

The College Voice

**Free
Tuition
and
Open
Admissions**

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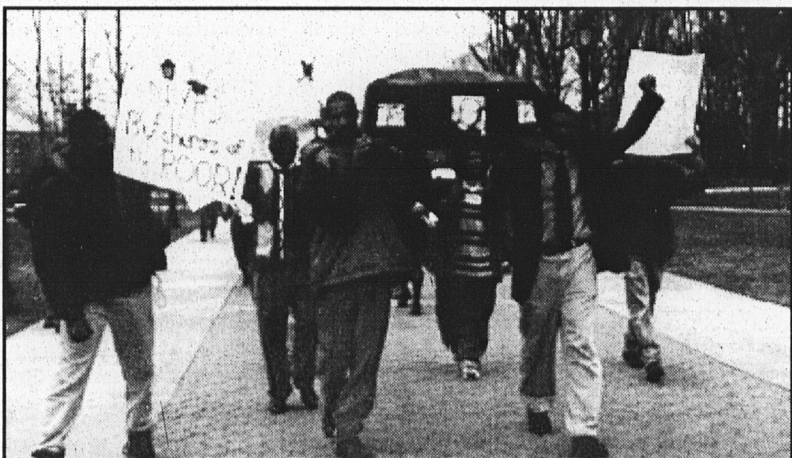


Bombs Abroad - Bullets at Home



Hands Off Yugoslavia pg. 8-9

...The Masses Fight Back!!!



New York Fights Back pg. 2, 5

No Justice No Peace

CSI Students Rally Against Police Brutality

BY HOLLY LENAHAN

Black, white, fuck Giuliani! echoed through the CSI campus on the afternoon of Wednesday March 23, as students rallied against police brutality. The trend of student apathy at CSI seemed temporarily nonexistent as a group of about sixty students marched from the campus center to the front of the library. The students chanted anti-police brutality and anti-Giuliani slogans in response to the fatal February 5th shooting of Amadou Diallo. Students were especially enraged because the officers who killed Amadou had not yet been indicted. However, the rally was also aimed at challenging a political system which allows such atrocities to happen.

Upon reaching their destination, the library, students were given a chance to voice their opinions on police brutality,

Leslie-Ann Alvaradous, who passionately demanded the active participation of her fellow students in the fight against police brutality. On the MOVE! she cried out, in an open expression of her admiration towards a group of revolutionaries known as MOVE who spoke out against police brutality and other social justice issues some twenty years ago. There were about thirteen speakers, some with conflicting views of how the issue of police brutality should be dealt with, but all in agreement that the death of Amadou Diallo proves that there is an issue of police brutality in this city, which needs to be addressed.

The overall message that most speakers tried to convey is that change requires the participation of every one, that to stop police brutality we need to organize and be active in the movement. Organize wherever you are, stated William Wharton

who was a key figure in organizing the event. We have to make police brutality every ones business, stated Mr. Wharton, he then commented on how police brutality affects his community, Staten Island is the most racist, sexist, place in New York. I don't fear the people in my community, I fear the

police. He then stated, Amadou Diallo didn't hurt anyone, he was trying to live the American Dream. Where is his Ameri-



Voice Editor Iman El-Sayed speaks to the crowd about political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal



CSI Students March for Amadou Diallo

the killing of Amadou Diallo, and how Giuliani relates to those issues. The open mike forum was hosted by freshman,

can Dream now? Shot forty one times!

The demonstration did not consist entirely of students, Professor Calvin Holder, of the CSI History department, voiced his opinion as well. Look at how the police department functions as an institution, it could not behave the way it has over the years if it did not have the sanction of the organizations in this city, stated Professor Holder. He then urged students to participate in the struggle against police brutality through organizing and voting. Manjula Wijerama, a student, rejected the idea of reforming the police all together, claiming that It's not a few bad apples, it's a rotten barrel! Mr. Wijerama is a militant revolutionary who feels that the police department, along with the entire capitalist system needs to be overthrown.

Some speakers related their personal experiences with police brutality. I've seen police brutality, I've been put in a police car and beaten. I don't know Amadou, but I'm going to fight for him, stated student, Kwan Burton. I am an

immigrant from Barbados, stated Diane Isaac, I have three sons. Any one of my sons could be in the position of Amadou, I weep for them.

Tabitha Elkins, another CSI student, delivered an especially powerful speech about the role that police brutality plays in a capitalist society and how blacks and whites need to unite in fighting oppressors. If one of us is oppressed we are all oppressed, she stated, We are being brainwashed. Poor white people fighting poor black people for dinky jobs...this is about human rights, our rights are being taken away by corporations. Another student, Jeremy Burnstein, led the group in counting to forty one as a representation of the forty one bullets that were fired at Amadou Diallo.

Overall, the demonstration proved that the student body at CSI is not completely apathetic. There are in fact many students who care about civil rights issues and are willing to stand up for what they believe in. The movement may be small, but it is growing.

WORKFARE WATCH

What's So Fair About a Fair Hearing?

by Michelle Payton-Garrett

A fair hearing is the process by which a person challenges a decision made by the Human Resources Administration (HRA). A welfare client can file for a judge to decide the issue in dispute.

On February 23, 1999 I went to my fair hearing. The issue was whether HRA had correctly computed my allowances for childcare and carfare expenses since August 31, 1998. During this time I had been receiving public assistance for a household of four, myself and my three children ages 11, 8 and 2.

I first requested a fair hearing over the issue on October 14, 1998. Why did it take 5 months for me to finally get my hearing? HRA was amazingly efficient in letting my

childcare provider know that she was only getting paid for the period of October 21



to January 4 because they had already signed off on the paperwork.

I finally received my fair hearing on February 23 and the judge ruled in my favor.

He stated that HRA had failed to provide sufficient evidence to support their determination. The judge ordered HRA to recompute my childcare and transit allowances immediately and disperse my check. The judgement was signed and dated February 26, 1999.

Today's date is April 5 and neither my childcare provider or I have received one penny from HRA. I will once again be forced into court with a lawyer to get HRA to comply with a court ordered decision. How long must I wait?

As a college student on public assistance it is extremely difficult to fight these battles with HRA and the Mayor's office. Students Against WEP (SAW), a group formed this semester to fight for students rights, desperately needs your assistance. If you are a college student that receives

public assistance or you are opposed to the slave labor of the Work Experience Program (WEP), please come and see me. You can call me at (718) 876-5115 or 5126. We need to come together and act as one voice for our futures in college are surely in doubt.

If you are a student or faculty member who truly believes in CUNY's mission to educate the poor and low income people you cannot stand still for what the mayor is doing. We must work to pass laws that will protect people not punish them because you might be in my shoes one day.

If you want to help call or come to the office of the College Voice, Room 1C-230, (718) 982-3091 or Student Government Room 1C-207 (718) 982-3082. Until next time!

College Voice SG Endorsement

The Editorial collective of the College Voice, the political journal of the College of Staten Island, hereby endorses the slate of students known as the Rally slate. Organized around our comrade Kwan Burton and containing Voice members Leslie-Ann Alvaradous, Dionne McLaughlin, Renee Marhong and Olsuji Oluwole, this slate offers the brightest possibilities for progressive change. Creating a student government that is aimed at connecting the

campus to the community and the struggles of working people with the struggle of CUNY students should be two of the primary objectives of this grouping. Actively engaging in struggles on and off campus through a program of direct action will create an environment conducive to organizing for positive change. Re-igniting the connection between the campus and the radical intellectual community will also produce positive results

for the student body and locate the government within the left community in New York City.

The Editorial collective also recognizes the very real dangers of involving radical students in the bureaucratic swamp of student government. The bureaucratic meeting receives primacy over revolutionary action



The next SG President Kwan Burton

continued on pg. 4

1998-1999 Stupid Government Report Card

Publications

C+

Publications Commissioner John Olsen managed to do nothing quite effectively after initially attempting to micro-manage publications. Few publications meetings were actually held, in fact more were cancelled than held. Under the Olsen regime, the Banner, once a weekly publication, managed only one issue amid allegations of monetary improprieties and the Millennium, the supposed "Club" paper entirely collapsed. The Voice benefited from being left alone and is in the process of producing its sixth monthly publication. Nothing was done to upgrade the seriously damaged computer facilities of most publications. Olsen's attempts at micro-managing the publications were cut short after he became familiar with the First amendment and was a by-product of the general collapse of the government. Thanks for a sleepy semester John!

CSI Clubs

F

For the second consecutive year CSI clubs suffered under the dictatorship of Joanne Gallo via her favorite front-boy Morgan Healy. The Club Council, the most powerless representative organization on campus, continued to act as a Gallo talk shop - you sit down and I talk! All the free food in the world can be pumped into a meeting and that won't make it democratic.

Let's not forget that Gallo/Healy and co. were the ones directly responsible for the two and a half-month late club chartering process last semester. Blocked from a democratically elected space on the government because of a series of violations, Gallo managed to re-create herself as the Club Council Coordinator?!?! Gallo/Healy have made a political living by doing the minimum - We have a Club Fair every year? Here's a Club Fair! Look how hard we work! - while claiming the maximum.

CSI Clubs desperately need a government response to their needs, a club commissioner who can think "outside of the box" (a box produced by the CSI administration) and an overall club organization which exercises REAL democratic power not a group that consults the decision making bureaucrats.

Student Services

F

Need we say more than Coffee Hours!!! Student Services Commissar Andre Woods, everyone's favorite administrative lackey managed incredible feats of ignorance. In his furious attempt to appear as "efficient" as possible, Woods decided to cancel coffee hours at the library. By doing so he managed to cut off half the campus from coffee, the smallest compensation one can receive for paying \$53 a semester, and eliminated a job for a fellow student.

I am thoroughly convinced that ten years from now, we will have the opportunity to tune in to channel 9 at 2:00am and watch - "Doing It The Bureaucratic Way! Ten Easy Steps to Become an Administrative Drone" with Andre Woods. From charging a male Voice editor with sexual harassment to spending hundreds of dollars to pick out the correct pastries for the coffee hours he cut in half, Woods gets an A+ for entertainment value and an F- for performance.

Community Outreach

F

Is F the lowest we can go? After a government which dedicated itself to linking the campus to the community, this Gallo/Healy crew could write a textbook on how to keep the community off campus. We must understand that by doing nothing an organization is saying something. Open Admissions shut-down - Nothing. WEP program gets a home on campus - Nothing. TAP cut proposed by Pataki - Nothing. Amadou Diallo is shot at 41 times - Nothing. Not even the most insignificant gesture, passing a motion at the table condemning the NYPD, Pataki, Giuliani or the Board of Trustees. The government actually passed a motion which banned community members from boarding the bus going to the April 24th demonstration for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Student issues don't end at the gates of CSI, the neighborhoods we go to after classes end are an integral part of our lives and must be addressed. An activist student government engages the plight of CUNY students on multiple levels and has a responsibility to provide leadership at crucial moments.

Student Leadership

F

How's this for a policy of student leadership? Let's get as many students as possible together so they can kiss President Marlene Springer's ass and if they kiss it real good maybe we'll get some good stuff! If you throw in some minor squabbling and anti-administrative rhetoric that about sums up the leadership strategy of this student government.

It's a little difficult to demonstrate student leadership when half your slate quits in the first two months. Jay Baitner perhaps the most rationale member of the government left in the first month after tiring of the dictatorial Gallo and the weak kneed Healy. Finance Commissioner Kaleen McCabe quit two months in to the new government after a falling out with Gallo. SG Senator Meredith Fogelman was verbally and physically attacked by Gallo after a Student Government meeting in which Fogelman opposed Gallo. After SG Senator Alycia Parker was banned from the government following a racial incident, the government did nothing - not a motion, a declaration or demonstration - in her support. SG President Morgan Healy then a member of the Student Faculty Disciplinary Committee that convicted Parker, actually quit the commission the meeting before the verdict was delivered thereby sealing her fate.

Overall

Vote For Change

As one CSI administrator remarked recently, "This is the most pathetic Student government in the history of student governments!" Nothing more needs to be said when the bureaucrats themselves deliver that type of critique. Gallo/Healy/Woods have delivered the student government back into the hands of the CSI administration through incompetency and inaction. They have neutered the student controlled institution with the largest amount of funding and the greatest possibilities for positively influencing students lives. Change, a movement towards an activist based progressive student government with the guts to stand up to administrative authority and fight the battles that count deserves the votes of the CSI student body.

As the time for student government elections roles around once again it is crucial that the current government of Gallo/Healy/Woods is harshly criticized for their lack of action. Sidestepping and ignoring crucial social and student issues is the path of bureaucrats, confronting and organizing for change is the job of activists. The choice is obvious - action or nothingness.

CUNY After Open Admissions

Reclaiming Civility

From: Vice President Carol Jackson <CSIMAIL/JACKSON>

To: #Everyone

Date sent: Wed, 7 Apr 1999 12:51:13 -0400

Subject: Teleconference -Reclaiming Civility

REMINDER! REMINDER! REMINDER!

Dear Colleagues,

The College of Staten Island will host a national teleconference,

Faculty on the Front Line - Reclaiming Civility in the Classroom on

Thursday, April 8, 1999

2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Center for the Arts

1P-119

The teleconference promises to provide some strategies for addressing inappropriate student behavior. All members of the college community are invited to attend, including faculty and staff.

Panelists will include Dr. Gerald Amada, author of Coping with Misconduct in the College Classroom, Michael Poindexter, Vice President of Student Services at the Community College of Denver, and Dr. Joan Middendorf, Director of the Teaching Resources Center at Indiana University.

Please consider attending this interesting video presentation, even though this program is during our Spring break.

Refreshments will be served.

Carol

Carol Jackson

Vice President for Student Affairs

718 982-2335

CUNY Security Armed and Ready

- Original Message -

From: Ronald B. McGuire <ronmcguire@worldnet.att.net>

To: CUNYTALK@listserv.cuny.edu <CUNYTALK@listserv.cuny.edu>

Date: Saturday, April 10, 1999 2:34 PM

Subject: Lethal Force At CUNY

Yesterday I received 35 pages of receipts for ammunition, weapons and accessories purchased for CUNY Security from late 1995 to early 1998. The information was forwarded to me by the student editors of the Hunter Envoy who made a Freedom Of Information

Law (FOIL) request to obtain the material.

The receipts appear to indicate that during a 20 month period from April 1996 through January 1998 CUNY Security purchased over 80,000 rounds of ammunition, including at least 4,000 rounds of hollow point ammunition.

The receipts show purchases including 25 Glock automatic pistols, with 15 round magazines and six night sights as well as 400 units of pepper spray, 44 units of MACE.

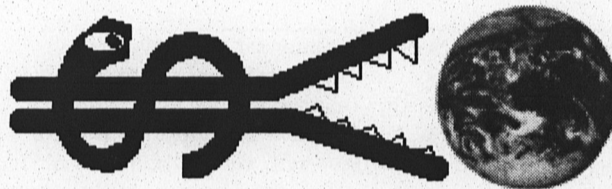
Most disturbing, the purchases included 390 rounds of shotgun ammunition (110 rounds of 12 gauge buckshot, 130 rounds of 12 gauge slugs and 150 rounds of birdshot or skeet).

Who has the authority to authorize CUNY security to use buckshot?

Under what circumstances will CUNY security fire shotguns?

This material should be presented to concerned elected officials before it is too late. Any suggestions?

I am indebted to Keith Higgenbotham and the other student journalists on the Hunter Envoy for uncovering this material.



Voice Endorsement

continued from pg.3

and this leads to bureaucratization. Student government does not create revolutionaries it destroys them! Much attention must be paid in order to maintain a radicalized government capable of enacting change.

