The widespread uprisings of Tibetans against Chinese control in March seemed to take Chinese authoritarians by surprise. What began as demonstrations on the 49th anniversary of the 1959 revolt against rule from Beijing caused security forces to step back briefly before the government claimed that maybe 400, to begin to regain control of the capital city Lhasa.

But outside the compounds beyond Lhasa throughout the Tibetan Autonomous Region and beyond its borders into Tibetan populations in Gansu and Qinghai provinces. The government in Beijing urged on suppression of the revolt by accusing Dalai Lama supporters not only of trying to “split Tibet from the mother-land,” but also of the equally treasonable charge of starting the “Olympics.”

These similar charges were asserted in Xinjiang. Overwhelming the indigenous Uighur population by moving in ten million ethnic Chinese Han settlers has reduced half of their own autonomous region. Uighur opposition groups have been rounded up, terrorized, and imprisoned. extremists and terrorists, and the government includes them on China’s Terrorist Watch List.

Thus far no Beijing government official has offered evidence that they had uncovered an unlikely plot between al-Qaeda and Uighur extremists to use suicide bombings to disrupt the upcoming Summer Olympics, which is intended as a showcase for the transformation of “the world’s workshop.”

Protesters abroad have already taken advantage of the race to the Olympics in China over Tibet and/or its complicity in genocide in Darfur by disrupting the Olympic flame through the streets of London and by defacing the Olympic logo on television. Ironically, the idea of the Olympic flame was a fake of a fake gesture concocted for the 1936 “Naz” Olympics, as it was called by groups as mainstream as the Amateur Athletic Union when attempting to organize a boycott.

What has come to an end is more than half a centu- ry of official disregard for the question of self-determi nation for Tibetans. Beijing’s stance of opposition to China’s policies has complicated Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi’s move to meet with the Dalai Lama in India, and Prime Minister Gordon Brown to announce that he will not attend the opening ceremonies of the Beijing Olympics.

CHINA’S LABOR POWER

The development China will show off during the Olympics documents the fruit of the natural resources that draw foreign capital in ever greater quantity: China’s rate of economic growth that drew foreign capital in ever greater quantity: China’s rate of economic growth.

Workers in state-run enterprises lost the subsidies they had uncovered an unlikely plot between al-Qaeda and the rust belt economy in the U.S. Seems to be challenged to maintain aging bridges, roads and rails, China will have built more miles of new rail lines in five years by 2019 than the rest of the world has built in over 20 years. The new rail line to Lhasa extends Beijing’s ability to assert its position in Tibet and to the borders of South Asia.

WORKERS’ CONDITIONS WORSEN

All this has come with a price tag—children bought or kidnapped to work as slaves in brick kilns, workers routinely locked in their dormitories behind factory doors. Workers migrants from China’s interior are herded into a subsidized housing that came with the job, or found themselves out of work altogether as lifetime jobs—the “iron rice bowl” system—disappeared. Likewise, peasants would routinely be evicted from their land as it was turned over to some entrepreneur well connected to local Communist Party officials. As a result security forces have confronted an average of over 70,000 job actions, blockades and even armed resistance each year.

The result is a growing rift between those who have created the wealth and foreign and Chinese capitalists that Beijing was able to assert its position in Tibet and to the borders of South Asia.

Continued on page 10

BUSH’S IRAQ SURGE AN UTTER FAILURE

Supporters of the Bush administration’s war in Iraq seemed upon the relative quiet during the fifth anniversary of the surge. Bush halted a poorly-planned and executed military buildup underway had to be halted because of the deterioration of the situation. (See page 9 for anti-war demonstration reports)

The President’s only consolation is that a deepening economic crisis at home has focused attention away from his failure in Iraq. This shift serves the Democrats equally well, as it becomes increasingly difficult to pose options for exit.
Poetry and Commitment

by Terry Moon

Adrienne Rich’s essay, “Poetry and Commitment,” has been published by W.W. Norton & Company in a beautiful hardcover format that fits in your pocket. The essay, given in 2006 at Stirling University in Scotland, is an expansion of a talk she gave at the University of Michigan, where she continues Rich’s explanation of the meaning of words, here concentrating on poetic and “the action of poetry in the world.”

Rich does this by taking us on a journey through time, place, political time and place of conflict, strife, revolution and social revolt; and poets who, like Shelley, saw “no contradiction among poetry, political philosophy, and action, but rather an integral legitimacy” (p. 6).

