**Police brutality epidemic spurs community outrage**

by Gerard Emmett

As the new century starts to unfold, American society stands at a crossroads. The racist moral bankruptcy of Mayor Giuliani’s New York City and the death chambers of the late President George Bush’s Texas prison gulag present themselves as one possible “future” that drips with the blood and filth of centuries of oppression.

At the same time new movements and change is in response to the continual and ever-deepening brutality that has surrounded us today with a nationwide epidemic of police murder, a racist and inhuman death penalty, and the consummation of a prison-industrial complex, in short, a distinctively American rebirth of totalitarianism, “half slave and half free” as Abraham Lincoln once put it.

These new opposition struggles, which have arisen in so many places around the country, are in the process of coalescing, of learning a new language and developing a new consciousness that can challenge America’s current reality as fundamentally as the Abolitionists challenged slavery, or as the Civil Rights Movement challenged racism.

One important aspect of this challenge is addressed by the new organizations which showed itself in the demonstrations against global capitalism in Seattle and recently Washington, D.C. It is a battle fueled in large part by the idealism of a new generation of youth who have been active in the struggle against sweatshops as well as in support of imprisoned journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal and who have been learning their own lessons about police brutality in the streets.

**REASON OF NEW VOICES**

There was a real sense of this history-in-the-making at the recent demonstrations against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C. April 16 to protest the evils of capitalism. Mostly young people, they came from organizations as small as a lone participant from a college campus to as large as nation-wide environmental groups like the Audubon Society.

Although a few groups represented people of color, most U.S. groups were made up of whites. Many anti-sweatshop groups were present, and some opposed to the prison industry. People from disparate organizations shared information, literature and e-mail addresses at a long ring of tables on the Ellipse.

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Black women do the 'wholly impossible'


This 618-page anthology of 32 essays on African-American women succeeds in revealing “the resistance of black women to racial and sexual oppression and exploitation” (p. xii). The main editor, Darlene Clark Hine, said that the role of the historian is to reveal the impact of black women’s activism.

In her New Feminism, she emphasizes that a woman is a human being. Women are the subject, who is independent and creative. She is not just a follower, but also a leader; a producer of the industry, but also the creator of history. She is not living under the shadow of his story, but is one of those who creates history, our story. For Lu, women are reason as well as Force in the creation of a new society with an equal value system. She herself never stopped working for women’s liberation. She strongly encourages women to participate in political activity. As long as she was set free from prison, she ran for legislator, then county governor, and ended up becoming the vice-president.

Hollywood highlights environmental struggles

Cancer and other serious illnesses are rampant in a community. Women who learn of the link to toxic contamination are shocked and outraged. With the help of people who have worked at the site, a serial history comes to light of a powerful corporation or government entity imposing the contamination in a quest for more money and power, and covering it up with outrageous lies.

This is on line of the many, many cases of toxic struggles. It is also central to the story line of the movie Erin Brockovich. It is a powerful movie because it brings to the screen the system of the crucial struggles faced by many communities, usually in predominantly poor and minority areas.

The unusual part of this story is that Erin Brockovich version of the story, but is one of those who aren’t a resident sparked into action by the death or dreadfully suffering of a family member; and that the struggles are exposed by the people themselves, and not by the corporate entity.

Two scenes may have been sensationalized but dramatist things. As children play in a small yard pool, Brockovich convinces their mother, Donna Jensen, that her family’s illnesses are due to the chromium-contaminated water. And that Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) have been lying to them for decades. Suddenly, a look of horror crosses Jensen’s face and she jumps up to order her children out of the water.

Another scene shows the lawyers for PG&E insisting that all the residents care about is money. Brockovich lights into them with a passionate speech. The residents are not trying to get rich, she says. As it often happens in environmental justice struggles, she reeves off the names of the victims and how the particular ways they have suffered: a crumbling spine, or an 11-year-old daughter going through chemotherapy. And who pays? The utility customers. She tells the lawyers to go home and think about what price they would put on their own spin. Then she tells one lawyer who is about to drink some water: “You have no idea what this is.”

Brockovich’s fight continues as she brings the case to court. In one scene, she tells her lawyer to challenge the PG&E’s mailing address to the court. She asks him to challenge the company’s arguments and to request the court to take a look at the evidence. She suggests that the court should hear from the people who are affected by the pollution. She says that the company is trying to hide the truth from the court and from the public.

Women Worldwide

by Mary Jo Grey

In the face of a growing, militant movement — especially on college campuses — against sweatshop labor, Nike publicists continue to try to make itself look good by joining the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sports (CAAWS) in presenting the first "Girls@Play North American Athlete Award" in late March, "an outstanding female who has taken an active role in encouraging more girls and women to participate in sport and have fun."

