average people come to dislike the royal couple.

This feeling approaches loathing among the thousands of hotel and office workers who labored directly to make the Helmsleys rich, but just about everyone who pays rent to a landlord has unkind thoughts about the King and Queen.

What could be more gratifying then, than to see the Helmsleys caught in the toils of the dreaded IRS, nailed for 235 counts of tax evasion and related criminal charges, including extortion.

No, Harry. You cannot write off that \$45,000 silver clock, built in the shape of the Helmsley Building, as a "real-estate holding." No, Leona. You cannot claim that \$2,000 dress as "a uniform."

Harry. That \$130,000 stereo system for your Connecticut estate? You cannot bill it to your hotels. Also you are supposed to pay taxes on the \$500,000 worth of jade art you bought last year. You can't deduct it as a "business expense."

The mountain of charges against them indicate the Helmsleys owe as

much as \$20 million! People have gone to prison for a lot less.

On the day they showed up to be indicted, in a gleaming silver superstretch Caddy limo with the cops holding open a big spot for them to park right in front of Federal Court, Leona explained that it was all a horrible mistake, labeling the charges "completely groundless and grossly unfair."

As she spoke, a dozen private guards sporting HH initials kept any mere commoners from getting too close to Their Majesties.

In New York City, where the press treats landlords like heroes, nobody really believes that Harry and Leona are going to spend even one day behind bars. Unlike poor people who are accused of some small theft, the Helmsleys were released without having to pay bail.

Still, up at the Helmsley Palace Hotel, the workers were having a good laugh at the thought of these two disgusting billionaires being handcuffed and fingerprinted.

Why did the Helmsleys do it, when they already had so much? Fifty years ago, John D. Rockefeller explained the reason. When asked how rich is rich enough, he replied, "Just a little bit more."

'Operation Rescue' a right-wing insult

Thousands to confront anti-abortionists in New York

By Kathy Durkin
New York

When rightwingers, using the code name "Operation Rescue," come to New York City from April 30-May 7 to attack women's rights, they will be met by determined women and their supporters who will stand up to defend their rights.

So-called "pro-lifers," backed politically and financially by the Catholic Church hierarchy and right-wing forces, plan to disrupt, sit in and close down major women's health clinics which provide abortions. They seek to intimidate clinic staff and clients and to try to gain political support in an election year for their anti-woman crusade.

When women won the legalization of abortion in 1973 through struggle, it was a big step in the women's rights movement. But the government, in seeking to overturn decades of gains made by the women's, labor, civil rights and lesbian/gay movements,

seized upon the abortion issue to attack women's rights.

And they focused on abortion as a key issue, rather than on the needed social programs, which they were gutting, to try to prevent a fightback.

The "pro-lifers" have tried to undo the fundamental right to abortion in a fierce gangster-like campaign. Unable to legally overturn it through laws, the courts or anti-abortion referenda because the majority of people support this right, as seen in repeated polls, they've resorted to terror.

Since 1977, there have been over 90 violent assaults on women's health clinics. Clinic staff and clients have been followed, threatened, coerced and attacked. Hate mail has been sent, tires slashed, clinics bombed and burned to the ground.

Anti-Semitic, racist, anti-women and anti-lesbian slurs have been smeared on clinic walls.

These tactics are aimed not only at stopping abortions, but at punishing women who've had them. And in try-

ing to limit women's choices, they've targeted birth control and sex education providers as well.

The government, by not condemning the violence and refusing to investigate or prosecute the perpetrators, has given the green light to this terror, thus egging on racist and anti-lesbian/gay violence as well.

'Pro-life': anti-women and children

The "pro-lifers" are frequently tied to reactionary forces on foreign policy and domestic issues, often aligning themselves with racist, anti-union and other right-wing causes. Though claiming to be for the "rights of the unborn" and to be "pro-family," they cheer on Congress's cuts in the very services which make life more bearable for millions of poor women and children.

They even support the death penalty and bigger and better nuclear missiles! And there are reported links between anti-abortion violence and the

notoriously racist Klan.

The "pro-life" name is a sanctimonious sham! It exists in name only. What they really stand for is an all-out crusade against women's rights to determine their own lives and make their own choices.

If they really wanted to promote life, why not have an "Operation Rescue" to get housing for millions of homeless families or to get food for the many hungry children or to get jobs for the jobless?

But their real goals have been exposed and opposed by thousands of women and their supporters who have stood up to them and will continue to do so in city after city.

Women won't let their rights be taken away. They are fighting for the right to have optimum choices in their lives from the right to decent jobs with equal pay, to affirmative action, education, housing, to the right to abortion, and no forced sterilizations, and to have and raise healthy children with all the social supports necessary.

— AIDS Actions

Continued from page 1

the U.S. is overwhelmingly due to the massive educational work undertaken

HIV infection among intravenous drug users, on the other hand, continues to rise, because the government refuses to fund mass education and rehabilitative treatment. As Beswick put it, "the protests are needed to 'spring' AIDS issues into the forefront of national awareness."

The call for the direct actions to fight the AIDS epidemic came out of a meeting of AIDS activists, billed "Agitate, Educate, Organize!" that was held in Washington, D.C. the day after the huge Oct. 11 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Since then, many groups and individuals who were among the hundreds of thousands who marched on Washington, fired with pride and power, channeled their enthusiasm into planning these Spring AIDS Actions. And many others, eager to do whatever it takes to beat the AIDS epidemic, have contacted ACT NOW and

are organizing AIDS actions at a real "grassroots" level.

For example, activists in Dubuque, Iowa, defying last year's homophobic attacks, plan to march through town on April 30 to hold the Second Annual Lesbian and Gay Pride March and Rally. Coalitions of AIDS activists, lesbians and gay men, Black, Latino, Asian, and Native American groups, women and others have been formed to plan actions and sponsor forums.

Outside the U.S., lesbian, gay and AIDS activists will also be demonstrating in Vancouver, B.C. and Toronto, Ont., Canada; Tijuana, Mexico; and London, England.

Some of the local organizing is being done by ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) in Los Angeles, San Diego, New York City, Boston, Providence and Newark; AIDS Action Pledge in San Francisco; C-FAR (Chicago For AIDS Rights); Mass ACT OUT in Boston; OUT (Oppression Under Target) in Washington, D.C.

For more information on Spring AIDS Actions planned in your area, contact: Terry Beswick, ACT NOW (415) 647-7972, (415) 861-4634; in New York contact ACTUP, (212) 533-8888, or the All-Peoples Congress, (212) 741-0633.

105 AIDS activists on trial for fighting for human rights

By John-Peter Daly
New York

The trial of 105 AIDS activists arrested at a March 24 demonstration on Wall St. continues. They took to the street to connect the thousands of deaths from AIDS to drug-company profiteering. They were charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

After the judge refused to dismiss the cases at the arraignment, trial dates were scattered throughout the month of April.

At the first trial on April 20, defendants made a political demand for one trial date for all 105 as scattered trials interfered with their schedules — taking to the streets to fight AIDS. The judge conceded and consolidated the trials into one — a victory for the activists.

Joan Gibbs, a Black lesbian lawyer representing the defendants at the trial, called again for dismissal, declaring the trial should be considered a political one. She explained that be-

cause of government neglect, the activists before the court are struggling to save lives by demanding the release of untested drugs. She compared the street struggle in the sixties that brought gains in civil rights to today's AIDS struggle.

James Cascaito, a defendant who spoke at the trial said, "We work in solidarity with the Black and Hispanic community, noting that the majority of people who suffer from AIDS in New York City are Blacks and Hispanics. We express our solidarity with the women's movement as well and call particular attention to the plight of women and babies afflicted by AIDS."

Cascaito pointed to the genocidal terrorism of the government and "the fact that some 40 drugs have been demonstrated as being effective 'in vitro'" but are not being released to treat people with AIDS. Cascaito added that this is because companies like "Lyphomed and Burroughs-Wellcome, whose profits on AIDS-related drugs range from 900% to 1,500%, do not find other drugs profitable."

On the picket line

Harvard union vote. After more than a decade of struggle, clerical and technical workers at Harvard University are finally near victory in their fight for a union. On March 14, hundreds of Harvard workers massed outside the Boston office of the National Labor Relations Board to present union certification petitions, and the Board scheduled a unionization vote for May 17. It will be the third try — two earlier organizing drives were narrowly defeated — but this time the 3,700 office and laboratory workers appear solidly behind AFSCME's drive, which has focused on childcare, pay equity, and other issues that are crucial to the workforce, 83% of whom are women. The unions representing other Harvard workers, including the Hotel Workers, Electrical Workers, Carpenters and others, have worked in support of the AFSCME drive, which was also key to building a strong campaign. A victory at Harvard would be the biggest union win ever at a private university, and, according to AFSCME President Gerald McEntee, "it will open all of the pink- and new-collar

sectors of our society for labor to organize."

TV writers' strike. J.R. Ewing wasn't shot at the end of the last "Dallas" episode this season, and it was a

bit of a jolt for viewers used to spending the summer yawning over who done it. In fact, nothing special happened at all. On the other hand, most of the daytime soaps haven't skipped a beat — although devotees report the dialogue has gotten awfully clumsy. Behind it

Workers protest Columbia union busting

Nearly 500 workers and students at Columbia University attended a lunch hour demonstration Thursday, April 21. The rally, initiated by Transport Workers Local 241 and co-sponsored by the other two campus unions, 1199 and District 65 UAW, targeted Columbia for its ongoing anti-union campaigns. The rich Ivy League school is engaged in an aggressive attack against contract rights of all unionized workers, with sick leave and other benefits, promotions and job rights, and union protections all under the gun.