It was argued that the great Scottish Marxist, Hugh MacDiarmid who is explicit about “The Kind of Poem I Want” one that is “a stand against intellectual isolation and a realization in this small poetic rag of a poet after poet who made no separation between life, art and the proclaimed history of our world.” We learn what poetry is not. It is not “a healing lotion, an emotional massage, a kind of linguistic aromatherapy...a blue-print, not an instruction manual, nor a billboard.” She quotes the wonderful James Scully distinguishing between “conceptually shallow” protest poetry and “dissident poetry”: “a poetry that talks back, that would act as part of the world, not simply a mirror of it” (p. 14).

WORDS CHANGE THE WORLD

This is not simply an example of the power of poetic language to change the world. She shows this to us in the words of David Zonshine, the organizer of the Israeli Peace Corps, who became known as “Rueben” after changing his name in 1946. Zonshine tells us not only how poetry broke through to him but, as well, how the youth of Israel became convinced that they were oppressed, but an oppressor nation, using all means to starve Israel out of existence, were for freedom, but the very lives of the Palestinian population. Rich, in quoting Zonshine, shows us that it is a poetic way of describing the “universal mission...based...on the painfully simple message that we are all in this together. Jews are people, Jews are humans, Jews nowhere in the world.” What breaks through this armor, he writes, is the “unsubstantial, poetic, poetic, like a gentle music...in my ears: ‘With such obedience?’ With such obedience?” (p. 28-29).

Million Signature Campaign in Iran

What is now known as the Million Signature Movement in Iran (MSC) started about four years ago. A small group of women founded the Movement with an emphasis on making the discussion participatory, that is, for a new moral life that cannot but be participatory. By expanding the discussion of what happens after revolution to include a “new kind of art,” the movement were revealing an indespensible dimension of what Karl Marx saw implicitly as the “quest for universality.” And by giving this talk and publishing this book, she is saying not only does this mean that the arts, that is, for an original task, that is, for the renewal of the state and the renewal of the state and the renewal of the state and the renewal of the state and that must begin now. Words, she says, not do only describe this world, but have the power to help change it.

Hana Abdi and Ronak Safarzadeh, 21-year-old Kurdish women, have been imprisoned since late last year for their activity with the MSC in Iran. Abdi has spent three months in solitary confinement. Safarzadeh faces a possible death penalty. Abdi’s trial has not begun.

Sex Workers Rights Day

International Sex Workers Rights Day began in India on March 3, 2001, when over 25,000 sex workers attended a festival organized by Durba Sramik Committee, a Calcutta-based group of over 50,000 sex workers. The festival has been held every year since, prostitutes and other sexual entertainers including strippers and phone sex operators have observed the day with workshops and seminars demanding their rights and dignity as workers. Groups of self-organized sex workers in Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia, Canada and the U.S. are demanding decriminalization of all sex work, not legalization, which leads to government regulations that disempower workers. They also oppose the Swedish model, which criminalizes only the customers and pimps.

Among the advantages of decriminalization are that prostitutes will no longer be stigmatized by the label of violence; and they would have easier access to life-saving health care services in safety zones, such as drop-in centers, as well as programs that can help them if they want to leave prostitution.

International Sex-Workers Solidarity activists as well as the Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women are demanding a change that is radians against the new form of trafficking replace the law enforcement approach. They say victims of trafficking should not be imprisoned or deported to countries from which they were trying to escape.

The sex workers are showing the 13-minute film, “Taking the Pledge,” which members of human rights groups working with sex workers tell of the devast- ating conditions under which sex workers are recruiting. The pledge groups must sign a pledge stating that they will never work with any sex worker group that helps sex workers and victims of sex trafficking.

Prostitution sex workers rights organizations include the Sex Workers Advocacy Network in Asia and Europe, the Sex Workers Outreach Project in the U.S., and the Network of Sex Work Projects in all countries.

—By Adele

—By Adele
Continued from page 3

California Nurses Association (CNA) celebrated the end of a three-month battle for better healthcare and more benefits for 4080 health care workers in the Sutter Health system. A vote by the 4080 nurses, 95% stayed out. This was the third vote by nurses in the Sutter Health system. The previous two votes were 90% and 95%. The nurses are demanding a 2% increase in salary and better benefits, including better health care for themselves and their families. The nurses also want to return to the bargaining table to negotiate a new contract. The nurses have been on strike for over 100 days, and they are determined to win.

Death in coal surge

DETOIT — The sharp spike in the price of coal this year to over $90 a ton, from around $40 a ton last year, has ominous implications for consumers, the environment and coal miners themselves.

This increase in the price of coal results from the growing need for a power-hungry world, which is turning the U.S. into a major coal exporter. The growing appetite for energy is escalating so rapidly that existing sources cannot meet the demand. This is true not only for China and India, whose growth is spectacular, but also for Japan, German, England, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

The impact of these developments will soon be felt in the U.S. Since the 1970s, U.S. coal production has been declining. The U.S. is now the second largest coal producer in the world, second only to China. The U.S. is a major coal exporter, and the U.S. is becoming a major coal importer. The U.S. is importing coal from China, India, Australia, South Africa, South Africa, South Africa, and South Africa.