Unfortunately, the action took place at the same time that the Macquila Solidarity Network (MSN) reported a new wave of worker jobs actions at Indonesian shoe factories — many of which make Nike products — demanding a cleanup of sweatshops, higher wages and better conditions for young women workers. While the MSN supported efforts to encourage women’s participation in sports, they also called upon CAAWS to demonstrate their concern for the health of Asian girls and young women who work for less than subsistence wages to make sports shoes for North American athletes, and gigantic profits for Nike.

More than 5,000 people rallied in Dhaka, Bangladesh, early this year, waving banners and chanting against Islamic fundamentalism. "We are opposed to Islamic fundamentalism because they don’t recognize the rights of women," said Ayesha Khanam, head of the women’s rights group, Bangladesh Women’s Peace and Democracy Forum, which demanded 200 Bangladesh authorities, Taslima Nasreen, to flee the country for the second time last year, demanding asylum fearing for her life. Today, she is being forced out of Bangladesh. The Islamic Shariah law to give Muslim women more rights.

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Janitors fight to close wage gap

Editor's note: As we go to press, LA janitors accepted a new offer and ended their three-week strike.

Los Angeles—On April 16, janitorial contract firms abruptly ended three days of negotiations as the 8,500 janitors struck Kaiser Permanente cited Kaiser's threat to expand their strike. According to a union spokesman, the contract firms are planning to keep 750 janitors on the street and the Kaiser wage offer of $1.30 and $.90 per hour over three years and health benefits takeaways, which janitors had anticipated, mean they may be out of work for months if they voted to strike.

The janitors, mostly immigrant Latinos and half of them women, are fighting for a livable wage with takeaways. They are earning less today than they did in 1982. Kaiser's janitors at St. Francis, San Francisco, received lower wages than those in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, and Pittsburgh, even though two of the Kaiser corporate plants are located there.

The janitors have daily marched, picketed and demonstrated to demand an increase in wages as well as in many outlying areas. Hundreds of janitors have daily worn their red "Justice for Janitors" and "On Strike" T-shirts, shouted in Spanish "Up with the Union, down with exploitation." In one of the demonstration's slogans: "We're showing the contrast in wealth. One of our themes is closing the gap between rich and poor," said a union spokesman.

As the janitors become visible and their struggle becomes known, more and more workers have come to support them, as all workers' situations deteriorate in today's capitalist drive for global domination over any human, social or environmental liberation movement.

In one demonstration, 50 construction workers on a high rise stopped working to support the janitors as one made a drumbust with his hammer tapping a metal pipe as a rhythm generator. The janitors had done the same thing to protest the closing of unions and trade unionists, both blue and white collar. The demonstration was supported by church and religious leaders and the janitors' support the strike. Striking janitors receive $100 and a bag of groceries each week from their union.

On a twelve-mile march by 3,000 janitors, police on bicycles and motorcycles met the marchers, who were walking in the street. The police stopped the marchers at points of the march and answered in a loud chorus, "NO!" In 1991, janitors marching to Century City had been brutalized by the police. Monday, many white policemen looked like they were on a class action lawsuit against the police.

In Chicago, the janitors have done all night encampments, to keep scabs from crossing the picket line. As the strike continues, janitors in more and more outlying areas are demonstrating.

Basho

Unity of ranks ignored

From a Chicago janitor

Chicago—We're out here because the janitors in the suburban office buildings need our help. The BOMA (Building Owners and Managers Association) only pays those people $6.65 an hour. That's not enough for a family. BOMA doesn't want them to have insurance, a pension or anything.

We have our own problems with BOMA. I read that someone was beating some of our janitors. It pays us $11.40 an hour. They learned a trick, too. They don't let us work more than seven hours a day. They don't have to keep track of the retirement fund if we don't work eight hours, but they make us do eight hours of work. Some of us work in stores where the employer isn't as bad as some. Over there, in that building, seven women work there. Each one of them has to clean three and a half floors a day! It's 200 degrees.

One of the women is crying all the time because the supervisor is yelling at her all the time. They hire them to do the job. He tells them that he'll give them time off. He says, "You don't listen." They have problems with the nurses. Look at this. It's not an easy job. Nobody cares for us. It's not shameful what we do. It's just our job.

-Downtown building cleaner

Key gain at Denver Kaiser

Oakland, Cal.—Health care workers represented by the United Food and Commercial Workers' Union returned to work at Kaiser Permanente in Denver, Colo., in exchange for a $30-per-month raise and a provision for quality care and a contractual obligation not to use replacement workers.

The quality care provision is modeled after the 1996 victory by the California Nurses Association. That's when CNC members won a provision requiring any acts of violence by patients first time ever in day determining if their own quality care.

The quality-of-work committee negotiated by the Denver Kaiser workers—registered nurses, nurses aides, lab technicians—will consist of three union representatives and three management representatives to arbitrate disputes that arise over staffing levels. If the matter is unresolved at that level, there is to be binding arbitration. The union contends the arbitration system will be used to determine if a hospital is overstaffed or understaffed with regard to a grievant, as if that is the bottom line for a worker.