Workers rally at Columbia College.

all is the strike by some 9,000 television and movie screenwriters, now in its ninth week. The walkout has halted production at all the major weekly TV shows, while the dailies are plowing forward with scab writers. The main issue is residual payments for reruns; producers are demanding a \$35 million rollback.

Amnesty "fraud" fraud. The U.S. government quietly dropped its case against 61 Chicano farmworkers in Florida on April 20, virtually admitting that charges the workers filed fraudulent amnesty claims were themselves fraudulent. The farmworkers, all of whom had applied for legal residency under the Simpson-Rodino immigration law, were prosecuted when they were unable to provide the required legal documentation that they've lived in the U.S. for at least 90 days in the year that ended May 1, 1986. The workers charged that the case was actually a politically motivated persecution, intended to scare off

Continued on page 8

Hollywood treatment of Chicano struggle reinforces racist stereotypes

By Petra Guerra

The movie "The Milagro Bean Field War" is a nice, warm, sensitive movie. It has great photography and is filmed in the most beautiful part of the country. This is all fine and dandy, of course, but not if you happen to be a Chicano and/or know some of the history and culture.

The story is about Jose, a Chicano who is fed up with the inability to exercise his irrigation rights. He rebels against Mr. Devine, a corporate magnate, who now owns most of the land. By preventing the residents of Milagro from irrigating their crops, Devine forces them off their land, making it available for a recreation site which he is developing.

The story shows the struggle of the Chicano people for survival and how, regardless of disagreements, there is always unity when it is needed.

The problem, however, is how the movie was made. Once more the "Great White God" has come to give us a lesson in our history. According to legend, the Indians were told by their gods that a white man representing god was coming. When Cristobal Colon descended from the ship, they bowed to his very needs, paving the way for the genocide of our people.

Robert Redford is playing that role now. He has used our history, something we hold very precious, and converted it into another stereotype of a Mexican: lazy and ignorant. Women

play an insignificant role. The white liberal lawyer has the only brains in the whole town.

Redford refused to have Chicanos in the movie as the main characters, even after the Chicano community confronted him on the issue. No insult to the great Latino actors in the movie, but this could have been a great opportunity for Redford to do justice to Chicano history and he blew it.

Spanish is spoken only for useless dialogue, and the accents are wrong. Had every leading character spoken at the same time it would have sounded like a United Nations meeting, everything except New Mexican Spanish. The only Chicano song in the whole movie was "De Colores," and it was played during the credits.

Heroic struggle of Reis Lopez Tijerina

The movie was made from a novel whose story was inspired by the struggle led by Reis Lopez Tijerina and the Alianza, a group representing Chicanos/Mexicanos for the whole Southwest. On June 5, 1967, 20 women and men Alianza members, led by Reis Lopez Tijerina, raided the Tierra Amarilla Courthouse.

They were responding to the long-time repression of the people by the state, federal and local government. This included refusing to honor the Spanish land grants that gave Chicanos rightful ownership to the land they lived on, including water rights. Rich land developers began moving

onto the land, forcing the residents to sell, and in many cases downright stealing the land right from under them.

Taking some hostages with them, Alianza members fled to the mountains. The Governor of New Mexico called in more than 300 National Guard, armed to the teeth and equipped with two tanks, to hunt down the "aggressors."

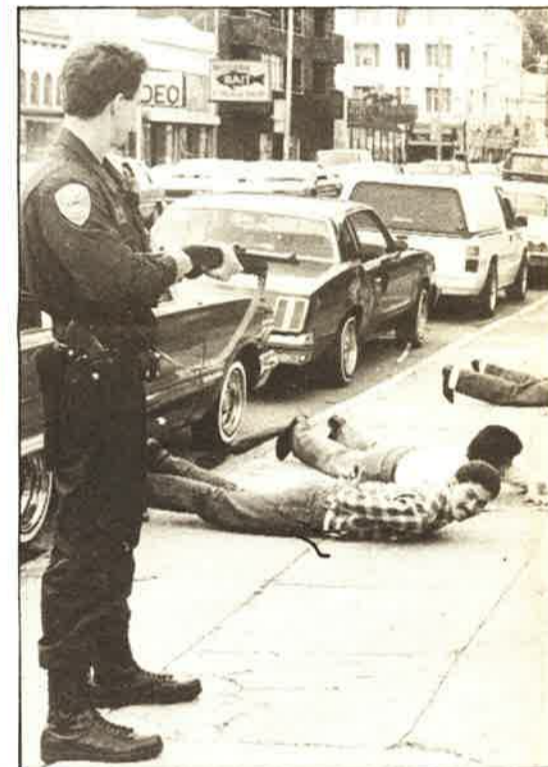
The real life ending was not a clear-cut victory as the "Milagro" movie portrays it. But the struggle for land grants was one of the high points of the Chicano movement. Thousands of women and men from all over the country were members of the Alianza. Its ranks also included indigenous peoples and representatives of the Black Power movement.

When will the Robert Redfords of the world understand that we can tell our history better? That what "they" see is not what really happened? Could it be that a certain cultural idiom has to be developed in order for them to understand that we do not need them as story tellers?

For those who really know the reality of New Mexico history, or at least the time of the '60s, read about Reis Lopez Tijerina and the land grants. There are several books available and the Zimmerman Library of the University of New Mexico has all the interviews and materials pertaining to the Tierra Amarilla Courthouse Raid.



Police arrogance! It's not just in L...
cist-like police sweeps in the Barrios and other...
In San Francisco, as in other cities, scenes lik...
mon. What were the crimes of the young Lat...
in the Mission district on April 22, the comm...
police had frisked them, while they were forc...
shotguns pointed at their heads, they were c...



News conference at New York City Hall.

the immediate cause of death may have been heart failure, the "manner of death" was from multiple blunt force injuries to Rodriguez' head, chest arms and legs, caused by blows from night sticks, flashlights or perhaps revolvers.

As of this writing the cops involved have not been arrested or even suspended from the force. Rather, they have been given desk duty until things

Court rules against UFW in \$5.4 million suit

By Gloria La Riva
San Francisco

April 24 — The United Farm Workers union has been hit with a huge \$5.4 million judgment by an Arizona court for its lettuce boycott against Bruce Church, Inc. (BCI), the third largest lettuce grower in the country.

The basis for this attack on UFW is an Arizona state law banning secondary boycotts in agriculture. But the Arizona law was applied by a Yuma County judge against the UFW boycott that is conducted in California, a far-reaching and illegal extension of the court's jurisdiction.

UFW attorney Chris Schneider told Workers World, "What the judge in Yuma county has done is taken this already sweeping law, and applied it nationally as if it were federal legislation. We plan to appeal this outrageous decision."

In order to appeal, the UFW must post an equally ridiculous \$5.4 million bond, which the union says it does not have. They will seek a bond reduction.

In 1972, Arizona passed a law making strikes by farmworkers during harvest illegal. The law also outlaws

secondary boycotts in agriculture. The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) of 1935 through the Taft-Hartley provision, bans secondary boycotts by labor unions.

This restriction, along with injunctions limiting pickets and other anti-union laws, are designed to break strikes and keep workers unorganized.

But the NLRA does not apply to agricultural workers. Therefore, except for Arizona and two other states, agricultural unions are not bound by the secondary boycott ban.

Schneider is confident that the Arizona law will be thrown out on appeal to federal court. In 1978, it was declared unconstitutional by the federal district court, but the Supreme Court reversed the decision on technical grounds.

The use of secondary boycotts, especially lettuce and grapes, in the UFW's 25-year history has been an effective means of winning their strikes and just demands, through consumer and community support.

The California boycott of Bruce Church lettuce has been so successful that Lucky's, a major grocery chain,

stopped carrying BCI lettuce. The UFW's boycott began after the February 1979 strike, when BCI refused to renegotiate a new contract with 2,000 UFW farmworkers.

Ever since the UFW was formed 25 years ago, agribusiness has used every means to try to destroy the farmworkers' struggle for decent wages, basic necessities such as toilets, drinking water and housing, and against deadly pesticides. Now lawsuits by growers are meant to bankrupt the 35,000-strong union.

In Imperial county near Los Angeles, Maggio Co. was awarded \$1.7 million in early April against UFW, for what it claims were \$3,000 in damages caused by strikers, and for "violence on the picket line." In order to appeal, the UFW must first post \$2.5 million as bond.

Schneider said, "The growers hope that the Arizona judgment will make us step back on secondary boycotts, but they cannot keep us down. We plan an all-out campaign to violate any court injunction against the lettuce boycott. And our grape boycott is going strong."

City Hall protest over Rodriguez killing by NYC cops

By Scott Scheffer
New York

About 250 people demonstrated at City Hall Park April 21 in a militant continuation of the fight for justice for Juan Rodriguez, a Dominican man killed by the police on Jan. 30.

Although the organizers of the demonstration and rally had been "ordered" by the cops to stay at the south end of the park, far away from City Hall, as the chanting and picketing progressed, this mostly Latino gathering worked its way to the opposite end — within earshot of racist Mayor Ed Koch.

Speaking at the rally were Dennis Rivera, vice president 1199 Hospital

Workers, Richie Perez of the National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights, Jose Alfaro of the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, Borough of Manhattan President David Dinkins, City Councilman Jose Rivera, and Estela Vasquez of the Latino Coalition for Racial Justice, which called the action.

Much to its credit, the coalition has organized a series of actions around the Juan Rodriguez case, including a militant march of 2,000 people through Brooklyn and a press conference on April 12 in which the participants stood face to face with the cops and blocked the steps of City Hall for 30 minutes.