The new student government should aggressively battle against racism, sexism and homophobia while supporting all fight back efforts by other workers and students. The CVEC views the demographic and political composition of the slate, a majority people of color and majority women, as a good point from which to build a government. In addition to this, the slate contains the Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered President, The President of High Society and our comrades from the Voice. We encourage the student body of CSI to choose progressive change and vote for the following students.

Vote For:

Kwan Burton

Rence Marhong

Dee Smith

Shenika Aspinall

Olsuji Oluwole

Dionne McLaughlin

Kathi McHugh

George Springer

Lorraine Hilderbrand

Leslie-Ann Alvaradous

Curtis Thomas

Danielle DiBernardino

Meredith Fogelman

Eguene Martin

Lisa Beatha

Augusta Emokpae

Arm Yourself With Knowledge, Read the College Voice





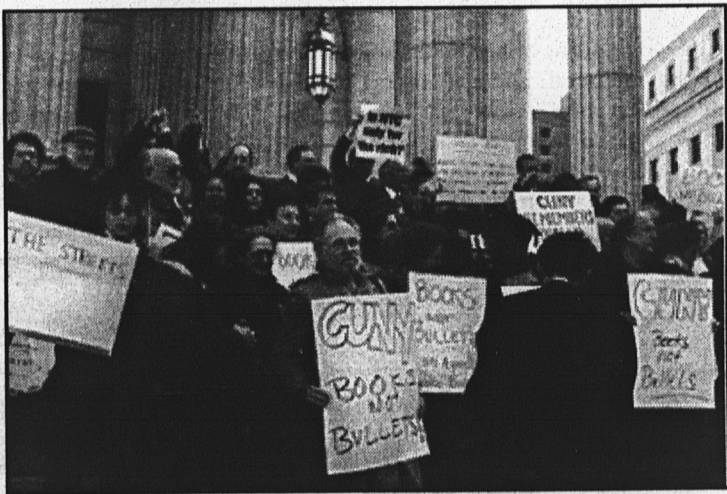
Bombs Abroad Bullets at Home



COLLEGE VOICE EDITORIAL

Defeat Imperialist Murder from the Bronx to Belgrade!!!

The police mentality that drives American domestic policy is also the driving force of American foreign policy. As minority and working class neighborhoods are occupied by trigger happy cops in the US, bombs rain down on the peoples of Yugoslavia and Iraq - all in the name of peace. Black youth, like Amadou Diallo are sacrificed by racist cops on the streets of NYC for the sake of preserving the quality of life for Wall Street yuppies.



CUNY Students and Faculty prepare to be Arrested in Civil Disobedience Action for Amadou Diallo

American domestic policy like American foreign policy is a policy of divide and rule. In the US, Blacks, Latinos, immigrants, youth and whole sections of the American populace are targeted by the State as de facto criminals to be policed, incarcerated and brutalized. This policy of racial classification and segregation has

served to construct the illusion of white privilege, which for the majority of working class and poor whites, is a pathetic lie.

Unfortunately, the psychology of domination imposed by the American State has been partially successful. It is easier to

hate, ridicule and dehumanize those who are vulnerable. An illusion of superiority, of privilege, is created in the minds of those who are not being treated like criminals, even if they are simultaneously being downsized from their jobs - they

think at least I'm better off than them.

Similarly, American foreign policy criminalizes whole peoples - the Iraqis, the Serbs, the Cubans, the North Koreans, the Chinese - and, through its mass media complex, lulls people into supporting or turning their backs on fellow humans being bombed to hell. Since when can the US, which has committed genocide against the original inhabitants of America, that enslaved Africans, that bombed the Japanese with nuclear weapons, that napalmed 2 million Vietnamese to death, talk about self-determination?

In fact they do not support the right to independence of the Kosovars in Yugoslavia. They are using the plight of the Kosovars as a cover to bomb Yugoslavia. The plan of the American imperialist State is nothing short of world domination. The world will be a US marketplace and anyone who does not follow the rules will be demonized and annihilated. What arrogance for the US with its miserable history of genocide and slavery to intervene in the affairs of a sovereign states in Europe (Yugoslavia) and the Middle East (Iraq).

The bombing of Yugoslavia is a criminal and immoral act just as the killing of Amadou Diallo was a criminal and immoral act. However, both crimes are being justified by the State. In the case of the police killing of Amadou Diallo the

widespread outrage of New Yorkers, particularly the Black and Latino communities, has exploded the lie that murder is justifiable simply because its carried out by the State. As broader sections of the population are waking up and realizing that Amadou was executed, the friends of the people Democrats and other defenders of the racist, capitalist status quo are scurrying around trying to channel peoples outrage into a safe channel. The police are good and helpful, they cry, we just need to train them better, and oh yes give them a pay raise and they won't kill anymore.

The struggle against police brutality at home must be one with the struggle against imperialist world police brutality abroad. Every murder that the US gets away with whether its on the streets of NYC or in Yugoslavia or Iraq serves to strengthen and embolden the murderous State. It follows that every defeat of this murderous state apparatus at home or abroad is a victory for all people, everywhere.

The multinational working class of New York must demand an end to police brutality and an end to imperialist bombing in Yugoslavia and Iraq. The racist imperialist policy of divide and conquer must be countered with the workers policy of solidarity and action.

The Police Cannot Be Reformed

SPEECH DELIVERED BY
MANJULA WIJERAMA

NO Justice No Peace.

There has been a lot of talk by politicians and so-called community leaders after this most recent police murder about reforming the police.

They know that people around NYC particularly the Black, Latino and immigrant communities but also many working class whites are greatly pissed off about the escalating police violence against unarmed, innocent people.

They know that large numbers of people no longer have any faith in the NYPD and the system that it is a part of.

Politicians who disagree with racist asshole Giuliani but generally fully support the NYPD and the system are tripping over each other trying to get their pictures in the media saying they feel bad for Amadou Diallo and that they agree that something must be done to weed out the few



Voice writer Chris Obanya speaks to the crowd at CSI March for Justice

bad apples in the good NYPD barrel.

The barrel is rotten. Its not just a few bad cops. Its the whole institution of the police that is racist, sexist, homophobic and anti-poor.

For those of you who may disagree with this assessment let us look at a few important events in the modern American history.

When African Americans were fighting

the police on?

When workers were trying to organize unions in the 30s which side were the police on?

When CUNY students fought for open admissions to CUNY in the late 60s which side were the police on?

When gays and lesbians fought for respect and equality during Stonewall which side were the police on?

When women fought for the right to control over their own bodies which side were the police on?

In each and every instance the police were there to enforce the Law whether that law be racist, sexist, and totally unjust the police were there with guns and batons and horses and pepper spray and tear gas to enforce the Law.

Under this capitalist system the Law is on the side of the super-rich. The super-rich make the laws and the poor are beaten and killed by this law.

So if the police are an institution that is specifically designed to enforce this capitalist law - that serves only the super-rich - how can it be reformed?

No, the police and the system that they defend must be overthrown by the victims of this system and that is the vast majority of people in America - black,

white, gay, straight, man, woman, old and young must unite and create our own organizations to defend ourselves against police violence, to defend against job cuts, to defend against gay bashing, to defend public education, to defend our communities and our families from the violent greed of capitalism.

In the memory of Amadou Diallo, Anthony Baez and all the victims of

The super-rich make the laws and the poor are beaten and killed by this law

police murder we must pledge to bring an end to this Law and Order that says its okay to kill black people, to criminalize poor people. This violent system of greed and bigotry that is called capitalism must be overthrown through a massive revolution of the people and replaced with a Law and Order that will end poverty will end homelessness will end want and deprivation in the midst of great riches.

No Justice No Peace!

A Baby's Death Equals A System's Failure

BY KATHY GRONENTHAL

Recently a nineteen-year old woman's baby tragically died of starvation due to her efforts to breast feed while lacking breast milk. As if this were not enough, she is being brought up on charges of manslaughter. If convicted, she would face up to fifteen years in jail. Who is pressing these unprecedented charges? The father of her child, who was not there to care for his family after the birth? Was this a question of apathy? The boyfriend, whom she was not on good terms, advised her to see a doctor. Apparently the woman sought the customary follow-up visit after birth but was denied access to medical care due to bureaucracy. Although the baby was medically covered from birth this woman was refused a doctor's appointment. Troubling issues come to mind:

Is it fair to criminalize a young and inexperienced person for an error in judgement? Breast-feeding is currently very popular, being perceived of as the nurturing and correct thing to do. This idea is promoted both by mainstream culture and by the medical establishment. Information about the downside of breast-feeding is not so readily available. Many experts agree that it would be easy for an inexperienced new mother not to detect the signs of starvation in the way that a trained medical professional would.

She sees the baby every day and may not notice small weight losses would add

up over a period of a few weeks. She may miss or be unable to cope with the idea of her child being sick or in danger.

Most women need the weeks after pregnancy for a time of recuperation. Pregnancy is an ordeal for both body and mind. The main reason for the standard established leave of absence from employment, two weeks before the birth and four weeks after, is medical necessity. Assuming the mother has kept track of her last men-



strual cycle correctly, the baby's approximate birth date can be determined within two weeks. The company employing you does not want you to go into labor at work, so this time is given to you. The same is true of the time after birth. The month you are allowed off from work is due to the fact that women can easily hemorrhage during that time period (until the bleeding stops). Postpartum depression is also a common occurrence after birth. This may not be the best time for good judgement or decision making.

If a person is not aware of the risks and consequences of their judgement, and acts with the best intentions, can they be criminally responsible for a negative result? Is not the real criminal action the denial of medical care to our most vulnerable members of society, unprotected babies and poor mothers? It seems this baby's death could have been avoided with proper medical advice.

The role of the father here and in much of our general society seems to be peripheral, one of distant adviser and judge. As a father, he is entitled to his grief and perhaps anger. But as a person, can he not empathize with another human being? Was his judgement any

seemed cranky and sleepless. I tried to obtain advice by calling La Leche, an organization that promotes and assists women with breast-feeding problems, but they basically advised me some problems were to be expected and to keep at it. Fortunately her father and I discussed the matter and were able to agree on supplemental bottles, which solved the problem, as the milk came in better later on. The importance of positive and supportive relationships with men after childbirth and while raising children can't be denied.

Unfortunately, in this particular situation the young mother had no one to consult with about her newborn's health.

Obviously the problem here is not her negligence, but a failure of the health-care system and the position of single mothers in our society.

more correct in not utilizing any available sources? If an emergency situation was perceived, why wouldn't he have contacted that Gestapo agency, child welfare, who can gain access to people's houses unannounced and search for signs of neglect or abuse, from anonymous phone calls. If ever there were a justification for calling such a questionable resource, this would be it. I have had firsthand experience with the difficulties of breast-feeding. When my first child at first refused the nipple, then, after nursing,

She was refused medical attention, and the father of the baby who should have been supportive during the difficult postpartum time period was the one who pressed charges against her after the baby's death. Obviously the problem here is not her negligence, but a failure of the healthcare system and the position of single mothers in our society.

Shout Outs From the Mystery Man!!!

NYPD= Racist Thugs

Mayor Giuliani= Adolf Giuliani

Police Commissioner Safir= Chief Wiggum

CUNY BOT and Presidents= McCarthy Wannabes

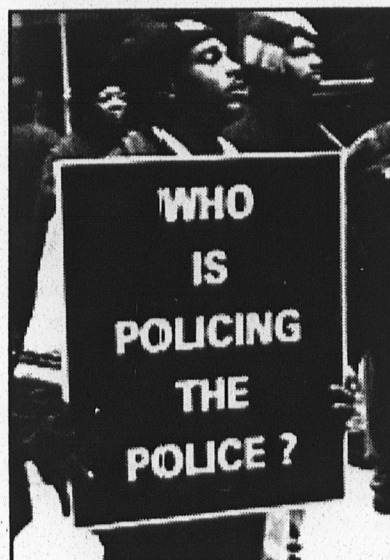
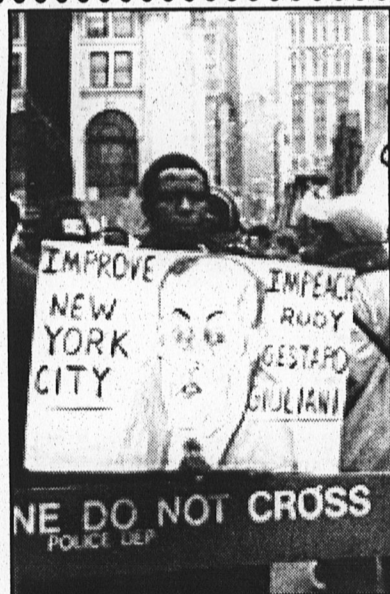
CUNY Peace Officers and Security= Paolucci's Thugs

PBA and FOP= Murdering Police Officers

Gov. Pataki= Rich Tyrant

Republicans and Democrats= Sellouts

If you think this is yellow journalism, I don't think so because these are the cowards up above. Free Mumia! Print this article and erase this message immediately.



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Guilty of What?

By JASON BRYLSKI

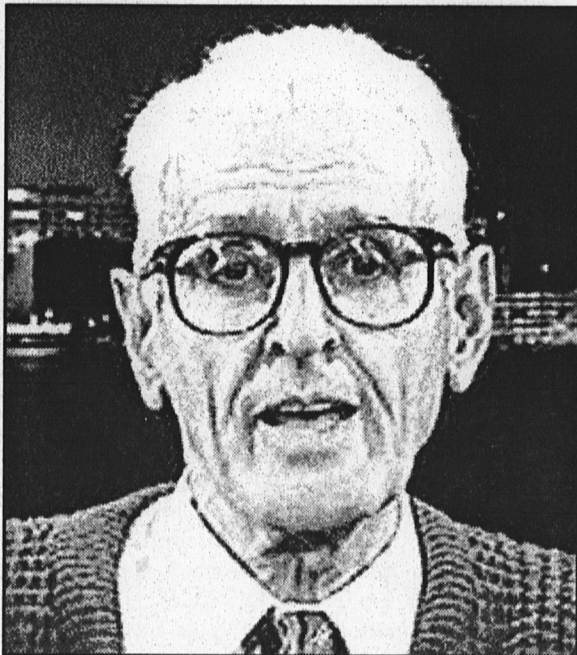
Dr. Jack Kevorkian, acting as his own attorney has been found guilty of second degree murder. This seems like big news, however it has been pushed from the headlines due to the legally sanctioned murder by racist police officers, butchering genocidal Serbian Nationalists, and NATO warplanes.

As we approach the twenty first century, I am reminded that Michel Foucault saw that there is no progress in History. I am also reminded of Harry S. Truman's statement, "The Machines are ahead of morals...by centuries. Innocent civilians die at the hands of the state in our own city. They also die at the hands of our military might. They don't have to be American to feel the wrath of our B-2 bombers. War will always be defined as legally sanctioned murder. My point; life can be beautiful. It could also be tragic when it is taken away because of some states political aims or because of a careless cop."

All this proves is that society's morals have not gotten better only its technology has. That is why a Michigan Jury (whom without a doubt do not object to war because the state tells them not to) decided that Jack Kevorkian is guilty because the state told them so.

The trial centered on the definition of

murder. Foucault decreed we were all prisoners of our own body and our bodies are made docile as [an] object and target of power. However Tom Youk, Kevorkian's last assisted suicide (which was broadcast on 60 minutes in prime



Dr. of Death or Angel of Mercy?
Jack Kevorkian

(time) according to his sister did not want to become a prisoner in his own body.

Tom Youk suffered in a way in which most people never will feel but can at least empathize with. He suffered from Lou Gehrig's disease, which in case you are not a baseball historian or a doctor-

is fatal. The pain was agonizing for Tom.