Kaiser management was planning to close its Flagstaff facility and cut its hours of operation. Those cutbacks would not be out of line with the nationwide effort to compete for contracts with other hospitals when it signed the quality care provision, one foreman reported. Kaiser's staff nurses have to have a hospital to give patient care in the first place. But on April 13 Kaiser management announced that they are now closing their Flagstaff facility. It is also doing a half-million dollar expansion at Richmond which they also had planned to close.

This decision comes after years of persistent protest led by nurses who were joined by many service workers and community activists. An employee of Kaiser's in Denver, Calif., had a lawsuit in federal court charging Kaiser with medical malpractice. In Denver, Colorado, nurses complained that Kaiser's and the janitors' unwillingness to bargain good faith kept a settlement out of court.

Several commented that many of their coworkers will be out of a job if the location closes. Still, some of our people who were involved in the struggle will not have a job. They are not going to be able to provide an escape hatch for management to violate the spirit of these agreements.

-Service worker, Kaiser Oakland

Elder care union busting trades lives for cash

Oakland, Cal.—We are having a lot of trouble at Piedmont Gardens, the elder care home where I work. We are demonstrating at SEIU Local 250 because the biggest trouble is over the union's dismissal of Sue Kizzie as our union representative. She was dismissed because of an accusation by an administrator of wrong-doing which she didn't commit.

Our unit at SEIU Local 250 has been retaliating. Despite cutting back positions and our hours, we were told we can't do any overtime in our department. There are many residents and patienrs who need our help that we don't let people to care for someone doesn't come in. Some of our residents are too sick to be assisted liv­ ing. They are keeping patients who need skilled care in assisted living because it is a money issue. We lost 13 patients and we didn't even get overtime for the work that we did. We are working less and we are getting paid from skilled care too early.

Sue kept things in order at the facility and these issues came up after she left. Whether it was small or large, Sue came to take care of business. Sue is a strong representative and we want her back.

—Local 250 union activist

Workshop Talks

(Continued from page 1)

dominated by the bosses, forced to run at the speed of the machinery. But they also have their moments, and who but also who had made that first step through union­ ization to reclaim that human power. Felix Martin worked as a janitor in Chicago and told us that the unions can be the ones to do away with it, with their minds and muscles, and replace it with a system where 'Human Power is its own end.'

We workers at Delta Pride have to decide in our minds that we can do away with what is out there, or something even better. But management for the suburban janitors is digging in for a long battle. They don't want to be the ones to lose anything, and if the janitors give in, they are going to fight back, and that's the black workers. They give them the clean jobs and the advances. They bring these workers in and we train them with our two-tier system. The janitors are in the machining factories.

This is a big stumbling block to making a change in tomorrow's world. But management for the suburban janitors is digging in for a long battle. They don't want to be the ones to lose anything, and if the janitors give in, they are going to fight back, and that's the black workers. They give them the clean jobs and the advances. They bring these workers in and we train them with our two-tier system. The janitors are in the machining factories. It is a battle for the janitors to keep the factory from automation, the daily struggles of union members trying to make a change in their own shop. His story shows how we can take charge of our destiny.

I could see where he connected with Charles Denby, who pointed out that the struggle of the janitors was an "Indianhead heart: A Black Worker's Journal," he remembered his own hard life in poverty, and then said: "How much of a difference, when our hands are before the table, or when our hands are behind the table."

I saw in Felix Martin what I want in my life, trying to help myself through a body of ideas. I visited with Felix Martin in his California home. Even though he was ill, I understood how he had developed himself through black and white workers and others, and put those ideas to the test.

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Editor's note

This month and next we continue Raya Dunayevskaya's 1961 lectures on Hegel's Smaller Logic. In her two-volume Treatise on the General Theory of the Sufferers of Capital, she highlights the "attitude toward objectivity." The first part of her book, dedicated to an encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences, focuses on Hegel's attitude toward objectivity in all sections of the work. Dunayevskaya's notes contain an especially detailed account of "Chapters Four: Second Attitude of Thought Towards the Object World".

The text of the Smaller Logic used by Dunayevskaya is The Logic of Hegel, trans. by William Wallace (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1949), which differs in some respects from later editions of Wallace's translation. Parenthetical references are to the paragraph numbers found in all editions and translations of Hegel's text. All footnotes are by the editors. The original can be found in The Raya Dunayevskaya Collection, 2944-2945.

By Raya Dunayevskaya

Founder of Marx-Humanism in the U.S.