Juan Rodriguez was a 40-year-old man who, at the time of his death, resided in Brooklyn with his wife and three children. On Jan. 30, four policemen from the notorious 83rd precinct in Brooklyn responded to a call from a neighbor of the Rodriguez family, complaining about noise.

By the time the cops left, Mr. Rodriguez had been savagely beaten to death. The walls and bed sheets in his apartment were splattered with blood.

What followed was a high-level cover-up that enraged the Latino community. The cause of death was listed as "cardiac arrest." An independent autopsy done by a Nassau County medical examiner showed that, while

Drugs and intervention in Latin America

Washington's smokescreen for repression

By David Perez

The presidential elections have once again brought the issue of drugs to center stage. International drug trafficking has been focused on in particular, with several countries in Latin America singled out for being behind drug smuggling.

Of course, there does exist an international drug market, and this is a serious problem. But it's important to see beyond ruling-class interpretation of the drug problem — its causes and its solution.

This is important because U.S. imperialism uses the drug issue to cover up its economic, diplomatic and military pressure on countries in Latin America. And U.S. big business and banking are themselves tied into the drug business, making Washington incapable of fighting drug trafficking in any serious way.

Using the smokescreen of drugs, the U.S. has recently increased its maneuvers of aggression and destabilization against Panama and Honduras.

In Panama, for example, the "drug and corruption" charges have been used very effectively to try to bring down the Noriega government. There is now practically a unanimous campaign among the ruling circles in the U.S. on this score; all have embraced the efforts to destabilize Panama.

The Canal is the issue

But drugs are not the issue at all. It's all about maintaining control over the Panama Canal and having a pliant government that will bend to the U.S. wishes. The countries in Latin America are well aware of this and have vigorously denounced U.S. interference there.

In early April in Honduras, agents of the U.S. Marshals Service, working with the Pentagon and elements in the Honduran military, organized the arrest and virtual kidnapping of Juan Ramon Matta Ballestros under the charge that Ballestros is a key figure in an international cocaine ring known as the Medellin cartel.

The U.S. violated Honduras' sovereignty and ignored its constitution by carrying out a forceful extradition of a Honduran citizen.

The masses of Honduras were so infuriated by this action that thousands rebelled and burned parts of the U.S. Embassy annex the following day. This was an expression of the growing anger over how Honduras has been

turned into a virtual colony and military outpost of the U.S.

True to form, Attorney General Meese, himself under investigation for widespread corruption, had the audacity to say that the revolts "were organized by the drug traffickers." Meese is also the head of the National Drug Policy Board.

As far back as 1981, according to a recent series of articles in the New York Times, the Honduran military was known to be active in cocaine smuggling. Since the U.S. had a key interest in developing Honduras as a staging ground for intervention in Central America, it looked the other way and even closed the office of the Drug Enforcement Agency.

U.S. imperialism deals with the international drug trade like it deals with everything else — looking out for its economic, military, and geo-political interests first.

There are so many examples of Washington's bloody history in the drug market. As was revealed by witnesses appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations narcotics subcommittee and also by an ABC broadcast on April 7, the CIA is deeply involved in smuggling cocaine with the Nicaraguan contras. This was carried out with the full knowledge of ex-CIA boss William Casey and others in the Reagan administration.

Then there are the Afghan counter-revolutionaries who have been described as the main suppliers of heroin to the U.S. Here again the government looks the other way. Then there's the sordid history of the U.S.-CIA role in heroin trafficking in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

U.S. controls economy

But there is one critical factor that is all but ignored in the ruling class attacks on countries that are supposedly the source of drugs. This factor goes right to the root of capitalist rule: who controls the economy?

In Latin America, it is the multinational corporations and the giant imperialist banks, along with the International Monetary Fund, that actually dictate what is and what is not going to be produced, what is destined for export, and so forth.

The U.S. has for decades imposed one-crop economies, grown for cash, in the large rural areas of Latin America. From the point of view of the thousands of peasants who actually toil the land in countries like Peru, Colom-

bia, Ecuador, or Bolivia, growing coca is a way of surviving.

If they could earn a decent income growing say, avocados, undoubtedly they would do so. What is grown is determined by the world market.

There can be no discussion on stopping the drug sources unless the issue of serious agrarian reform and meeting the basic needs of the campesinos is raised first and foremost. The proposal being raised by the Reagan administration to use toxic defoliants shows that the health and desires of the people there is the last thing on Reagan's mind.

Virtual invasion of Colombia

The only solution sought by U.S. imperialism has been strengthening the corrupt paramilitary forces in the targeted countries and increasing the role of bodies like the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). In Colombia, for example, there have been reports that somewhere between 3,000 and 5,000 agents of the DEA are operating, a virtual invasion force.

Last year the Pentagon sent special forces to Bolivia under the cover of combating the cocaine trade. The real issue then was a tremendous struggle being waged by the tin miners. So after the U.S. military played its role in squelching the strike, the troops left and we heard little more about the cocaine fields.

The U.S. government fears that open military intervention in Latin America will arouse the already high level of anger that exists against Yankee imperialism. Drugs become one

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Melanesian people seize French base in Kanaky

Two days before another round of French staged elections in Kanaky (New Caledonia), there are reports that an army encampment has been overrun by Kanaks, the indigenous Melanesian population. Three French police are said to have been killed and 27 taken prisoner.

Since 1984, the liberation forces there have organized highly successful electoral boycotts by Kanaks. Because of the way the French have manipulated the electorate, it is impossible for Kanaks to win a majority. The boycotts have exposed the colonialist nature of the local administration.

Ecuador gripped by economic crisis

By Angela Vera

April 18 — As presidential elections approach in Ecuador, this small South American country is experiencing the worst economic crisis in its history.

For several weeks, economic activity ground to a virtual halt as an extreme deterioration in all of the economic indices encouraged rumors of a possible coup d'etat.

The seriousness of the crisis reached a new height when the Monetary Board took measures to halt the free fall in the value of the Ecuadoran sucre, which in three weeks had fallen from 280 to 380 in relation to the dollar, a 42% devaluation, and is now being exchanged at the official rate of 500 sucres to the dollar.

The seeds of the current crisis were sown in August 1986 by the rightist, U.S. puppet government of Leon Febres Cordero, a favorite of the Reagan administration. At that time the government entrusted the management of

foreign trade to the exporters and bankers, and took other steps against the interests of the masses of the people.

These steps make it very difficult for the government to change course and contain the crisis. These measures were criticized at the time by even some of the government's closest allies, who have begun to demand the substitution of the so-called neo-liberal economic model.

The spontaneous reaction of workers and students, who poured out into the streets to protest this new policy, was met with brutal repression which left a toll of one dead and dozens arrested.

Meanwhile the United Workers Front (FUT), which unites the majority of the organized workers continued calling for "mass mobilizations" to denounce the government economic measures that have brought chaos to the nation's economy.

As always happens in capitalist countries, the crisis falls on the shoulders of the working class which now must pay outrageous prices for the most basic necessities when they had already been struggling simply to survive.

In early April the Febres Cordero government tried to give the impression that it was attempting to restrain the speculation of the exporters and bankers who have garnered profits of 400 million sucres in just 29 days.

It is important to note that the capitalist media here have not mentioned even a single word about this crisis afflicting the people in a country closely allied to the U.S. This is very different from their attitude towards Nicaragua, whose government, while under constant abuse from the U.S. press and under attack by U.S.-sponsored mercenary killers, has nevertheless managed to achieve significant gains for the Nicaraguan working people.



Los Angeles that the current wave of further oppressed communities are taking place. Like this one are becoming increasingly combative Latino men pictured here? They were standing in a community where they live, in a group. After the police forced to lie spread-eagle on the sidewalk with their hands raised and were casually dismissed.

Bill Hackwell



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL



WW PHOTO

smooth over.

But smoothing over the actions of killer cops may be an impossible job for the powers that be. The Latino community will keep up its fight. The Latino Coalition for Racial Justice has vowed to continue organizing meetings, press conferences, demonstrations and whatever it takes until the murderers of Juan Rodriguez are convicted and jailed.

RFK assassination 20 years later — the coverup continues

By Deirdre Griswold

April 25 — The big business media last week gave much more coverage to the auction of Andy Warhol's cookie jars than to the sensational news that key material evidence in the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy kept under lock and key by the police had been destroyed.

California Secretary of State March Fong Eu on April 20 unveiled "voluminous files" about the assassination which had been locked up for almost 20 years. But reporters and others who inspected the evidence quickly found that 2,410 photographs were missing, having been burned by police. Door jams and ceiling tiles from the murder scene believed to have contained bullet holes had also been destroyed by police.

What was so important about this evidence? Many critics of the government version of the assassination have for years raised questions about whether more than one assassin was involved in the killing. Kennedy was shot on June 5, 1968, hours after winning the Democratic primary in California, which virtually assured him of victory in the presidential election.

The official story was that Sirhan Sirhan, a young Palestinian worker, killed Kennedy because of the latter's support of Israel. This explanation was greeted with skepticism around the world, since all the candidates of the two major parties had pledged support for Israel. Kennedy in no way stood out on this issue, nor was it a controversy within the U.S. ruling class at that time.

Although he was captured right at the scene with a gun in his hand, Sirhan had no recollection of the killing, leading some analysts to believe he had been psychologically "programmed." Close Kennedy associates like Representative Allard K. Lowenstein, himself the victim of an assassination in 1980, concluded that there was "profound and substantial serious evidence more than eight bullets were fired. . . There is now a rebuttable presumption that more than one assassin was involved."

The main political issue racking the U.S. ruling class at that time was whether or not to continue the prosecution of the Vietnam war. Mass opposition to the war peaked in 1968, especially after the February Tet Offensive of the Vietnamese liberation forces showed the strength of their political and military organization in every city, village and hamlet throughout South Vietnam.