Hospitals are state institutions. Only they have the power to determine your fate. For whatever reason, hospitals have decided that life is the only option for patients, no matter how much the patient would rather die. Enter Dr. Kevorkian, the most quintessential rebel of our time. Dr. Kevorkian doesn't travel around the country helping depressed teenagers slice their wrists with razor blades. He helps those people who are truly suffering, those that are beyond the capacity of modern medicine. He helps people die with dignity. Dignity means bringing eternal peace in exchange for endless suffering and humiliation of being kept alive by the very technology that destroys the patients' dignity.

I respect a great deal of Kevorkian's work. A

recent CNN poll shows most Americans agree. In a recent Gallup poll 61% of people surveyed felt Kevorkian's methods were morally sound. So, how then did a jury find Kevorkian guilty of murder beyond the shadow of a doubt?

This is an intriguing and perplexing problem. It is also a moral set back for all humanity. A precedent has been set that redefines what murder is contrary to common sense. Think about this for a minute; you are deathly ill and suffering from a disease that has made you per-

manently attached to a bed and a machine. You are in constant pain that only pills can assuage. Your family cries for you, day and night. Their suffering is equal to yours. You want to end it all, and your family agrees. But the state won't allow it. Suicide and assisted suicide are illegal. You are forced to live out the rest of your painfully miserable life while your doctor drives his Mercedes that he paid for with your medical bills that keep increasing because your country has no healthcare plan and your private insurance company dropped you like a bad habit when they found out you were terminally ill. This can happen to anyone.

Dr. Kevorkian was for some people a last line of defense against a state institution that would strip every last ounce of dignity from their dying bodies.

Dr. Kevorkian was for some people a last line of defense against a state institution that would strip every last ounce of dignity from their dying bodies. And now the state wants to punish Kevorkian. Why? It is not because he is a murderer, rather because he is a rebel, because he seeks justice in an unjust society, because he defies the thin boundary between right and wrong defined by the state. It just doesn't make sense.

URBAN WARRIOR, WHAT ARE YOU TRAINING FOR?

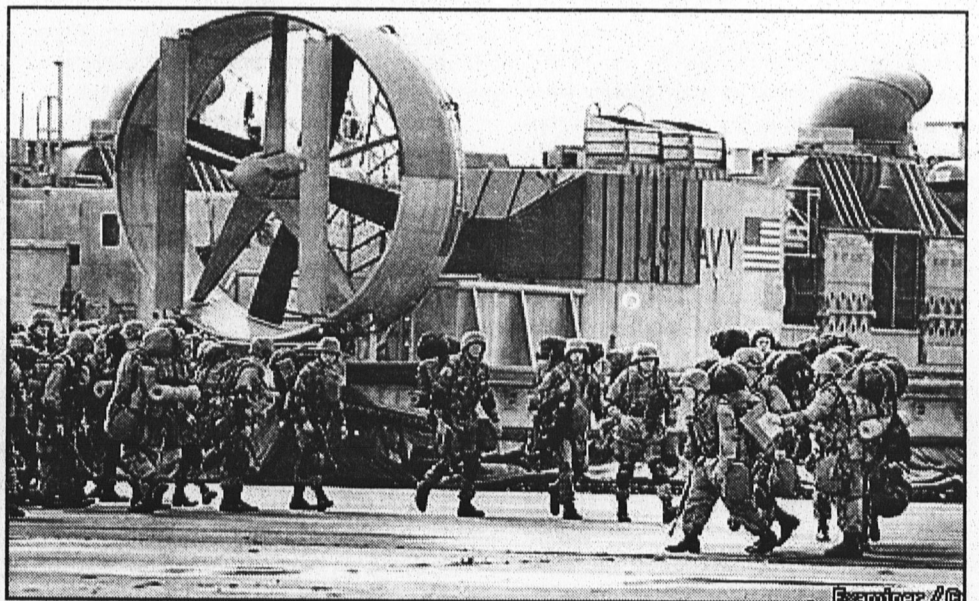
By RENEE MARHONG

On Monday March 15, 700 troops supported by 6,000 Marines and sailors along with 2,000 civilians, refugees, reporters and police invaded California's Oak Knoll Naval Hospital and Alameda Point in Oakland. The Marines were equipped with M-16s, helicopters, Humvees, guns, artillery, laptop computers, digital radios and acoustical anti-sniper weapons that automatically fire .50 caliber bullets at the sound of gunfire. In actuality there was no real attack, only a show complete with actors and scripts. All of this was part of Urban Warrior, a military combat operation in which 21st century military technology could be tested and troops could learn how to make massive landings, attack and bombard urban coastlines. Local police and firefighters would be able to sharpen their response to a disaster.

This war game did not come without protest, 22 demonstrators were arrested at Oakland City Hall, demanding to see Mayor Jerry Brown, the supposed progressive liberal, who authorized the military's operation. Another 100 residents protested at the arrival of the ships and

stealth bombers on Monday morning. The demonstrators' cries of "Child care, not warfare" and "You can't stop our spirit," it is strong like a mountain, was barely heard over the roar of Sea Stallion and Sea Knight helicopters flew by.

One well-known leftist was quoted saying this is just a dress rehearsal for war...we think there are just preparing for Iraq. But is this really what the goal of Urban Warrior is, does the military really need to train troops for Baghdad, when all they need to know is how to press a button which releases a bomb? The problem the government anticipates may be closer to home, it could be in Detroit, San Francisco or New York. In 1991 the police were almost powerless when Los Angeles residents took to the streets in riots during the Rodney King trial. Here in New York Giuliani upgraded the level of police force at the Million Youth March, sending out cops in riot gear ready for action. Could it be that the government is preparing for the next uprising? After the Diallo shooting over 1,200 people were arrested, demanding that the four policemen responsible for his death be indicted and arrested. The level of consciousness and



U.S. MARINES BEGIN INVASION OF OAKLAND

awareness is rising thanks to state-sponsored repression. Each case of police brutality opens the eyes of more youth and pushes the community to take real action. Thus, operation Urban Warrior ensures that troops will be ready when the people try to take the power back.

The weekend after the operation, the

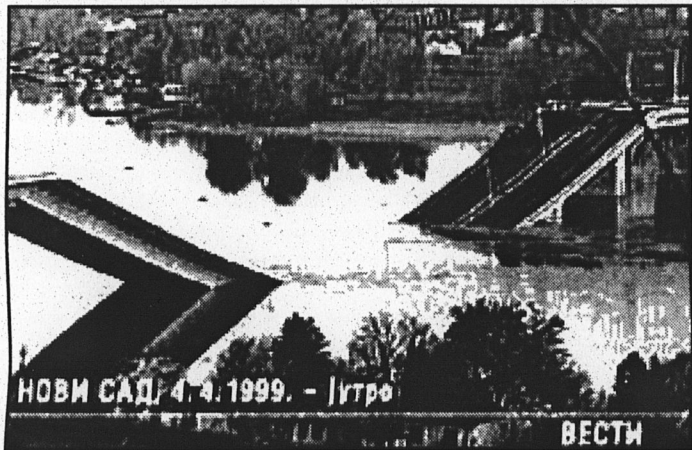
Marines held a march and a public display of their weaponry to wide-eyed youngsters, in the Oakland suburb in hopes that they would inspire the next generation. Demonstrators and residents alike responded to this as a recruitment tactic masked behind a training exercise.

Hands Off Yugoslavia!

The Real Enemy Is At Home!

BY ROY ROLLIN

Bill Clinton and the ruling rich he represents say that Yugoslavia is our enemy. But Yugoslavia is not responsible for taking our jobs away, cutting our wages and lowering our living standards. Yugoslavia is not responsible for ending welfare as we know it. Yugoslavia is not responsible for doing away with open admissions and free tuition at CUNY. Yugoslavia is not responsible for the army of killer cops that daily terrorize the Black and Latino communities. Yugoslavia is not responsible for the torture of Abner Louima, the murder of Amadou Diallo and the attempt to legally lynch Mumia Abu Jamal with the racist death penalty. No, OUR enemy is at right here, home...on Wall Street and in Washington. Our enemy is America's ruling rich and their Democan and Republicrat politician pals like Bill Clinton and Rudy Giuliani. American workers should oppose the bombing of Yugoslavia not because it supposedly strengthens Serb strongman Slo-



Sloboda Bridge after NATO/US bombing

bodan Milosevic, but because it strengthens Bill Clinton and the American ruling class and its ability to wage war against workers around the world and in this country as well.

How America Takes Care of Its Own

After three American servicemen were captured by the Serbs, Clinton boasted that America takes care of its own. Well, Clinton certainly takes care of his own, like the bankers and bosses who pay his way and who have made record profits under his administration. But how does Bill Clinton's America take care of its own working people. By closing schools, hospitals and factories and throwing people out of their homes and on to the streets. And how does Clinton's America take care of working people in other countries, countries like Iraq and Yugoslavia. By bombing hospitals, schools, factories and homes when starving people through embargoes and blockades no longer does the trick. The same government that makes war on the people of Yugoslavia and Iraq has been making war on the living standards of working people in this country since the seventies. American capitalism's foreign policy is the logical extension of domestic policy; they are two sides of the same coin; they both serve the rich and they both harm working people. Every nickel, dime and dollar spent on bombing

schools, hospitals, homes and factories in Iraq and Yugoslavia is a nickel, dime and dollar less spent on building them in this country! Not one dime, not one man or woman for the imperialist war machine; money for jobs, education, housing and healthcare instead!

Imperialism with a Human Face?

Clinton and the prostitute Pentagon press insist that they are bombing Yugoslavia for humanitarian reasons, supposedly to save the Albanians, just as in Vietnam, they had to bomb villages to save them. The only thing that motivates them to do anything is protecting their profits and their power to make even more of them. For these are the same humanitarians that have bombed and starved the people of Iraq for the past decade and continue to do so today under the aegis of the UN which they use as a fig leaf to legitimize their endless acts of aggression around the world. These are the same humanitarians who

bombed the Sudan and Afghanistan last year. These are the same humanitarians who supported the death squads in El Salvador, the contra killers in Nicaragua, Pol Pot in Cambodia and the women-hating Taliban thugs in Afghanistan and who bankrolled bloody dictators like General Pinochet in Chile and Suharto in Indonesia. All to guarantee that the same bosses and

bankers who exploit and oppress workers here can do the same in the rest of the world with impunity. And let's not forget, Bill Clinton is the same humanitarian who incinerated 86 people in Waco Texas in 1993. And now it's Yugoslavia's turn.

Divide and Rule in the Balkans

What American imperialism really doesn't like about Yugoslavia is not Milosevic's persecution of the Albanian Muslims. The US cares as much about the Albanian Muslims as they care about the Kurdish Muslim victims of their Turkish allies, the Palestinian Muslim victims of their Israeli allies or the Iraqi Muslim victims of their own bombs and blockades. What they don't like about Yugoslavia has nothing to do with the Albanians at all. It has to do with the fact that Yugoslavia, like Iraq, refuses to bow and scrape to every dictate of American imperialism. The Balkans is a strategic crossroads between Western Europe and the oil-rich Middle East and Caspian Basin. Yugoslavia is the only country in the Balkans that has refused to allow American troops on its soil; troops that will be used to crush the workers of those countries and the workers of Russia when they have had enough of the mass misery that Western-style democracy and the madness of the market has brought them.

That is why the US media has spent the last ten years demonizing Milosevic the same way they did with Noriega in Panama and Sadaam Hussein in Iraq...to prepare the American public for war. As Noam Chomsky pointed out, tossing terms like genocide about is how the media manipulates the masses to support more massive military action. That's why the US has had an Iraq-like embargo against Yugoslavia since 1992 and why it wants to detach the mineral-rich region of Kosovo from what's left of Yugoslavia. What's left of Yugoslavia, because Yugoslavia used to be a multinational state until the counterrevolution that swept over the former Soviet bloc got hold of it and, aided by Germany and the US, broke it up into a whole host of economically unviable western puppet states, all at each others throats and all occupied by US troops. In order to enforce this situation the US and its NATO allies helped their Croatian and Bosnian allies bomb 600,000 Serbs out of the Krajina in 1995, the biggest act of ethnic cleansing, forced population transfers, of the entire war. That is the kind of humanitarianism imperialism has brought to that region and will continue to bring until working people there unite to put a stop to it. It took the Yugoslav socialist revolution to unite working people of all nationalities against all the nationalists and their imperialist backers during World War II; it will take another revolution to do the same today only this time they need to create not just a Yugoslav socialist federation but a federation that encompasses all of the Balkans. That is the only humanitarian solution for the Albanians...and all the people of the region and it is the one solution that the US is dead set against because it spells dooms for their plans to dominate the region by continuing to divide it!

Fight the Bosses, Not Their War!



Civilian apartment complex burns in Belgrade after being hit by NATO/US bomb

So what can antiwar activists in the US do? We have to begin build a powerful antiwar movement that allies itself with the struggles of trade unionists, of Blacks and other minorities, of women and gays, of all the exploited and oppressed victims of Washington and Wall Street's war on working people. But we cannot build any kind of effective antiwar movement by allying ourselves to the war-mongering Democratic party of Bill Clinton the way the misleaders of the unions, the mainstream Black organizations and the middle class feminist groups have done and will continue to do. They claimed that keeping Clinton in and the right-wing Republicans out was the lesser evil. Yet for the Iraqis and the Yugoslavs who is the lesser evil? The truth is that both bosses parties are equally as evil. That is why workers also need to build a political party of, by and for the working class; a revolutionary socialist party, that can make and take the power once and for all so that Bill Clinton and his class can no longer do any damage here or anywhere else!

**HANDS OFF YUGOSLAVIA!
STOP THE BOMBING, STOP THE
BLOCKADE! US/NATO GET OUT OF
THE BALKANS!
DEFEND YUGOSLAVIA!
DEFEAT US /NATO IMPERIALISM!**

The NATO Bombing: US Imperialism in Action

by Europa Gronenthal

In yet another example of US domination, NATO, with full US support, is bombing Yugoslavia. The worst part is that the United States is carrying on its killing and violence in the name of humanitarianism. How can we expect to get the real story, when it is General Electric who owns NBC and co-owns MS/NBC, and who is one of the largest military contractors which supplies engines for NATO jet fighters?

The main excuse is that the bombing is to protect the rights of the Albanians in Kosovo. However, all nationalities in Yugoslavia are being killed in this war, and their land is being poisoned with radioactive depleted uranium weapons. The United States obviously does not care about the rights of the predominantly Muslim Albanians, because US policy of sanctions and war is killing 300 Iraqis every day, who are also mostly Muslim.

It was the United States and NATO powers who played a key role in breaking up Yugoslavia in 1991-92, arming and supporting secessionist movements. For 45 years after World War II, the many nationalities that made up Yugoslavia lived together in peace. In the civil wars that followed the break up of Yugoslavia, there were many fatalities and human rights violations on all sides. The biggest single act of ethnic cleansing was the forced removal of 600,000 Serbs from the Krajina region of Croatia by the US-trained and armed Croatian military in 1995. Now, more than 55,000 of the people made refugees by the NATO bombing are these Serbs, who were resettled in Kosovo.

Every cruise missile costs one million dollars. Instead of using this money for housing, healthcare, education, and other much needed social programs, it is put into the military-industry complex and big business, with no benefit to the working class here, and at the expense of many lives across the world.

The Big Lie:

U.S. Humanitarianism

BY WILLIAM WHARTON

We're not inflicting pain on these fuckers, Clinton said, softly at first. When people kill us, they should be killed in greater numbers. Then, with his face reddening, his voice rising, and his fist pounding his thigh, he leaned into Tony [Lake, then his national security adviser], as if it was his fault. I believe in killing people who try to hurt you. And I can't believe we're being pushed around by these two-bit pricks.