Chapter Three: First Attitude of Thought Towards the Object World

This deals both with the empirical school and the critical philosophy. 1 He notes that we could not have come from metaphysics to real philosophy, or from the Dark Ages to the epoch of capitalism, without empirical studies and the shaking off of the bondages of mere faith. At the same time, the method of empiricalist analysis is devastatingly criticized. Somewhere later he is to say that it is equivalent to think that you can cut off an arm from a body and still deal with it as a thing. In a word, it took Hegel to separate one doesn't necessarily turn backward:

The first criticism of Jacobin's philosophy is the analysis that even faith and faith and the whole of faith did proceed, and on the other hand, this Smaller Logic: six chapters or 132 pages, to read it for yourself now

The Proximate Notion

of Logic with its Subdivision

7. In the newer translation of the Encyclopedia Logic:

point of philosophy, and even shows a justification for any metaphysical points in it just because it had broken new ground. But what he cannot forgive is that in his own period, after we had already reached Kantian philosophy, one should turn backward:

The modern doctrine on the one hand makes no change in the Cartesian method of the natural scientific knowledge, and conducts on the same plane? the experimental and finite sciences that have sprung from it. But, on the other hand, when it comes to the science which has infinity for its scope, it thrusts aside the method, and thus, as it knows no other, it rejects all methods. It abandons itself to the control of a will, capricious and fantastic dogmatism, to moral prigishness and pride of feeling, or to an excessive opinion and reasoning which is looking against philosophy and philosophical themes. Philosophy of course tolerates no more assertions, or concepts, or arbitrary fluctuations of inference as to its own and yours.
From our readers as part of this important dialogue.

The Marxism-Humanist Perspectives for 1999-2000 point out: Today, ours is a struggle for the mind of humanity. It is a struggle for the very existence of humanity. It is a struggle against the commodification of human labor in its natural pursuit of liberation.

The time has come for us to construct new questions that will facilitate the march of humanity toward the solution of the contradictions of capital and the suppression of commodity fetishism. We must, both individually and collectively, begin to ask ourselves more precise questions about the "things" around us as we are ever "de-objectifying" the "commodity" and our relationship to it.

The editor's note: We print below excerpts from a discussion by a prisoner, Todd Morrison, on the effects the Seattle protests against the World Trade Organization (WTO) may have on the larger movement toward a revolution in humanity's consciousness from our readers as part of this important dialogue.

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CAN CAPITAL BE CONTROLLED?

The most challenging question facing our world is the one raised by Peter Hudin’s essay in the April issue when he asked whether capital can be controlled. It describes how power and the contradictions today is to change exchange value, and it describes how power becomes a new kind of labor.

WTO, IMF and other international finan­
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Weerth’s Lead article on the new move­
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Weerth’s point of departure for thought, and of how theory pushes empirical sci­ence forward at earlier moments, including

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U.S in 2000 are the same. But what is

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Pauline California

Today’s Labor Struggles

I am writing on behalf of all the

Students and the general public not just of

New York University workshop on “The Criminal

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MAY 2000

VOCES FROM INSIDE

The present "Industrial Machine" (or should I say "meat grinder") is the only one we know. It rules as they go along. It is designed only to benefit the wealthy and corrupt, as your paper has brought to light many times. The prison authorities have created a major industry and have understood, complete with forced labor and forced education. Almost all prisons today require inmates to participate in educational programs, in order to make parole. It amounts to high level brainwashing, geared to teach everyone to think, act and react the same way so that we can become another cog in "the man's" machine.

I am a Native American Indian, edu­ cated in the ways of my ancestors, but I see that to be a part of the "Thought Revolution" I must be educated in the ways of the outside world. I don't know if we can know we were a force in ways of the outside world. I don't know if I think, act and react the same way so they can be otherwise. We are still part of the outside world. I am still a Native American Indian, and we have brought to light many along. It is designed only to go against white it will be "us" against the non-Black, and convicted despite the evidence. We have lost our local economy to casinos, which we did not want. We got a stolen. We have lost our local economy to the last one. Besides, our baseball team was the last in the League. No matter what citizens may claim about their political ideology, and con­ trary to the conventional wisdom, election results from the Clinton era suggest that we have not have shown such a significant ideological moderation by their members of Congress. Contrary to the argument that the only important elections we can win in swing districts are moderate ones (the so-called N-Democrats) our findings show that both liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans can win such districts. Our findings not only to reassert the past, but to point to the future as we enter the most important election year of 2000. It's good to see you planning and teach­ ing about alternatives to capitalism. Here is someone else, a Green Social Alliance activist, who is helping organize workers but I don't know if he could be the future, or if he was ever there.

Tashiki Askari
California

THE COMING ELECTIONS

It's good to see you planning and teach­ ing about alternatives to capitalism. We are in Detroit as we are organizing to take back the city. We have no voice at the polls because our elections are stolen. We have lost our local economy to casinos, which we did not want. We got a stolen. We have lost our local economy to the last one. Besides, our baseball team was the last in the League.

The reader felt "bordered on fantasy." I agree. In a "Reader's View" several issues ago, a critique was made about an editorial you wrote on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The N&L was accused of making a statement that this nation has been brought "inex­ erably to the brink of civil war." The reader felt "bordered on fantasy." I agree.

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Supporter Illinois

** MARX AND ORGANIZATION **

Someone sold me a copy of N&L a couple of years ago, but only a superfluous exposure to the ideas of Marxism then. These days I'm searching for a Marxist group to join. I'm not policymaking, but I want to stay in college. What I really want to do is help organize workers but I don't know if he could be the future, or if he was ever there.