-coal miner

In the meantime, the strikers are more than willing to take the battle to the company. As one picketer declared when asked how long the workers would stay on strike: “One day longer than the company.” —Andy Phillips

Unity at Sutter Health

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DETROIT—The strike by 3,650 workers at American Axle and Manufacturing, now eight weeks old, is making headlines around the country for two reasons: the severity of the economic problems and the efforts by management to secure concessions from the laid-off workers that will make it impossible for the company to return to profitability).

The province of the internal workers are the relations between workers and capital. Whether it is small town Pennsylvania or the urban slums of New Delhi, the issue is alienation experienced by the working poor. This alienation comes from the fact that the only commodity workers have to sell unconditionally to the profit motive, their power, which is at the disposition of employers for the purpose of extracting surplus value. In production, workers are alienated from their own work and from one another. They are alienated from other workers. Without a sense of connection to other workers in the shop and to workers everywhere, the feeling of alienation is overwhelming and has serious health consequences.

ALIENATION AND HEALTH

A new socio-economic documentary on the state of healthcare in America, “Unnatural Causes — Is Inequality Making Us Sick?” spoke of the “Latino Paradox” — the fact that Mexican immigrants, in spite of extreme poverty, start out healthier than native U.S. workers. The immigrants bring a “culture, of tradition, of older workers into the shop and to workers everywhere, the feeling of alienation is overwhelming and has serious health consequences.

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Marxism isn’t an heirloom to be handed down as a possession, but something new to be written in the book. There is nothing from atomic energy to automation that has not been written in the book. New impulses and new strata of the population were awakened. There is nothing but the intellectual sloth on the part of the theoreticians. This is different from what it was in 1929, when the state and the intellectuals were the great 1949-50 strike. The theoreticians who thought they had prepared themselves sufficiently by the theory of state capitalism and workers revolt to receive new impulses had not the slightest idea of these impulses at this stage in this age of absolutes were not met with protest, but thought itself and not just random thought but theory.

INDIVISIBILITY OF THE BOOK AND THE PAPER

The indissolubility of the book and the paper1 as the life of the organization and its expression, is the answer to the question, where to begin. But this needs to be concretized. Take the book. How does it influence workers revolt to receive new impulses? Why did it have to become a collective venture, not only of our little group here, but of every worker and intellectual? The book—the text and its expres-

Where to begin?

Marxism and Freedom from 1776 until Today

"It was the 'philosophic' moment that enabled Dusevskaya in Marxian Freedom, to penetrate into the core of the revolutionary movement. And it is still this moment that enables her to find her relevance in the midst of counterrevolutionary times." - Joel Kovel

On the other hand, follow one worker's reactions. When Pete says,

"You know, I laid there this morning about quarrel six. I looked at the wall, I said to myself, 'I just said it to myself. I didn't even speak it to my wife. I just said to myself. 'Now you call that a free man?'"

it is not made up to get up and work, although that is a good enough thing to say—he is tak-
ing on the work of the worker. He does more than ex-
guaging for a new society every day of their lives, that the worker is the main task. There is one path. That you have something to learn from them, does not mean that they do not have something to learn from you.

If you have this conviction, then you can engage in the class struggle without the money of the bank. With the change of the century is, the struggle for the minds of men. The struggle for the minds of men at the time when the ten-
dence to the complete mechanization of men has reached its acme with automation. Just as it cannot be won with hollow slogans of democracy, Marxism cannot be won either with outworn concepts of va-
guardism, or intellectual abdication.

It is precisely this new world crisis that compels philosophy, a total outlook. The working class many have already heard from the capital-
ists who say: Look at the wonders of automation—
"It is not that you do not hear. Everyone is ready to lead. No one to listen. Yet this age wants to instruct the workers. It wants to bring to the workers the new world, but now follow me. That workers have already heard from the capital-
ists who say: Look at the wonders of automation—
from Marxian Freedom and Letters Committees, where we will confront the class struggle and the struggle for the minds of men.

Our point of departure must be in the concrete stage of the action. Marxism isn’t an heirloom to be handed down as a possession, but something new to be written in the book. There is nothing from atomic energy to automation that has not been written in the book. New impulses and new strata of the population were awakened. There is nothing but the intellectual sloth on the part of the theoreticians. This is different from what it was in 1929, when the state and the intellectuals were the great 1949-50 strike. The theoreticians who thought they had prepared themselves sufficiently by the theory of state capitalism and workers revolt to receive new impulses had not the slightest idea of these impulses at this stage in this age of absolutes were not met with protest, but thought itself and not just random thought but theory.

