



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE! 

Noticias en español vea página 12



VETERANS PEACE CONVOY

Vets win growing support for Nicaragua aid as they move protest to Washington, D.C. **3**



SOWETO DAY

One million strike in South Africa. Thousands demonstrate around U.S. in support. **11**

Toronto Summit leaves out the poor

Thousands of Canadian activists hold people's summit to protest

By G. Dunkel

The leaders of the major capitalist countries of the world held a summit meeting June 19-21 in Toronto to celebrate their "prosperity" and their soak-the-poor success.

A militant coalition of over 100 groups, representing Black people, the Native peoples of Canada, women, progressives and workers, gays and lesbians, environmentalists, and the poor and homeless, held a Popular Summit to expose the blatant hypocrisy of the Group of Seven (G-7) — Canada, England, France,

West Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.S. — and to deny that they in any way represent the people's interests.

At the main rally on Sunday, speaker after speaker blasted the G-7 as the main threat to jobs, homes, health, as a danger to the environ-

Continued on page 8

WORKFARE

Senate passes new bill that's a cruel hoax on the hungry and desperate. **3**

LESBIAN/GAY PRIDE

Workers World exposes AIDS profiteering, debunks a dubious report on HIV and examines the continuing fight against homophobia 19 years after Stonewall. **5-7**

The Basket and the Bow

Historic gathering of Native gays and lesbians

By Mahtowin and Leslie Feinberg
Minneapolis

July 19 — Seventy-five Native lesbians and gay men, and their Black, Asian, Latino and white partners and supporters travelled from all

four directions to take part in a historic two-day gathering in Minneapolis this weekend.

The conference, entitled The Basket and the Bow, drew gay and lesbian Indians from the Lakota, Cree, *Continued on page 7*



State launches witch hunt against Brawley advisers

By Carmen Roundtree
New York

The Tawana Brawley case is over six months old now. In that time, the state has threatened to arrest only one person — Tawana's mother! — for "not cooperating" with the investigation.

Back in November Tawana told Dutchess County authorities about how six men, one with a cop's badge, abducted and raped her, then left her semi-conscious with racist insults scrawled on her body in feces. She positively identified suspects.

One was a state trooper, another an assistant in the Dutchess County district attorney's office and a third, Harry Crist, was a part-time police officer who died four days after the case broke, supposedly a suicide.

It was only after District Attorney William Grady told the Brawley family that he still had "no suspects" that the family stopped cooperating with the authorities.

Two Dutchess County district attorneys, David Sall and Grady, who backed out of the case because of an unexplained "conflict of interest," have never been called to testify before the grand jury by special prosecutor Robert Abrams.

Neither have Assistant District Attorney Steven Pagonis or State Trooper Scott Patterson, two men named as suspects by Tawana Brawley. Instead, Pagonis and Patterson have taken the offensive, saying they refuse to testify unless offered immunity.

Media ignore real suspects, go after those demanding justice

What has happened in the case? An orchestrated witch hunt against the

Brawley family, their attorneys C. Vernon Mason and Alton Maddox, and family adviser Rev. Al Sharpton. The media have acted as the right arm of the state, doing everything in their power to malign and cast doubt on the story Miss Brawley attempted to tell the authorities so many months ago.

Except for a few Black and Latino columnists, the daily papers and electronic media aren't asking any questions about the Dutchess County officials or why Abrams is threatening Tawana Brawley's family. Tawana Brawley has said she would appear before the grand jury if Abrams would commit himself to arresting those she has named. It's standard procedure to investigate those named as the attackers by a rape victim. Why don't the media pick up on that?

Instead, they are combing through every little detail of the lives of those attempting to bring justice for Black people.

The IRS is investigating the taxes of those advising the Brawley family. Did they make a similar probe into the financial affairs of the lawyers for the Howard Beach racist killers? Or the lawyer who defended Robert Chambers for the brutal murder of Jennifer Levin?

Is this a Cointelpro-type operation?

For a few days, Percy McKinnon was making headlines. McKinnon, a former cop, left his job as head of security for Harlem Hospital in January to become an aide to Sharpton. He had no previous history of involvement in the movement. This was just at the time that Sharpton was involved in the Days of Outrage, several massive demonstrations in this city that blocked traffic to demand justice in racist atrocities like the Howard

Beach, Eleanor Bumpurs and Michael Stewart killings and the Bernhard Goetz case.

McKinnon now says Sharpton didn't believe Tawana Brawley's story, which Sharpton of course denies. Within hours, McKinnon was served a subpoena to testify before the grand jury.

Many Black leaders believe McKinnon may be a cop or informer who joined the movement in order to undermine it. It is an old story, to plant false information, contrived stories and outright lies to hold back or destroy a movement. That's what the FBI's Operation Cointelpro was all about, and its main target was the Black Panther Party.

The McKinnon story had hardly died down before the media had a new one: a self-described wiretapping expert, Samuel McCleave, said he had made tapes of conversations among the Brawley family advisers that showed they thought she had "partied" with a white cop for four days.

It's strange that while the media have seized on this weird scenario as more probable than Tawana's story, they fail to point out that any cop who "partied" with a 15-year-old and then left her half-conscious and naked in a garbage bag would at the very least be subject to investigation for statutory rape.

The alleged tapes of these conversations haven't been produced, even though the press is full of speculation about what they are supposed to contain. Perhaps more important, these new charges haven't succeeded in splitting up those defending Tawana, as they undoubtedly were meant to do. (The story is that Sharpton hired McCleave to tape his own phone, which Sharpton denies.)

Nor is this the first time that the media have paraded around so-called witnesses, some of whom were supposed to have been with Tawana during the four days of her disappearance, only to later see them retract their stories.

Family, advisers resist media attack

These latest attacks on those defending Tawana Brawley are nothing more than an attempt to try and push back the anti-racist struggle and hold intact a criminal justice system that is biased to the core, despite the claims of the U.S. Constitution that everyone is guaranteed "equal protection under the law."

Can we forget that after Bernhard Goetz shot down four Black men in the subway, it was one of his victims, James Ramseur, who was jailed for contempt of court even before the Goetz trial opened? This is done to discredit the victims of racist violence, to say to the public, see, they're bad people and not worthy of justice.

There is a pattern: Black and other oppressed peoples are brutalized, killed and raped by racist whites, whether they wear badges or white sheets. And they see the "justice" system in this country continually free their attackers.

But in this case, the victims are not taking it. They are refusing to cooperate with injustice. They are fighting back and challenging the state process which has refused to serve them.

What frightens the state the most is that no matter how much the Brawley family and their advisers are vilified and attacked by state officials (all the way up to Governor Mario Cuomo) and the media, their support in the oppressed communities continues to grow.

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.

Atlanta: P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Ga. 30301 (404) 662-6417

Baltimore: 424 E. 31 St., Baltimore, Md. 21218 (301) 889-9318

Boston: 186 Lincoln St., Room 602, Boston, Mass. 02111 (617) 426-5626

Buffalo: 349 Niagara St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14201 (716) 855-3055

Chicago: P.O. Box 6510, Chicago, Ill. 60680 (312) 283-0851

Cleveland: 2012 W. 25 St., Suite 602, Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (216) 861-6154

Detroit: 1947 Grand River, Room 201, Detroit, Mich. 48226 (313) 962-4979

Hartford: P.O. Box 14411, Hartford, Conn. 06114

Houston: P.O. Box 52115, Houston, Texas 77052 (713) 524-4462

Milwaukee: P.O. Box 16223, Milwaukee, Wis. 53216

New York City: 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010 (212) 255-0352

Philadelphia: P.O. Box 17116, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105 (215) 626-8704

Rochester, N.Y.: 816 Joseph Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 342-5707

San Francisco: 3181 Mission, No. 29, San Francisco, Calif. 94110 (415) 826-4828

Seattle: 1017C E. Pike, Seattle, Wash. 98122 (206) 322-6478

Washington, D.C.: P.O. Box 43841, Washington, D.C. 20010 (202) 328-0990

IN THIS ISSUE ...

NATIONAL

- Native gay conference1
- Tawana Brawley case2
- Vets Convoy on way to D.C.3
- Workfare passes Senate3
- IP strike and scabs4
- On the Picketline4
- Pentagon scandal4
- AIDS report twists science5
- Caution toward AIDS cure5
- Profiteering off AIDS5
- Phila. bigots guilty of murder6
- Hartford gays organize vs. killers6
- WWP candidates statement6
- Washington, D.C. Pride Day6
- Fresno lesbian/gay students7
- The Quilt7
- Free Joe Doherty rally8
- Rochester grand jury bias8
- Filiberto Ojeda Rios9
- Nelson Ramirez9
- California homeless10
- Soweto Day activities11

INTERNATIONAL

- Summit protested by thousands1
- Irish rally for freedom8
- Cuba: report on women9
- South Africa: 1 million on strike11

EDITORIALS AND FEATURES

- Haiti and Washington10
- Banks go under10

NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL

- La sequía12
- Colombia12
- Día del Orgullo Gay12

workers world

46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010 Editorial: (212) 206-8222
 Business: (212) 255-0352 Telex: 6501176920
 Vol. 30, No. 26/June 30, 1988 Closing news date: June 22, 1988

CALENDAR

NEW YORK

Fri., June 24: Forum on Panama featuring Panamanian activist Esmeralda Brown, Working for Women in the Americas, and Emilio Betances of the Autonomous University of Puebla,

Mexico. 7 p.m. Centro de Educacion de los Trabajadores, 308 W. 46th St. Call (212) 765-4634.

Tues., July 12: A Peoples Anti-War Mobilization and Students & Youth Against Racism forum on the Korean

people's struggle for democracy and reunification. 7 p.m. Wheelchair accessible. Refreshments. 146 W. 25 St. Manhattan. Call (212) 741-0633

Editor: Deirdre Griswold
 Technical Editor: Lallan Stein

Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Joyce Chediak, Robert Dobrow, Gary Wilson; Contributing Editors: Monica Moorehead, Carmen Roundtree, Sharon Shelton, Andy Stapp; Political Prisoners: Leslie Feinberg; Special Supplement: Shelley Ettinger; Technical Staff: Pat Chin, Mark Doran, Ken Franson, Marsha Goldberg, Katy Rosen, Steve Schultz; Mundo Obrero: Carl Glenn, Petra Guerra, Teresa Gutierrez, Santiago Manque-Milla, Rosa Maria de la Torre, David Perez, Lucinda Sintierra, Octavio Vargas, Angela Vera; Darkroom Staff: G. Dunkel, Fabian, Susan Rotgard

Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) is published weekly by WW Publishers, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Business office (212) 255-0352. Editorial office: (212) 206-8222. Subscriptions: One year: \$10; six months: \$6. All letters received by Workers World become the property of the newspaper. We reserve the right to print letters in condensed form. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or Xerox from University Microfilms International, 300 Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48106. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010. Bundle rates available on request.

Vets Peace Convoy moves protest to D.C.

Wins widespread support for Nicaragua aid

By Joanne Gavin
Laredo, Texas

Few things illustrate the deep division between the true wishes of the people of the United States and the policies of the Reagan administration as well as the treatment accorded the Veterans' Peace Convoy to Nicaragua, which was stopped at the Texas-Mexican border on June 15.