Steve
Chicago

Marxist-Humanist Literature Catalog
A full list of publications (includes many not listed here) available from News and Letters Committees... $5 POSTAGE

ARCHIVES

Guides to Collection and Supplement to the Rays Dunayevskaya Collection: Marxist-Humanism: A Half Century of Its World Development
Full description of 15,000-page microfilm collection... $4.50

The Rays Dunayevskaya Collection: Marxist-Humanism: A Half Century of Its World Development
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Memphis, Tenn.—The first weekend in April saw the National Days of Outrage and Action For Environmental Justice. Environmental activists and scholars from around the country came to support efforts being made to defend the Hamilton High School—located across the street from the Depot and, when it was over, we went out into the rain to form a protest march.

We went back to Hamilton High School after lunch, and a group of students gathered to hear what we had to say about the possibility of environmental justice. After the students spontaneously joined the activists and marched through the community, we drove to the Federal Building for a "Vigil for Environmental Justice.

Throughout the weekend, we carried a coffin to represent the 250 Velsicol employees who are being laid off because of the pollution from the Depot, the airport and other facilities around the nation. Often we were stopped by our neighbors; it was in the churches; we followed it through the community; and at the Federal Building we surrounded it for our vigil. It helped us remember who and what we are fighting for.

—Terry Moon

Memphis, Tenn.—The Crump area has always been a traditionally African-American neighborhood. No one else would buy these small lots on river bottom swamp—land. We are surrounded by chemical companies: Buckeye, a Superfund site the size of a football field. They had dumped chemical byproducts in a hole for years. The runoff water was running straight onto the street and into the ditches flowing from the Depot and saw how they formed as contaminated, yet people still live there on a very poor neighborhood that the EPA had confirmed as contaminated, yet people still live there on a toxic island.

Everyone introduced themselves at lunch after the tour. This was participatory learning. It was a Black community. It was a history lesson. It was a political conference where the participants—almost all African-Americans from grounded in the history of Black people in this country today, there is still an urgent need to continuously remind people that racism was caused by a "white psyche" ridden with guilt and fear because of historic slave revolts.

Memphis (Continued from page 1)

be segregated as severely today as Jim Crow socially be segregated. Blacks had to hire more than 1% of their people for environmental clean up. Some of the companies had already dumped toxic chemicals in the Memphis area. A Superfund site the size of a football field. They had dumped chemical byproducts in a hole for years. The runoff water was running straight onto the street and into the ditches. We went back to Hamilton High School after lunch, and a group of students gathered to hear what we had to say about the possibility of environmental justice. After the students spontaneously joined the activists and marched through the community, we drove to the Federal Building for a "Vigil for Environmental Justice.

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I would like to say to Ali Khalid Abdullah that a new humanist, non-racist society of freely associated labor will never be created if its philosophical foundation contains Stokely Carmichael's concept of a "white psyche." This concept is just another alienating form of racism. It derives, in essence, from the racist doctrine of white supremacy and its claim that Blacks are mentally inferior to whites because of a genetic difference of that attitude. Any doctrine based on racism or limited to the first nostrum of a universalizing idea is not capable of transcending racialism itself.

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The procurer to the American Federation of Labor (AFL) took over the strike in 1926, 80,000 men were on strike for the eight-hour day. Historic labor battles in the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), which were meeting jointly in Washington, D.C. Five months earlier the same IMF had been a party to the Uruguay Round of Trade Organization deliberations in Seattle. These two mass actions announced a new internationalism of labour in the face of national human rights in the new globalized economy that capitalism has produced on a world scale.

The protesters were calling attention to a growing separation between rich and poor born of a shaky economic foundation. IMF and World Bank-backed governments have pillaged the environment and exploited workers to the limit. The organizers had also helped envision a new global movement, one with two faces.

One face is the spontaneous strikes, most often by women who are the first to lose their jobs in a recession, and the spinal fluid for the global economy as it descends. Most often the strikes in China, India, Mexico and other areas of the Third World. The other face is the Sit-in and protests at over three dozen universities around the world this year, demanding an end to sweatshop conditions where university products are manufactured.

SOLIDARITY AND REACTION

As coming on the eve of the first May of the century, comparisons with the first ever May Day are inevitable. A campaign of simultaneous strikes were to take place on May 1, 1986. The eight-day strike lasted until the eight-hour day for workers was achieved.

But for most workers, especially in the U.S. and the financial crisis following what Karl Marx at the time and W.E.B. DuBois 70 years later called the great emancipation. The new activism was based on the third international Abolitionists and it brought on the Civil War of 1861-1865. The American Civil War ended Reconstruction in 1877.

There was a movement in a global economy whose expansion ever since the restructuring of the 1970s has been fueled by speculation and capital mobility rather than worker movement. The IMF and World Bank, in their class\' triumphal rhetoric about the power of the capitalism today\'s anti-globalization struggles can take credit for this, as well as the assumption that global capitalism is unsalvageable and the demand for change.