Clinton ordering the bombing of civilian targets in Somalia, as quoted in *All Too Human*, George Stephanopoulos

In dealing with aggressors in the Balkans, hesitation is a license to kill. But action and resolve can stop armies and save lives... This is a humanitarian crisis.

Clinton after ordering the bombing of Yugoslavia (NY Times, 3/20, A:7)

Searching for a new identity following the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States has offered itself up as the great

purveyor of democracy and humanitarianism. The great evil is no longer the threat of global Communism but the rise of dictators and demagogues in historically unstable regions of the world. The new civilizing mission of the U.S. includes

most undemocratic regimes to help spread global democracy.

Clinton has referred to the rise of Milosevic as a threat to our national interests as the American corporate media machine pounds the drums of war. A litany of Milosevic=Hitler commentators are trotted out and a never ending number images of Albanian refugees are presented in the newspapers and on television. The suffering of persecuted Albanians is undeniable, but the suffering of the innocent Serbians, Macedonians and Albanians under the deadly bombardment of US/NATO bombs is equally horrific. This policy is consistent with the geopolitical interests and tactics of the U.S. as we shall see from the types of governments the US currently and historically supports.

We will examine three U.S. backed regimes - Peru, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait - and use the categories of political freedom, women's rights and workers rights as a gauge of human rights. Not wanting to be accused of fabricating left-wing propaganda, the sole source of

information for this study will be human rights reports filed by the Department of State in February 1999.

KUWAIT

Kuwait the great bastion of freedom, was defended by the US against the aggression of the first threat to the free world Saddam Hussein. While the Kuwaiti ruling class danced the night away in the safety of Egypt, US forces terrorized Iraqi troops with a barrage of sophisticated weaponry. Eight years later the bombing and persecution of the Iraqi people continues unabated enforced by fighter planes and a brutal embargo which has resulted in the death of over 600,000 Iraqi women and children. Hussein's control over political power in Iraq has been consolidated as the people of Iraq rally around him in the face of US imperialist aggression. Let's examine the type of society the US was fighting to preserve.

Political Freedom

Kuwait is dominated by princes from the Al-Sabah family who have ruled Kuwait in consultation with prominent community figures for over 200 years. The prince controls the judicial system through the appointment and review of the renewal of all judges in the country. Judges are both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti

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US Defense Secretary Cohen enjoys a laugh with King Fahd Bin Abd Al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

bombing to save lives, economic embargos to increase human rights and positive engagement with a large number of the

workers rights as a gauge of human rights. Not wanting to be accused of fabricating left-wing propaganda, the sole source of

Protecting the Kosovars

BY EDWARD SAID

ONCE again, and led by the United States as usual, a war is being conducted - this time in Europe - against an unprincipled and racist dictator who will almost certainly survive the onslaught even though thousands of innocent will pay the actual price. The pretext this time is of course the persecution, ethnic cleansing and continued oppression of Albanians in the province of Kosovo by the Serbian forces of Slobodan Milosevic.

No one at all doubts that horrible things have been done to the Albanians under Serbian domination, but the question is whether US/NATO policy will alleviate things or whether they will in fact be made worse by a bombing campaign whose supposed goal is to make Milosevic give up his policies.

Since, as in most cases, the bombing campaign is not all that it seems to be, a look behind the headlines is worth the effort, especially given the new ferocity and willingness to intervene militarily on

the part of US foreign policy decision makers (Clinton, Cohen, Albright, Berger).

One needs to remember that since the US is a world, and not merely a regional, power one calculation that enters each of its foreign policy decisions is how the deployment of its military might will affect the US's image in the eyes of other, especially other competitive countries.

Punishment is its own goal, bombing as a display of NATO authority its own satisfaction, especially when there is little chance of retaliation from the enemy.

Henry Kissinger made that point a central concern of his Indochinese policy when he undertook the secret bombing of Laos: your enemies form advancing further, is a principal aim of this policy, as it has been for Israel's policy in southern Lebanon, where massive raids on civilian encampments to absolutely nothing to affect

Israel's main enemies, the Hizballah guerrillas. Punishment is its own goal, bombing as a display of NATO authority its own satisfaction, especially when there is little chance of retaliation from the enemy.

That is one consideration behind the current bombing of Yugoslavia. Another is the misguided and totally hopeless goal of humbling, and perhaps even destroying Milosevic's regime. This, as has the case in Iraq, illusory. No nation, no matter how badly attacked from the air is going to rally to the attackers. If anything, Milosevic's regime is now strengthened. All Serbs felt that their country is attacked unjustly, and that the cowardly war from the air has made them feel persecuted. Besides, not even the Kosovo Albanians believe that the air campaign is about independence for Kosovo of about saving Albanian lives: that is a total illusion.

What transpired before the bombing was that the US seems to have persuaded the Kosovars that if they went along with the peace plan Kosovo would get its independence; this was never said, but



only implied, leading the Kosovars to expect NATO help. But, as usual, the US has never stated unequivocally that it is for full self-determination for Kosovo as well as safeguarding of rights for the Serbian minority there. None of this was done. And neither were the consequences thought through, i.e., the certainly that the Serb forces would respond to NATO bombardment by intensifying their attacks against Albanian civilians, more ethnic cleansing, more refugees, more trouble for the future. There is now talk of 200,000 ground troops (mostly American) to enter the battle and expand the war, with the attendant problems of prolonged occupation, guerrilla warfare, greater devastation, more refugees and so on. A lot of this comes from the delusion that the US is the world's policeman. In the meantime, its genocidal policy against Iraq continues, and its sanctions policy against other Islamic or Arab countries also continues.

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Lebanese Students Liberate

Village From Israeli Imperialists

BY IMAN EL-SAYED

South Lebanon has been occupied by Israel since March 14 1978. The Israeli military set up the security zone to protect its other occupied settlements in the north of Israel. Israel uses the excuse that it is protecting its settlements from cross border guerrilla attacks. If it is anyone who should be protecting themselves from attacks it is the Arab population. As the years pass, thousands have died and fled the Israeli occupied south. The only reason guerrillas have attacked the border of Israel is to try to liberate the land and end the occupation. Israel now occupies - (1). Palestine, (2). Golan Heights(Syria) and (3). South Lebanon - for no reason beside keeping its imperialist claws stuck deep in the lands of other nations thereby maintaining control and power over these areas. Israel poses and has posed a threat to all its Arab neighbors but still nothing is done to stop it.

United Nations Security Council Resolutions:

Ever since Israel stepped foot in Lebanon in 1978, many resolutions have been adopted. The first resolution was adopted on March 19, 1978. Resolution 425, calls upon Israel to withdraw from all Lebanese occupied territories. It specifically calls for strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political

the US when it targets other non-compli-



Arnoun villagers behind imperialist

ant countries. The US accused Iraq of violating the UN resolution and what is being done? Iraq gets bombed and an embargo is raised which has resulted in the death of almost 2 million people. Iraq is said to be a threat to its neighbors so what is done? Iraq is bombed and the sanctions remain. However, what has been done to end the genocidal policies of Israel? Instead of sanctions it is provided with weapons and money to kill more Lebanese and Palestinians. This is unjustifiable and must stop immediately or more blood will be shed.

Israel Sinking Teeth Deeper in Lebanon

Israel's assertions that it wishes to withdraw from Lebanon sounds absurd as it annexes yet another village said Prime

Minister of Lebanon Selim Al-Hoss. After bulldozing 20 homes in Arnoun in December, Israel's aggression continues unabated. On Wednesday Feb 18,

Israel seized another village in Southern Lebanon to expand its so-called security/death zone. Israeli soldiers and allied Lebanese militiamen entered Arnoun with bulldozers, trucks and jeeps. They set up a barbed wire fence around the village and surrounded it with mines to prevent people from leaving or entering their homes without Israeli permission. Almost a hundred villagers, Arnoun once had 3000 residents, woke up and were told that they were now part of the Israeli occupied zone. After Israeli bombing and killing, most of the residents fled to live somewhere else in Lebanon. Israel has bothered the residents in many other ways- setting up checkpoints at the entrance to the village, searching homes and detaining residents they accuse of helping Hizbullah. Israel Defense Force has prohibited cars from entering the area and residents have to make a 3 kilometer journey to another

village on foot. Israel has made the lives of the Lebanese people very hard and violent. They think they can regulate everyone's life. It is outrageous how we allow one people to run the lives of another by allowing them to check their homes, allowing or refusing people to enter their homes only when they want them to and occupying their land.

Never Underestimate the Power of the People

Let the whole world know that Arnoun is Lebanese, the whole south is Lebanese said Ghassan Daou a student who entered the village. On February 26, a group of

Diab, head of the Communist Party Union of Democratic Youth of Lebanon. In Beirut, a group of people including ministers and deputies staged a sit-in in front of the headquarters of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. They sent a letter demanding that UN secretary-general Kofi Annan force Israel to withdraw from the village.

The state of Israel has only caused problems for the Arab people. The US, which is supposed to be the mother of Democracy has only proven the opposite. Israel and the US are both built on genocide, through the forced relocation and extermination of indigenous peoples. I just wish that the Jews that inhab-

We will sacrifice our blood and souls for Arnoun... "Let the whole world know that Arnoun is Lebanese, the whole south is Lebanese"

They set up a barbed wire fence around the village and surrounded it with mines to prevent people from leaving or entering their homes without Israeli permission.

independence of Lebanon also upon Israel immediately to cease its military action against Lebanese territorial integrity and withdraw forth with its forces from all Lebanese territory. There are many other resolutions which have been violated: 425, 426, 427, 434, 436, 444, 450, 459, 467, 474, 483, 488, 498, 501, 508, 509, 511, 512, 513, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 523, 529, 536, 538, 542, 549, 555, 561, 575, 583, 586, 587, 594, 599, 609, 617, 630, 639, 648, 659, 684, 701, 734, 768, 803, 852, 895, 938, 974, 1006, 1039, 1068, 1075, 1122, 1151. All these resolutions call upon Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and stop the killing of civilians who live in these and other areas. Israel has violated every single resolution and nothing has been done. Other UN security council resolutions have been enforced by war, sanctions, bombing and embargoes (for example Iraq). This shows the double standard of

students, community leaders and political activists gathered in a protest to end the seizure of the village. The group of 2000 shouted Death to Israel as they marched to Arnoun, which is 5 miles away from the Israeli border, with Lebanese flags and metal cutters. Even though there were signs saying that the area was mined, they still cut through the gates. The students bulldozed open the road linking the village with the rest of South Lebanon. They brought medicine and

food for the residents of Arnoun. The Israelis were positioned in a hilltop overlooking the village and fired their machine guns over the heads of the protesters.

We will sacrifice our blood and souls for Arnoun they chanted. After liberating the village the people began celebrating by singing and dancing on rooftops. A few days later a 10 year old boy was shot in the arm by an Israeli soldier. The brave boy was trying to put a flag up at the road leading to their outpost. We will remain in the village that we have liberated said Samir

it the land of Palestine now, will unite with the Arabs. Together they can end the on going war that the state of Israel has caused for both the Arab people and the Jewish people. Hand in hand, they can end the occupation that the state of Israel has proposed on other nations. The US and Israel, only tries to make people hate each other to justify what they are doing. In the US, they try to keep the blacks and the whites separate hating each other. They do not want them unit-

ing against their real enemy Capitalism. The same situation is in the Middle East, they want to keep the Jews and the Arabs separate. The state of Israel exists only on this separation. Without

this separation there will be no such thing as the state of Israel but a state and land for all people.

(For information on UN resolutions look up www.un.org)



Lebanese Students overrun Israeli barbwire on the way to liberate village of Arnoun



The Mumia Times

Vol. II April 1999



Keeping The Pressure On Momentum Builds for April 24th March

BY WILLIAM WHARTON

Less than a month away from the march which is sure to make history, the College Voice and the Academic and Curricular Affairs Commission sponsored a teach-in around the case of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. The event followed the successful march conducted on campus the previous day against police brutality. Four speakers from the national campaign, Monica Moorehead, Marie Jay, Sarah Sloan and Imani Henry, spoke at the event and provided students with an overview of Mumia's case and an update on campus organizing throughout the country.

The first speaker Monica Moorehead, a National Coordinator of the Millions for Mumia Campaign, described the manner in which the campaign was put into motion after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court turned down two appeals by Mumia's legal team for a new trial. This action leaves Mumia with 6 months to a year before the state of Pennsylvania moves to execute him. Moorehead also stated that April 24th has even more importance due to the fact that Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge has planned two executions on April 22 and April 27.

Given this new sense of urgency Moorehead felt that, the time has come to widen and broaden the campaigning to include as many sectors of people as possible. She viewed the possible execution of Mumia as a major blow to the whole movement and that by Pennsylvania targeting him they were targeting all of us. Moorehead also felt that Mumia was targeted because he is a revolutionary who spoke out about police brutality. She questioned the motives of the police department by asking the crowd, If they

(the police) are interested in getting to who really killed this cop why don't they want a new trial? Ultimately, Moorehead saw the need to have a new movement built in this country.

The second speaker, Marie Jay began her presentation by recognizing the fact that the event was taking place on the 88th anniversary of the fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. She called Mumia, a victim of the world's oldest, best hidden conspiracy to silence the voices of dissent. According to Jay, these voices emerge from the roar of the haves and the haves nots.

Mumia was one of the people who dared to ask the question Why? Jay called the struggle

to save Mumia's life, our line in the sand for the 21st century.

Sarah Sloan, a youth organizer for the Millions For Mumia Campaign, provided the crowd with an update on national campus organizing for the April 24 march. Sloan felt that, how far we can get this out to college campuses and get students involved would be an important determinant in the success of the march. There are currently 70 organizing centers in 28

states and 65 campuses, including CSI, which have affiliated with the campaign.

On February 26 at William Patterson College, the Student government and the campus newspaper simultaneously denounced a group of students who organized a teach-in on Mumia. Turning towards the community for support, these students have now chartered a bus for the march in Philadelphia despite the on-campus resistance. Sloan reported that

Hunter College is currently running one of the most successful organizing efforts and has chartered 7 buses for the march. Hunter organizers have office space specifically dedicated to Mumia organizing and hold weekly poetry and speak outs to keep the campaign in motion.

Imani Henry, a Rainbow Flags for Mumia organizer, felt that April 24

was history in the making. Henry stated that, April 24 will be the largest march for any political prisoner in the history of the U.S. Rainbow Flags attempts to organize Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered people around Mumia's case. Henry felt that the LGBT community had a better understanding of what it is to be jailed or arrested for being who you are. The connection with Mumia is very clear. She also felt that the opposition to Mumia

would attempt to divide the communities based on race, sex and gender because the march was no longer just symbolic, whole communities of people are beginning to come forward.

During the question and answer session, students inquired as to why Mumia's brother had not testified in court. Monica Moorehead responded that William Cook did not testify because Mumia wanted to protect him because of his own situation. Moorehead also told the meeting that at the time of the trial, Mumia's mother was extremely ill and Mumia did not want her to face the strain of having two sons in jail. She also related the fact that Daniel Falkner, the police officer who was shot that night, was notorious for his racist attitudes and actions. Moorehead felt that, I think Falkner was expendable for them to get to Mumia. She closed the presentation by saying that, they want April 24th to be the end of things, but we want to build a new movement in this country.

The event served to invigorate organizers who have been vigilantly working on the Mumia campaign and introduce new students to the struggle. Massive outreach to oppressed communities throughout the New York city area is currently underway and working class and poor youth have provided the backbone of this effort. While the campaign for a new trial received a much needed boost from high profile events like the Rage Against the Machine concert the movement is built through the everyday sacrifices of organizers such as Moorehead, Jay, Sloan and Henry. CSI students have a chance to play a positive role in this event by getting on the bus for the April 24th march. Call the Voice at 982-3091 and reserve your seat now!