This was a period of extreme political instability in the United States. President Lyndon Johnson had inherited both the presidency and the war when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. By 1968, however, Johnson was ready to throw in the towel. He was convinced that it was impossible to win the war and that mass opposition in the U.S. would only grow stronger.

On March 31, 1968, in a surprise speech to the nation, Johnson announced he would not seek re-election. In an Op-Ed piece for the New York Times this April 16, Johnson's chief of staff at that time, James R. Jones, said that "The real reason for Mr. John-

son's withdrawal was Vietnam. . . [He had] begun to doubt our ability to prosecute the war to any clear-cut victory."

Johnson kept his decision secret until the last minute. After his speech, says Jones, "His shoulders temporarily lost their stoop. His air was that of a prisoner let free."

In little more than a month, Robert Kennedy had won the crucial California primary and was slated to be the next president. But like his brother before him, this multi-millionaire politi-

cian was regarded with suspicion and even deep hatred by many in the ultraright and the military-industrial complex. The military at that point felt that they still could "bomb Vietnam back into the Stone Age," in the words of air force chief Curtis Lemay.

The assassination of Robert Kennedy threw the Democratic Party into disarray. It opened the way for the Republicans to put forward Richard Nixon who, by promising that he had a secret peace plan to end the war, squeaked through in November with the lowest percentage of the popular vote of any president since 1912.

The military had their way, and the war ground on for another four years — four years of massive bombing, napalm, defoliation and sheer torture that the nation of Vietnam suffers from to this very day.

Was the Robert Kennedy assassination a right-wing conspiracy? Certainly the political circumstances point that way, and now the destruction of material evidence adds its weight. If the militarist forces could make President Johnson feel like a "prisoner," in Jones' words, then insuring that his successor was in their camp would have been their next priority.

— Drugs

Continued from page 7

of their principal weapons to justify their moves.

Washington uses drugs to create a racist impression that these Latin nations are really full of drug peddlers and bandits; therefore any action is warranted.

Don't fall for it. When it comes to drugs and corruption, no place reeks more than the various "law enforcement" agencies right here in the U.S. According to the aforementioned series in the Times, there are over 100 cases of corruption a year from the FBI, to the Customs Service, to the local sheriffs and cops.

Additionally the U.S. ruling class uses drugs as a weapon of social control here in this country, especially in the oppressed communities.

Any effective fight against the drug crisis must be both anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist. Demands of money for treatment, for jobs, for AIDS, as well as the demand that the U.S. get out of Latin America and the Caribbean are called for.

Finally, we must strive to build a socialist world so as to truly forge a humanity clean in mind, body, and spirit.

— Students

Continued from page 2

ers resulted in agreement to the students' demands including a minimum number of students of color in each incoming class.

Students from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., circulated petitions calling for support of their takeover of the president's office there demanding divestiture from South Africa.

Third World, women, and lesbian and gay caucuses were held, while their counterparts also discussed how to overcome their own racism, sexism and homophobia. Workshops took up racism, economic injustice, Palestine and Central America.

The students discussed plans for a summer action project of community work to fight economic injustice and racism. And in the middle of the conference, they staged a march from MIT to Harvard Square to reach out and leaflet, ending in an action in which the students thronged into the Kennedy School of Government to protest a closed-door conference of experts on "conventional preparedness."

These actions, as well as the successful culmination yesterday of a four-day occupation of the Dean's Office at Williams College by the students' Coalition Against Racist Education around minority representation in the faculty and student body, scholarships, Afro-American studies and a multicultural center, show that students and youth are on the move against war and racism. The action is only beginning.

On the picket line

Continued from page 5

others from trying to claim amnesty. According to their attorney, "Anyone without bullet-proof documentation was accused of fraud. INS has gotten what it wanted out of this. The investigation has deterred many people from applying."

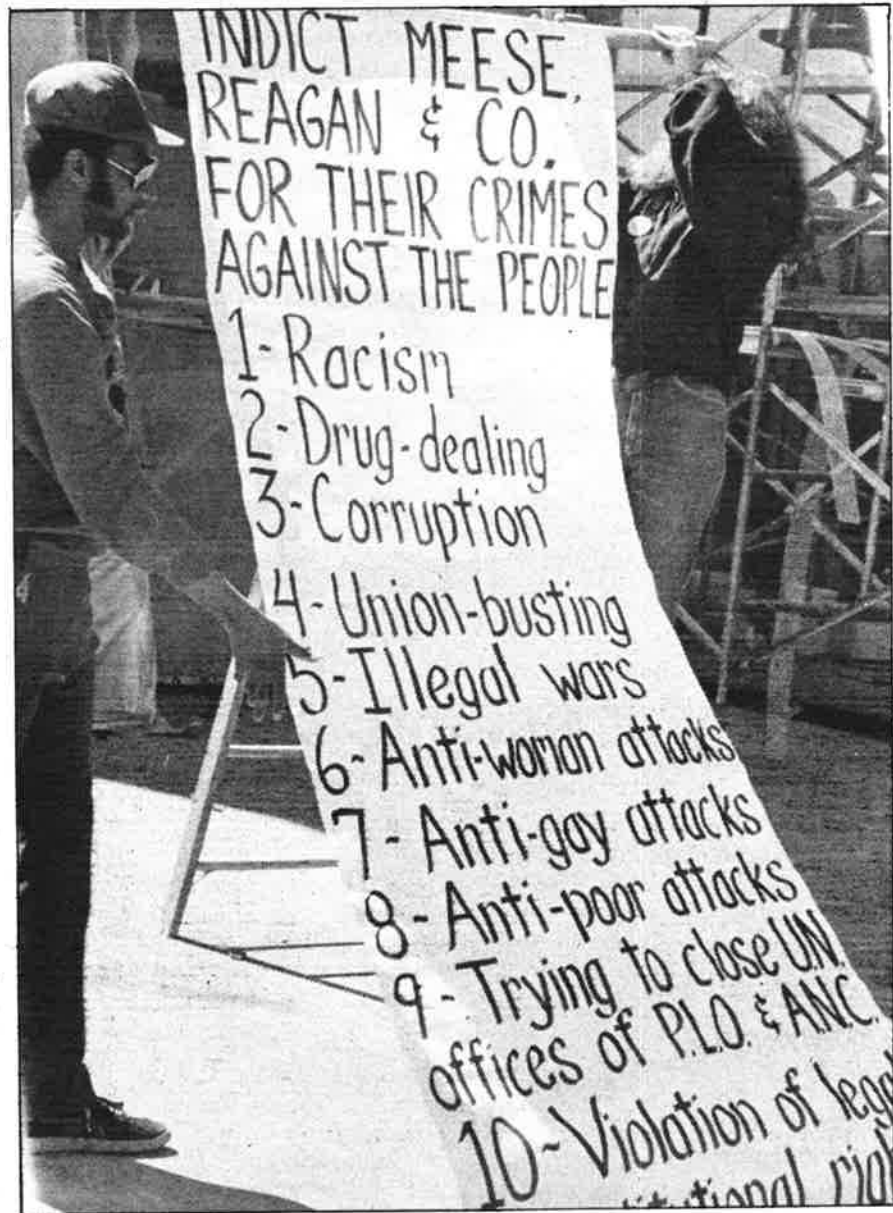
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Texas Air update. In the aftermath of the Transportation Department's announcement of a full-scale safety investigation at Eastern and Continental Airlines, both owned by Texas Air, the ruling class is fighting back. The big business media lined up to broadcast lots of bluster by big boss Frank Lorenzo and by Transportation Secretary James Burnley, who viciously attacked Eastern unions, losing no time making clear his real loyalties after he was forced to respond to union safety complaints. Lorenzo, acknowledging what he called "a slight dip" in passenger reservations after Eastern was fined \$823,000 for safety violations, accused unions of "plotting" to take over his company and of "harassment." Lorenzo was especially testy because Standard & Poor placed \$1.3 billion of Texas Air's debt on its "Credit-Watch" list, noting the safety probe "may delay or impair its [Eastern's] ability to obtain wage concessions from employees." Which is really what all this is about.