Many are searching for a political and philosophical foundation for their struggles. This was evident in concessions presented to the workers by the A.C. Gilless. Jail. Several officers went to the NAACP and corroborated the claim that the officers had targeted me for the crime I had not committed. But the evidence of constitutional reforms for Blacks and organizing opportunities for labor was considerable.

The path to freedom must be the keep Black shackled to the land through farm tenancy, to harness national movements against the pursuit of the civil rights movement. Also to suppress Indian resistance to land seizures, U.S. rulers ended Reconstruction in 1877.

Police frame-up in Memphis

Memphis, Tenn. — I worked for the Shelby County Sheriff's Department since 1981. In 1988 some prisoners were killed in the Shelby County Jail. Several officers went to the NAACP and corroborated the claim that the officers had targeted me for the crime I had not committed. But the evidence of constitutional reforms for Blacks and organizing opportunities for labor was considerable.

A confidential informant admitted that these other quilts were corrupt. He was arrested by the Sheriff's Department. He was so angry that he called me saying he wanted to talk to TV news reporters on how the Sheriff's Department was using him to frame us. He confessed to the whole thing and I taped it. I gave the tape to my lawyer. He gave it to the district attorney. Instead of dismissing the charges against me, they let the informant out of jail to keep him from testifying against the officers.

I decided to do the right thing and played that, my tape recording was able to be played. But when it came time for the jury to listen to the tape and other evidence against the jail, my lawyer was not able to get the jury to leave the courtroom. He did not offer any explanation.

More guys, all Black, were charged. I got others on tape admitting they had never seen me. One was 17. The tapes were played in court. The Sheriff's Department said some other guys and then the next thing you know cops were on tape.

Prior to the trial I told the judge I needed time to retain a lawyer to replace the one the judge had assigned to me. The judge said no. The Sheriff's Department, the very department that framed me. The judge said no. I was disappointed that I was going to represent me whether it liked or not.

They said they had me on a tape making a drug trade and then paid me the tape. I paid them nothing. Then they turned around and tried to make me suppress the tape. He asked me, "Why won't you suppress the tape?" I said, "They have framed me. I want it to come out in court."

I was convicted on two of three counts. Now I\'m up for sentencing in May. In order for me to get justice in Memphis, I\'d have to have so much money. I'm working my behind off and I\'m still fighting.

— Earley Story
Police brutality epidemic spurs community outrage

(Continued from page 1) warehoused human beings. The struggle against this sys­

New York City in particular are re­

terface of the new thinking. Just over a year after Four New York policemen beat Howard Ameel Daillo in a bail of 41 bullets, and just days after his murderers wereac­

New ways of every color and many adults say they are the first time in their life that they hit, the cops are also sud­

Now young of the verdict five days before. According to his mother, he

Giuliani's racist, anti-human authoritarianism.

Ten-year-old Malcolm Ferguson was killed March 1, three blocks from Daillo's apartment house while he was on his way to school. The cops shot the verdict five days before, according to his mother, he

Police attack funeral procession for cop

Twenty-three-year-old Malcolm Ferguson was killed March 1, three blocks from Daillo's apartment house while he was on his way to school. The cops shot him after some shoving.

The arrested included a reporter for WBAI who was

The Diallo verdict exonerating the killer cops and the

organization, accompanying the casket down Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn from the funeral home to the church. The night before, there was an angry crowd outside the fun­

The kind of social consciousness seen in New York and

INDEPENDENT THINKING KEY

were people in no mood to see a political presence. The city's part­

A cop said he just wanted to protect the march from possible disturbances, and that the march was "not a parade or a rally; it is a funeral." But the cops were also locked in a battle for control, and the marchers were not about to give in that easily.

A Colombian woman was angry at the

We are the majority," Iris Baez, mother of murdered Anthony Baez, said.

Diallo funeral no sanctuary from police

New York — We just returned from the funeral of

The Diallo verdict exonerating the killer cops and the

The truth about Bush, Ferguson and many other vic­

Mayor Giuliani says we can't complain this time

The kind of social consciousness seen in New York and

New York police attack funeral procession for cop

Victim Patrick Dorismond

The Haitian community is sick of

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March 25

This New York set­

How do we 'rache manyak'

A cop said he just wanted to protect the march from possible disturbances, and that the march was "not a parade or a rally; it is a funeral." But the cops were also locked in a battle for control, and the marchers were not about to give in that easily.

The marchers lined Flatbush from sidewalk to sidewalk.

How do we 'rache manyahu'?

Apart from a couple of reporters for National Public Radio who were in the back, there was a sense of community and purpose. The marchers were walking for their own rights and for the rights of their neighbors.

Why do we have to leave?

If the cops were just in the middle of an interview when he was savagely beaten by the cops, a young pregnant woman of 16.