Award winning journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal has been in jail for the last 18 years

Who is Mumia Abu-Jamal?

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a political prisoner held on death row for a crime he did not commit. He is a former member of the Black Panther Party in which he organized and built at age 15. He has been followed since 15 by the FBI who compiled 800 pages worth of surveillance documents on him. After leaving the Party he decided to become a journalist and political radio commentator. As a journalist and commentator he exposed police brutality and racism towards the poor and people of color. This made him a target for the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). He was framed by the state, accused of killing a police officer, Daniel Faulkner, in Philadelphia in 1981.

His whole case has been a cynical joke ever since the start. It was totally unjust

and bias: (1) The judge who presided the case, judge Sabo, was a member of the (FOP). (2) The police coerced eyewitnesses - Cynthia White, Veronica Jones and William Singeltary - by threatening to arrest or harass them if they did not lie. (3) Two witnesses supported by the FOP lied saying that Mumia confessed to the killing of the officer (a) the doctor who was with Mumia the whole time reported that Mumia did not say a word (b) Gary Wakshul an officer who was with Mumia the whole time wrote down that the male Negro made no comments (c) Another officer, emerging after two months vacation, claimed that Mumia had confessed in the hospital but he had forgot about this confession (4) The gun that killed officer Faulkner was a 44. caliber however

Mumia's gun was a legally registered .38 caliber. After this was proven by ballistics experts. Also, at the scene of the shooting the medical examiner wrote down that it was a 44. caliber. They did not sniff the gun to see if it was fired and didn't check for gun powder residue and found no evidence of the shooting, so they claimed that they forgot to do these routine tests.

All this is enough proof to show Mumia's innocence. The police and prosecutors are trying to kill Mumia and they know that he is not the real killer. On October 30, 1998 the supreme court rejected Mumia's appeal for a new trial. This places Mumia in the hands of Republican Governor Tom Ridge who pledged to sign the death warrant. Mumia maintains his innocence but the government is will-

ing to do all it can to silence him. Mumia spoke out against the injustice in the world and the lifestyle of capitalism. This is the reason they want to kill Mumia, not just because he is black but because he is a revolutionary.

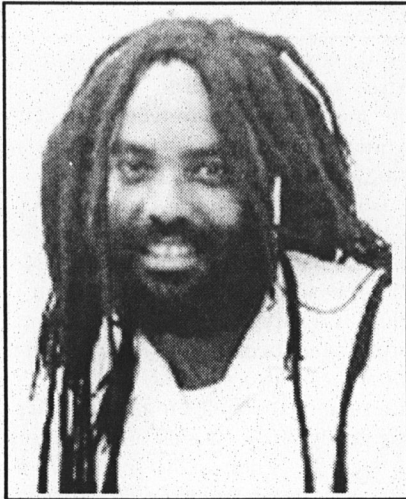
We must all do our best to stop this execution. We must all demand a new trial for Mumia based on fairness and allowing new or hidden evidence to be heard. Also, all the witnesses who feared for their lives should have a right to speak the truth about what happened that night. We must organize to expose the truth and injustice of this world. We must all come down April 24th to help get Mumia a new trial. If Mumia is given a new trial he will be freed because as John Africa said

THE POWER OF THE TRUTH IS FINAL

Brazilian Work Stoppage for Mumia!

BY WILLIAM WHARTON
WITH HELP FROM
THE INTERNATIONALIST

On March 13 the campaign to free political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal gained significant international momentum



Political Prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal

thanks to two motions passed by a trade union representing Brazilian teachers. The first motion was passed by the

National Confederation of Educational Workers (CNTE) and demanded Mumia's immediate release. Referring to Mumia as an international symbol against the racist death penalty the group delivered the motion to the US ambassador. The Rio de Janeiro State Teachers Union (SEPE) then put the CNTE motion into action by calling on its membership of 150,000 to conduct work stoppages on April 23. Instead of teaching their pupils the teachers will conduct a walk-out and assemble mass meetings of students, faculty and workers to discuss Mumia's case. The Internationalist Group reported that, At the CNTE congress, a banner with a photo of Mumia was prominently displayed, and an event was held

This courageous fight against oppression has become the international symbol of the struggle against the racist death penalty.

during the sessions to explain the importance of the fight for his freedom. The latest endorsements add to an impress list of national and international trade unions that have endorsed the movement to free Mumia. Internationally, the French CGT, Italian CGIL, South African COSATU and the CUT in Brazil have expressed their solidarity. These resolutions are prime examples of the militant role that trade unions can play in the class

struggle. The Brazilian teachers have taken the struggle to a new level by backing up their message of solidarity with a work stoppage. Both the CNTE and SEPE were able to look beyond their national borders and extend an international hand of solidarity to Mumia Abu-Jamal. Let's hope that many more workers throughout the world answer the call for justice.

MOTION FOR THE FREEDOM OF ABU-JAMAL

The delegates to the XXVII National Education Workers Congress call for the immediate freeing of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the black journalist known as the voice of the voiceless and condemned to death in the state of Pennsylvania (USA). The defense of this courageous fight against oppression has become the international symbol of the struggle against the racist death penalty.

Down with the racist death penalty!

Brasilia, 3 February 1999

[signed]

Carlos Augusto Abicalil

President of the CNTE

on behalf of the Delegates to the XVII National Congress

copies sent to:

Luiz Felipe Palmeira Lampraia

Minister of Foreign Relations,

(061) 226-1762

Minister of Justice, (061) 322-6817

Ambassador of the USA, (061) 225-9136 [Translation]

Help build the Millions for Mumia March



- I want to make a donation to the April 24 mobilization. Enclosed is \$1000; \$500; \$250; \$100; \$50; other _____
(Make tax deductible checks over \$50 payable to "Peoples Rights Fund/Mumia." Make checks under \$50 to "Millions for Mumia.")
- Send me _____ bus tickets for the April 24 March. Enclosed is _____ (Tickets are \$20 or \$15/low income.)
Departure Location _____
Make checks payable to "Millions for Mumia."
- I want to help subsidize transportation to the April 24 march. Enclosed is _____
(Make checks to "Millions for Mumia" and earmark "bus subsidy.")
- If my group can help build the April 24 March.
- Send me the following PVN Mumia video(s):
Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$20 per video plus s/h)
- Send me _____ copies of the book *Live from Death Row* by Mumia Abu-Jamal.
Enclosed is \$ _____ (\$12.50 per book plus s/h)

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____
Group _____
School _____

Please return coupon to: Millions for Mumia Office, 39 West 14 St., #206, NY, NY 10011

SEPE/RJ (Union of Education Workers of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

RESOLUTION OF THE STATE-WIDE ASSEMBLY OF 13 MARCH 1999

The State-Wide Assembly of the Union of Education Workers of the State of Rio de Janeiro, held on 13 March 1999, approved the following resolution:

The education workers of Rio de Janeiro state schools shall stop work on April 23 for one hour to carry out a meeting to demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

The meeting shall be held on each of the two shifts and will center on discussing and teaching about the material sent by the SEPE/RJ to the schools.

The material produced by the SEPE/RJ seeks to relate Mumia Abu-Jamal's situation with the need for an ongoing struggle against racism in all its forms around the world.

FREEDOM NOW FOR MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE SEPE/RJ





The Words of Mumia Abu-Jamal

THE FOLLY OF CALLING THE FBI

COLOR BLINDNESS AND THE LAW

In order to get beyond racism, we must first take account of race. There is no other way.

Justice Harry Blackmun
University of Calif. Regents v Bakke (1978)

In cases decided every day across America, the theory of color-blindness is said to govern the judicial process, a reflection of the flawed notion that the mere mention of race is somehow racist. Consequently, the law serves up yet another legal fiction, which obscures the complexity of real life, in furtherance of a false and fatal simplicity.

There can be no sustained study of American law without coming face-to-face with racism that drenches judicial thought, in a clear, unapologetic tone, which leaves no question as to the objectives of the court:

It is obvious that the objection on the part of Congress is not due to color, as color, but only to color as an evidence of a type of civilization which it characterizes. The yellow or bronze racial color is the hallmark of Oriental despotisms. It was deemed that the subjects of these despotisms, with their fixed and ingrained pride in the type of their civilization, which works for its welfare by subordinating the individual to the personal authority of the sovereign, as the embodiment of the state, were not fitted and suited to make for the success of a republican form of government. Hence they were denied citizenship.

Terrace v. Thompson
(US District Court Washington; 1921)

The anti-Asian bias that oozes out of this opinion, clothed in a kind of quasi-sociological justification, actually justified laws in western regions that outlawed the sale of land or property to Japanese, on the basis of ineligibility of citizenship (until the 1950s, Chinese, and other Asians, were denied Naturalization)

Despite our pretensions of Color-Blindness, scholars assure us that, over a century after the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1884 became law, the court case that upheld the Act remains good law to this day. The Supreme Court majority in Chai Chan Ping v. US (1889), found the presence of foreigners of a different race in this country, who will not assimilate with us, is properly excludable.

For over a century, such decisions, which made whiteness the sole prerequisite for US citizenship, and explicitly excluded people it deemed nonwhite, had, at its very core, not color-blindness, but color consciousness informed by a profound white supremacy.

It is fitting here to note that in 1935, two countries in the world had racial restrictions on naturalization: Hitler's Germany; the USA Color blindness?

For the better part of two centuries race has been at the very heart of the law. It remains so despite the latest fashion of the legal fiction of color blindness.

How people are treated in court, how they are charged, and how they are sentenced is a direct reflection of what race they are assigned by the physiognomy presented to the world.

Several years ago, a prominent American law professor asked his students to imagine if they were to wake up the next day as black folks. The white students reasoned that such a disability required monetary damages of a million dollars a year for life.

Why damages, unless color does matter? Unless whiteness is a valued property, which, when lost demands a premium payment? And black is devalued?

We are blind to everything but color.

(c) MAJ 1998

When are you Black folks gonna throw off the KILLERS that are JAILIN you for murder?

John Africa, *On the MOVE!* (July 26, 1975)

When Black folks are beaten down by cops all around the United States, and when they are shot down in their cars as in the cases of Dontae Dawson of Philadelphia, or Malice Green of Detroit, or the beautiful young sister (Taisha Miller) who was shot over 15 times in her car in Riverside, California recently, or... (We can go on and on) one of the first things that many Black leaders do, is to announce that they are asking for the FBI to come in to solve the case. What such an announcement means, of course, is that they recognize that local police are in no position to meaningfully investigate such cases, as their interests are in protecting their own. But why the FBI?

Such a call sounds strange when one considers that the FBI played a significant and an openly dangerous role in the history of African-American struggles for freedom in America, and they were deadly enemies of such leaders as Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Marcus M. Garvey, and of such groups as the Black Panther Party, RAM, SNCC, the Republic of New Afrika, and the like. In truth, the history of the FBI shows that they have waged a secret war against Black America, and frankly, it seems kind of stupid to look to them for relief from other state forces who are waging a part of their long white supremacist war against Black folks.

James Forman, the former head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, after being beaten by white supremacists and Klansmen while demonstrating for civil rights throughout the south, constantly requested FBI protection from the violence. Instead, they would turn up every time that he was beaten, stand by, and take notes, never stopping any of the violence, but instead were involved in gathering dirty and derogatory personal information on civil rights workers. He finally concluded that the FBI was a part of the governmental structure, and were, in effect, the enemy of Black people [from O'Reilly, K., *Racial Matters: The FBI's Secret File on Black America, 1960-1972* (New York: Free Press, 1989), pp. 108-109]. Forman noted:

We did not say it that way in 1963, but we did know that the FBI was a farce. It wasn't going to arrest any local racists who violated any and all laws on the statute books. Instead, it would play a game of taking notes and pictures. The files in Washington must have been growing thick even then with documents from the civil rights movements and with photographs of us all doing everything but screwing, and maybe even that. [p. 109]

The former FBI chief, J. Edgar Hoover, found it intolerable that Negroes would want to be addressed as Mr. (p. 257). Scholar Kenneth O'Reilly writes that the job of the FBI was, in large part, to stifle black unity:

Division Five also worked to prevent the rise of a *Messiah* someone who could unify, and electrify, the militant black nationalist movement. Malcolm X had been the most likely candidate, but his assassination removed that threat. Malcolm was simply the martyr of the movement today. Muhammad was hardly a more viable threat because of his age. In the final analysis, Division Five said, [Stokeley] Carmichael and [Martin Luther] King were the only serious candidates. They both dreamed of becoming a messiah and had the necessary charisma. Not even [William C., head of Domestic Intelligence] Sullivan considered King to be a militant, but that was beside the point. King could be a very real contender for this position should he abandon his supposed obedience to white, liberal doctrines (nonviolence) and embrace black nationalism. [p. 282]

The role of history has taught us that the state has its interests and the people have another; and they do not coincide.

Now, with much of the nationalist movement in pieces, with some aligned to the Democratic party, some involved with community organizing, and others involved in other areas of social and cultural life, it is somewhat surreal to read of community calls for the FBI every time that a young person is murdered by cops.

Since when are they the solution? The propaganda shown by the movie *Mississippi Burning* doesn't come close to showing the true role of the FBI. It's time folks acted as if they knew that.

MARCH IN PHILADELPHIA

MILLIONS

- against police brutality
- against the death penalty
- against the jailing of youth
- to end racism & repression
- to free all political prisoners
- for social & economic justice

A NEW TRIAL NOW!

MUMIA



NO EXECUTION

Sat. 12 pm City Hall **APRIL 24**

Including Organizations: FBI, Communist Party & Friends of Mumia, Abu-Jamal, Academics for Mumia, Black Radical Congress, Bushdell, Campaign to End the Death Penalty, Capital Resistance, Left to Movement, Mumia Watch, Mumia's National & Universal Movement, Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, National Black Liberation Front, National People's Campaign, New York Free Mumia Coalition, Peoples Voice Network, Teles & Radio
Phila: 215 476-8812 NYC: 212 633-6646 A portion of the Peoples Rights Fund

APRIL 24 IS MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S BIRTHDAY
APRIL 23 STUDENT WALKOUT

The Big Lie: U.S. Humanitarianism

continued from pg. 9

but the non-Kuwaiti judges are restricted to 1 to 3 year contracts which are reviewed by the prince. The State Department Human Rights report felt that this arrangement seriously undermined the independence of non-citizen judges.

The government has banned all political parties and there continue to be credible reports that despite a constitutional prohibition on torture, the police and members of the security forces abuse detainees during interrogation. The report stated that such abuse was more likely to be inflicted on non-Kuwaitis, particularly of other non-Gulf Arab nations and Asians, than on citizens.

In the area of freedom of the press, the Ministry of Information censors all books, films, videotapes, periodicals, and other imported publications deemed morally offensive. The ministry also enforces informal censorship of newspapers by persecuting journalists who have crossed the line.

Womens Rights

Women suffer suffer some of the sharpest forms of oppression in Kuwaiti society. To obtain a passport for travel married women...must obtain their husbands signature on the application form. Even after getting the passport, he may prevent her departure from the country by placing a 24-hour travel ban on her. Stripped of the right to vote, women have little voice in society that offers the slimmest of political options. In industry, the law restricts women from working in dangerous industries and trades harmful to health

Workers Rights

Public assembly is severely restricted as public gatherings must be pre-approved by the government along with private gatherings of more than five people. The State Department also reported that workers from those nationalities whose leaders supported Iraq, especially Palestinians, Jordanians and Yemenis have been targeted by the government.