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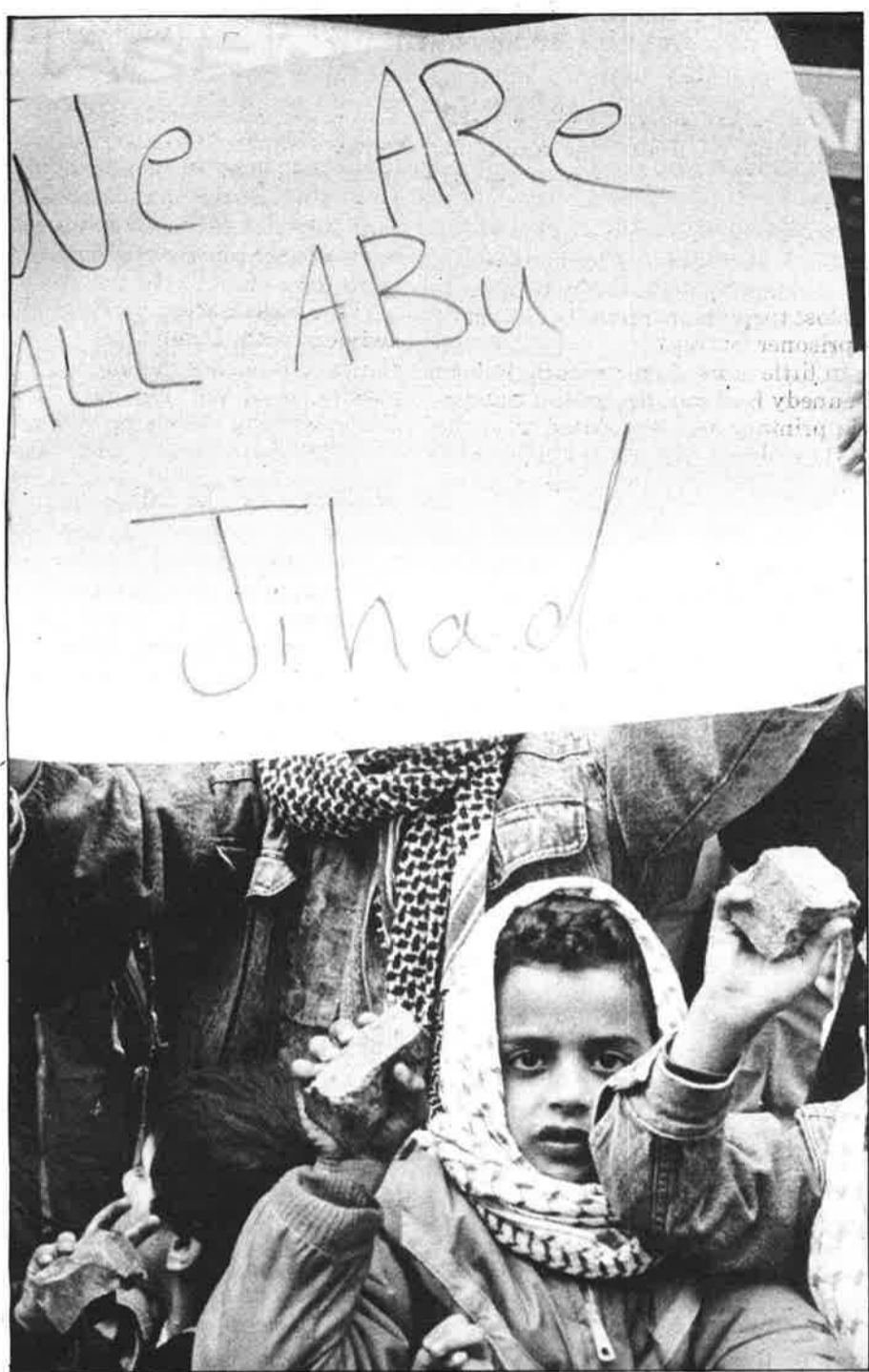
Bike messengers win. Since announcing last summer that he would ban bicycles from three major midtown avenues, Mayor Ed Koch has been the target of continuing protests from environmentalists, recreational cyclists, and, most importantly, the tens of thousands of oppressed youth who make a living as bicycle messengers. On April 12, the bike messengers won, when City Hall backed down and announced it would drop the proposed bike ban. It was a big victory for the workers, who are not unionized, work for low pay and no benefits, suffer frequent injuries — and still were able to organize into an effective, unified force to beat back this particular Koch attack.

Shelley Ettinger



Meese and drugs. A spirited picket line called by the All-Peoples Congress confronted Edwin Meese's appearance at the Detroit Economic Club April 25. Chanting "Meese and Reagan, they're the thugs; they're the ones pushing drugs," the demonstration drew a large crowd of friendly workers on their lunch from construction sites nearby to observe. Protesters carried signs condemning Attorney General Meese for destroying affirmative action, closing the PLO office, Contragate, anti-gay bigotry, and many other issues. A ten-foot-long indictment listing Meese's crimes was unfurled from a ladder provided by the construction crew. Wide media coverage was given to the demonstration.

WW PHOTO: DAVID SOLE



New York City, April 20.

Free Palestine! Hundreds of angry Palestinians and supporters demonstrated in New York City on April 20 to protest the assassination by Israeli agents of Abu Jihad, Deputy Commander in Chief of the PLO. Led by women and children, they marched from the Israeli mission to the UN to the Israeli defense offices.

About 75 Palestinians and 25 U.S. supporters braved taunts, fists, and police clubs for four hours to protest a "celebration" of Israel's 40th anniversary at the University of Illinois at Chicago on April 21. Despite the presence of scores of cops in riot gear, ten protesters, including two U.S. members of the Progressive Students' Network, briefly took over the microphone of the indoor event, chanting "Long live the PLO!" Attendees of the Hillel Foundation-sponsored event were caught by surprise, though a UIC math professor attacked the demonstrators. (One of them, a woman Palestinian student, has filed charges.)

Outside, groups of pro-Israeli reactionaries collected around the pro-Palestinian picket attempting to pick fights. University police attacked the demonstration, arresting 16 participants and beating a Palestinian youth. The action received extensive television coverage, pointing out that the uprising in Palestine had been brought home to Chicago.

WWW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAK

Document proves U.S. backing for Israeli clampdown

By Joyce Chediac

Just days after the Israeli government assassinated PLO leader Abu Jihad, Washington signed a document strengthening its relationship with Tel Aviv. This memorandum of understanding was Washington's "gift" to Israel on its 40th anniversary.

But the U.S. government uttered not a word of protest over how the 40th anniversary of the state of Israel was marked in the occupied territories. Tel Aviv's troops sealed off the area for three days and forbade half-a-million Palestinians in 23 camps, towns and villages from leaving their homes.

The Reagan administration claims to be "impartial" and a "peacemaker" in the Middle East. A closer look at the events, however, reveals that this is a charade.

Take this memorandum of understanding, for example. At a time of unprecedented repression on the West Bank and Gaza, this memorandum solidifies the strategic relationship between the U.S. and Israel in the military, intelligence, economic and political spheres. It shores up the faltering Israeli economy and involves the joint U.S.-Israeli planning of Israeli arms industries and cooperation in industrial research and development.

Most of the memorandum solidifies the military relationship between the two, involving intelligence sharing and joint maneuvers. It goes so far as to let Washington store weapons on Israeli soil and use its ports and air fields for military purposes.

Israeli hardliner sues Washington

With so much control of the Israeli economy and military, there can be no doubt that Washington is in a position to call the political shots in Israel. Yet U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz claims that he is helpless in the face of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's opposition to the U.S. peace initiative.

But it was actually Shamir who was most anxious to get the memorandum of agreement signed. "It almost looks like Shultz gave him a reward for not cooperating," said one senior Israeli

official not in the Likud Bloc.

What is really going on here? Despite what Washington may say for public consumption, at this point it suits Washington's needs to have a hardliner in the saddle in their Middle East garrison state. U.S. policy is implemented and, at the same time Washington can distance itself and let its puppet take all the heat.

Washington is not detached from the events in the Middle East. It is a co-belligerent, along with Israel, in repressing the Palestinian people.

In the Arab world, Washington's signing of this memorandum with Tel Aviv is seen as rewarding Israel for the horrible repression in the West Bank and Gaza, and for acts like the assassination of Abu Jihad.

While one would never know it from the media accounts in this country, the Shultz plan is not aimed at achieving a just peace. It is designed to bring about a pro-imperialist settlement at the expense of the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, at the funeral of Abu Jihad in Syria, Palestinians let the world know what they thought of the U.S. plan. A banner hanging over the cemetery gate read, "No to Shultz and no to all American plans that will kill the Palestinian cause."

While Israel hoped that its assassination of Abu Jihad would break the back of the Palestinian uprising, it has only increased the determination of the Palestinian people to be free. Hundreds of thousands of people, possibly every Palestinian in Syria, came to pay respects to their fallen leader. Thousands of Palestinians swept Abu Jihad's coffin from the official entourage and for hours passed it through the winding streets of their refugee camps in a final farewell.

The Palestinian view towards the occupation of their country and U.S.-Israeli terror is well expressed by the nationalist poet Tawfik Zayad: "We will lie on your chest like a wall, stick in your throat like a piece of glass . . . we will sing the songs, fill the streets with demonstrations, fill the jails with honor and make the children, every generation, more revolutionary than the one before it."

Palestinians salute Warsaw Ghetto uprising

By Michael Bar-Am

to reaffirm the progressive statutes of the Reconstruction period. It did so in 1976 only after more than a decade of tumultuous mass struggles which began against the segregation laws in the South but soon broadened into a massive movement to root out the institutionalized racism prevalent throughout the United States.

Influence of mass struggle on the court

Now the Reagan-packed court has made a move to reconsider these rulings with an eye to reversing altogether the gains made in the sixties and seventies. However, it is giving itself about a year to re-hear the Runyon case and come to a decision.

This means that it is going to weigh not just the legal arguments but the public reaction. Although the fact that Supreme Court justices are appointed for life helps insulate them from mass pressure, they cannot ignore the mass struggle. It directly impacts in a thousand and one ways on the ruling class they represent.

This ruling, therefore, is an ominous straw in the wind as to the intentions of the racist, entrenched ruling class to try and roll back civil rights. But if the wind of popular resistance takes that straw and blows it to kingdom come, the high and mighty "justices" will have to temper their wisdom with a little humility.

In this country, the Palestinian struggle is widely portrayed as anti-Jewish. This is not true. The Palestinian resistance knows full well the difference between the oppressor state of Israel and the Jewish people. In truth, Palestinian activists find the struggle of those who fought against anti-Semitism in Europe very similar to their own. This, however, never seems to make it into the mainstream media here.

For example, on the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, hundreds of Palestinian students, many of them studying in Poland, marched through Warsaw to mark this heroic and historic armed rebellion by Jewish freedom fighters against the Nazi occupation during World War II.

The march ended at the main monument to the uprising where the students and a delegation from the Palestine Liberation Organization laid a wreath draped with a kaffiya (Arab scarf). Written on the wreath was, "From the fallen in the Palestinian uprising to the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising."