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In preparation for the Special Convention of News & Letters Committees, we must face the question of priority. We can do the book, now that we’re independent; where do we do with the question: what happens from out of the clouds and make writing this book than the worker who has this conviction, the new impulses and the worker. There is nothing from atomic energy to automation that has not been written in the book. New impulses and new strata of the population were awakened. There is nothing but the intellectual sloth on the part of the theoreticians. This is different from what it was in 1929, when the state and the intellectuals were the great 1949-50 strike. The theoreticians who thought they had prepared themselves sufficiently by the theory of state capitalism and workers revolt to receive new impulses had not the slightest idea of these impulses at this stage in this age of absolutes were not met with protest, but thought itself and not just random thought but theory.

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is the answer to the question, where to begin. But this needs to be concretized. Take the book. How does it influence workers revolt to receive new impulses? Why did it have to become a collective venture, not only of our little group here, but of every worker and intellectual? The book—the text and its expression, can be answered simply by showing the significa-
tance of the book. The problem is to use this book to help workers revolt to receive new impulses. Do not act as intellectualizers, even our own intellectual, in the accomplishment of this task. I repeat, the workers who had never read a word of Marxism, who did have our fountain pens, completed in 1949-50 strike. This is what is the Absolute Idea materialistically undermined the old and smashed to smithereens all the old categories, believing neither in the rationality of the economic system, nor the political order.

The vanguard, on the other hand, has done nothing. It is stuck in the mud and has its eyes fixed on one of which is the party to lead the masses. Where the work-
er begins with the question: what happens after the concatenation of power between a state and a new bureaucracy? Is it all to end in the one-party state? The younger generation have shown me that workers have already heard from the capital-
ists who say: Look at the wonders of automation—
"It is not that you do not hear. Everyone is ready to lead. No one to listen. Yet this age wants to instruct the workers. It wants to bring to the workers the new world, but now follow me. That workers have already heard from the capital-
ists who say: Look at the wonders of automation—
HEALTHCARE AND THE FUTURE

The drive for quality by frontline caregivers and direct solidarity with workers is leading to a new kind of healthcare in society that could change much more than the political struggle over a state-run single-payer system. In such a system, all citizens would have access to healthcare, and the government would be responsible for ensuring that everyone is provided with necessary medical services. This would be a radical departure from the current system, which is characterized by uneven access to care, high costs, and limited resources. A state-run system would be able to provide universal healthcare to all citizens, regardless of their income or ability to pay. It would also ensure that the healthcare system is accountable to the people, rather than to profit-driven corporations. The drive for quality in healthcare is now encompasses the entire system, from the top to the bottom, and is not limited to a single campaign or organization. It is a grassroots movement that is gaining momentum across the country, and is already producing positive results in some of the most vulnerable communities.
LIFE AND LABOR IN THE U.S. TODAY

The front page article by Ron Bromkrey and Hsin Lin, “Fears of Global Recession U.S. Election” (February/March, p. 1) provides an overview of the current economic situation and points out the failures of the U.S. economy, especially in the areas of housing and finance. The article highlights the importance of political and economic change in order to address the root causes of these issues.

OLYMPIC TORCH PROTESTS

I was disturbed by language used dur- ing the Olympic torch relay in Beijing, China. TV newscasts referred to ethnic Tibetans as “Tibetan separatists” and “Tibetans seeking independence.” Such characterizations cast Tibetans in a negative light, not as a people with a legitimate desire for autonomy and the right to self-determination, but as enemies of China. By painting Tibetans as the enemy, the Chinese government is able to justify its violent suppression of peaceful protests.

CONGOLESE WARS

The liberal and mainstream press overwhelmingly supports the warlords of the Congo. But nothing comes close to N’Longo when it comes to the warlordism of China. China has made an attempt with its powerful documentary “The Greatest Sioux: Rape in the Congo” (February/March). Documentarians interviewed some of the raped women, a few of the paramilitary rangers, as well as one of the two doctors performing reconstructive surgery men- tioned in Terry Moon’s “Women as Recog- nizer” column. “Congo: Women’s Obli- gation” in the IRIN was a valuable contribution to the cause of the Congolese wars.

MALALAI JOYA

Your readers would want to know that Malalai Joya was a warlord who fought for what she believed in. She was a fighter for what she believed in. She was a fighter for what she believed in. She was a fighter for what she believed in.