This is not over. Tomorrow there will be a mass meet­

March 25

New York police attack funeral procession for cop

Victim Patrick Dorismond

No fewer than 14 people have been killed by the NYPD since the Diallo murder, most of them Blacks and Latinos, but also a number of others have died due to police violence.

How do we 'rache manyak'?

A few days before the Diallo verdict, police in New York City killed 14 people in five days.

We are the majority," Iris Baez, mother of murdered Anthony Baez, said.

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Asian or Black community affairs cops, 14-year-old Malcolm Ferguson was killed March 1.

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Capitalism challenged in D.C. streets

(Continued from page 1)

The legal protest saw contingents of Tibetans, Burmese and Latin Americans who had come to the attention of the U.S. public.

There was a Bolivian leader of the mass movement that recently occupied a water utility; he hid from the police for four days before he could get on a plane to come here. The Bolivian man came here to tell the world that the IMF is supporting the wrong group in an armed struggle. He is a member of the Save My Future Foundation that promotes sustainable resource management. The IMF is funding the Liberian Agriculture Corporation, which owns rubber plantations, to the tune of $3.5 million, to carry on logging in primary forests. The existence of the IMF for endangered endemic species and the villagers' lifeline to food, medicine, and other resources, are being destroyed.

IS CAPITALISM 'GREED' OR A SYSTEM?

Typical of those present were two young women from Boston College who belong to the Boston Global Justice Project. The group focuses on women's issues such as campus rape as well as international issues such as making sure the school does not sell clothing made in Third World countries.

We talked with a forest activist from Washington State who was involved in protests at the World Bank in Washington. She noted the mere youth in Washington, and more union members in Seattle, although the union organizers had planned to bring thousands to Washington a few days before the April 16 demonstration. "How did those kids get so smart?" she wondered. "They seem to know the problems and what needs to be done."

Discussions about the nature of capitalism, however, and our role in the resistance, were a constant focal point of the demonstrators. The signs and slogans overwhelmingly referred to "greed" as if the problem were a few evil masters and corporate profits.

The demands put forth were as varied as the people. Some parents called for "Capitalism Kills" while others merely asked for mild reforms. We were impressed that people who came to the News & Letters literary table to sign up for membership in the Humanist movement, and Marxist-Humanism as we had seen in the past ten years.

—Anne Jaclard

I just came back from the anti-IMF and World Bank protests in D.C. It was no repeat of Seattle. There were no confrontations and for the level of civil disobedience, although the police as usual probably did not see it that way. Most of the people that I saw did not have anything to lose--they were already living in poverty or working for nothing, and the D.C. fire department evicted the unpermitted demonstration.

The arresting police had a number of perpetrators on "safety patrols" and arrestees in one of the tents. The Washington Post media publicly showed up but the media did not report the level of violence that was seen and it seemed fairly mild with fences being moved about by demonstrators who were not about to let the police have the last word.

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Protestors denounce anti-gay media figure

The Chicago Anti-Bashing Network organized a demonstration on April 15 to protest CBS affiliate WBBM-TV's use of the term "faggot" in an interview. Schlessinger's new television show this fall, Activists picked the station's offices to demand an end to the allegedly anti-gay attitude. Schlessinger routinely launches on her widely syndicated radio show, Schlessinger has called gays "biological mistakes."

Meeting condemns racial profiling

Memphis, Tenn. — Though poorly publicized, a focus on racial profiling has trickled at the University of Memphis, ending up being jammed with participants. Many Blacks came to tell their experiences being stopped by the police for no apparent reason. One teenager told of being stopped and harassed with his friends without the police ever asking for their identification or checking the car tags.

Several people told of the particular hazards of "driving while Black" and "driving while white while being black in the car" in the wealthy suburban Germantown.

Just as striking was how many people came to tell the experience of an anti-semitic event. The police did not know where else to come to get to try to get justice. One man spoke of being stopped by the Sheriff's Department, and a woman told of how her sons had been targeted and fired by the Sheriff because she had opposed him politically.

Another told of the harassment that comes with living in a neighborhood that has been designated a "high crime" area and driving or walking on the street you are automatically a suspect.

One of the panelists, a Black woman judge, even complained of being asked to wear a veil and searched in the airport for no reason. A Latino cop said that racial profiling not only happened every day but that it is part of the culture. The group wanted to say that they had endured countless racist jokes. Many more in the crowd would have liked to speak if there had been time. The assurance by the district attorney that one could file a complaint against a police officer "and expect to get the punishment" was so many racist marks against them "did not reassure the audience.

Outraged citizen

Fighting capital punishment

Memphis, Tenn. — A determined and growing number of activists are continuing to challenge the curse of Tennessee's plans to bring back executions after a 40-year moratorium. Though it was a clear "no" on the ballot, Glen Cole in late March and Philip Workman in early April, Cole's case was stayed on two different occasions, while Philip Workman's has been stayed once. The state carried through its plans to kill Mr. Cole on April 21. No death sentences have been carried out in Tennessee since 1960. Activists in both Memphis and Nashville continue to engage in a number of events to stir opposition to the death penalty. The Tennessee Coalition Against State Killing (TCASK) has led the way in providing thousands of "clemency cards" which have been distributed, signed, and sent to Governor Don Sundquist urging him to overturn the planned executions.