Court's low blow

Continued from page 1

White, Sandra Day O'Connor and Antonin Scalia in this reactionary decision. The last two, like Kennedy, were appointed by Reagan, who also elevated Rehnquist to chief justice.

When Kennedy was nominated, Workers World paper and some other progressives characterized him as no better than Judge Robert Bork, who had been rejected by Congress after widespread popular opposition. Kennedy was overwhelmingly approved, however, by both Democrats and Republicans, who described him as a "moderate."

Legal precedent goes back to Reconstruction

While the immediate effect of the 1976 Runyon decision was to allow Black people to sue private schools that excluded them on racial grounds,

its broad reasoning could be applied to end racist practices in other "private" transactions, such as job discrimination.

As legal precedent, the court in 1976 cited several statutes enacted after the Civil War during the revolutionary Reconstruction period. These strongly worded laws were meant to implement the anti-slavery 13th Amendment of 1865.

Their intent was undermined, however, once the Northern industrialists made a rotten compromise with the Southern land-owning class in the 1870s. The withdrawal of the Union Army from the South marked the sudden end of Reconstruction and the return to naked terror against Black people that became legally expressed in the segregation laws.

It took the Supreme Court 110 years

EDITORIALS

'Eternal interests' in the Gulf

The Pentagon has just announced "new rules" for its war fleet off the coast of Iran. No one really knows what these updated battle rules mean, because the Pentagon has labeled them "highly classified." Nor are these new orders subject to Congressional approval.

Only last week, two U.S. servicemen were killed in the fighting there during the attacks against Iranian oil platforms and ships. And they were not the first U.S. casualties in this war. Why is everything being kept secret from the public in this matter? What is the administration hiding?

Look at the record so far. First Washington imposed the bloody Shah dictatorship on the Iranian people for a quarter century, welcoming him to come to the U.S. when he was finally overthrown and thus igniting the hostage debacle.

Then the Reagan administration used other hostages held in Lebanon to raise money for the Nicaraguan contras by selling weapons to Iran!

Now Iran is back to being the Pentagon's target. Iraqi attacks on Gulf shipping and use of poison gas against civilians is shrugged off by the U.S. delegate to the United Nations.

On the face of it, none of this seems to make sense. But then recall the words of the famous

British imperialist, statesman Viscount Palmerston, who said, "We have no eternal allies. We have no perpetual enemies. Our interests are perpetual and eternal."

The U.S. imperialists have no real friends on either side of the Gulf war. Both Iran and Iraq are nations which have long been oppressed by Western colonialism and neo-colonialism.

But Washington does have a permanent interest in the region: oil. Seventy percent of the world's proven reserves come from the group of nations bordering the Gulf.

During the 1950s that oil was all firmly in the grasp of the big U.S. and British petroleum giants. Then their grip began to slip in the aftermath of revolutions in both Iraq and Iran. The oil moguls in Houston and New York have never reconciled themselves to this and want to get all that wealth back for themselves.

And that's why they are intervening, first on one side, then the other, in the war between Iran and Iraq, looking for a "solution" that will enable them to dominate the region again as they did before.

Does anyone out there want to risk death to fatten an oil company's profits? No. But that is exactly what the Pentagon is ordering thousands of U.S. sailors to do.

Chimney Rock is stolen land

There is a wilderness area in northwestern California known as Chimney Rock. It is sacred ground to three Indian tribes, the Yurok, Karok and Tolowa. They call it the "high country." They go there for training, personal spiritual development and to conduct rituals they

deem essential to the welfare of their people and all humanity.

The Supreme Court has just added the theft of this Indian land to a long and violent history of U.S. confiscations.

They decided in the case of Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association that it was okay for the U.S. government to build a logging road and harvest timber on the Indians' sacred land.

In the decision of the majority including Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Byron R. White, John Paul Stevens, Antonin Scalia and Sandra Day O'Connor it was said that it was the right of the government to use its land.

Who gave the government this land? This entire continent is stolen land. It was stolen though centuries of genocide and an ongoing campaign to eradicate the culture of the Indian peoples.

Many know only a small part of the treachery and murder. They think of it as something that happened long ago. Even the history books vile enough to glorify the story of the settlers try to consign it to a remote and legendary epoch.

But, the Chimney Rock decision of the Supreme Court was made on April 19, 1988. The decision has set a precedent which threatens sacred Indian ground in wilderness areas throughout the U.S.

It was made by the same judges who hypocritically scream about the rights of religious freedom and U.S. democracy. What their decision says is: this freedom and democracy doesn't include oppressed peoples. It's for the greater glory of the big lumber and mining corporations who exploit all working and oppressed people.

Letters

From West Germany

Because of the strength of the Deutschmark compared with the U.S. dollar and West Germany's favorable balance of trade, you might get the false impression that all is well with the West German economy. The following points will show just how difficult things are getting for the working class here.

On the nationalized railways, 260,000 people were employed 30 years ago. Today there are 130,000. By 1990, the government plans to lay off another 30,000.

The Bonn government intends to make the post office a private corporation with its 550,000 employees facing layoffs. IBM is very interested in the project of bringing in the latest technology. The unions expect a development similar to that of the railways.

Volkswagen and Opel, two of the major auto firms, announced that they will have to lay off thousands of their workers. Meanwhile BMW and Mercedes, which manufacture luxury cars, are doing well. The upper class which buy these cars is also doing very well.

Deutsche Bank, one of the larger private banks like Commerz and Dresdner Bank, declared a loss for 1987 of 1 billion DM, now about \$600 million, as a result of the stock market crash.

The Deutsche Bundeszentralbank, which prints notes, declared a loss last year against 1986 of 7 billion DM, that is, over \$4 billion. These will be missing from the 1988 government budget in Bonn.

There is no question that the ruling class expects the workers to pay for these losses. For March 1988, the official reports list 2.5 million people without work. Another 2.8 million need social welfare payments from the government as their poverty is so deep that they are unable to live without them.

In reality, the poverty is even greater than what is shown in the offi-

cial numbers.

The other important area is that of the steel workers in the Ruhr Basin. Like in the "Rust Belt" in the U.S., the industrial areas throughout the Midwest, this steel-producing area has seen a steady decline in jobs in steel and coal.

Now there are still 190,000 steelworkers. The aim of the bosses and the government in the coming years is to reduce this workforce to only 40,000.

In Rheinhausen steel workers have been fighting against Krupp, Mannesmann, and Thyssen, the same firms that produced arms for Hitler and flourished under the Nazis. In December and January, workers struck, even began blocking the bridges and shut down the industrial cities of the area.

But the workers and their families are in a desperate situation, not least because of conflicts between the unions and the political leaders of the Social Democratic Party (SPD). This party has a Marxist history but now looks much like the Democratic Party in the U.S., except with more influence by the trade unions.

Oscar Lafontaine, one of the top leaders of the SPD, is giving no support to the unions. He's getting high praise from conservative politicians for his role. In the meantime it was discovered that the SPD government of the city of Dusseldorf quietly agreed with management of Krupp and Mannesmann on laying off thousands of workers and closing factories.

The head of the SPD in Dusseldorf announced he will only negotiate with the bosses for the workers if the workers stop striking. He also said he would have the police attack if workers continue the blockade of streets and bridges.

As has happened before, slogans are appearing on the walls accusing the social democrats of betrayal: "Wer hat uns verraten? Sozialdemokraten!"

W. Jansen
Cologne, West Germany

Lack of healthcare in NYC prisons

By Leslie Feinberg

A report citing "major problems" in New York City's prison health system has called for revamping the system. This conclusion by consultant Dr. Ronald Shansky, medical director for the Illinois state prisons, was reached long ago by prisoners. Their voices have only been heard through the sacrifice of hunger strikes and drawn out litigation.

Shansky's report examined medical centers in the boroughs, city hospital wards for prisoners, and at the main jail complex on Rikers Island. He writes, "The current arrangements only barely meet the definition of a system at all," and added that many of the facilities "met no health care or safety standards."

He cited examples of doctors who failed to respond to calls even when they had beepers, ill prisoners being bused from one prison to another for 12 hours and still not seeing a physician. At one site up to 70% of appointments were missed.

Compounding this dearth of health

care, he noted, is the AIDS epidemic which is overwhelming the hospitals of New York City and taking a heavy toll among the urban drug-addicted population of poor and working people who fill the city jails. AIDS is now the number one cause of death for prisoners throughout this state.

— Peltier

Continued from page 4

activist Billy Tayac, Chief of the Piscataway Nation and respected AIM spokesperson; and Karen Koassechony, of the Comanche Nation and staff organizer for the International Office of the LPDC.

Other speakers will include attorneys Bruce Ellison and William Kunstler, and author Peter Matthiessen.

For more information call the Big Mountain/Leonard Peltier Support Group, 337 N. New St., West Chester, Pa. 19380; phone (215) 431-4975 or 790-9196.

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'We and the people of the U.S. fight a common enemy'

Workers World interviews representative of SWAPO

By Pat Chin
New York

This April marks the 28th anniversary of the founding of SWAPO, the South West African People's Organization. In order to commemorate this event and to counter the news blackout imposed on Namibia by the South African apartheid regime, Workers World conducted the following interview with Deputy Permanent Representative Monica Nashandi of the Namibian Permanent Observer Mission to the UN.

Can you just tell us a little about yourself and how you came to be involved with SWAPO?

I was born in northern Namibia where there were many atrocities being committed by the occupying forces of South Africa. I saw many people disappearing, being arrested, villages being attacked, schools being destroyed.