From the U.S. government, the convoy has received only hostility and rejection of its humanitarian mission to deliver trucks and school buses and their cargo of food, medical and school supplies, children's clothing and diapers to Nicaragua.

But from the people of this country — and Mexico — there has been such an outpouring of support and solidarity that "convoyistas" never quite get used to it.

The reason for this enormous gulf is that the convoy's mission exposes the constant stream of lies that pour from Reagan and his gang about Nicaragua and its Sandinista government. The administration's characterization of the Sandinistas as "totalitarian" and the murdering contras as "freedom fighters" just doesn't wash with the U.S. public.

After waiting a week in Laredo for clearance from Customs and Treasury and tired of government agreements made and then broken, convoy leaders decided that they no longer cared what Washington said. They would attempt a crossing of the International Bridge on June 15.

The veterans held a rally at their campground the night before and called upon their supporters throughout the U.S. and Mexico to hold local rallies. Many did.

Congressman Mickey Leland of Houston joined the convoyistas in Laredo after trying to get Treasury officials in Washington to let the convoy through. Also present and speaking at the rally was a veteran who had held a "fast for life" in Washington, D.C. The rally was addressed by telephone hookup by a disabled veteran who is fasting in Los Angeles to focus attention on the convoy's right to deliver its vehicles to Nicaragua.

On June 15, after government agents refused to give clearance to cross, three pickup trucks and a van, led by a truck named "Ben Linder" (after the U.S. engineer-volunteer killed by contras in Nicaragua) set out for the International Bridge. There, customs officials seized the four vehicles for "detention" despite protests from several hundred supporters.

Mexican support for convoy

Mexican supporters of the convoy joined hands and blocked U.S.-bound traffic on the International Bridge just past the border line for an hour, putting police and officials of both countries into a state of panic. No attempt was made to stop pedestrian traffic, and many foot travelers talked to the demonstrators about what they were doing. Most were sympathetic.

Convoy participants decided that there was no further point in remain-



WW PHOTO: JOANNE GAVIN

Mexicans in Nuevo Laredo demonstrate solidarity with Veterans Peace Convoy.

ing at the border dealing with local officials who get orders from Washington. Instead, the veterans decided to "detour" to the capital themselves and deal directly with the Reagan administration. They plan to exhibit their old, small pickups, school buses and their other cargo across from the White House itself, for all to see.

The convoy passed through Houston, rallied in Atlanta, and is expected in Raleigh, N.C., on June 21. It will rally in Washington, D.C., on June 23.

In Houston, the convoyistas and their supporters went to the Texas Democratic Convention. They marched around the convention floor, had two representatives on the platform while Jesse Jackson spoke and had a private meeting with Jesse Jackson.

Further D.C. rallies are a possibility. For the latest information on actions and needed support, contact the convoy's national office at (202) 785-7357.

Workfare: an idea the rich always loved

Senate bill a cruel hoax on hungry and desperate

By Joyce Chediak

With much fanfare, on June 6 the U.S. Senate passed a bill that, if it becomes law, would make a workfare program mandatory for welfare recipients. The vote was 93-3.

Senators and the daily media are portraying this as a program to get the poor off welfare by training them for decent-paying jobs. This portrayal is a cruel hoax on the hungry and the desperate.

This bill would deal a body blow to the poor and, in fact, hurt all working people. Applying mainly to women and children, it would force welfare recipients to work at low salaries, below-minimum wage, and sometimes even for free. Mandatory labor of welfare recipients at slave wages would undercut the wages of other working people.

Ultimately, this bill is designed to get people off welfare — at the rate of 10,000 families a year — and to absolve the government of the responsibility of caring for the poor. But there are no jobs. Where will these families go? Into the streets, to live hand-to-mouth?

Provisions of the bill

The bill applies to welfare recipients receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), 3.3 million of whom are mothers, 400,000 fathers, and 7.3 million children. It makes a work program compulsory for able-bodied welfare recipients whose children are over the age of three. (Or, if a state decides, over one year old.)

Families with the father in the house could receive AFDC for half the year (currently half the states deny AFDC payments if the father is in the house), but a parent in a two-parent house must spend at least 16 hours a

week working for free in order to receive welfare.

For those who lose welfare eligibility because of increased wages, Medicaid benefits would be continued for a year, and child care for nine months.

Why are the poor on welfare?

Why is this plan impossible from the start? Its very premises are based on falsehoods. People are not on welfare because they are "trapped in a cycle of dependency" as the proponents of this bill claim. They are on welfare because they are poor. And poverty has grown in leaps and bounds in the Reagan years.

Underemployment and outright joblessness is about 14%. The number of people living in poverty is approximately the same — 15%. Most of the jobs that have opened up are in the service sector at minimum wage — hardly enough to raise a family. There are very few new skilled jobs, and the competition for these jobs is usually fierce.

In truth, this "workfare" plan, which has already been implemented in one form or another by 39 states, scapegoats people on welfare for the growing problems of the capitalist economy.

Another falsehood is that "people on welfare don't really want to work." But the poor don't endure the humiliation, the degradation and the meager allotments doled out by the state out of choice. In fact, about a third of those on welfare drop off every year. But most wind up earning less than \$6,000 a year, and who can survive on that?

Workfare hurts all workers

What has been the experience of workfare so far? Its main impact has been to threaten the wages of

workers in the public sector by making them compete with virtual slave labor imposed upon welfare recipients.

Take the Massachusetts workfare program, for example, much touted by that state's governor and Democratic presidential hopeful Michael Dukakis. Massachusetts officials claim to have found 30,000 jobs for those on welfare in three years. But a closer look shows that there has been no reduction in the number of impoverished people in Massachusetts.

Even with extended Medicaid and child care benefits, a woman with two children taking a workfare job in Massachusetts earns on the average only \$15 a week more than she got on welfare, and even that is eaten up by job-related expenses.

And Massachusetts welfare rights activists have pointed out that these welfare recipients, working at below minimum wage, have also been used for union busting.

Workfare, which is really designed to reduce welfare rolls at the expense of the poor, has been a rallying cry for the rightwing for a long time. But the overwhelming vote for the reactionary bill makes it clear that it was strongly supported by Democrat and Republican alike.

The Democrats have completely capitulated to the Reaganites on this issue. In fact, this anti-poor, anti-worker bill was sponsored and created by Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.), who calls himself a liberal!

Despite what they may say to get votes in this election year, neither the Democratic nor the Republican Party can be relied upon to meet the needs of the workers, employed and unemployed. Welfare, Social Security, unemployment benefits and other gains for workers were won out of the mass struggles of the 1930s. The only way

that these gains can be safeguarded and enlarged is through the people's struggle.

The Senate bill is not yet law. The House has passed a similar bill without the mandatory workfare provision, and the next step is for the two bills to go to a Senate-House conference where the differences will be resolved.

It is time for mass actions to demand an increase in welfare benefits and other social services for the poor. Meanwhile, the way to get the poor off welfare and to provide jobs for all the unemployed is through a real job program — one that creates new jobs by building schools, child care centers, hospitals and housing, and other services so desperately needed by workers and oppressed people.

Productivity?

While U.S. workers boosted their productivity four times faster last quarter than they did in 1987, their average wages fell behind inflation for the fifth quarter in a row.

Thanks to speed-ups and increased automation big business was able to squeeze 5.9% more out of workers in non-farm businesses during this period.

And the reward for working harder was an average 3.4% wage increase, which is lower than the official inflation rate of 4%.

This steady period of decline in workers' wages hasn't been matched since the spiraling inflation of 1979 through 1981.

Bill Del Vecchio

IP strike: Big question is how to stop the scabs

By Phil Wilayto

Two thousand striking paperworkers and their supporters marched down Main Street in Lock Haven, Pa., on Saturday, June 18, to mark the first anniversary of the strike by Local 1787 of the United Paperworkers International Union (UPIU) against the International Paper (IP) Company.

In one of the most spirited actions in this long and difficult struggle, the marchers made it clear that the battle of 3,400 paperworkers in Lock Haven, Mobile, Ala., DePere, Wisc., and Jay, Maine, to stop concessions and resist unionbusting is alive and well and that they have every intention of winning.

Joining the Local 1787 members and their families were a busload of UPIU Local 14 strikers from Jay, auto and steelworkers from Ohio and central Pennsylvania members of hospital workers Local 1199P from State College, Pa., and many other unions, along with students and community supporters.

Chants of "Scabs out, union in," "The workers united will never be defeated," and "2-4-6-8, IP won't negotiate" rang out as marchers passed

house after house displaying hand-lettered signs denouncing the scabs working in the mill and declaring solidarity with the strikers.

All through the day, a police helicopter circled overhead, a vivid reminder of the government repression that has faced the strikers. Shortly after the local went out, the company got County Judge Carson V. Brown to issue an injunction forbidding the gathering of more than six strikers at each of the mill's three gates. State police were quickly ordered in to back up the injunctions, and the cops made it plain that they were anything but neutral in the dispute.

Cops guard the mill

Saturday, while the marchers made their way down Main Street and then back to the Castenea Fire Station for a rally, some 250 state cops in full riot gear guarded the mill. Despite this show of force, some of the union members felt they should have gone by the gates.

"Even though there's cops over there," one striker told a supporter, "we ought to march over by there and let 'em know what we think!" In past



WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

June 14 rally in Michigan demonstrates solidarity with Colt and IP strikers.

marches, the company has sought and received a threat of a \$10,000 fine by the courts for any violation of the injunction.

Although the police repression has probably been most severe in Lock Haven, the situation is basically the same in Jay and DePere, where similar injunctions are also being backed up by the police. (The Mobile local is officially locked-out, not on strike.)

In Maine, it's Republican Governor John "McVeto" McKernan who provides the muscle for IP's unionbusting, while in Pennsylvania it's Robert Casey, a Democratic Party "friend of labor." In each instance, the government machinery has been placed at the disposal of the company, trampling the union's democratic rights to free speech and assembly in the process.

How can the scabs be stopped?

The heavy police presence in Lock Haven Saturday underscores the central problem of the paperworkers' strike: how to stop the scabs from going into the plant.

Throughout this long struggle, the members of all four locals have carried out a splendid campaign, with marches and rallies, car caravans reaching out to other union locals, a vigorous and creative corporate campaign, and strong solidarity from the rest of the labor movement and community supporters.

After a full year, less than 10% of the workers have crossed the picketlines. Truly, the courage and determination of the striking paperworkers has become an epic part of the history of the U.S. labor movement.

Pentagon piggery: only surprise is that they were caught

By Andy Stapp

In his book, "The Triumph of Politics," former Budget Director David Stockman writes that when Congress passed the 1981 military budget, "They were squealing with delight throughout the military-industrial complex."

The truth is these corporate pigs and their front men at the Pentagon have been squealing with delight ever since the U.S. entered World War II. It was that blessed event which rescued them from the Great Depression and launched arms spending into the stratosphere where it has been orbiting for the last half century.

"Let's not scrutinize every paper clip, bolt and bullet" in the military budget, President Reagan warned back in 1981. Right. Because if they turned over that rock, they'd find some pretty ugly critters.

Like the current revelations that Litton, Northrop, Teledyne, Unisys, United Technologies and at least 10 other huge armament contractors are involved in a huge corruption scandal,

But still the scabs, the so-called "permanent replacements," go in and out of the mills, the paper is being made, and IP is functioning.