In order to enforce this control, workers have been prohibited from freely establishing trade unions. Currently, 50,000 persons (less than 5 percent) of a total work force estimated at 1,100,000 are organized into 14 government controlled unions. The courts can dissolve the 14

unions at any point for threatening public order and morals. The prince also has the ability to dissolve the unions by decree.



US Defense Secretary Cohen has a sit-down with the King of Kuwait

Saudi Arabia

Political Rights

Saudi Arabia offers even less political freedoms than Kuwait. Ruled by King Fahd Bin Abd Al-Aziz Al Saud, there are no elected representatives and all political parties are banned. Opposition views are actively stifled as the State Department reported that the government commits and tolerates serious human rights abuses...prohibiting or restricting freedom of speech, the press, assembly association, religion and movement.

Credible reports have been issued which charged the government with abusing detainees using beatings, torture and sleep deprivation. In addition to this, six right hands have been amputated for repeat thievery offenders. Reports indicated that the total number of political detainees...is estimated at more than 200 persons.

Defendants usually appear before judges without representation of an attorney and are sentenced in accordance with the religious law of the Shari'a. During these proceedings, the testimony of one man equals that of two women.

Freedom of the press is harshly suppressed with all criticism of Islam, the ruling family and the government expressly banned. Along with this, the Government censors all forms of public artistic expression and prohibits cinemas and public musical or theatrical performances. In the educational system all study of the works of Freud, Marx and Western Philosophy is banned. Professors have reported that they believe that informers monitor their classroom comments and report to government and religious authorities.

Womens Rights

Womens freedom of movement is extremely constricted as all Saudi women must obtain written permission from their closest male relative before the authorities allow them to board domestic public transportation or to travel abroad. This harsh policy is backed up by the fact that

all women are banned from driving motor vehicles and must enter city buses by separate rear entrances and sit in specially designated sections. Available information pointed to the fact that physical violence and abuse against women was a common problem.

Workers Rights

All forms of union organizing and collective bargaining are prohibited in Saudi Arabia. Strike activity is expressly prohibited and wages are set by employers and vary according to the type of work performed and the nationality of the worker. There are no minimum wage controls established.

Peru

Political Freedom

Despite the fact that Peru is officially a multi-party republic, a powerful executive branch led by current president Albert Fujimori, has dominated the electoral and judicial systems. Instead of an independent judiciary, the State Department reported that Peru's judicial system was inefficient, often corrupt and has appeared to be easily manipulated by the executive branch. Torture tactics are routinely used by security forces against the two main revolutionary groups in the country - the MRTA (Tupac Amaru) and the Shining Path. Torture tactics combined with amazingly harsh prison conditions provide the backbone of a harshly repressive judicial system. The State Department reported that at year's end, only one-third of a total prison population of 26,330 had been sentenced, while the remainder still either were awaiting trial or had not yet been sentenced finally. In a pattern intimately familiar to the US, Peruvian police are charged with routinely detaining persons of African descent on suspicion of having committed crimes, for no other reason than the color of their skin.

Increasingly university students have acted as agents of change, challenging Fujimori's anti-democratic measures. The government has responded with a massive police crackdown which resulted in the police beating and injuring a number of the participating students, some shop windows were broken, and allegations were made that government intelligence agents took photographs of protesters.

Womens Rights

The State Department reported that violence against women, including rape, spousal abuse, and the physical and sexual abuse of women and girls, is a chronic problem, according to local human rights groups and law enforcement offices. Discrimination against women went hand in hand with continued discrimination against indigenous peoples, the disabled and other racial and ethnic minori-

ties.

Workers Rights

Child labor, including forced labor, continues to be a major problem in Peru. Of the countries 8.5 million workers only 5% are currently; represented by trade unions. Indigenous people represent a large portion of the unorganized labor pool. The government has banned unions from engaging in explicitly political, religious, or profitmaking activities. Despite this official ban, workers played a key role in the opposition movement which developed after Fujimori engineered his continued control over the executive apparatus.

Imperialism and Humanitarianism

All three of these repressive regimes are US client states located in key geopolitical areas. While the US media feverishly attempts to transform Milosevic into the new Adolf Hitler, nary a word is spoken about the hypocritical foreign policies of the US. The mask of the humanitarian mission is nothing more than a cynical cover aimed at tugging at the liberal heartstrings of the American public as they are prepared for war. Control over commerce and markets are the true motivational forces behind US foreign policy. If this means bodybags for Serbians and Iraqis, amputated hands for Saudis or arbitrary imprisonment for Peruvians, so be it. The great democratic project of the US is built upon the violent material and political repression of the underdeveloped world, where the national interests of the US ruling class receive primacy over the fundamental human rights of the masses both at home and abroad.

Before we buy into the next round of corporate media propaganda condemning the great evils of the Castros, Milosevics and Husseins of the world take some time to wonder why the Fujimoris, Saudis and Al-Sabahs receive so little attention. Is humanitarianism not merely a code word selectively used to deceive and motivate American citizens to participate in the senseless slaughter of others? With each bomb dropped and soon with each shot fired at the Serbs we move that much further from forging a peace which will guarantee rights for both Albanians and Serbians. For over 30 years Stalinism, the gross deformation of 1917, maintained some semblance of ethnic peace. For the last 8 years US imperialism has managed to produce a series of massacres, ethnic cleansing and right wing nationalist movements. Until a new movement is built to challenge this notion humanitarian bombs and benevolent embargos will continue to be part of our national interests.



The benevolent President Albert Fujimori - protector of Peruvian Democracy

The College Voice

Who We Are

The College Voice(CV) is a publication committed to the interests of working people. The working class is composed of all those people who own nothing but their ability to perform manual or mental labor and are forced to see it for wage. As students at CUNY, we recognize that we are a part of the multi-racial, multi-national working class of New York City. The severe attacks that CUNY has undergone are mirrored by the endless assaults on their jobs, wages and living standards of working people, as well as by the attacks on trade union, democratic and civil rights.

We oppose the poisonous divisions fostered on the basis of race by the bosses, who make black and white workers fight each other for the crumbs off their table...even though it is the workers who produce all the wealth.

We oppose the systematic attempts to reduce women to a defined feminine status, that serves to legitimize the special oppression they face as women and the additional exploitation they undergo as workers.

We oppose the vicious attacks on immigrant workers, who are the most vulnerable victims of the bosses job market, and who are thus used to drive all workers wages down.

We oppose every form of bigotry, on principle, as unbecoming our species and recognize that the fight for human liberation will be achieved only in the course of combatting these divisions.

We oppose the use of the environment as a source of short-term profit and plunder by the ruling rich regardless of the consequences for the majority of the world's population.

The CV recognizes that it is the capitalist system, based upon the private ownership of the means of producing the wealth, that is fundamentally responsible for the fantastic hardship and misery that the vast majority of our species undergoes across the globe...in the midst of plenty.

The CV recognizes that this contradiction, far from being some natural condition, is one maintained by the armed power of the capitalist state (army, cops and courts) and ideological apparatus (media, church and schools) of the capitalist class that insures the domination of the few over the many; of the bosses, who produce nothing and appropriate everything over the workers, who produce everything but appropriate nothing.

The CV recognizes the possibility and the burning necessity for creating a society in which the productive forces are democratically organized through the cooperative association of workers and production is based on human needs instead of private profits in harmony with the environment.

The CV recognizes the necessity for creating a revolutionary party of the working class, based upon a program of militant mass action and class struggle politics, that will organize internationally against world capitalism and its multi- and transnational corporation and fight for a socialist revolution against them.

The CV seeks to engage all those who are committed to fighting exploitation and oppression in common action against the common enemy...capitalism.

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Sue us: Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily shared by anyone else.

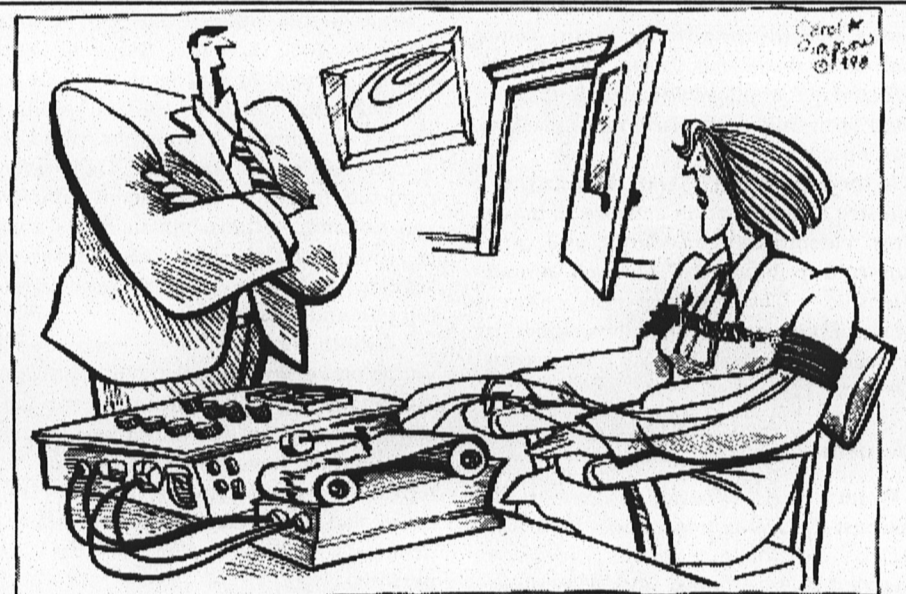
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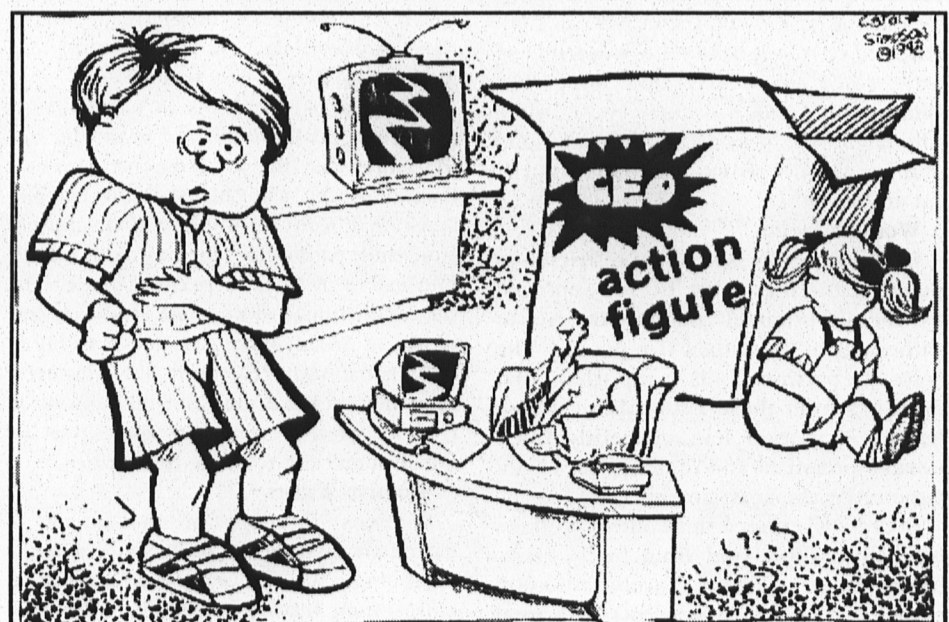
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*"You MUST be stealing from the company.
You're raising a family on what we pay you."*



*"I'll need a least \$5 million in stock options
before you can play with me."*



COMPILED BY RENEE MARHONG

China

3,000 Miners from the state-owned Dujiang colliery face layoffs in the province of Sichuan. Many of the workers have not received pay for as much as three months. The mine is intending to file bankruptcy as a result of an explosion in May that caused the death of 23 workers. Also the mine faces financial crisis, there have been reports of the embezzlement of \$US4.3 million in state funds that were supposed to be allotted for redundancy payments.

On March 15 ten coal miners were injured and five arrested in an around-the-clock demonstration outside the Chengdu government office which is located 50 kilometers from the Dujiang colliery.

Chile

At the height of exportation in Chile, 3,500 workers shut down ports in San Antonio, Valparaiso, Iquique and Tocopilla. Forty workers were arrested in street protests. In the days following workers from Arica, Coquimbo and Talcahuano joined the strike. The strike affected 70 percent of imports and exports and caused over a million dollars in losses in fruit and copper exports. The cause for the strike was the privatization of the docks, which would result in the loss of many jobs due to layoffs. The workers are asking for retraining facilities, increased severance pay and an early retirement program.

Canada

In Newfoundland 4,500 nurses were ordered to go back to work after a two week strike. The nurses wanted a 17 percent pay increase, a reduction in the workload and an increase in full-time positions. Newfoundland nurses are the lowest paid in all of Canada. Their starting wage is \$15.19 opposed to \$19.99 in Alberta. The strikebreaking legislature imposed only a 7 percent increase.

Sri Lanka

The United Health Workers Union along with the Socialist Equality Party of Sri Lanka staged a mass strike of 6,000 workers demanding immediate wage increases, removal of cuts imposed by overtime payment, job security for temporary workers and improved working conditions. The striking employees rallied in Vihara Maha Devi Park, Lipton Square and marched to the Health Ministry in Colombo on March 26.

At the Hunnagiriya tea plantation two night watchers were assaulted by the estate's Assistant Superintendent. When the tea workers on the plantation heard about the assault 3,000 of them immediately stopped work and began a strike. The workers belong to the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC) which is led by government minister Saumyamurthi Thondaman. The workers are also in negotiation for improved working conditions. CWC threatens that if no real agreement is struck before April 6, 1999, workers along the Matale District will hold a mass strike.

South Korea

On April 3, 1999 subway workers from Seoul Metropolitan Subway Corporation rallied in 18 cities across South Korea. Approximately 10,000 students participated in the protest demanding an end to the rising layoffs and corporate restructuring. The workers were heard chanting Stop mass layoffs and Reduce working hours; they were also seen waving red flags.

The Seoul Metropolitan Subway Corporation plans to cut 2,078 workers from an 11,492 workforce. Lee-Kap-Young, the head of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions said that if demands were not met soon, the organization would call a mass nationwide strike on May Day. The government responded by stating intentions to raise repressive measures against workers who take internal action.

On this same day the Education Minister of South Korea announced the cut of 1,276 teaching positions, including 102 principals and 330 deputy principals.

Colombia

Guerrilla forces from FARC-EP, the People's Liberation Army have blown up 10 high-tension towers and one of the main pipelines 27 times for this year alone. Due to these attacks the Colombian government has begun rationing electricity in Cartagena and Santa Marta on the Caribbean coast of the country. FARC-EP has also set up roadblocks on a main northern highway in the middle of a popular tourist section so they could allegedly rob and kidnap tourists on their way to Caribbean resorts.

Brazil

During the Holy Week of Easter more than 2,800 peasant families took over 15 Brazilian ranches. The families belong to the Movement of Landless Rural Workers (MST). The farmers are trying to get the state to deed them land in Northern Brazil. The workers chose the week of Easter because armed guards would be off from work and courts would be in recess.

Reginaldo Pacheco, MST leader, condemned the government for allowing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to cut the available funds for each family land grant from \$9,800 to \$2,890. Eighty-eight percent of arable land is owned by the richest 20 percent of the country while the poorest 40 percent of the farmers do not even own 1 percent of the arable land. There still remain 5 million families with no land at all.

Mexico

The US Immigration and Naturalization Services rescued 59 undocumented Mexicans trying to cross the Southern California border but only after 8 died. The workers were overcome by overwhelming unseasonable cold weather and snowstorms that have hit the hills of Baja. The Mexican workers were not dressed for the weather and 30 people are still missing.