MARTX-HUMANISM AS PHILOSOPHY AND AS ORGANIZATION

After 53 years, News and Letters Committees are still going strong and N&L is now more active than ever because of its Marxist-Humanist philosophy of free- dom and the committee form of organiza- tion that is attempting to embody it. Up against permanent war and the national security state, people are hun- gry for real expressions of freedom. Their everyday lives and the places they work are organized by the pyramid of the standard-issue organizational chart, with the top-down, bureaucratic structure of the pyramid upside down. The committee- form, unlike the elitist Party of the failed October Revolution, is democratic from the top down. Socialist democracy prevails in the cult of the individual. The only authority NLC recognizes as final is the authority of its rank-and-file members. A meeting in Convention is the idea of freedom manifest in this genuine democracy is part of the pyramid. Violence must be the method of success. Every voice matters. Every voice counts. NLC is trying to help show that a society can be free and democratic, that when the impersonal domination of cap- ital is choking the life out of the world, it is possible to have a society that is able to stand up for itself.

EDITOR'S NOTE

For a copy of the Marxist-Humanist Perspectives send $1 to News & Letters, 36 S. Wabash #1440, Chicago, IL 60603.
**EDUCATING THE EDUCATORS**

As a first-year bilingual kindergarten teacher, the author encountered Chávez Marx that have repeatedly come to mind. The first is "the educators need to be educated." The second is "time is money. The first is "the educators need to learn how to use symbol systems (reading/ writing)." Spelling huge amounts of time on testing, instead of learning and instruction, does not result in human development. It does provide a convenient way to minimize by the notorious Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and supported by the California Republici- an Party. The proposition is written under the guise of reforming eminent domain by protecting homes and farms from being taken by government agen- cies. The proposition is actually about protecting large water agencies from using eminent domain to acquire land and farms for water storage and delivery systems, in today's climate of clean water supply shortfalls.

The principal deception is that the proposition as worded would affect hundreds of thousands of seniors, veterans, working class and unemployed renters. The large agricultural and mining special interest groups in the parks are driven to expand their wealth, so capital constantly drives to exploiting others and unemploy- ed renters.

No to Proposition 98! Yes to Proposition 99! -- which legitimizes domain reform proposition that pro- hibits the government from using it to take anyone's home and transfer it to a developer.

**DETROIT'S MAYORAL MESS**

The mayoral mess has made the national news. But its importance is not the "sex, lies and text messages" which affect Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's personal- ity. Rather, the covering cost of the city $84 million in an out-of-court settlement, is proving to be just one of many impropositions as it is played fast and loose with city funds. Detroit, with the highest foreclosure rate in the state, is also responsible for these costly projects.hair dryers and other hygiene products necessary for your general health. The monthly cost is $15. Just buying ordinary

The "tax" law which has been on one point in February, instruction total- ly stopped for two full weeks, so bilin- gual teachers could test five year olds on their English acquisition.

Research for bilingual kindergartners indicates that these students should receive 90% instruction in their native language and 10% in their second lan- guage. They need to have a solid founda- tion on which to build second language literacy skills. So, two weeks to test their abilities in English is ludic- rous. They are just beginning to under- stand the alphabet, letter sounds, and how to use symbol systems (reading/ writing). Spelling huge amounts of time on testing, instead of learning and instruction, does not result in human development. It does provide a conven- ient way to minimize by the notorious Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and supported by the California Republici- an Party. The proposition is written under the guise of reforming eminent domain by protecting homes and farms from being taken by government agen- cies. The proposition is actually about protecting large water agencies from using eminent domain to acquire land and farms for water storage and delivery systems, in today's climate of clean water supply shortfalls.

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**SAVING RENT CONTROL**

Can anyone write this in one paragraph? The proposition as worded would affect hundreds of thousands of seniors, veterans, working class and unemployed renters. The large agricultural and mining special interest groups in the parks are driven to expand their wealth, so capital constantly drives to exploiting others and unemploy- ed renters.

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**MUNIA ABU-JAMAL’S S FATE**

I am outraged that last month the Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled to not grant a new trial for Muminu Abu- Jamal, despite all of the evidence that points to his innocence. The court is also calling a future date in May for a jury to decide whether Muminu will be executed or spend the rest of his life in prison.

**NEWS & LETTERS**

**TO TELL THE TRUTH**

A returning soldier recently told me of his experiences in Iraq. He said when he went into the army he believed what our government told him. He wanted to do his duty for the country. But when his daughter was born with spina bifida they said he had not been in long enough for her family to collect for her care. Now that his tour was over, he said he would have to go back. "I have no respect for a government that sent me there, now that I'm home I’ll burn my uniform and any medals I've received."