And IP is also waiting, as the time draws nearer when it can request the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to schedule a "majority status" election to determine if the union still holds the allegiance of the majority of the workers. And the "workers" who could vote in such an election are the scabs, not the strikers.

A recent Wall Street analysis of IP's position in the papermaking industry expressed doubt that IP could successfully run more than the four mills currently out with scab labor. As it stands today, six other primary mills have rejected concessionary demands by IP and are operating under their old contracts.

It is difficult to see how IP could continue to resist settling with the union if those mills were to go out and if it weren't able to operate those mills or the four now out with scabs.

Throughout its history, U.S. labor has seen its right to strike and to bargain collectively for a contract threatened by government intervention in labor disputes. Cops, courts and injunctions have time and again been used to stop strikes and break unions. And time and again, unionists have stood up and said "No!" have defied the police, have ignored the injunctions and have stopped the scabs.

From day one of the strike, the paperworkers have had one central slogan, one defiant chant they've sounded out again and again: "Scabs out, union in!" That still remains the winning strategy for the IP strike.

buying up Pentagon officials with money obtained through weapons contracts, all, of course, in order to procure more of the same.

At the center of the cesspool sits the largest contractor of all, McDonnell-Douglas. The firm was founded in 1939 by an engineer named James McDonnell, with money put up by Laurance Rockefeller. Now a 77-year-old New York billionaire, Rockefeller could picture the happier side of the impending world war: big bucks for himself.

By 1967 this company was threatened with financial collapse. Vietnam revived it, "restoring the firm's health" as they say in the business. Unhappily for McDonnell-Douglas, the war came to an end.

Worse, in 1979, the company's top executives were hit with fraud and conspiracy charges.

But this problem, too, was fixed. In May of 1981 U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani dropped all charges. Said Giuliani, "It's one thing when you're talking about the corporation

Continued on page 5

On the picket line

Boycott season. Summer grape season has begun, and the United Farm Workers and supporters are intensifying the pressure in the national boycott of table grapes. The campaign centers on the use of deadly pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals that poison farmworkers and their children as well as people who eat the tainted fruit. As a result of the boycott, 1987 grape prices hit a 12-year low, but the big California growers still won't meet the UFW's demands to stop using carcinogenic chemicals in the fields. The boycott's prime target this season is A&P, a \$10 billion company with 1,200 stores nationwide, whose CEO has refused to talk with Cesar Chavez about discontinuing sales of chemical-tainted grapes. A&P also owns Food Emporium, Waldbaum's, Super Fresh, Kohl's, Superstores, and Shopwell, and supporters of the Farmworkers are asked to write A&P Chairman James M. Wood, The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, Two Paragon Drive, Montvale, N.J. 07645, to demand an end to sales of California table grapes.

New mothers work. . . The Census Bureau reported June 14 that, for the first time in history, more than half of all new mothers now remain in the job market, working outside the home within the first year after giving birth. According to the Bureau's Fertility Statistics Branch, 50.8% of new mothers in the U.S. had or were seeking jobs in 1987, making that the norm. The statistical increase in working mothers has been phenomenal; in 1976, when the figures were first compiled, only 31% of new mothers worked.

Demand childcare leave. A direct result of the increasing numbers of women with children pouring into the workforce is the struggle for adequate parental leave for care of newborn or adopted children. A federal law providing for mandatory unpaid parental leave has been bottled up in

Congress for months, and state laws are no further along. Into the vacuum, however, has stepped the city of Harrisburg, Pa., where a battle is underway to defend a new local parental leave law. The ordinance, passed in April, requires Harrisburg employers with ten or more workers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid childcare leave to new parents. It is the first such city law in the country, and when the mayor vetoed it, City Council overrode his veto. Now the mayor and local business groups have gone to court to try to get the law overturned. They're worried, a spokesperson for the National Federation of Independent Business said, that, "It would blaze a trail and others might follow."

Detroit newspapers. Hundreds of newspaper workers massed outside the downtown offices of the Detroit Free Press and the Detroit News on June 17 to protest stalled contract negotiations. The delay has left 3,700 workers without wage or benefit increases for two years. Leaders of the Joint Council of Newspaper Unions called the informational picketline to mark the one year anniversary of contract expirations at both papers. Unions participating included the Newspaper Guild, Mailers, Teamsters, Typographical, Service Employees and others. Publishers of both newspapers claim their financial situation does not allow for wage and benefit increases to union-represented workers. However, raises and bonuses of 25-50% have been paid to management and other union-exempt employees. The News and Free Press are both claiming financial failure in a bid to win approval from Attorney General Edwin Meese on a Joint Operating Agreement monopoly. If the JOA merger is granted, the newspapers can expect to share annual profits of \$100 million. The Free Press and News are owned respectively by Knight-Ridder, Inc. and Gannett Co., two of the largest and most profitable media conglomerates in the U.S.

Shelley Ettinger

How 'scientific' report on AIDS distorts the truth

Predictions of 99% deaths based on unproven guesses

By Hillel Cohen

The author has a masters degree in public health and has worked in the field of epidemiology for 18 years.

When the media gives wide distribution to a report that can frighten millions of people, it is dangerous. When what they say is false, it is close to criminal.

This happened recently with an Associated Press dispatch that a recent scientific study "projects that 99% of persons infected with AIDS virus will die of AIDS-related diseases." For the millions of people who may have been exposed to the AIDS virus, this report was certainly frightening. It was also false.

The AP story was sensationalized and inaccurate, focusing on deaths when this is not even mentioned in the scientific report.

The scientific study on which the AP story was based is itself questionable. The data sample used is small and is likely to be biased. The model to which the data were fitted is unproved and may well be inappropriate. The published results are already being questioned by many scientists.

And what is probably most important, the authors fail to consider the impact of possible new discoveries which might prevent AIDS from developing.

But the implication of the reported "findings" are so important, it would be useful to examine them in detail.

The original report appeared in the June 3 issue of the prestigious journal, *Science*. Two of its three authors are associated with the Centers for Disease Control.

The study followed a sample of 84 gay men who tested positive for HIV-1 over a period of years. Stored blood specimens preserved from another study were used so that up to eight years of follow-up were available. At the end of the reported period, 21 of these 84 were diagnosed to have AIDS. How many of the 21 are still alive was not reported.

In order to estimate how many of the 84 will develop AIDS in later years, the authors used a sophisticated mathematical model to project a proportion higher than the 25% observed and came up with the number of 99%.

Are the assumptions valid?

But in order to infer from these findings that 99% of people with the AIDS virus will develop AIDS, one must as-

sume that the sample of 84 is representative of the entire population and that the mathematical model used is valid. These are very big and not very reasonable assumptions.

Although the model used is mathematically sophisticated and used by many epidemiologists in studying other diseases, there is little evidence and no proof that the model applies to AIDS at all, or even to any group with the HIV virus.

Wall Street analysts use sophisticated computer models to project stock values, yet this didn't help any of them predict the stock market crash in October. It's been shown that these models don't even pick winning stocks at a rate much better than pure chance.

Models for projection are often academically interesting but notoriously inappropriate for general applications and real predictions.

Was the sample random?

The sample of 84 were all part of an ongoing hepatitis study and reported an average of 50 different sexual partners per year — hardly representative of all gay men, let alone the population as a whole.

But even if the model used does apply, and even if the sample were representative — two big, unlikely "ifs" — the actual results showed that the .99 estimate was in fact within a "90% confidence interval ranging from .38 to 1."

A "90% confidence interval . . ." means that even if all the assumptions are valid (remember that IF!), one can only be 90% confident that the real proportion of all gay men testing positive who will develop AIDS could fall anywhere between 38% and 100% and is as likely to be 38% as it is to be 99%.

Stated differently, it also means that if many samples were taken, about 10% would yield completely mistaken results. Because of the role of chance error, most scientists insist on at least a 95% and sometimes a 99% confidence interval, before accepting a result as significant.

A 90% interval should be viewed as very weak and such a wide interval makes the reported 99% proportion of little use. The confidence interval, which the AP report left out altogether, is extremely important in interpreting the results.

As the authors themselves say, ". . . it may still be too early to predict the exact proportion. . ." and "the width of the confidence interval indicates

our present data are not precise enough to pinpoint the mean (proportion of those who will develop AIDS)."

The report ignores the possibility of new treatments that could inhibit or prevent the progression from having the virus to developing AIDS. The projection is based on the experience of the past and assumes no advances in medical intervention. Why ignore the possibility of better treatments for the opportunistic infections or even a

vaccine or a cure?

We are led to believe that science, like the news, is "objective" and independent of politics. But as long as scientific research and the news media are controlled by big business interests, it is in the interest of everyone else to closely examine and question everything reported. A united and militant struggle to defeat AIDS can win if we do not allow scare stories and disinformation to put us off track.

Media shows more caution when writing about cures

In contrast to the media handling of the June 3 *Science* article (see article this page), consider the coverage in a not very prominent article in the *New York Times* about a study of a new test drug called Imreg-1.

Released (along with 3,200 other presentations) at the recent International Conference on AIDS in Stockholm, the study reported a clinical trial where people with ARC who took the new drug were 5 times less likely to develop AIDS than those taking a placebo.

The results were correctly labeled tentative, may be influenced by the drug company's desire for a profitable patent, and according to one doctor on a review panel, "Any time

you're dealing with only 19 end points, you're subject to the tyranny of small numbers and can't protect yourself against the possibility that the results were a statistical fluke."

Interestingly, the study AP reported as "AIDS virus 99% fatal," only had 21 end points out of an even smaller sample, but no such cautions appeared in the media. Perhaps, if the report about Imreg-1 were widely circulated there would be demands that the federal Food and Drug Administration put up money for wide-scale clinical trials of this possibly promising drug.

Hillel Cohen

Drug companies profiteer off AIDS epidemic fears

By Judy Greenspan

Move over, *Burroughs Wellcome* (the multi-million dollar producer of AZT), you're not the only company getting rich from the AIDS epidemic. *Biotech Research Laboratories, Inc.* (BTRL), the makers of the ELISA HIV test, and the entire latex glove industry are making a killing in profits from this deadly disease.

BTRL made it big in 1984 when it developed the Enzyme Immunoassay or ELISA screening test for HIV. This test is used to screen the nation's blood banks for HIV infection as well as to detect in humans some exposure to the virus. BTRL teamed up with none other than E.I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co. to develop an even more "profit-

able" Western Blot HIV test (the second or confirmatory test used to detect exposure to or infection with HIV).

There's only one problem. While BTRL's stockholders are falling all over themselves celebrating the more than \$7.2 million in profits (149% increase) in 1987, reports have been coming in from the scientific community concerning the unreliability of the test results.

In particular, when mass screening is performed, like in the military or the prisons, a large number of false positives and false negatives have been reported. In addition, it has been found that when large numbers of people are tested, the laboratories are less accurate in their test readings.

While the ELISA test may work well to screen the blood banks for HIV infection, it does not accurately detect exposure to the virus in the general population. BTRL's profits have skyrocketed because of increased usage of the test by hospitals, the military, public labs, insurance companies and prisons: But those testing positive are often discriminated against in the larger society and segregated and quarantined in prison.