This year already 29 people have died trying to cross the Mexico-California border. Last year a record 141 died mostly in drowning accidents.

United States-Virginia

Over 9,000 members of the United Steelworkers Local 8888 walked out the shipbuilding yard in Newport News Virginia on April 6. The workers are asking for an increase of \$3.59 per hour over 3 years. The workers have not received a raise in over six years.

Union Leaders of the Teamsters who represent UPS workers and Communication Workers of America who represent workers from Bell Atlantic and Lucent Technologies said that they support and respect the Steelworkers picket lines.

The Newport News Shipyard is the only producer of US Navy nuclear powered aircraft carriers and with 17,400 workers, they are the largest private employer in Virginia.

The Revolution in Colombia -

US Backs Drug Traffickers and Death Squads

BY MANJULA WIJIRAMA

Colombia is a mountainous country of some 35 million people in South America. Its most important cities are Bogota (8 million), Cali (3 million) and Medellin (2.5 million). Colombia earns most of its foreign exchange, some \$1.5 billion, through the export of cocaine. Other major exports include coffee, petrol, coal, gold and agricultural produce.

Fascist gangs roam the land wearing black hoods, carrying deadly weaponry, murdering peasants, trade unionists and human rights activists. An internal refugee crisis, the desplazados, has posed a humanitarian disaster that even the unfortunate people of Kosova have not seen. The Resource Center of the Americas reports an estimated 1.4 million people to be part of an internally displaced population.

This crisis stretches back into the early 80s and has worsened in the 90s as a result of intensified attacks by gangs of fascists on rural communities. The fascist forces, principally the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC), are in the pay of big coca growers, cattleranchers and

FARC along with its smaller brother ELN control close to half of Colombia.

Colombia - Cocaine Capitalism

Key figures of the Colombian state, its leading families and military officials are well known to be heavily involved in narco-trafficking and backers of fascist death squads amongst other crimes. American officials admit that Castano, the leading Colombian fascist is a drug baron, producing heroin at least in El Nudo Paramillo. Indeed officials admit that the AUC is financed and supported by a cross-section of the Colombian ruling class - drug barons, cattle ranchers, mineral barons and other landowners.

The Colombian attorney general's office is reported to have a long list of senior and middle ranking officers in the armed forces known to be members of the AUC. However the state apparatus from the President down will not take any action to bring these killers to justice since they are connected by so many strings to this very same state apparatus. As sections of the Colombian ruling class are attempting to reign in the fascist forces for the purpose of stabilizing the situation to buy time in

their war against the guerrillas they are finding that the administration by death squad that they have given rise to, cannot be tamed by the toothless fiction of a civil administration.

The Miami Herald reported that a letter was delivered to Colombian federal human rights prosecutors from the AUC with the full names of some 65 workers in the office - despite the fact that their identities are a closely guarded secret. (Miami Herald, 2/23/99) The arrest of Colombian emerald capitalist Victor Carranza for sponsoring death squads and assassinating leftists last year was a rare exception in the charade that passes as government efforts to prosecute murderers. President Pastrana, who presents the new Colombian ruling class line of peace to the public, has done nothing to take any real action to reign in the fascists.

US War Against Drugs - A War By Drug Lords Against the People

Meanwhile the Economist, mouthpiece of European capitalism writes, the United



other members of the Colombian ruling class who seek to forcibly take over land to expand their enterprises.

The rural population has developed armed organizations of their own to defend against the drug barons and their fascist thugs. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) are the strongest of these peasant based guerrilla movements. In recent years, the FARC has been successful in beating back the fascist AUC and the official military. Today, the



States does indeed wink at the drug-running of the only forces [the fascists] that look effective against the insurgency of the far left. (Economist, 2.20.99) This same article states that a recent US aid package of \$290 million includes the equipping of the Colombian helicopter fleet with 20mm cannons. The 1998 aid package writes the Economist was classified by the US gov t as category 2 - for military operations short of war.

The US sells this brazen financing of narco-traffickers and death squads to the public as a war against drugs. The Washington Post quoted a senior military official in 1998: We call anything counter-drugs. If you are going to train to take out a target, it doesn't make much difference if you call it a drug lab or a guerrilla camp. There's not much difference between counter-drug and counter-insurgency. We just don't use the word (insurgency) any-

more because it's politically too sensitive.

However, the Economist quoted a DEA agent frustrated with Americas fake drug fighting policy bluntly stating: ...the essential American line, set mainly by the Pentagon and the CIA, is to prepare for war.

No crime of fascists and drug dealers measures up to the threat of a population rising up in armed insurrection in defense of their collective interests. To crush the revolutionaries of the FARC and the ELN the US is willing to finance and arm a conflict that has cost 30,000 lives by conservative estimates.

Colombia is number three behind Israel and Egypt in military aid offered by the US. Colombia is the leading recipient of US aid in the hemisphere. Colombia received \$290 million in US backing to

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Protecting the Kosovars

continued from pg. 9

Nothing of what the US or NATO does now has anything really to do with protecting the Kosovars or bringing them independence: it is rather a display of military might whose long-range effect is disastrous, just as is a similar policy in the Middle East. In 1994 when a US intervention might have averted genocide in Rwanda, there was no action. The stakes were not high enough, and black people not worth the effort.

Therefore it seems to me imperative that the NATO bombing should stop, and a multi-party conference of all the peoples

of former Yugoslavia be called to settle difference between them on the basis of self-determination for all, not just for some, nor for some at the expense of others. This is the same principal that has been violated by US-sponsored peace processes elsewhere, notably in the Middle East.

There is nothing about the current policy of bombing Serbian forces that will either guarantee democracy for Serbia or protect the Albanians who are still being treated horribly by Milosevic's forces. In its arrogance and ill-considered military deployment the US has

forced NATO to go along with it, whereas it is quite clear that there is increasing disunity within the NATO ranks, not just Greece and Italy and Turkey, but also France and Germany.

The greatest danger of all is that more people will be displaced; more lives lost, and more fragmentation will occur in places like Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. All this for the US to assert its will and to show the world who is boss. The humanitarian concerns expressed are the merest hypocrisy since what really counts is the expression of US power.

What I find most distressing is that

destruction is being wrought from the air along with a fastidiousness articulated about the loss of American life that is positively revolting. Clinton knows well that Americans will not tolerate the loss of life for Americans. Yet he can destroy Yugoslavian lives with impunity from the safety of the ultimate in modern technology and airpower, with American pilots and bombers sanitizing their horror with the illusion of safety and distance.

What will the smaller, lesser, weaker peoples realize that this America is to be resisted at all costs, not pandered or given in to naively?

The People of East Timor Have The Right to Self-defence

Subject: XANANA GUSMAO:
Xanana Gusm o
CNRT Timor-Leste
PRESS RELEASE

The people of East Timor Have the Right to Self-defence

Jakarta, 6 April 1999 - The following information reached the office of the CNRT President, Xanana Gusm o at 9:30 pm (Jakarta time):

- Members of the Besi Merah Putih and Halilintar armed civilian militia groups backed by ABRI s Battalion 143, Koramil and Kodim, forced entry into the home of the priest of Liquica this afternoon and killed five people. It is not known if Father Rafael is one of the victims. They then stormed the church of Liquica and opened fire on the two thousand people who had taken refuge there (yester-

day), throwing in hand-grenades. Forty casualties have been reported.

The death toll was confirmed to Bishop Ximenes Belo by Col. Suratman. Bishop Belo and Col. Suratman agreed to visit Liquica and the surrounding area tomorrow, 7 April 1999, to assess the situation on the ground.

Further reports specify that a forty Indonesian soldier roadblock has been set up on the road from Dili to Liquica and that a battalion of Indonesian military forces disembarked today in Dili at 2:00 pm (Dili time) from navy ship 504. All communications systems have been cut off in the Liquica area.



Yesterday, Xanana Gusm o reminded the world that the people of East Timor can no longer be expected to passively wait

death. They have the right to self-defence. As the Commander in Chief of FALINTIL,

Xanana Gusm o asked FALINTIL to resume the mission they have been carrying out for the past twenty three years: to defend the people of East Timor from the murderous military occupation of their homeland.

Today, Xanana Gusm o called for the immediate deployment of a UN peace mission in the territory as proof of the international community's commitment to contribute to and implement a peaceful solution in East Timor.

As Xanana Gusm o was making this appeal today, and as world leaders were reacting to his statement of yesterday, the armed civilian militias and the Indonesian military assaulted the only place where the East Timorese population could feel safe and could be defended. They violated



East Timorese youth chant "viva" at a commemoration of the 1991 Dili Massacre that took place in East Timor on November 12, 1998.

a sanctuary where unarmed civilians had taken refuge.

Unfortunately it has taken the loss of yet another 45 innocent lives for the world to note that Xanana Gusm o did not make a call for the People of East Timor to take up arms to take offensive action, but rather to defend themselves and resort to their own means to survive such barbarous and cowardly murders.

I authorised the people to act against their attackers, not in the spirit of wanton violence and callous disregard for human life which motivates ABRI, but in pure self-defence, said Xanana Gusm o.

YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR ON:

Eating Disorders: A Silent Tragedy

Dieting and worrying about body image are an American pastime. At any given moment, some 50 million Americans are on a weight-loss regimen. Although few of those who wish they were thinner suffer from a true psychiatric eating disorder, the numbers of individuals who have either of the two major forms of eating disorders-anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa-have dramatically risen in recent decades. You are invited to learn about causes and treatments of anorexia and bulimia, serious medical illnesses.

Anorexia Nervosa
(severe self-starving)

Bulimia Nervosa
(binge-eating and purging)

Some warning signs of eating disorders

- Significant weight loss
- Intense fear of gaining weight or becoming fat, even when under weight
- Continued dieting after an announced weight goal has been reached
- Binge eating
- Hoarding food
- Spending long periods of time in the bathroom
- Moodiness, impatience, rudeness, secretiveness, social isolation, depression, and anxiety

THURSDAY APRIL 15TH
308 SEAVIEW AVENUE
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.
7:30 P.M.

Featured Speakers:

Michael J. Devlin, M.D.
Co-Clinical Director
Eating Disorders Research Unit
New York State Psychiatric Institute
Associate Professor of Columbia University
College of Physicians and Surgeons

Sara Wolk, M.A., Ed.M.
Psychologist
Eating Disorders Research Unit
New York State Psychiatric Institute

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Reception at 12 noon: Sandwiches and Coffee

Program at 2 p. m. in the Tribeca Performing Arts Theater:

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Born Without Faces

500 Years of Struggle

IMAN ELSAYED

Work, land, shelter, bread, health, education, democracy, liberty, peace, independence and justice is the succinct eleven-word program of the Zapatistas. No human being should be deprived of any of the elements of this program. The world can successfully be organized by implementing this, however capitalism - the landowners and corporations - steal and strip these qualities of life from workers and peasants throughout the world. The motivation behind these actions can be summed up in one word - Profits. Profits and money are the main reasons the rich rob and murder innocent people who simply want to feed their babies, educate their sons and daughters, and live in a world where you can die happy and not hungry. Denying the native people these features of life is the motivating force behind the Zapatista uprising, a rebellion of the indigenous people of Mexico.

THE UPRISING

On January 1, 1994, San Cristobal de las Casas was occupied by men and women without faces. Ski masked rebels surrounded the capital of the Mayan highlands in Mexico's southernmost state of Chiapas. The Zapatistas hung leaflets on the walls and slipped them under doors proclaiming: We declare war against the Mexican Federal Army, the basic pillar of the dictatorship under which we suffer. We will advance to the capital, defeating the federal army as we march forward. The declaration of war was signed by the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (E.Z.L.N). Holding up their black flag with the red stars and letters, the E.Z.L.N. derive their name from the brave Nahua Indian Emiliano Zapata, who led the Mexican revolution of 1910 against the haciendas (landowners). Having gone through hundreds of years of genocide and oppression, the native people have experienced the worst holocaust in the history of the world. Continuous oppression is the reason the Zapatistas formed and continue their struggle, fighting for the well being of people all over the world.

NAFTA'S ROLE

The date of the uprising coincided with the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the US and Mexico. NAFTA was the main reason



Subcommandante Marcos leads Zapatista guerrillas

the Zapatistas decided to begin their uprising. Subcommandante Marcos, leader of the rebels, was questioned about the

timing and said Of course what we are doing here today has to do with NAFTA. NAFTA legalizes the ability for big corporations, particularly those in the US, to shut down factories and relocate in South American countries that offer cheap labor and minimal labor and environmental standards. NAFTA seeks to sweep away ejidos, sacred native land, and force peasants to leave their homes and land and sell their labor. NAFTA legalizes American capital's right to open factories based on slave labor, with no pensions and no job safety. These corporations have caused mass pollution and destruction of the environment. The air is no longer breathable and the land is so destroyed that it is useless for growing crops.

NAFTA has only caused problems for working people in the United States and the natives in Mexico. Bill Clinton claimed that 200,000 new jobs would be created, however by 1995, 200,000 jobs had been eliminated because of NAFTA. In Mexico, Allied Signals 3,800 workers earned a combined total of about \$7.8 million in 1995, less than the CEO Bossidy raked in by himself that year. In Mexico well over a million workers have been laid off and 2.5 million workers have crossed the line of poverty to extreme poverty, according to the Secretary of Social Development. Wages have dropped 50% since 1993 and the crime rate has doubled since 1995. NAFTA has benefited the CEOs but harmed millions of other people who are better off begging than working. NAFTA has given the Zapatistas even more reasons to fight for their rights and against the injustices corporations are inflicting on the people.

PARAMILITARY GROUPS

Violence against the people who worked for social and political change existed long before 1994. Private police forces known as the white guards were created in 1961. The state governors granted ranchers legal permission to carry arms and hire private police forces. The white guards enforce the rule of the ranchers and big landowners. These private police continue to exist, occasionally joining forces with the police and the army to battle peasants in disputes over lands. By the 1990s the presence of white guards diminished, but this was not the end of armed groups in the region. These private police still exist but under a different name- paramilitary. Paramilitary

groups have been active in areas of the north and central highlands, where there is support for the Zapatistas, but the Zapatista army could offer less protection than if it were in the heart of the move-

"Work, land, shelter, bread, health, education, democracy, liberty, peace, independence and justice" is the Zapatistas succinct eleven-word program. No human being should be deprived of any of the elements of this program.

ment -the Lacandon jungle. Lacandonean communities support the Zapatistas and are angry at the government's history of breaking agreements. The north and central highlands are deeply divided by the government and many citizens fear for their lives.

As a result of the high unemployment and landlessness rates it was easy to mobilize pro-PRI paramilitary groups. Men are recruited into these groups, and attack their fellow villagers. On December 22, 1997, a group of well-armed men approached a group of worshippers at the entrance to a chapel in the indigenous town of Acteal. They opened fire and killed several people in the chapel. The



Tzeltal, Tzotzil, Tojolabal, Chols, Mams and Zoques are the indigenous people of Mexico who support the Zapatistas

attackers pursued the victims as they fled into the mountains and killed 45 unarmed, innocent Indians. Autopsies proved that the majority of the victims were shot in the back while fleeing for their lives. Thousands have died at the hands of these paramilitary groups (500 were killed in 1997 alone). The paramilitaries are created to protect the interests of the rich and leave the poor Indians landless, with nothing, not even their lives.