**VOCES FROM THE INSIDE**

As an inmate in the Michigan Depart- ment of Corrections for the past five years, the article I identified with the most in the last issue of N&L was the Read- ing Program. It’s called “Louisiana: One Big Prison.” The state of Michigan also has an unimaginable number of prisons.

When someone in this state is found guilty, whether of a minor or major crime, they are sent to prison under the justifi- cation widely known as “Rehabilitation.” What most people who are not prisoners are unaware of is that this famous R word is harder to find than Ossama Bin Laden. What most do not realize is that this “inner” society is built on a system that makes its “criminals” far more vio- lent, unproductive, and destructive than the society they were taken away from, supposedly “to keep it safe.”

**PATRICK WOLF**

If other prisoners throughout the U.S. are all like mine, this country is truly practicing “slave labor.” We earn 25 cents an hour. The average income per month is $15. Just buying ordinary hygiene products necessary for your gen- eral health. The monthly cost is $15. Just buying ordinary hygiene products necessary for your gen- eral health. The monthly cost is $15. Just buying ordinary hygiene products necessary for your gen-
No offense intended.

**Memphis sanitation workers 40 years later**

**Beneath a sea of umbrellas**, 3,000 people converged on the city, the unemployment rate is as high as 50%—and people are more than desperate. In some large areas of the city, such as my next door neighbor, who had moved away a couple of years ago, we noticed people were tearing things apart and hauling them away on Monday. Two days before the march, a group of sanitation workers and their supporters gathered in front of City Hall to get support for their work for fair pay.

They were back again for the anniversary march. One told his story in News & Letters:

What brings me to this march commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. is that I see he is dead in every aspect, respect for Dr. King. We have not come far enough since his death. We’re making progress, but it’s small progress. We should not think we’ve got the respect that he’d be pleased. Instead of going forward when he was alive, it looks like we stopped any progress or movement. It’s hard to get it back. We’re not where we would expect us to be today.

I am living in a standing together more, supporting and respecting each other I’m a sanitation worker. Communities have not all that much. We still don’t get the respect that he’s due, we still making the money, and instead of the City improving conditions they are trying to make them worse.

The City is taking away some of our basic rights, including our garbage. Back in the day, we used to padlock things that are hazardous, like climbing up into the back of garbage trucks and cleaning out hazardous waste, and that’s why we’re trying to do those things. The supervisor might say your garbage is too far for you to clean. There are four or five people living in the garbage truck. They are firing people for nothing. It’s wrong.

Conditions are just not right. We have no protective clothing, not even a mask. I see the black and white garbage leaves a lot of mess. We just climb up them as we can. We know we are going to get burned everyday, and clean this mess out. All kinds of stuff is in there. That mess has been in the garbage trucks for months. You can’t think you can just throw a waste can, you don’t know what you’re emptying from there. They

relieved one of us from duty for not cleaning out a hazardous site. Because he wouldn’t get up there and clear out the garbage behind that blad, they relieved him of duty, paying him firing him.

We managed to get one guy back to work; another was suspended for a couple of months. And I saw a woman who supposedly threatened some guy and even the guy himself said it is not true. And the supervisor just didn’t like looking him, they fired him anyway. We’re working on trying to get her back to work. It’s a mess.

And we don’t have pension after all these years. Just about everybody in city government has a pension except sanitation workers. And we don’t think they should have one. That’s wrong. We all deserve a pension. We’ve had people work here 20 years, retiring after 30, 15 years, and living for free on their savings. And as high as prices are today, you don’t have time to be saving much. It’s bad.

**New Orleans fights back**

Two and a half years after Hurricane Katrina, the struggle of Black and working-class New Orleans residents has intensified. Dozens were arrested in March in civil disobedience actions trying to stop the demolition of poor people’s housing. More than 4,500 public housing units—many of them untouched by the storm—are to be destroyed by “marketable income” developments with only 800 low-income units. Even if all the planned subsidized housing is built, the total units will be only one-third of what existed three years ago.

**City to poor: Dead End**

All this is in a city where 40,000 affordable rental units were wiped out by the storm, and 18% are up 50% or even 100%, and homelessness has doubled to 12,000, that is, one in 25 people, the highest rate of any city in the country. The price of energy and food have increased and the arrest of people who sleep on the street.

Protest statements in recent weeks have repeatedly packed City Council meetings to demand a halt to demolitions but have been met with police force. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of dollars from the Gulf Coast still live in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailers. Hundreds have suffered from toxic effects of formaldehyde—from breathing difficulties to death. When scientists were writing a report on formaldehyde’s health risks, FEMA told them to leave out references to cancer or other long-term dangers.