A boom in rubber gloves

Thanks to both the AIDS epidemic and the lack of federal money put into public education about the disease, the latex glove industry is booming, too. Demand for rubber gloves has more than quadrupled. *New York Infirmity-Beekman Hospital* now goes through 100,000 exam gloves a month compared with 20,000 just a few years ago.

While demand for these rubber gloves has soared, so have costs. The price of a case of latex gloves has more than doubled over the past few months. *Renatte Hechenberger*, head of *Beekman's* procurement department, put it plainly. "From what I see there's profiteering going on."

come Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Boeing gave him a \$183,000 bribe (disguised as "severance pay") to throw some contracts their way. But it now appears the versatile Mr. Paisley decided to broaden his horizons by taking payoffs from many other deservng contractors as well.

On June 17, Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) told the press that Pentagon corruption was "more sweeping and more encompassing than your wildest imagination."

Poor Grassley seems to lack insight. With military spending now so high that 30% of the country's engineers and scientists have been drawn into weapons research, with contracts for one fighter plane alone worth more than \$4 billion, can anyone be surprised that 37 current and former Pentagon officials, including a deputy assistant Air Force secretary and a deputy assistant secretary of the Navy are now under criminal investigation, along with congressmen from the House Appropriations Committee?

Isn't money really the name of the

game in the defense hustle? Didn't it make billionaires out of men like David Packard and William Hewlett of Hewlett Packard, Henry Singleton of Teledyne, Lester Crown of General Dynamics and other repulsive death merchants?

Doesn't Congress unconstitutionally classify as "top secret" billions in the Pentagon budget every year, funds that are secret only to the people of this country but not to the arms contractors? Isn't the Secretary of Defense himself really just a glorified salesman for these same contractors, peddling their wares both at home and abroad?

The creation and deployment of ever more destructive weapons, plus the operations of both the big banks and the oil companies as well, are at the very heart of the capitalist system.

And as long as this continues, as long as there remain individuals who can profiteer off wars and preparations for wars, all attempts to weed out military corruption are just a ridiculous fantasy.

—Pentagon

Continued from page 4

and dollars, and another when you're talking about people's liberty. In reviewing the case, I had real doubt these men knew they were committing crimes."

Giuliani made these statements after meeting with Senator John Danforth (R-Mo.), whose brother is a director on the McDonnell-Douglas board.

Last year the firm was awarded military contracts worth \$7.7 billion. That money was eagerly provided by a government which has rejected its own AIDS commission plea that it spend less than half this much fighting the greatest public health threat of the last 50 years!

Enter Mr. Melvin Paisley. In 1981, Paisley left his position as international sales manager at Boeing, to be-

Philadelphia gaybashers convicted of 1st degree murder

By Tracy Gibson
Philadelphia

Leaders in the gay community here have applauded the convictions of Frank Chester, 20, and Richard Laird, 24, for the murder of Anthony Milano. Milano, a 26-year-old free-lance commercial artist, was a gay man. He was brutally killed — his face and neck were cut almost to the point of decapitation — last December 15.

Milano had ordered a beer and a sandwich in a Bristol Township Inn some 50 minutes from Philadelphia.

He was harassed and later attacked by the two men. The attack was said to have taken place because Milano was gay.

Chester and Laird were convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to death.

According to Justice Department figures, few cases of homophobic violence are prosecuted to the full extent of the law because many people who are attacked don't want their lifestyles exposed to the public. The crimes often go unreported. One study suggests that anti-gay bias crimes are probably

the most frequent type of bias crime.

But the convictions in the Milano case were hailed by Philadelphia's gay community. Rita Addessa, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force said the convictions in the Milano case were "a radical departure from the criminal justice department's usual justification of anti-gay crime."

Retribution won't stop bigotry

Addessa added, however, that retribution in the form of the death penalty, the sentence received by Chester and Laird, will not end discrimination against lesbian and gay people.

"There must be a radical reformulation of the curriculum in elementary and secondary school systems to teach factual and actual information about homosexuality. Civil rights protection must be extended to include a protection of sexual orientation."

A recent survey conducted by the Lesbian and Gay Task Force of Philadelphia questioned some 3,000 lesbian and gay people statewide. Of the 721 people who returned the survey and were from the Philadelphia area, during the 1986-87 period 46% of men and 20% of women surveyed were victims of criminal violence on the basis of their sexual orientation (31% and 15% for the statewide sample).

Seventy three percent of the men and 42% of the Philadelphia women (61% and 39% among other Pennsylvanians) have experienced criminal violence on the basis of sexual orientation at some point in their lives.

Police attack lesbians and gays

The survey also looked into police victimization rates which showed that 26% of the men and 15% of the women surveyed in the Philadelphia sample have encountered violence and/or harassment from police at some point in their lives on the basis of their sexual orientation (among the Pennsylvania sample such abuse was experienced by 31% of the men and 8% of the women).

According to the report, "Lesbian women and gay men in Pennsylvania have no civil rights protection at the federal or state levels. At the local level, Philadelphia and Harrisburg in 1982 and 1983, respectively, enacted legislation to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation."

In January 1988, Governor Robert Casey issued Executive Order 1988-1, which states, "no agency under the jurisdiction of the governor shall discriminate against any employee or applicant because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, union membership, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or non-job related handicap or disability."

The executive order provides no monitoring or enforcement mechanism, however, to assure compliance with its non-discrimination provision in state employment and state contracts.

"The absence of civil rights protection at the state and federal level exacerbates the growing problem of anti-gay and anti-lesbian violence. The fear of revictimization by authorities and implicit threat of public disclosure discourages gay and lesbian people from reporting incidents of violent victimization," the report concludes.

Hartford lesbian/gay community organizes to fight killers

By Elizabeth Toledo
Hartford, Conn.

The two men charged with the gay-bashing murder of Richard Reihl were arraigned on June 20 here in Hartford.

The defense of these two bigots entered their intentions on this date. They plan to use "juvenile offender" status in an attempt to have the charges reduced, since juvenile offender status does not apply to murder in the state of Connecticut.

This legal maneuver by the defense was noticed by the lesbian and gay community, who held a demonstration in front of the court on the same day as the arraignment.

Anti-lesbian and gay violence is nothing new to the lesbian and gay community across the country. In New York's Central Park on June 12, eight youths attacked a gay man and left him barely alive from knife

wounds to his neck. In Philadelphia recently, a gay man lived for 20 minutes after his attackers cut off his ear and other parts of his body.

While these cases have received national attention, they are far from isolated incidents. Many cases go unreported because the victims know the harassment they face as lesbians and gay men from the cops and the justice system if they report it.

Homophobia is the cause of all these attacks. Fear and hatred of gay men and lesbians is endorsed, taught and practiced by all the institutions in this country. Like racism and sexism, homophobia serves a purpose for the corporations, the courts, and the politicians, that of keeping working people divided and attacking each other.

For a united working-class fight-back, homophobia must be fought just as racism and sexism must, until it is eradicated.

Broad, united struggle needed Statement by Workers World Party candidates

The following is a message to Lesbian and Gay Pride Day marchers from Larry Holmes and Gloria La Riva, Workers World Party candidates for President and Vice President.

We salute the lesbian and gay community today as hundreds of thousands around the country march for rights and liberation. We are proud to stand with the lesbian and gay struggle, as Workers World Party has throughout the 19 years since the heroic Stonewall Rebellion.

We are in full solidarity with the struggle against oppression, bigotry and homophobia in all their forms. All people must have the right to live and love freely and fully.

We support the struggle for full civil rights for lesbians and gay men, and we denounce every single attack and every single instance of discrimination. It doesn't matter what form these attacks take — whether it's anti-gay "sodomy" laws, discriminatory insurance policies, violence against lesbians and gays, housing and job bias, custody suits against lesbian mothers, harassment of gay youth, or police raids at gay bars — we denounce each and every one as an attack on the entire working class.

These attacks are tools of the government, and the bosses and bankers it represents, to keep people oppressed.

We support the tremendous work the

lesbian and gay community has done and continues to do in providing support and services for people with AIDS and in developing a militant fight-back movement. **We demand that every single discriminatory law be torn from the books. We demand Project AIDS. We demand that this government map a strategy and coordinate a vast effort among sympathetic scientists, technicians and community activists to find a cure and vaccine for AIDS and that the billions of dollars spent on Star Wars be immediately transferred to Project AIDS.**

Our party sees the attacks on the lesbian and gay movement in a broader context. The ugly use of government-inspired racism, attacks on women's rights, union-busting, the lowering of wages, growing poverty and homelessness — all continue to escalate, while corporate profits, especially in the military-industrial complex, do too. What is needed is a broad united struggle by all of us — lesbian, gay and straight, Black, Latino, Asian, Native, Arab and white — to sweep away the rich bosses, bankers and landlords and their centuries of oppression, and create a society run for human need instead of profit, where all the chains of oppression are broken!



The Names

By Saul Kanowitz

The memory of the thousands of people who have died from AIDS has literally been sewn together in a national effort called the Names Project. It is a massive quilt consisting of over 15,000 three by six foot patches made by the lovers, friends and families of people with AIDS in commemoration of those who have died.

The quilt has become a way for people to transform individual grief and feelings of isolation into a collective expression of love for those who have died. It has brought people together in a spirit of solidarity to celebrate the contribution to society made by people with AIDS.

Well over a third of the 35,000 people in the U.S. who have died from AIDS are represented in the quilt's patches, making a powerful visual statement

10,000 march in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 19 — Lesbian and Gay Pride Day here drew about 10,000 people to the streets. One of the lead contingents in the parade was the D.C. Lesbian Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski (a lesbian severely injured in a car accident in 1983; she is being held in a nursing home by her parents who are denying her lover, Karen Thompson, visitation and custody rights).

The locally-based organization, OUT! (Oppression Under Target) presented a satirical attack against the Supreme Court's 1986 Bowers v. Hardwick decision that upheld anti-sodomy laws. Demanding "Equal justice under the sheets," an OUT! contingent parodied Justices Rehnquist, White and O'Connor fighting in the bedroom of a lesbian couple and a gay male couple.

Other contingents included ENLACE, a newly formed national Latino lesbian and gay organization, and the People's Anti-War Mobilization, whose members carried a banner demanding, "Fund AIDS Research, Not Star Wars."

Brenda Sandburg



es Project

that there are people and faces behind the AIDS statistics.

As part of a national 20-city tour, the quilt will be on view in New York City June 21 and 22. The New York part of the quilt will be displayed on the Great Lawn of Central Park, on Sat., June 25 from 9 a.m. to dusk as part of Lesbian and Gay Pride Week activities.

Bill Haislip

1938-1987

Marshall Yates

1948-1988

Two patches in the quilt, made by their comrades in Workers World Party, memorialize Marshall Yates and Bill Haislip, both longtime gay fighters in the people's struggle who died of AIDS.

—Basket and Bow

Continued from page 1

Comanche, Anishnabe (Ojibwe/Saulteaux), Kiowa, Dine (Navaho), Osage, Delaware, Cherokee, Yup'ik, Blackfeet, Otoe, Seneca, Dakota, Mohawk, Cheyenne, and other nations.

Participants travelled from Ontario and Manitoba provinces, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Michigan, Washington, D.C., New York State, Washington State, California and Arizona. Many who could not attend sent donations and messages that they were with the gathering in spirit.