I got involved with SWAPO while attending a missionary school which was located close to a South African military base. There were many freedom fighters from SWAPO there. Later I was forced to leave the country for the refugee camps because of the widespread intimidation.

Can you give us a brief history of the colonization of Namibia beginning with the German occupation?

The occupation began in 1884 when poor whites started settling in Namibia. The German occupation forces divided the Namibian people into tribes in order to ensure the super-exploitation of Namibia's mineral wealth. This contributed to the actual extermination of some tribes.

After the defeat of the Germans in World War I, Namibia was given to South Africa "until self-rule" by a mandate of the League of Nations, which was actually a conspiracy between the League of Nations and the British protectorate.

As time passed, the struggle for self-rule continued. There were peaceful demonstrations and protests, petitions, etc. The demands of the Namibian people met only with violence from South Africa which brought in the army to control the situation.

In 1945, when the UN was first established, Namibia was made an issue. Then, in 1948 the Nationalist Party of South Africa took power in Pretoria. They imposed martial law and extended the pass law to Namibia. The international community became involved.

Namibians realized that a tribally organized struggle was ineffective against the apartheid forces and that a unified organization was needed. In 1960, SWAPO was formed to unite all the people, and we continued with our peaceful demands. However, tensions increased as living conditions deteriorated.

In 1966, the UN terminated the South African mandate and declared the occupation of Namibia illegal. South Africa refused to cooperate with the UN resolution. In August of that same year, PLAN, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia — SWAPO's military wing — was formed because South Africa responded with violence to the demands of the people. The schools and hospitals were being militarized and the South African forces even started attacking refugee camps.

One year later, the Consul for Namibia was established by the UN as the legal administering authority until independence. SWAPO was recognized by the UN as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people. In 1973, SWAPO was given observer status at the UN.

Years passed and South Africa increased its brutality against the Namibian people as the country became even more militarized. There were lots of protests and resistance was very strong. South Africa today has introduced more than 100,000 troops which, with 1.5 million Namibians, gives us an 11-1 ratio of civilian to military. We are fighting because we are forced to fight, and we have been scoring victories.

What does SWAPO mean for the Namibian people and for the struggle against apartheid in general?

The Namibian people view SWAPO as their sole and authentic representative. And SWAPO has proven its able leadership. There is no other liberation movement in Namibia.

South Africa has tried to install puppet groups such as the Turnhalle Alliance, and in 1981 they started military conscription of Namibians into the South West African Territory Force, encouraging Namibians to fight against SWAPO. But this was rejected by the people.

SWAPO has mobilized all sectors of the population and has intensified the struggle against the occupying forces. The National Union of Namibian Workers is a wing of SWAPO. In fact, all workers' unions in Namibia are affiliated with SWAPO.

There is a SWAPO youth wing, and the Namibian National Students' Organization is also affiliated with SWAPO. SWAPO enjoys the broad support of the Namibian people and even those who were conscripted try and leave and join PLAN. Namibian people have to fight to dismantle apartheid and they are more united now than ever before.

Can you tell us a little about the role being played by the United States in the region, including Angola and the role of the Cubans in that country?

Under President Carter things got a little better although the same economic relations continued. Reagan, on the other hand, has declared publicly that South Africa would be the number one ally of the U.S. and that

cooperation would continue politically, economically and militarily.

Under "constructive engagement," aid has been funneled to UNITA in Angola, and military and moral support has gone to the RENAMO bandits in Mozambique. There has been a large flow of military equipment to destabilize the frontline states. If there were no U.S. support of these elements, Namibia could be independent.

Experts in nuclear power are being sent to South Africa and also U.S. mercenaries. Minerals are shipped from South Africa to the U.S. and then sent back to South Africa as ammunition.

The issue of linking Namibian independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola is not part of the UN resolution which calls for Namibian independence and the withdrawal of the South African occupying forces. The Reagan administration is arguing that it is. But the Cubans are in Angola as part of an agreement between two sovereign states.

The Cubans came because Angola was being invaded by the South Africans. If it were not for the Reagan administration things would have improved a long time ago. The people in southern Africa have hopes that things will change for the better, and the frontline states are ready to fight until constructive engagement is defeated.

What can people here do to support the Namibian people and SWAPO?

The Reagan administration is responsible for the loss of lives of thousands of Namibians. We do not believe that the people of the United States



Monica Nashandi.

WW PHOTO: PAT CHIN

are taking part in this. In the U.S. there is racism, as in Namibia and South Africa, which has us fighting a common enemy.

It is necessary to convince those in power to give Namibia back to the Namibians. If people here take up this issue seriously things will change. Workers should demand that companies give their position on the Namibian situation and divest, especially those companies which have branches in South Africa.

Divestment also goes with the call by the international community to carry out sanctions against South Africa. We also need material and concrete support.

The news blackout also causes problems, so people from Namibia should be invited to speak. The UN has declared a cultural boycott of South Africa but certain companies still go there. The movie "Red Scorpion," which was made in South Africa and Namibia, should be taken up as an issue and boycotted.

Southern Africa

Angola

Since late last year, South African and Angolan forces have been locked in a series of intense battles in southeastern Angola between the town of Cuito Cuanavale and Mavinga involving heavy artillery, tanks and armored vehicles, and dogfights between Angolan MiG-23s and SA Mirage fighters. South Africa was trying to take Cuito Cuanavale for its air strip and access to northern and central Angola.

South Africa blinked first. It admitted that it couldn't take Cuito Cuanavale and that keeping 8,000 troops 250 miles inside Angola was militarily risky and politically counterproductive if it wanted even to pretend it was interested in negotiating. Gen. Jannie J. Geldenhuys, Chief of Staff of the South African army, in an unusual press briefing last week, admitted that South African forces were making a "tactical withdrawal."

Geldenhuys also admitted that 31 white South African soldiers in Angola had died and 90 had been wounded. He refused to give the casualties for Black troops in South Africa's military. The South Africans try to disguise their casualties by not counting the Namibian and mercenary forces that fight under their command as South African.

The Angolans say that 150 South Africans have died in their country during the most recent campaign and hundreds more have been wounded, and that they shot down 40 South African planes. They intend to make the racists' withdrawal as difficult as possible by flying air sorties against it.

Mozambique

An official U.S. State Department report admits that "100,000 civilians may have been murdered" in Mozambique by members of a South African-backed group of thugs called Renamo or the Mozambican National Resistance.

Renamo was set up by Rhodesian racists in the early seventies to discourage the support Mozambique was then giving to the struggle which led to the independence of Zimbabwe. South Africa has directed Renamo since Rhodesia disappeared.

The report says that Renamo seizes food, which gives rise to widespread famine inside Mozambique and a "wasted physical condition" among the 850,000 refugees that have fled the country in the past few years. Refugees provided most of the information for the report.

Renamo severely punished people who tried to escape from them, forced them to carry heavy loads over long distances with no compensation, demanded food and sex from farmers. They make little effort to explain their political goals, to administer the areas they control, to provide protection or social services to local residents.

Nameless State Department officials claimed that the report underestimated the murders and brutality committed by Renamo. But while the State Department describes Renamo in surprisingly stinging terms, Republicans like Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Jeane Kirkpatrick have for years supported Renamo down the line. A spokesman for Helms even criticized the report as one-sided. The United States government has been the main military, economic and diplomatic backer of South Africa for years.

G. Dunkel



WW PHOTO: DAVID SOLE

Free Mandela! "Free Mandela, down with apartheid!" rang out in the streets of downtown Detroit early on the morning of April 21 as 75 protesters marched in front of the Omni Hotel. Inside was Daniel Smith, Midwest Consul General of the South African racist regime on a "public relations visit." While the picket line continued a delegation entered the lobby of the hotel with a box of keys. "Normally a dignitary visiting Detroit gets the key to the city," said the Rev. Wendell Anthony, "but today we have a whole box of keys for Mr. Smith to unlock the jail cells of South Africa."

28 años de lucha de SWAPO

Por Pat Chin
Ciudad de Nueva York

En el mes de abril se celebró el 28avo aniversario de la fundación de SWAPO, siglas en inglés de la Organización del Pueblo de África del Sudoeste. Para conmemorar este evento y para contrarrestar el bloqueo informativo que ha sido impuesto por el régimen apartheid de Sudáfrica que ocupa Namibia, hicimos una entrevista a Mónica Nashandi, Diputada Permanente Representante a la Misión Observadora Permanente de SWAPO en las Naciones Unidas.

Namibia es un país de 1,5 millones de habitantes y ocupa un espacio fronterizo con Sudáfrica. 100.000 soldados Sudáfricanos ocupan este país que en términos numéricos resulta en una proporción de un soldado por cada 11 civiles.

La colonización de Namibia comenzó con la ocupación de Alemania en 1884. Para asegurar la super-explotación de la riqueza mineral del país, las fuerzas de ocupación dividieron a la población de Namibia en tribus y esto a su vez contribuyó al exterminio de algunas tribus.

Después de la derrota de los alemanes en la primera guerra mundial, Namibia fue entregada a Sudáfrica, "hasta su independencia," por un mandato

de la Liga de Naciones (precursora de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, ONU). La lucha de los Namibios por la auto-determinación continuó con manifestaciones pacíficas y protestas pero sus demandas encontraron sólo la violencia de Sudáfrica que envió a su ejército para controlar la situación.

En 1945, cuando la ONU fue establecida, se discutió la situación de Namibia. Sin embargo, después que el Partido Nacionalista de Sudáfrica tomó el poder en 1948, impusieron la ley marcial y también la ley de pases que ya existía para el pueblo negro en Sudáfrica.