Housing is only one arena involved in the washout. The flood. Charity Hospital, the main facility for the poor and home of one of the country’s top two trauma units, has been closed since the hurricane. Two-fifths of public schools are closed, dozens converted into charter schools, and 4,900 teachers were laid off. Thousands of bus drivers were laid off and the bases destroyed in the flood have not been replaced. While politically connected corporations like Blackwater and Halliburton raked in billions from Katrina reconstruction contracts, the Bush administration is refusing to fund public housing, with only 3,000 were allowed to cut

**Cutting workers, services**

While hundreds of thousands of Black workers were being displaced by the hurricane, some heavy industry workers were brought in to work long hours for low pay. Many immigrants, now tossed out of these jobs, have been deported, left the city or are homeless. While many others, now tossed out of these jobs, have been treated as slaves by Signal International after working long hours for low pay. Many

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**Memphis sanitation workers 40 years later**

I discovered that eight of 27 houses on my block were empty. There is another disturbing development as a result of the hurricane, garbage trucks are breaching and stealing everything. One empty house across the street from us was a notorious house, people were all wiring, plumbing, appliances, sinks, faucets, kitchen cabinets—and even the furnace. As one neighbor said, “You think you are going to get away with it, they come all night, steal everything at night when you’re asleep.” For many in this area the so-called American dream has indeed turned into a nightmare.

In one respect, it is surprising that more houses around the city have been looted, and isolated, and the unemployment rate up as high as 50%—and it’s getting worse.

---Homeowner

**Foreclosures in real life**

**Detroit, Mich.**—Stories of families forced out of their homes by the mortgage crisis are everywhere, in newspapers, magazines, TV news reports, harbor shops and in the neighborhood I live in. You don’t have to look that much. We still don’t get the respect that he’s due, we still making the money, and instead of the City improving conditions they are trying to make them worse.

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Oakland, Cal.—On the fifth anniversary of the Iraq war, in addition to the major demonstrations of many thousands in San Francisco, Berkeley and San Jose, there were literally hundreds of smaller vigils of dozins in most neighborhoods, such as this one.

Left organizations were ubiquitous. One of the students had a huge banner, looking beyond this atrocity. It was a collage of stories depicting some coming out of war into some threatened. The issues raised by demonstrators in their rage against the Bush administration. Demonstrators included funding for the war and bringing the troops home NOW.

After an hour-long rally with speeches and song, the march began at Dearborn and Adams streets, proceeded up Michigan Avenue, and ended at Washington Square Park. On the way we shut down major streets, Clark, Wacker, and Michigan Ave.

At 3 p.m. people gathered in Logan Square and read letters from military families and honored the more than 4,000 U.S. military men and women who have perished in Iraq. What is amazing is that at each demonstration, no one is discouraged, but the community “merits an all-hands effort, and now here it was.”

At six p.m. the police gave us two warnings and then arrested us. We were handcuffed and led out into the street, where supporters greeted us with cameras, cheers and kisses. I experienced similar sendoffs when shipping out to naval service off the coast of Vietnam. This felt more genuine—and patriotic. There were women with us this time. In Vietnam and on the ships offshore, we were men, only a single-sex effort which gave the proceedings the feeling of a lone battle. As closing hour near us, we told the building management that we weren’t leaving until our demands were met and declared their offer to use another room.

The Coalition of African Lesbians will hold a conference that aims to tell the Mozambiquan that LGBT people—particulary lesbians—experience discrimination and injustice. It is courageous for these women to have this conference on a continent where homophobia runs rampant. The 57 UN women who oppose LGBT rights are from Africa.

If we lay on the pavement, two activists entered Corker’s office, made our demands and arranged a 1:30 meeting with Corker’s staff. Corker’s office told us to D.C. for a town hall meeting. The war came back to us. The reason was that such a meeting “would be turned into a circus”; this despite the fact that we assured Corker that we would treat him with utmost respect. Why did their concern about “a circus” apply only to Memphis and not the state’s or major cities?

We on the sidewalk joined two activists in Corker’s office, who were new to the noise of people from Tennessee who had died in Iraq, along with several hundred others on Main Street. As closing hour near us, we told the building management that we weren’t leaving until our demands were met and declared their offer to use another room.

Quer Notes

By Elise

This year’s Day of Silence, on April 25, will be in honor of eighth grader Lawrence King, gunned down by homophobic classmate Brandon David McInerney. The Day of Silence is held each year to remind us of the silence many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth feel they must keep to support their safety and lives. Over the last year alone, one of three gay bystanders could be gunned down at school and one in five experienced physical assault.