Lesbian and gay Indians came together this weekend to speak their minds, and foremost in the discussion were the issues of AIDS, chemical dependency, spirituality and tradition, and the problems of coming out as gay and lesbian Native people. Beth Brant, a Mohawk lesbian author, was a keynote speaker who encouraged conference participants to write in order to break through the silence and reach others with the voices of gay and lesbian Native people.

The basket and the bow

The idea for this weekend grew out of the participation of Native people in

Fresno gay/lesbian students battle bigotry

By Angela Welton
Student, California State University
Fresno, Calif.

June 17 — The Gay and Lesbian Student Alliance (GLSA) at California State University Fresno (CSUF) formed ten months ago as a supportive social group for both gay and non-gay students. However, violent reaction to the group's formation quickly changed that.

Following verbal harassment, threats and the burning of GLSA's information booth on campus grounds, the group turned its energy to struggling for the civil rights of gay and lesbian students. They are not fighting alone — a powerful coalition has been formed. Students from other campus groups including the Latin American Support Committee, M.E.C.H.A., Women's Alliance, Disabled Students and the Rainbow Co-

alition have joined forces to demand GLSA's right to exist.

Two days after the burning of the booth, these groups staged the largest rally in campus history to demand the safety of GLSA. The Academic Senate, joined later by the president of the university, drafted a resolution opposing violence against gay students.

GLSA and supporters quickly constructed another booth even more beautiful than the one that had been burned down. But this was not the end of the fight for the GLSA.

At the end of the spring semester, Student Senate President Mark Astone vetoed all funding for GLSA and made the outrageous statement that "I and society as a whole have not yet accepted this type of behavior as worthy of public recognition." Astone

also said it was his job to protect the "morals" of the student body.

GLSA has contacted the ACLU and plans to pursue a lawsuit unless the CSUF president overturns this veto, which is illegal under the California Administrative Code, Section 41400 et seq., which prohibits student organizations from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. That regulation is based on Article 1, Section 7 of the California Constitution, which also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by the state.

This section is the result of a suit brought by gay law students against Pacific Telephone and Telegraph. These laws were won in struggle for lesbian and gay rights.

The GLSA vows to continue the fight until CSUF students are free from violence and harassment.



AIDS quilt at Oct. 11, 1987 March on Washington.

the October 11 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. At a sunrise ceremony for Indian gays and lesbians on October 11, Clyde Hall, a gay Shoshone-Bannock pipe-carrier and tribal judge, explained how his nation traditionally allowed children to choose their own path. When a child was very young, he or she was allowed to choose a basket or a bow, representing traditional female or male roles.

Boys who chose to express a female spirit and girls who chose a male expression were referred to by the arriving European colonists as "berdache," and were found in positions of respect in many indigenous societies on this continent. The participation of berdaches in Minneapolis this weekend greatly enriched the gathering.

Keeping tradition alive enables Native lesbians and gay men to retain their national identities and to better face bigotry by remembering their proud history as individuals who were considered specially blessed by their people.

Traditional spiritual practice also assists Native people tremendously in becoming and staying sober. The fact that chemical dependency is a serious issue in the lesbian and gay community and is an enormous problem for Native people was addressed throughout this weekend. The vast majority of participants in the gathering

explained how staying sober allowed them to regain their pride and dignity.

Indians get AIDS too!

A moving workshop on Indians and AIDS was led by an Ojibwe lesbian with AIDS, Carole Lafavor. Lafavor was the subject of the first video made by and for the Native community about AIDS, dispelling the myths that lesbians and Native people don't get AIDS. Lafavor spoke of how Indian people have survived smallpox, tuberculosis, chemical dependency, and numerous attacks by the U.S. government and will survive despite the AIDS epidemic.

Lori Beaulieu, Sharon Day and Jake Mendoza, all of the Minnesota Indian AIDS Task Force, discussed organizing in the Indian community around AIDS-related issues through education. They also stressed the inadequacies of the U.S. government-run National Indian Health Service (NIHS), which has not met the repeated requests of Native people for facts and help in dealing with the epidemic. They added that the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) do not even have a specific category in their statistics for Indian people.

Where do we go from here?

A final discussion included the im-

portance of building coalitions, the need for organizing a broader communication network and plans for a second conference.

A common theme at the gathering was the isolation that many had felt thinking that they were the only one who was both Native and gay. That isolation was forever shattered in Minneapolis. Although most in the circle of people here this weekend had never met before, all agreed that this gathering felt like "coming home."



THE GAY QUESTION: A MARXIST APPRAISAL by Bob McCubbin

This pioneering materialist analysis of gay oppression traces the history of lesbians and gay men from ancient society to the present day. 84 pp. \$2.00

Order from: World View Forum, 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Add 75¢ postage.

Thousands demand no extradition of Doherty

By Ed Childs
New York

Twenty-five hundred marched here today to demand that the U.S. government free Irish political prisoner Joe Doherty who has been in U.S. jails for five years. Doherty, an Irish Republican Army member from Belfast, has been ordered to be extradited to British jurisdiction by U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese.

U.S. courts have repeatedly tried Doherty but refused to extradite him, finding him guilty of political crimes. Meese, citing the State Department's Supplementary Extradition treaty with England, which excludes political asylum, overturned these rulings. The U.S. is now openly supporting English colonialism of Ireland for both economic and military (NATO bases) exploitation.

Significantly, the rally allied the

Joe Doherty and Irish struggle with other liberation movements, having speakers from the African National Congress, the Puerto Rican and Palestinian struggles. Links to the civil rights movement in Ireland and the Black community here were made by a representative of Jesse Jackson.

The rally ended with Irish rebel songs. Then Doherty's mother showed her heartened optimism at the broadening of the movement to freedom-loving people of all nationalities and his sister, emotionally overcome, silently looked over the determined crowd. This sparked the march to Metropolitan Correctional Center, where Doherty is held.

Releasing balloons marked "Free Joe Doherty" over the high-rise prison and chanting "Free Joe now!" the spirited crowd vowed to continue the struggle to free Joe Doherty.



WW PHOTO: ED CHILDS

NYC rally linked Irish freedom with Palestinian, So. African liberation movements.

10,000 gather near Dublin to support Irish freedom

By Peg Wall
Bodenstown, Ireland

More than 10,000 joined a march and rally on June 19 in Bodenstown, about 20 miles outside of Dublin, in an annual demonstration of support of Irish freedom.

The demonstration, which was organized by Sinn Fein, was not reported in any of the Irish press, since it is forbidden to report anything said or done by Sinn Fein under strict censorship laws.

Much of the focus of the rally was the struggle against deportation of Irish nationalists. Everyone was aware of the latest outrage of the Reagan administration, that Attorney General Edwin Meese gave the order to deport Joseph Doherty. The news of the large demonstration in New York City on June 18 was warmly greeted.

Speakers at the rally emphasized that the Irish struggle is part of the world-wide struggle of the workers and oppressed for socialism. Participants in the demonstration came from all 32 counties of Ireland including the north.

The event was held at the gravesite of Theobald Wolf Tone, a leader of the United Irishmen movement of the late 1700s. A few days before the demonstration on June 15 the Irish Republican Army carried out an attack on the biggest British Army center in Northern Ireland in the town of Lisburn.

Pat Doherty, a Sinn Fein leader and the featured speaker at the rally, said

of the attack, "The IRA has made it clear in many public statements that there will be no cease-fire while the British occupation of part of the national territory continues. The daring operation carried out by the IRA last Wednesday in the heart of the British Army headquarters town of Lisburn bears testimony to the courage, skill and resourcefulness of the Irish Resistance."

"But, unlike the inhabitants of the House of Commons (in England) after Gibraltar, Irish republicans do not revel in the death of anyone as a result of the political situation in our country. We regret all deaths and earnestly desire peace, but the deaths of the six British soldiers Wednesday night are part of the price of the British government's intransigence."

Doherty concluded, "We are a socialist republican movement, a movement that supports the use of armed struggle in the Six Counties and the establishment of a socialist republic in the 32 counties. We are out to establish a society in which no one is oppressed or exploited, where women are freed from their traditional oppression, and where freedom, justice and power really rest with the people of Ireland."

"We want a society freed from multinational profiteering and foreign influence. A socialist Ireland is a threat to Britain only insofar as our success may spur radicals in England, Scotland and Wales to press more actively for political and social changes in their own countries."

Rochester Black community hits grand jury bias secrecy

By Christopher Becker
Rochester, N.Y.

A June 15 public forum on the racist shooting of an unarmed Black man, Calvin Green, by a white Rochester cop on May 24 turned into a peoples trial of the grand jury system as an angry crowd of over 200 spoke out against the criminal justice system and the racism of Monroe County District Attorney Howard Relin.

On June 6, a 23-person grand jury with only two Black members failed to indict Gary Smith, the white Rochester policeman who shot a young, unarmed Black man five times in a crawl space, on any criminal charges. They also failed to present any report on why they took this action.

This was despite the police department's determination that the shooting was unjustified. The department will decide on June 21 whether Smith will be disciplined or fired.

At the public forum at the United

Methodist Church of the Resurrection on June 15, D.A. Relin, who once wrote a memo stating that Black jurors could not be objective in trials involving Black defendants, said the secrecy of the grand jury process was in the best interests of the community and a pillar of American democracy and the constitutional rights written over two hundred years ago.

The angry crowd of over 200 people reminded Relin that the constitution was written by slave owners and also reminded him that he was a racist. Demands for an opening of the grand jury findings, equal representation for all on the grand jury, and for the resignation of Relin as District Attorney were met by much applause.

Relin walked out of the public meeting before a number of people had an opportunity to speak their mind.

A coalition of Black churches in Rochester, the United Church Ministries

Continued on page 10

—Toronto Summit

Continued from page 1

ment and as a source of war. According to the Toronto Globe and Mail, one community activist charged, "Their policies are killing people and destroying the environment."

He continued, "The policies of Brian Mulroney [the prime minister of Canada] are contributing directly to the number of homeless in Toronto. And the policies of the G-7 are contributing to the number of people at food banks."

At the end of the rally, over 2,000 people took part in the march, despite a police ban, to the site of the official summit, an imposing bunker swaddled in nine layers of security, according to the Canadian Broadcast Company.

As they marched, they shouted "Arrest the G-7, we need peace!" Hundreds of cops, some on horses, stopped the march well before it got to the bunker on Toronto's lakefront. Some 140 people were arrested on a variety of charges.

Economic conditions behind the summit

Much of the media is hyping the prosperity that this summit meeting is celebrating. For some, the prosperity is real — profits are growing, average real income is up, productivity and production are growing. There probably has even been a slight drop in the unemployment rate, although the governments of the G-7 nations conceal the real figures.

The worries produced by the stock market crashes of last October have faded, especially since stock prices have recovered some of their losses. The end of government restrictions and regulations, the so-called privatization, has meant a boom in profits for large groups of capitalists, not only in the United States but throughout Western Europe.

But even in the prosperous G-7 countries, the growing wealth of a small group of already wealthy people has meant dire poverty for those made homeless and a sharp reduction in living standards for the majority of working people. Many of the new jobs created by the current boom are low-wage, service jobs with no future. The slow growth in prices, also called low inflation, has been accompanied by an even slower growth in wages.

A number of studies in the United States have shown that the real income of working people has fallen by 10% to 15% in the past eight years of

the Reagan era, which is one reason for the marked success of the Jesse Jackson campaign with white as well as Black workers.