Con la experiencia que fue adquiriendo el pueblo de Namibia, se dieron cuenta que sólo la unidad y una organización fuerte podía hacer posible que avanzara esta lucha ya que las luchas llevadas adelante por las tribus separadamente eran ineficaz contra las fuerzas del apartheid. En 1960 se formó SWAPO que logró la unidad del pueblo; las protestas pacíficas seguían, la ocupación continuaba y las condiciones de vida se deterioraban.

En 1966, la ONU aprobó una resolución que finalizaba el mandato de Sudáfrica y declaró la ocupación de Namibia ilegal. Sudáfrica rehusó retirar sus fuerzas. En agosto de ese año surge el ELPN (Ejército de Liberación del Pueblo de Namibia)—el ala militar de

SWAPO ya que Sudáfrica continuaba con la violencia represiva a las justas demandas del pueblo.

En 1967, la ONU estableció el Consulado de Namibia como la autoridad legal administrativa hasta su independencia. SWAPO fue reconocida por la ONU como el único y auténtico representante del pueblo de Namibia, y en 1973, SWAPO recibió el estatus de observador en la ONU.

Aunque el régimen apartheid racista ha intentado instalar organizaciones títeres, han sido rechazados por sus habitantes. En 1981, las fuerzas de ocupación empezaron el reclutamiento de namibios para la Fuerza Territorial de África del Sudoeste, pero esta política fracasó.

SWAPO ha intensificado la lucha contra las fuerzas de ocupación movilizándolo todo los sectores de la población, incluso el Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Namibia, como también lo es la Organización Nacional Estudiantil de Namibia. De hecho, SWAPO disfruta del apoyo amplio del pueblo.

Posición de EE.UU.

El gobierno de Reagan ha declarado públicamente que Sudáfrica es su aliado número 1 y que su administración no

apoyará las sanciones contra el régimen apartheid racista.

Bajo la política de "compromiso constructivo," el gobierno de EE.UU. ha entregado ayuda a los UNITA "contras" en Angola y los criminales de RENAMO en Mozambique, incluso enormes cantidades de información a los aparatos de inteligencia, ayuda militar que se ha mandado a Sudáfrica para desestabilizar los estados fronterizos.

La táctica de la administración Reagan de vincular la independencia de Namibia a la retirada de tropas cubanas de Angola no es un requisito de la resolución de la ONU que hace un llamado para la autonomía de Namibia. Además, los cubanos llegaron a Angola como parte de un acuerdo entre 2 estados soberanos, que se hizo necesario a raíz de la invasión de Angola por Sudáfrica.

Es un hecho innegable que un gobierno estadounidense tras otro son los responsables de la pérdida de vidas de miles de personas de Namibia. Aquí en los EE.UU. pueden apoyar a SWAPO y al pueblo de Namibia concientizándose de los vínculos que existen entre el racismo de este país y el apartheid, y, lo más importante nunca olvidarnos que la explotación económica se alimenta del racismo y del apartheid.

Milagro Bean Field War: Otro Cuentito

Por Petra Guerra

Milagro Bean Field War es una película romántica, con una excelente fotografía, filmada en los más bellos paisajes del país, todo está perfecto, eso es si no eres de descendencia Mexicana (Chicana) y conoces algo de la historia y cultura de esta raza. La película trata sobre un hombre llamado José Mondragón y la acción ocurre en un pueblito llamado Milagro. José está enfurecido por que no le es posible utilizar sus derechos de regadío, esos derechos son controlados por Mr. Devine, un millonario que está desarrollando un proyecto de recreación para los ricos y espera tomar el control de cuanto tierra pueda. José se rebela contra Devine y riega su pequeño pedazo de tierra, y es así como comienza la historia.

Esta historia enseña lo que tiene que luchar la raza Chicana para poder sobrevivir, y como a pesar de las diferencias que puedan existir, hay unidad en el momento de la necesidad. Bueno pues no hay nada malo con enseñar esa lucha, el problema es en la manera en que se hizo la película. Una vez más el "Gran Dios Blanco" viene a contarnos nuestra historia. Según la leyenda, los indios esperaban un Dios blanco y cuando llegó Cristóbal Colón, ellos pusieron su vida a sus pies, abriendo paso al genocidio de nuestra raza.

Robert Redford el productor de la película se encuentra en esta posición, utilizando nuestra historia, nos volvió a convertir en otro estereotipo

Mexicano; ignorante y perezoso, la mujer toma una parte insignificante en esta película. El único que demuestra ser inteligente es un licenciado, un hombre blanco con ideas liberales.

Desde el principio, la comunidad se enfrentó con Robert Redford, demandando estos, que los Chicanos deberían de actuar en las partes principales del film y Redford se opuso, sin ofender a los actores Latinos, pero él no supo utilizar esta gran oportunidad para hacer algo constructivo con los Chicanos.

El idioma español se usó sólo para decir disparates, y hasta con acentos de otros países, como de Brazil y Panamá. La única canción fue "De Colores" y se cantó solamente en el fin cuando se enseñaban los créditos.

La heroica lucha de Reis Lopez Tijerina.

Esta película es basada en la novela de mismo nombre, que fue inspirada por la lucha de Reis Lopez Tijerina y la Alianza. Reis Lopez Tijerina y la Alianza, tomaron el juzgado de Tierra Amarilla como un acto de rebelión en contra del gobierno, y fue una gran inspiración para el movimiento Chicano. Reyes y la Alianza representaban a miles de Chicanos del Suroeste.

Los hechos ocurrieron el 5 de Junio, cuando 20 hombres y mujeres representantes de la Alianza, ocuparon el juzgado local, esto fue después de la acumulación de tanta represión en contra del pueblo por parte del gobierno. Esta represión incluye la falta de respeto por parte de las autoridades

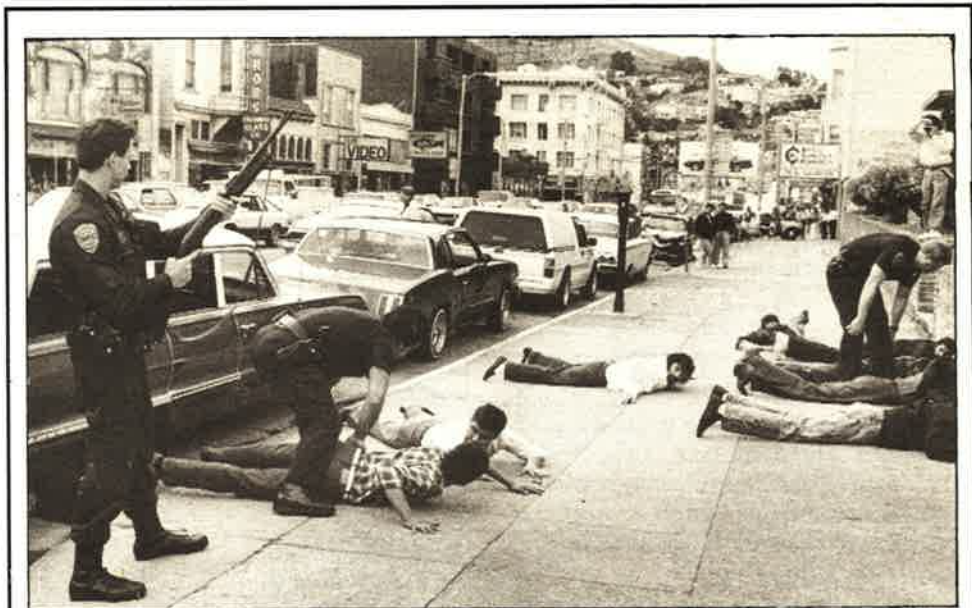


FOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Represión en San Francisco En las comunidades latinas, negras y en los demás barrios de gente del tercer mundo, en San Francisco, como Los Angeles y muchas otras ciudades, los policías están haciendo redadas de corte masivas. Actualmente, escenas como la imagen de arriba, están ocurriendo con más frecuencia. ¿Cuál fue el delito de estos jóvenes latinos? Nada más que ellos estaban reunidos en un grupo en la comunidad en donde viven. Sin provocación ninguna, la policía comenzó hacer un allanamiento personal, les forzaron a tenderse en el suelo con brazos y piernas abiertas, mientras estaban encañonados por agentes armados con fusiles de repetición automáticos y una vez que el allanamiento terminó, les dejaron en libertad sin explicación ninguno.

gubernamentales, así a los dueños de las tierras se les negaba el derecho de regadío, al punto de forzar a estos a que vendieran sus tierras y otros sencillamente se las robaron.

Los de la Alianza escaparon hacia las montañas llevándose algunos rehenes consigo. El gobernador de Nuevo Mexico llamó a la guardia nacional que llegaron armados con dos tanques de guerra.

No se puede decir que la victoria en la vida real fue tan rápida como la de la película, pero sí levantó la conciencia de el pueblo Chicano y el acto de Reis y la Alianza fue un punto importante en la historia Chicana. Miles de hombres y mujeres llegaron a ser miembros de la Alianza, incluyendo

miembros de el pueblo indígena y representantes del poder negro.

¿Cuando van los Robert Redfords a entender que nosotros tenemos una mejor manera de contar nuestra propia historia, y lo que ellos creen que oyen, no es lo que en realidad oyen? ¿Habrá la necesidad de desarrollar una idioma especial para hacerlos entender que no necesitamos quien nos cuente nuestra propia historia?

Para aquellos que saben la historia real de Nuevo Mexico, o que saben algo de los 60's lean sobre Reis Lopez Tijerina y la lucha por las tierras españolas. Se encuentran varios libros sobre el tema, pero la biblioteca Zimmerman de la Universidad de Nuevo Mexico cuenta con todas las entrevistas y material pertinentes al ataque del juzgado local de Tierra Amarilla.