Weekly street corner demonstration is time to take place in both Nashville and Memphis. Recently, students from Vanderbilt University have also taken to the streets in support of the anti-death penalty movement in Nashville.

Past the originally scheduled executions there were vigils held in both cities, with a variety of speakers and groups represented. In Memphis, George White, whose own son was murdered, spoke fic of the city against the notion that executions can bring "healing and closure" to family members of murder victims, saying, "Sometimes it just does not come from more hatred."

Additionally, activists have fanned in the days leading up to the scheduled executions. News of this fasting reached Death Row, where a number of prisoners joined in, refusing their meals in support of efforts to move the state's anti-death penalty movement. If the execution of dis­ obedience is planned if the state continues with its plans to execute.

—Peter Gajde

Ecuador new beginning

The Republic of Ecuador finds itself subject to the most severe social, economic, political, and moral crisis of its his­ tory. Neoliberalism, applied at an accelerated pace in an irrational form and with a high dose of corruption, has dev­ astated Ecuadoran society, relegating the majority of the population to poverty, hunger, and violent conflict to fight social decomposition.

As a Christian, capitalism, arrogantly arising on the pedestal of these dainty and vile conditions, has achieved dominance of us all. Men throw themselves into a mindless race to the bottom as the people of this planet run over along the way.

Also, men are taught, externally to satisfy themselves with material goods, because their happiness depends on it. In the conflict between to have and to be, has to have it all. A person and world. 'Humanism, to create the conditions of work, organiza­ tion profoundly rooted in Marxist Humanism.

Our capitalist civilization has been created in a space where there is a search for political identity among the proletariat, the burgeoning of the new continent, freedom, and progress, of longing for human realization, to the terrain of the impossible.

For this desolate panorama, as Ecuadoran workers have come to realize it necessary to organize ourselves in order to make our interests known, it is necessary to make our interests. For this reason we have formed the glorious Partido de los Trabajadores (Workers Party), which brings together all the great and best "buried under layers" already known and who seeks toward forming a philosophical conception profoundly rooted in Marxist Humanism.

Our organization is composed of those that have been created in a space where there is a search for political identity among the proletariat, the burgeoning of the new continent, freedom, and progress, of longing for human realization, to the terrain of the impossible.

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The war over Kosovo, one year later

by Kevin A. Barry and Mary Holmes

A year after the war, the Kosovo Albanians face many problems, not least the continued refusal of NATO to allow them to keep their own land and to have their own political solution, an independent Kosovo. This refusal, coupled with the desperate necessity to make some of the sacrifices of which the resistance movement is capable, despite the sabotage they face from the side of the international media, but surfaced in April when news was passed on to human rights organizations.

Most of the huge, previously state-owned Yangjiangzhangzi mine, which produced molybdenum, was shut down last November. In February of this year, mine officials told workers they would receive only a pitiful payment, around $68 for each year worked, out of which health and social security benefits were to be deducted. Thousands of miners marched, demanding to meet with mine officials, because the closure of the mine by selling off equipment, trucks and other valuable items to create and rebuild the station, some 50,000 supporters of the mine was declared bankrupt. Ten previous blockades have been organized by miners on the rail line. Most of the huge, previously state-owned Yangjiangzhangzi mine, which produced molybdenum, but surfaced in April when news was passed on to human rights organizations.

Chinese miners protest

Over 20,000 Chinese miners and their families in the northeast town of Yangjiangzhangzi blocked police and army troops during a three-day protest in late February. According to mine officials told workers they would receive only a pitiful payment, around $68 for each year worked, out of which health and social security benefits were to be deducted. Thousands of miners marched, demanding to meet with mine officials, because the closure of the mine by selling off equipment, trucks and other valuable items to create and rebuild the station, some 50,000 supporters of the mine was declared bankrupt. Ten previous blockades have been organized by miners on the rail line. Most of the huge, previously state-owned Yangjiangzhangzi mine, which produced molybdenum, but surfaced in April when news was passed on to human rights organizations.

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In the most recently reported protests, coal miners blocked a main rail line in Sichuan province at the beginning of April. The miners demonstrated against the loss of some 800 miners and inadequate severance pay after their mine was declared bankrupt. Ten previous blockades have been organized by miners on the rail line.

Haitian journalist killed

On April 3, assassins shot to death Jean Dominique, Haiti's most prominent journalist, as he arrived at Radio Haiti, a public radio station, which swept Bolivia in April. There, on April 3, demonstrators began a series of marches, rallies and strikes against the government's continuing support of privatization of the water supply, but surfaced in April when news was passed on to human rights organizations.

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