A recent study in Canada found that the median annual income had fallen by \$340 (Can.) since 1984. Families with incomes under \$13,000 saw their incomes rise by \$90 a year; families with incomes over \$117,000 had a rise of \$3,570 and families with incomes between \$29,000 and \$43,000 lost close to \$1,000 a year.

The huge boom in England has left the north of that country high and dry, de-industrialized and completely depressed. The impending removal of trade barriers in Europe has been the signal for a vicious attack on wages, jobs and living standards in that whole area, especially in France and West Germany.

Conditions horrible for oppressed countries

But if conditions are bad and getting worse in the G-7 countries, they are abominable in the rest of the capitalist world. Developing countries owe about one trillion dollars. The very poorest countries of sub-Saharan Africa — including Senegal, Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso and the Sudan — owe a fifth of that debt — \$200 billion.

Most of this debt can never be repaid, even though many areas of Latin America and Africa are net exporters of capital to the advanced capitalist countries. Trying to repay it has forced the governments of many countries to accept policies dictated by the imperialist banks that produce grinding poverty. Some living standards have even been reduced below the minimum needed to survive, as in Haiti and Chad.

This huge debt has been an issue at the summit, with the United States and Italy pushing for extracting as much as possible and England and France arguing for a softer approach that might avoid explosions. Behind this political argument lie the economic difficulties that this debt causes for the big capitalist banks. Some of them are in deep trouble and all of them are shaky.

Reducing wages and living standards, forcing poor countries to become poorer by taking out loans that they have no chance of repaying have meant big profits for the Western capitalists. But it also means that these profits can't be sustained. In the long run people are not going to have the money to buy the goods and services these capitalists sell.

Cuba: A better life for women, seniors and youth

By Susan Rotgard
Havana, Cuba

Politics are not some abstract preoccupation of the few who are isolated from the "ordinary" person's everyday life. Whether we are conscious of it or not, political events affect the quality of life for all people.

In socialist Cuba, the triumph of the Revolution in 1959 changed life dramatically. I visited Cuba with the 19th contingent of the Venceremos Brigade in May 1988 and was able to see first hand the gains of the Cuban Revolution.

While picking oranges as part of our work with the Brigade, I had the opportunity to talk with Jamila, a Cuban woman who works at the Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP) and is a cadre of the Young Communist League (UJC). I learned that the changes in all aspects of life here since the Revolution have been profound. Every facet of society is organized for the benefit of the people.

This society provides the material necessities of life. It also provides the emotional, intellectual and spiritual conditions that create an environment for people to develop their human potential for themselves as individuals and for the collective good of the country.

This manifests itself in many ways in Cuba, where everyone is truly cared for and where work, housing, food, medical care and education are considered birthrights and are in the process of becoming available to everyone.

All people are respected, and equality for everyone, Black and white, women and men, is being made a reality.

She told me about the long and proud tradition of struggle of Cuban women who participated in the fights for independence and in the revolution. Women have, since the beginning, played a strong and significant role in the construction of socialism.

Prior to the 1959 Revolution, Cuba, a developing Third World country, had been subjected to the ravages of exploitation, colonization and imperialist domination. Women suffered double exploitation due to their class and sex, and Black women triple oppression based on racism.

Hunger, misery, ignorance, disease, dependence and despair was the daily panorama for the majority of Cuban women. They were forced to work, if they could, as domestic workers or prostitutes.

The revolutionary government recognized the special needs of women and established in 1960 the Federation of Cuban Women (FMC). Its aim was to raise the cultural, technical, politi-

cal and ideological level of Cuban women and to incorporate women into all spheres of life.

The FMC, which is a mass organization with voluntary membership, assumes the responsibility of representing women before the government bodies and other political, social and mass organizations. It analyzes the most appropriate solutions to each problem and women's participation in each activity.

I met and spoke with many women in Cuba, who explained that in many spheres of work, women constitute the majority, and they are leaders in the trade unions, the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs), bodies of Peoples Power, Young Communist League and among the ranks of Communist Party committees and membership.

In Cuba, change is constantly taking place in a forward, revolutionary direction. The Rectification Program is an ongoing process of dialogue with the masses and of correcting errors and continuing to build socialism under the particular conditions in Cuba.

Problems are acknowledged, discussed and addressed. Any sexist or racist attitudes (which have no institutional, political or social base in revolutionary Cuba) remain as vestiges of class society, and are virulently fought. Women in Cuba have made tremendous strides on all fronts — in education, health care, agriculture, political activity, the arts and culture.

The elderly are cared for and respected as full members of Cuban society. They are not forgotten because they are older. There are community programs of exercises, excursions and cultural activities designed to involve the elders and their special health and emotional needs are thought about and provided for.

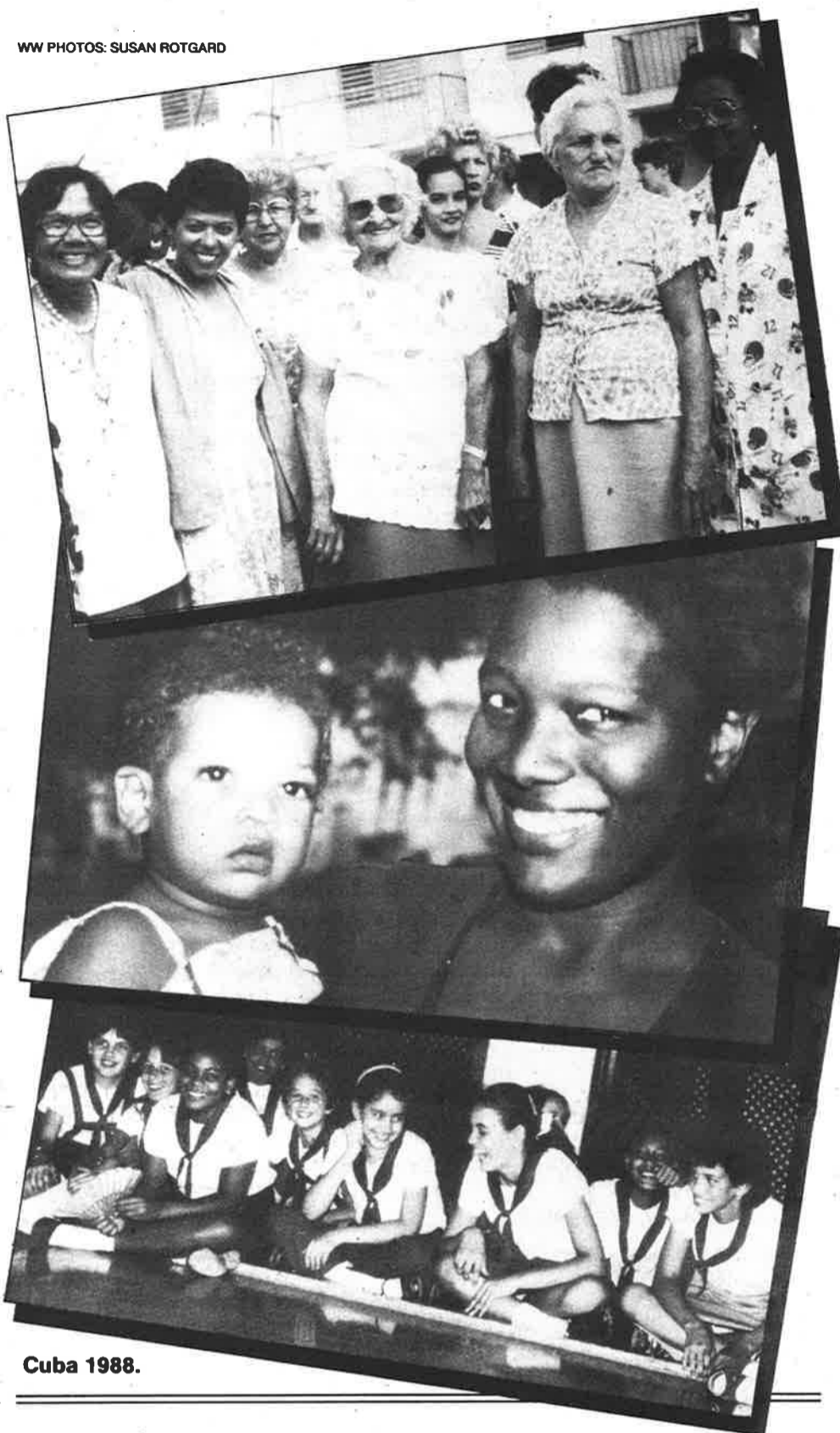
Older people who haven't families to live with or near are eligible for comfortable and pleasant senior residences which are available to all.

In Cuba, tremendous emphasis and resources are directed at children and youth, who are the socialist future. It was an overwhelming experience to see and interact with young Cubans who radiate a matter-of-fact confidence in themselves and the future.

Their intelligence, openness, revolutionary outlook and spirit, talent, grace and charm were incomparable to anything I had ever felt or observed elsewhere. The youth in Cuba are confident of the future and of their role in it.

They are building and will continue to build socialism and to serve as an inspiration to all people who struggle for freedom, dignity, and for the opportunity to develop as full human beings.

WW PHOTOS: SUSAN ROTGARD



Cuba 1988.

Ramirez jailed for saying 'No!'

By Gloria La Riva
New York

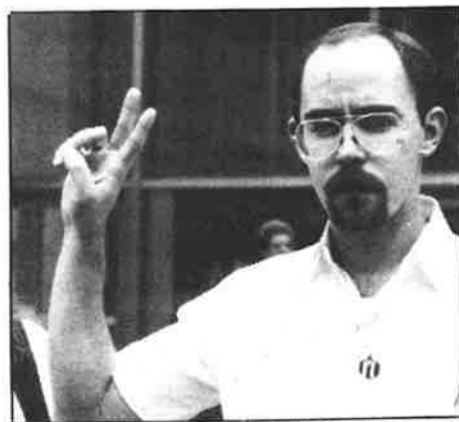
"As a Puerto Rican I have no choice but to support my people's right to self-determination and independence. I refuse to cooperate with the grand jury, because it is a tool of the U.S. government to suppress the Puerto Rican independence movement."

Nelson Ramirez spoke to Workers World after he was sentenced on June 8 to 15 months in jail by Federal Court Judge Thomas Platt for refusing to testify before a grand jury.

The grand jury was impaneled in March of this year to investigate the clandestine Puerto Rican group, Armed Forces of National Liberation (FALN). Ramirez's attorney, Colleen McGuire, charged that the jury has no record on him, and "is simply on a fishing trip to find out information about the Puerto Rican independence movement."

Refusal to testify before a grand jury can bring a jail sentence for the jury's duration, without due process or appeals. Over 20 supporters of Puerto Rican independence have been imprisoned for up to two years for refusing to cooperate.

Over 50 supporters held a solidarity rally for Ramirez before he surrendered to federal marshals today. Ramirez assured his friends, "I am being



Nelson Ramirez.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA LA RIVA

incarcerated without having been indicted nor convicted of any crime. But I am stronger today than when I was sentenced a week ago, and I will never collaborate with this repressive grand jury."

Although Ramirez is not currently politically active, it is his activism several years ago in the Puerto Rican independence struggle that makes the U.S. government think he should now be in prison. In 1980, he was president of the Puerto Rican Student Union at Hunter College and a member of the National Committee to Free the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War.