PEACE PROCESS

There have been many attempts for peace in Mexico between the Zapatistas and the Mexican government. Throughout negotiations, the Mexican government has shown its unwillingness to negotiate in good faith for peace. They have violated

all the agreements negotiated with the Zapatistas. After the Zapatista takeover of San Cristobal de las Casas on January 1994 there was a cease-fire which ended the open military confrontation of the first days of the uprising. The first level of peace talks were held on February 1994 in the cathedral of San Cristobal de las Casas between the rebels and the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI). The Zapatistas realized that the only true way to get peace and democracy was not only through economic demands but social and political reform. (The agreements addressed by the Zapatistas would not connect with the situation in Chiapas since the existence of the single-party rule at the national level.) After months of deliberations, the Zapatistas rejected the accords, arguing the government completely ignored their demands for democratization. The Zapatistas decided to expand their influence in civil society.

A survey conducted on January 7, 1994, showed 61% of the residents of Mexico City supported the Zapatistas goal but not their use of violence. This percentage had risen to 75% by February 18, while the first peace talks were taking place. Following the rejections of the government's peace proposal, the Zapatistas wanted to strengthen their bargaining position. The EZLN called for the first of three National Democratic Conventions in August. This inspired and aided the formation of other coalitions and organizations. Organizations like the National Women's Convention, state conventions (in Chiapas, Oaxaca, Morelos, Veracruz, Durango, Sinaloa, Zacatecas, Guerrero and Michoacan), and the Movement of National Liberation, headed by former presidential candidate and current governor of Mexico City, Cuauhtemoc Cardenas. This broad based organizing brought fear in the eyes of the government. Zedillo (current president of Mexico) broke his cease-fire. The army launched a massive military offensive in Chiapas. They seized an area of territory that had been under Zapatista control

and arrested dozens of unarmed political activists suspected of being Zapatista supporters. Despite the governments violation of the 1994 cease-fire, the EZLN agreed to start a new round of peace talks. On Feb. 16 1996 the San Andres Accord was signed between the Zapatistas and the government. This accord was made to grant the rights for the indigenous people. It would have guaranteed limited constitutional autonomy to the nations indigenous people. After many months of negotiations, it gave Mexico's 800 Indian-majority municipalities or counties local control over their own territories, natural resources, justice and educational sys-

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The Revolution in Colombia

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fight the FARC. The American CIA has the biggest Latin American station in Bogota, capital of Colombia. The School of the Americas (SOA) based in Georgia notorious for training some of the most brutal military killers across Latin America had graduated 124 out of the 247 military personnel cited in El Terrorismo de Estado en Colombia for human rights abuses in Colombia.

In 1991, the US lead a revamping of the Colombian military intelligence apparatus. Forty one new intelligence networks or death squads were for the surveillance of unarmed civilians. One of these was responsible for the murder of 57 civilians over two years of operation in the Magdalena Valley. Amongst the murdered were the President, Vice President and Treasurer of the local Transportation Workers Union.

Information about these secret networks was revealed only after ex-agents fearing for their lives testified. Saul Segura one such ex-agent who spoke out, was murdered inside his prison cell.

In 1994, Amnesty International accused the US of allowing anti-drug aid to be diverted to murderous counter-insurgency programs. Frank Smyth, a freelance journalist, writes that, the CIA bears some responsibility for the proliferation of drug trafficking in the Magdalena Valley since it supported rightist counterinsurgency forces who run drugs.

The US policy indeed was slow to warm to new Colombian President Pastrana's strategy of peace and offering limited concessions to the guerrilla forces. The

recent victories of the FARC against the fascist/military forces have forced the Colombian ruling class to talk peace with the rebels. Talks between the FARC and the Pastrana regime which officially opened on January 7 this year have broken down due to a murderous rampage by the fascist AUC.

According to the Economist, in the village of Playon de Orozco in the northern province of Magdalena a group of 70 heavily armed AUC thugs dragged 27 churchgoers, several children among them, out of a baptismal mass and shot them in front of the priest and their families. In the southern jungle town of El Tigre, some 30 peasants were shot, decapitated or hacked to



FARC Rebels in the Mountains of Colombia

death with machetes. In all over 150 people were killed within a week by the AUC. Their butchery ranged over six provinces where they tortured and killed anyone suspected of sympathies to the FARC.

(Economist 1,16,99)

Lead fascist Castano demands a place at the talks between the FARC and the government. Guerrilla leader Marulanda of the FARC has rejected this out of hand pointing out that the fascists are sponsored by the government. Indeed under the previous regime of President Samper in Colombia, there was a much more open coddling of fascist forces. Samper initiated a policy of setting up legal armed self-defense groups, known as Convivir, for the purpose of fighting the guerrillas. These served as an effective recruiting ground for the main fascist organizations. The AUC grew to an organization of some

5000 men nation-wide thanks to this policy. It was later revealed that Samper received \$6 million in funds from the Cali drug cartel.

It was a well known by Human Rights organizations that the official military forces and the fascist forces would on many occasions engage in joint operations against villages suspected of rebel sympathies.

Coca Cola - Brings You Death

The service of right-wing paramilitaries does not stop at the Colombian ruling class. Foreign multinationals like Coca Cola, Nestle and British Petroleum amongst others who have set up shop in Colombia have been accused by human rights and labor activists as sponsoring death squad violence against labor organizers. The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions states that of the 300 trade unionists murdered around the world in 1997, 156 were from Colombia. More than 2,300 activists of the Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT) the main labor federation in Colombia have been murdered since its founding in 1986. In the troubled oil producing city of Barrancabermeja fascists murdered at least 11 workers of the London based British Petroleum Co. prompting a series of strikes by gun-carrying trade unionists. (Economist 9,5,98) What the bourgeois Economist failed to mention was that the workers struck because they suspected the company (BP) to be behind the attacks, according to the Resource Center of the Americas. According to this same source on December 5, 1996 fascists killed a union organizer at the Coca Cola plant in Carepa, tried to kidnap three others and burned down the union offices. At the Cali Goodyear plant, death squads calling themselves Colombia Without Guerrillas and Death To Trade Unionists have been threatening the lives of trade unionists.

The Armed Struggle of the People Must Be Supported

Anyone familiar with the novelist

Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *A Thousand Years of Solitude* will have an understanding of the long history of repression and civil war that has plagued Colombia. The primary struggle has involved the armed violence of landowners against the rural population. The present day guerrilla forces have their roots in the 60s, particularly in response to the massacre of Marquetalia in 1964 when the Peasant Republic of Marquetalia was brutally destroyed by the army. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) were formed with strong bases amongst the rural people of Colombia. The FARC was influenced by the Colombian Communist Party and the ELN was inspired by Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara's strategy for taking power. These two groups remain the strongest rebel movements in Colombia controlling roughly half of the land mass.

The FARC and ELN are both committed to a vision of a socialist society in which the resources of the nation are stripped from the drug lords and big landowners and used instead to alleviate the great suffering of the Colombian masses. The struggle of Colombia's rural poor and urban working class to defend their lives and livelihoods against the US backed Colombian cocaine-death squad state has reached a critical point over the past year. The Economist writes ominously, Were the talks to breakdown...it might even drag the US, however unwillingly, halfway into yet another jungle-based guerrilla war. Efforts by the US to prop up their weakened client state at the expense of the people of Colombia must be fiercely resisted by the American working class and all people of conscience.

Not a Dime for the Colombian Cocaine-Death Squad Regime!

Land to the Landless, Factories to the Workers, for a Revolutionary Socialist Government of Workers and Peasants!!!

Born Without Faces

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tems. Unfortunately, Zedillo vetoed the agreements after 7 months.

Zedillo wants peace under his own terms, which means the liquidation of the Zapatistas, not the aspirations of the masses. EZLN responded by breaking off peace talks because their demands were violated. The Zapatistas pledged not to return to peace talks until they were convinced the government truly wanted peace and had stopped hunting them down as terrorists. They accused the government of talking peace but sanctioning increased military activity in Chiapas state.

The situation in Mexico gets worse daily. After the signing of NAFTA the situation in Mexico has gotten bloodier. NAFTA with its pollution, land stealing and sweatshops, coupled with the paramilitaries assaults and suppression of the people, have enforced a grim reality upon the indigenous peoples of Mexico. Over 18 million citizens live in extreme pover-



ty. The longest-ruling state party in the known universe, the PRI, continues to control the political machine in Mexico. The Zapatistas are trying their best to get the rights of the Tzotzil, Tzeltal, Tojolabal, Chol, Zoques, and Mams of Mexico. The oppression of these Indians has been a reality since the nations of Europe began their brutal conquest of the New World. Resistance has always existed in the history of Mexico from Cuauhtemoc (the Descending Eagle) and the Aztec Empire resistance to the Spanish Conquest of Hernan Cortes in 1521 to Zapata and the Mexican Revolution in 1910 and now, the Zapatistas. Oppression has been met by armed resistance movements. As the spirits of these revolutionaries flow through the mountains, the resistance will continue until justice has found its true meaning. As all Zapatistas and revolutionaries say Viva Zapata.

A S A N T E



Still Here

By Langston hughes

I been scared and battered.
 My hopes the wind done
 scattered.
 Snow has friz me,
 Sun has baked me,
 Looks like between 'em they
 done
 Tried to make me Stop
 laughin', stop lovin', stop
 livin'—
 But I don't care! I'm still here!

Intimidate Me

BY DEBRA BEHR

Intimidate me.
 Corner me with your
 confusions, delusions
 I won't laugh in your face.
 Suffocate me
 Batter me with your,
 convictions, contradictions.
 Go ahead I'm listening.
 Why should I speak,
 when your opinions, criticisms
 bring me to my knees
 Lecture me.
 Strangle out my identity
 Don't let me breath.
 Rape me.
 Violate me with your,

W o m a n m e

By: maya angelou

Your smile, delicate
 rumor of peace.
 Deafening revolutions nestle in the
 cleavage of
 your breasts
 Beggar-kings and red-ringed priests
 seek glory at the meeting
 of your thighs
 A grasp of Lions, a lap of Lambs

Your tears, jeweled
 strewn a diadem
 caused pharaohs to ride
 deep in the bosom of the
 Nile, Southern spas lash fast
 their doors upon the night when
 winds of death blow down your name
 A bride of hurricanes,
 A swarm of summer wind.

Your laughter, peeling tall
 above the bells of ruined cathedrals.
 Children reach between your teeth
 for charts to live their lives.
 A stomp of feet, A bevy of swift hands.



With death coming through the front door to bring her life to demise. A mother made a promise to her daughter at her bedside.

No ordinary promise, like those made with human feelings. This promise had a deep spiritual meaning. You see physical and spiritual are not one in the same, if one ceases to exist the other can still Remain.

Even though she worked like a slave during the day and slept in the Cinders at night, the promise from her mother built her faith, gave her hope, "A Light." This "Light" manifested itself in the most magical deeds, if Cinderella wanted something; it provided her that need.

A grand ball was to take place on this night, so grand was it because at this ball the prince was to choose a wife. "Don't think about going" Cinderella was told, "your clothes are cinder, ragged and old."

"For you to attend a ball would be a sin." But alas! The blessing. This "Light" was to manifest itself again. Cinderella just need ask, to be adorned with the most beautiful gown compliments of her blessing, was a simple task.

The elegance of Cinderella shined bright for all to see. Her most beautiful attribute exiled in her humility

The prince was engulfed in the light that was Cinderella. Then and forever he would know if he could make her his wife he would never let her go. They united and were separated from each other. The prince put on a desperate search because he chose to be with no other. But where would he look? What would he do? His answer was to find the princess who fit the lost shoe.

Oh, the step-mother and the sisters tried to prevent Cinderella and the Prince from being combined, but all they got for their efforts are bloody feet and going blind.

Cinderella's faith prevailed; she was as free as the birds who helped her do her chores. Being a slave, sleeping in the cinders was something she need not do anymore.

Life for the prince and Cinderella now and forever was enchanting bliss. Having faith, being humble brought reality to a mother's promise.

by Albert Adell 1199

The capitalist system look what it has done to me. I have to bath in the street. My black face! my black nose! gets discriminated on everyway i go.

look what the fucking bourgeoisie did to me. !!!



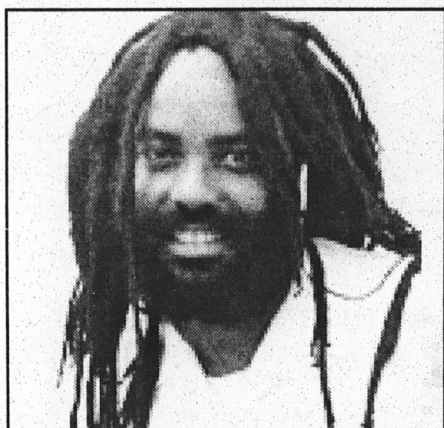
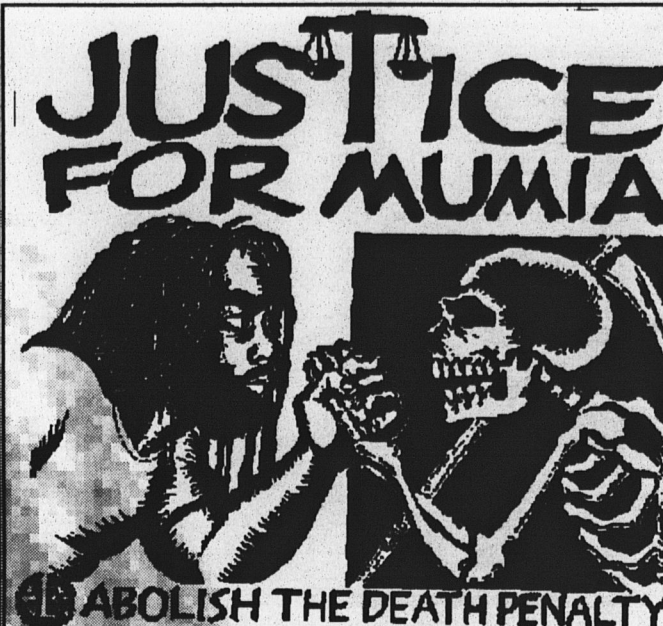
Standing in the street with no clothes or food to eat... Nappy hair,! Black skin! no job i have to sin. The tourist look at me and they SCAR.

"look at this black negro with no potential to survive". The capitalist have taken away my right so i have to change to socialism so i can fight!! fight!!fight!

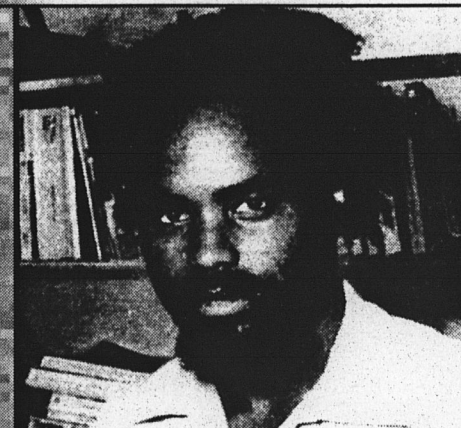


A S A N T E

GET ON THE FREEDOM BUS!!!



ON OCTOBER 30, 1998 THE SUPREME COURT REJECTED MUMIA ABU-JAMAL'S APPEAL FOR A NEW CASE. MUMIA ABU-JAMAL CAN BE SENT TO DEATH AT ANYTIME!!!



Mumia Abu-Jamal is a political prisoner held in jail for the last 18 years for a crime he did not commit. Mumia was found guilty by a racist judge, a jury cleansed of African-Americans and a State prosecution which repeatedly suppressed evidence. The time has come for Mumia to receive some of the justice he fought for so hard as a community activist and award winning journalist

Help Free Mumia Abu-Jamal March For Justice We Demand a New Trial

Saturday April 24, 1999 12:00 pm

Philadelphia City Hall

Buses are Free and Leave CSI at 9:00 am

Call The College Voice and reserve your seat

982-3091 or collegevoice@usa.net