A support committee is being set up for Ramirez and his wife, who is seven months into a high-risk pregnancy.

Hartford defendant out — but not free

By Elizabeth Toledo
Hartford, Conn.

About 100-150 Puerto Rican people and friends came together here in Hartford on June 19 to welcome Don Filiberto Ojeda Rios to Hartford and to celebrate our victory in his release from jail. "This is but one small victory," said Ojeda, "in a series of small victories which will lead to the total expulsion of imperialism from Puerto Rico."

Filiberto Ojeda Rios, one of the defendants being charged with the Wells Fargo robbery of 1985, spent two-and-a-half years in prison under the Preventive Detention Act. By now, many recognize it as just another attempt by U.S. imperialism to squelch the independence movement in Puerto

Rico by jailing its leaders. Many recognize Ojeda as an historic Puerto Rican national hero.

The gathering had a spirit of celebration but ended early, since Don Filiberto has a curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. He is prohibited from leaving the Hartford area.

He is also wearing an electronic ankle bracelet which is used to monitor his whereabouts. This bracelet has never been used on a defendant not yet convicted of any crime. The Puerto Rican community sees it as the perfect example of the disregard for human dignity by the U.S. government.

Ojeda also mentioned that while this victory has been won, we could never rest until the liberation of the Puerto Rican people is achieved.

EDITORIALS

When banks fail, who pays?

Let's suppose your Aunt Agatha left you enough money to put a down payment on a modest house in Texas. Before you took on that commitment, you figured what the monthly mortgage payments would be with insurance, water and taxes and decided you could just make it with your and your spouse's combined salaries.

That was three years ago. Then the oil bust hit, jobs were axed, your spouse had to switch jobs at a big cut in pay, and suddenly you were faced with losing your home and everything you had put into it.

Of course, this has actually happened to a lot of working people in the '80s.

Did the federal government step in and say, We can't let this happen? Was money suddenly found in the vast U.S. Treasury to avert this disaster?

Fat chance.

Now it's three years later and so many people have gone bankrupt in the Southwest that real estate values there have plummeted. A new crisis looms. Many savings banks are going under, primarily because the houses and other real estate they took as collateral for loans can't be sold for their book value anymore.

The federal agency that insures the deposits in savings banks — the FSLIC — is itself way in the red. Since last fall, the savings and loan industry has been losing money at the rate of more than \$13 billion a year, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board announced on June 21.

More than 500 savings and loan associations are insolvent. Another 500 are on the edge.

Some analysts are predicting it will take \$60

billion to \$75 billion (that's right, with a "b") to liquidate the failing banks and pay off their depositors. Where will that money come from?

Various schemes are being kicked around in the Senate Banking Committee, but what it really boils down to, according to one financial reporter, is a taxpayer "bailout of considerable size" (New York Times, June 21).

In other words, the great old free enterprise system that works so well if only big government gets off its back is demanding a massive transfusion of government funds. That's really the workers' money, since the rich hardly pay any taxes any more.

Now, with \$75 billion, the government could afford to sink \$75,000 each into 1 million houses and give them to people who've lost their homes or never had a decent place to live. That would eliminate a whole lot of middlemen.

But matching people up with homes isn't exactly the way this system works. It's matching greedy bankers with interest extracted from the workers' labor that's more their style.

Aren't we lucky that the capitalist economy is performing so well? Can you imagine what it would be like if the economy began to actually contract a little — as it inevitably will sooner or later?

Washington and Haiti

Washington's protests over the coup in Haiti are not to be taken seriously. The U.S. will not overthrow the new government of Lieut. Gen. Henry Namphy, as it did the government of Grenada. Nor will it try to destabilize the Haitian military regime, as it has tried to do with Panama's government.

The truth of the matter is that the Haitian military is a creation of the Pentagon — armed and trained by the U.S. to do its bidding, which is to keep down Haiti's angry masses, who are the poorest in the Western hemisphere.

In its for-the-record criticism of the Namphy coup, the Reagan administration is once again posing as the champion of democracy.

The Haitians, it is said, "can't handle" democracy. Of course, Washington never mentions how Haitian slaves in the 18th century kicked out the slave owners and formed the first Black republic in the world, and have been struggling against foreign intervention ever since. Instead, Washington drags out the tired, racist stereotypes in order to cover its own exploitative role in this impoverished Caribbean nation.

President Leslie F. Manigat, whom Namphy overthrew, was certainly not an example of shining democracy. He was put in place by the Haitian military four months ago in a sham election. When the Haitian workers tried to exert even a slight semblance of their will in the December 1987 elections they were mowed down in the street by the U.S.-armed military.

In reality, Washington is for Namphy, or any other ruler who smooths the way for U.S. agribusiness and other corporations to reap huge profits by paying Haitian workers slave wages, and to utilize Haiti as a dumping ground for U.S. goods, which has brought fortunes to a handful. A disagreement over who control this and other booty is at least partially involved behind the firing of Namphy by Manigat, and then the Namphy coup.

Despite what it says, what Washington fears the most in Haiti is democracy — people's democracy — the democracy of the Haitian masses who took to the streets in the hundreds of thousands in 1986 and defied the terrorist secret police in order to kick the hated Jean-Claude Duvalier out of the country. Duvalier was chauffeured out in a U.S. plane.

Since then, the overwhelming sentiment of the Haitian people has been perfectly clear — they want to form a government free of U.S. puppets, a truly representative government that will meet the needs of the people, and will break ties with U.S. imperialism.

Washington has done everything it can to stop this revolutionary tide, including training the forces and providing the weapons to mow down demonstrators in the streets. It doesn't matter so much to the Pentagon which person holds office in Haiti, as long as Washington continues to be the real ruler there.

Letters

Miss Santa Cruz

Miss Santa Cruz is my hero. If only there'd been someone like her in Atlantic City at the Miss America pageants I watched faithfully during my growing up years in the 1950s.

Miss Santa Cruz, now known by a regular person name, Michelle Anderson (she's been stripped of her title), exposed the ugly sexism of beauty pageants on June 13 in San Diego, Cal., where she was runner-up for the Miss California title. When the winner was announced, she pulled a hidden banner from her bra and unfurled it on the stage. The banner read, "Pageants hurt all women." She was attacked

and dragged from the stage, and contest officials later announced they were revoking the \$3,000 scholarship she had won as Miss Santa Cruz.

In a news conference, Anderson said she planned the protest with a group of women, and went through the two-year-long process to reach the highest stage in the Miss America system so she could make a statement about the objectification of women that beauty contests represent. "I wanted to go behind the scenes of pageants and expose the lies they promote, such as women like to be judged by men," she said. "Women suffer severe indignities to try to be beautiful according to these standards."

June C. Ventimiglia
New York City

50,000 children and youth homeless in California

By Stephanie Hedgecote
San Francisco

June 20 — Over 50,000 children and juveniles are now homeless in California, according to a report based on a survey of shelters around the state. That figure could be much higher, as this report by the California/Nevada Community Action Association used the state's estimate of 150,000 homeless Californians.

Some 131 out of the 420 shelters surveyed in February replied, and these represent a balance of urban and rural

areas. The association, which represents public agencies serving low income people, stated that "the stereotype of the homeless as rootless men who chose this life or as mentally ill individuals . . . is just not supported by the facts."

The report projects that 45% of the homeless are families, or some 70,000 children and parents. About 20,000 homeless are under five years old. Thirty-five percent of shelter residents are under 18, and 13% under age 6. Also 7,500 homeless are seniors.

California's shelters are full, and over 90% of the state's homeless live in cars, on the street and in parks. "Not since the Depression of the 1930s have we seen children in such bleak circumstances," states the report. Association spokesperson Diane Bonar said, "Clearly, there are thousands upon thousands of children in this state who have no stable, rooted home life, who are not getting enough to eat and are not even in school."

—Rochester

Continued from page 8
(UCM), has led the community in the effort to get justice served for Calvin Green. This pressure has forced the FBI and the Department of Justice to investigate whether Green's civil rights were violated. New York Governor Cuomo is now sending a state commission, which can recommend a special prosecutor, to investigate the shooting death.

The UCM is calling for a national conference on police use of deadly force to be held this fall. A steering committee including the All Peoples Congress (APC) has been formed to organize for this event. On June 16 a picket line organized by the APC in front of the Hall of Justice called for "No more killer cops!"

A pocket-sized booklet from World View Forum!

Understanding Palestine, Israel and the U.S. role

Only 75¢ (includes postage)
Order from:
World View Forum
46 W. 21 St., NY, NY 10010

Lea un periódico
Marxista
revolucionario ...
¡Suscríbese a
Mundo Obrero!

Read a
revolutionary
Marxist
newspaper ...
Subscribe to
Workers World!

Subscribe!

- \$10 for one year/\$10 por un año
 \$6 for six months/\$6 por 6 meses
 \$2 for a 10-week trial subscription/\$2 por 10 semanas
 Send details about supporter program/Donación especial
 I want to get a bundle of Workers Worlds/Envíame un paquete de Mundo Obrero

Name/Nombre

Address/Dirección

City/State/Zip/Ciudad/Estado/Zona

Phone/Teléfono

Return coupon to/Envíe el cupón a: Workers World/Mundo Obrero, 46 W. 21 St., New York, NY, 10010

¡Suscríbese!

1 million strike for Soweto Day in So. Africa

Call for campaign to stop execution of Sharpeville 6

By Sharon Shelton

African history.

Together the two actions show that the increased terror meted out by the apartheid regime has failed to stop the movement of the people of South Africa and has only deepened their resolve to struggle.

The Soweto Day stoppage was at least 70% effective throughout the country and almost totally effective in major urban centers. Most people either stayed home or attended commemorative services for the more than 575 Black people, most of them children, killed during the historic 1976 rebellion.

Meanwhile, bombs rocked Capetown, Durban and Port Elizabeth, and rail service came to a halt for several hours as a result of sabotage of a power line near Durban by liberation forces. One person was killed in Cape Town when a grenade exploded in his hand.

June 16 is a day that has been observed each year since the 1976 uprising. Many South Africans have demanded that the day be declared a le-

gal holiday, and Black unions have raised this demand as part of their contract negotiations.

Launched new phase of struggle

The Soweto uprising of 1976 launched a new phase of the liberation struggle in South Africa. The rebellion began as a student protest against the mandatory teaching of Afrikaans, the language of the oppressor, in Black schools. The protests erupted into a full-scale uprising after police opened fire on a group of children in Soweto, a Black township near Johannesburg.

Quickly, the rebellion spread to Pretoria, Durban, small towns in the Transvaal, the conservative Orange Free State and throughout the country. Black workers spontaneously joined in, carrying out work stoppages in solidarity with the students.

Since the uprising, the struggle has only deepened, and many of the Soweto youth have joined the African National Congress (ANC), the organization leading the liberation struggle.

At the same time, the increasingly shaky apartheid regime has imposed one repressive measure after another in a desperate attempt to stem the popular impulse for liberation. So far, according to the June 20 issue of Newsweek, 30,000 people have been

rounded up, 2,500 are still being held with no charges, and thousands have been driven underground. These are conservative figures.

Sharpeville Six denied retrial

And just two days before Soweto Day, on June 14, South African Judge W.J. Human denied a retrial to a group of South African Black people facing execution, the Sharpeville Six, on phony charges they were somehow involved with the killing of a collaborator with apartheid.

Even the regime doesn't try to connect the Six to the actual killing, but openly admits they are being executed for having a "common purpose" with those who did the killing. In reality, the Six, who have become heroes in South Africa and throughout the world, are being used to try to terrorize the Black masses as a whole into abandoning the struggle.

It is far too late in the day, however, for intimidation and terror tactics to work in South Africa. Liberation fighters have been hanged, the press has been censored, popular resistance organizations have been outlawed; still the struggle continues. The tremendous success of Soweto Day and the general strike before it show that the Black majority will prevail.

Soweto Day across U.S.

June 16, the 12th anniversary of the historic Soweto uprising, was commemorated by demonstrations across the country. Among them were the following:

In New York City hundreds of activists marched from the offices of Mobil Oil to those of Shell Oil to expose U.S. corporate support for apartheid. The lively protest was joined by the cast of the hit Broadway musical, *Sarafina!*, whose members are from South Africa.

San Francisco anti-apartheid demonstrators were joined by Central American solidarity groups in a noontime picketline. Protesters targeted Sen. Pete Wilson's office to demand "Embargo South Africa — not Nicaragua!" then marched on the Customs Office to protest the U.S. seizure of four vehicles from the Veterans' Peace Convoy.

The spirit of Soweto filled the streets of Atlanta on June 16 in a high energy "South African Liberation Day Parade." Thousands saw the rush hour demonstration as it moved from the regional headquarters of IBM to the world headquarters of Coca-Cola. Both corporations have tried to conceal their continued business in South Africa.

The blare of car horns rattled corporate windows as drivers responded to the call to "honk against apartheid."

Demonstrators were joined by a lively contingent from Justice for Janitors who have targeted Coke for its apartheid-like treatment of maintenance workers, and by Joel Williams of the Atlanta Falcons.

High school students led the protest which wound its way through busy downtown Cleveland demanding "Free South Africa!" The rally was dedicated to all who have fallen in the struggle, including an exchange student from Soweto who had to return home from Cleveland for the funeral of her brother, killed in the anti-apartheid struggle.

Children United Against Apartheid held a series of activities in Houston to mark the uprising begun by South African youngsters. Anyika Allen, organizer of a June 16 march, explained that Black students in Texas, who learn little about their heritage in school, sympathize with the students of Soweto, who sparked the uprising by marching for their right to a decent education.

At a commemoration rally in Rochester, N.Y., speakers linked the struggle against apartheid with the fight against racist violence here in the U.S., describing the common repressive tactics used by both governments to keep oppressed people down.

The All-Peoples Congress played a key role in these activities.



WW PHOTO: J. CATALINOTTO



WW PHOTO: JIMMY RAYNOR



WW PHOTO: ALAN ROTH



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

From top: New York, Atlanta, Cleveland and Philadelphia (bottom right).

La sequía destruye mucho más que la cosecha

Por Petra Guerra

Cada día en los medios de comunicación se ven las contradicciones de este sistema. El viernes pasado en el New York Times, leí un artículo sobre la sequía que está arruinando la cosecha de maíz y sorgo y otros productos agrícolas. Según este diario, los estados del noreste como Montana, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota, y otros, son los más afectados. Entendiendo las rutas de los campesinos migrantes, yo me pregunto, ¿que será de ellos cuando lleguen a esos estados y se den cuenta que toda las plantaciones han sido destruidas por la sequía?

Antes de todo, permitámen darles una idea de como funcionan las migraciones de los campesinos; en primer lugar ellos tienen como base el estado de Texas, y para trabajar tienen que viajar a las fincas donde se encuentra la cosecha, ya sea en los estados mencionados por el New York Times. Segundo los campesinos nada más tienen empleo por temporadas, durante la siembra o durante la cosecha, es decir trabajan sólo parte del año. Aparte de necesitar dinero para sobrevivir, también se necesita dinero para viajar a donde

se encuentran los trabajos. Para los campesinos migratorios no existe ningún programa o beneficio social, tales como compensación de desempleo, o algún programa de salud. Para ellos no hay ninguna entrada de dinero cuando están sin empleo.

Pero no tenemos que preocuparnos, según nuestros oficiales gubernamentales ellos saben como enfrentar cualquier problema, en fin aquí todos somos iguales, ¿no es cierto? Bueno pues piénsenlo despacio. Solo esta mañana en el tren subterráneo, me encontraba leyendo el New York Times y en la primera página había una foto de varios mexicanos esperando en línea su turno para someter su aplicación de trabajador agrícola temporal. Tal vez se pregunten ustedes que tiene que ver eso con los campesinos, o con cualquier otro trabajador. Bueno pues, como siempre intelectuales del sistema burgues, en este caso el congresista Peter Rodino salió con la idea fantástica que este país necesitaba tener una reserva de trabajadores agrícolas para levantar la cosecha, y por ende desarrolló el programa de trabajadores temporales.

Y yo como vengo de familia que conoció un poco el programa del Bracero

(trabajador que se emplea para cavar o labrar la tierra) de los años cincuenta, me puse a pensar sobre este tema. El programa del Bracero fue un acuerdo entre México y EEUU, donde los mexicanos venían y levantaban la cosecha y tan pronto terminaba ellos tenían que regresar a su país. Bajo este programa los trabajadores no tenían ningún beneficio, y trabajaban por sueldos aún más bajos que los de sus compatriotas que residían en este país, esto dejando millones de dólares en ganancias para los grandes terratenientes.

Tanto el programa del Bracero como el programa de Rodino, fueron desarrollados con la mente puesta sobre la reserva de mano de obra barata durante la cosecha, pero si como dice el artículo

del diario neuyorquino, todo tipo de plantación se ha destruido por la sequía, ¿entonces que va a suceder con esta reserva de trabajadores y no encuentra trabajo? En el año 1987 se utilizó el programa de trabajadores agrícolas para la cosecha de fruta en el estado de California, causando una gran crisis de desempleo y afectando al sistema de vivienda.

Ante esta situación el gobierno federal está discutiendo la posibilidad de recompensar a los grandes terratenientes que perdieron la cosecha a causa de la sequía, y yo me pregunto ¿quién va recompensar al campesino que ahora se encuentra lejos de su casa y que depende sólo de este trabajo para sobrevivir?

Un nuevo ascenso del movimiento cívico en Colombia

Reportaje especial

En agosto de 1986 caían asesinados dos parlamentarios de la Unión Patriótica, uno en Barrancabermeja y otro en Villavicencio. Así fue como empezó el cuatrienio de Virgilio Barco y desde ese mismo instante surge la necesidad de marchar por la vida, de la urgente necesidad de paralizar la vida cotidiana para tratar por este medio de detener las manos asesinas.

Fue así como Colombia marchó en el primer semestre de 1987 para tratar de defender el derecho más importante y primordial como es el de vivir. El país entero petitionó, se movilizó, marchó y paró, para defender la vida. Ahora bien, si este derecho no se ha logrado arrancar de la clase dirigente, en los corazones y cerebros de los colombianos se empezó a ver con claridad, lo que en agosto de 1986 era oscuro. Los asesinatos de hoy, los sicarios y paramilitares, tienen conexiones dentro del aparato represivo estatal. Y así lo ha demostrado el informe de Amnistía Internacional.

Este año, el pueblo colombiano se levanta como en el anterior y bajo la misma consigna "el derecho a la vida" y en todas las ciudades se inundó de aire campesino. Pero esta lucha por la vida ha llevado también a reivindicar, vigorosamente, por las cosas más fundamentales, los servicios que luego de 170 años de vida republicana no se han solucionado para los inmensos núcleos humanos: el derecho a beber agua limpia, a tener luz, alcantarillado, carreteras, a centros de salud pública, educación, etc. Como lo demostró el paro y la marcha campesina de la intendencia de Arauca donde en la inmensa mayoría esta región no existe un puesto de salud pública, ni tampoco el silo para hacer el acopio de los productos agrícolas. Esta zona se encuentra totalmente militarizada como protección a las conglomerados petroleros extranjeros.

Pero si no hay acueductos en Arauca, en Chocó, tampoco existen en Barranquilla capital del departamento

del Atlántico. Para no hablar de la capital de la república; Bogotá donde el agua potable no llega a la inmensa masa. Lo mismo pasa en Tunja capital del departamento de Boyacá, ahí la población se ha movilizó muchas veces por este primer elemento de la naturaleza. La verdad es que donde detengamos nuestra mirada, bien sea en las grandes ciudades o en las más modestas veredas, lo único que se puede ver son las necesidades no satisfechas de todo el pueblo colombiano.

Impunidad para los asesinos de dirigentes comunitarios

Casi todos los dirigentes de los paros, como el del nororiente fueron asesinados, sin embargo lo condenable para el gobierno no son estos crímenes, sino que Amnistía Internacional los señale al mundo. Hoy a punto de cumplirse dos años del actual mandato de Virgilio Barco el único "avance" que se puede notar es de los asesinatos selectivos individuales y colectivos. Ya no se ven caer a unos líderes sino que vemos terribles masacres de los mejores hijos de Colombia: sindicalistas, estudiantes, madres de casa, abogados niños y de todo aquel que luche por justas reivindicaciones.

Estas poderosas razones lograron movilizar en 1987 a millones de personas en las más amplias acciones cívicas en el interior y en todas las fronteras del país. Ahora se suman a ellos los nuevos conflictos de 1988: el desempleo crece aún más, el costo de la vida ha barrido en cuatro meses las alzas pactadas en los salarios y los servicios se encarecen donde escasamente existen. Sin embargo hay algo más: las condiciones subjetivas cambian, el militarismo está recibiendo los más duros golpes y la conciencia del pueblo colombiano no es la misma que cuando mataron a los dirigentes de la Unión Patriótica en agosto de 1986, hoy el pueblo sabe muy bien quien es su enemigo y como enfrentarlo.



FOTO: DAVE SOLE

¡Lesbianas y gays siguen adelante!

Este domingo marcharán miles y miles de lesbianas, hombres gay y sus apoyadores, ya sean latinos, negros, indígenas, asiáticos, árabes o blancos, en celebración del Día del Orgullo Gay. Mundo Obrero les brinda toda su solidaridad y apoyo en la lucha por los derechos homosexuales.

La comunidad lésbica y gay ha luchado contra el heterosexismo que es la ideología del patriarcado que dicta que la pareja "normal" es la que incluye a un hombre y una mujer. Para los millones que no encajan dentro de este esquema esto causa mucho dolor y sufrimiento ya que son aislados, discriminados y rechazados por la sociedad.

Es muy común que lesbianas, gays, transvestistas y transexuales sean víctimas de la violencia, desempleo, hostigamiento y muchas otras formas que toma el prejuicio.

Con la crisis del SIDA la violencia anti-gay ha aumentado fomentada esta por el gobierno y los medios de comunicación. El derecho a escoger nuestra preferencia sexual es un derecho fundamental, al igual que los derechos de la mujer, de personas tercermundistas a la auto-determinación y de los trabajadores a empleo, vivienda, atención médica, comida y una vida digna sin necesidades básicas.

Por Lucinda Sintierra

¡SUSCRIBASE AHORA!