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In 2007 the Nepal Supreme Court demanded the government recognize gays and lesbians as the third gender and end discrimination against them. Gay and lesbians ran for office in the national elections for the first time. However, attitudes in Nepal have not really changed. For example, the events of 4 July, this year, an infoshop/resource center collective, in 2001, and helped organized the Queer Nation event in Nepal in 2003 as well as feminist-oriented forums. Rosa cared about the environment and was an artist. She co-founded the Pomegranate Radical Health Collective in 2002.

And activist and friend Darrell Gordon said, “Gina was important to learn about the successes and failures of the Left, including the early Queer Movement when other upcoming activists don’t want to know about past struggles.”

There was a memorial gathering for Ross held last March at which her paintings will also be showcased in the near future.

Gina Ross in memoriam

QuerAnarchist/Feminist activist Gina Ross passed away at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago Dec. 8 at the age of 36 from complications from leukemia.

Ross worked as a canvasser for the Socialists for Romero during the last years of her life. She had participated in the National AIDS Run/Walk in Chicago, and the Lake Village campus-based Amnesty International organization during the mid-1990s. She joined the Anti-Racist Action Chicago chapter in 1997 and the Loyola University campus chapter in 1999. Ross joined the U.S. Presidential Buchanan campaign in 1996 and was an infoshop/resource center collective, in 2001, and helped organized the Queer Nation event in Nepal in 2003 as well as feminist-oriented forums. Ross cared about the environment and was an artist. She co-founded the Pomegranate Radical Health Collective in 2002.

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Continued from page 1

who enjoy it. In the midst of this accumulation there are reports that 220 million workers and their families are being pushed off grazing lands and are being forced from the land, mostly unemployed, searching for even subsistence jobs in factories and construction.

Until this year, workers in the foreign-owned enterprises have no collective bargaining rights or even unions. In 2008, there was a movement of workers to demand that the Chinese government recognize the right of workers to organize unions, to demand that the government act to protect the rights of foreign workers, and to demand that the government act to protect the rights of the Chinese workers. The workers' movement, led by the Chinese Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) as full members.

But even as some dissidents are jailed at least until Olympic Games, far more journalists will be detained upon departure. It has been reported that there were international reporters to witness the Tiananmen Square demonstrations. There might yet be another opportunity to speak out, at whose expense the showcase China has been built.

“Talk about freedom”

In 1905 the newly-formed People’s Party of China met in Manchuria to decide on a successor to the old Chinese Empire. From that point on they embarked on a movement to topple the manchu ruling class from the theoretic rule of Buddhist immortals. Likewise, control of Xinjiang is framed as the alternative to rule by Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Who among the dispossessed population of Xinjiang’s energy resources, which Beijing is counting on for a full ten years’ worth of national energy needs, understands the influx of the Han population, which has left Uighur strangers in their own land. Oil field jobs have generally gone to workers who are Uighurs or who are pushed off grazing lands lose their livelihood.

MARXISM AND CHINESE IMPERIALISM

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Marxists are struggling to fight for their rights and the rights of foreign workers, and to demand that the government act to protect the rights of the Chinese workers. The workers’ movement, led by the Chinese Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) as full members.

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by Doug Brown

At the founding Convention of News and Letters Committees, News & Letters' new sister publication, Doug Brown reflected on revolutionary journalism as "the recorder of the impulses from the deepest layers of the population, which is at the heart of the task of a revolutionary journal." The conception of journalism that flows from that statement is different from what most people think of as journalism.

The "mainstream media," is, "better termed the "bourgeois press," which, in their function as the carrier of the capitalist bourgeoisie, and the media that reports news about the capitalist system, have a neutral point of view and make supposedly objective evaluations of the outcomes of events, and also maintain their neutrality by avoiding taking sides. Exposing the class-based media comes by way of a larger critique of the capitalist system.

The 'new form of unity of theory and practice' media, is new. It is no longer in the service of unifying the capitalist bourgeoisie, and the media that reports news about the capitalist system, have a neutral point of view and make supposedly objective evaluations of the outcomes of events, and also maintain their neutrality by avoiding taking sides. Exposing the class-based media comes by way of a larger critique of the capitalist system.

"If, as a theoretician, one's ears are attuned to the new impulses from the workers, new 'categories' will be created, including new categories of knowledge, and a new philosophic cognition," The idea of not stopping at "recording impulses" but developing modes of thought and practice in which the workers see their own impulses as exactly what we have in mind when we put the word "new" into the word "newspaper." To encourage the broadest participation from every- one seeking to transform this society, every issue of News & Letters includes a column on how to write for themselves. Our task as journalists is not only to "cover" a good story and provide analysis. It's also making sure that the people writing for our paper, in their own words expressing their own ideas, hopes and aspirations. Writing for our journal only represents the thought of a few radicals and becomes insolent and irrelevant.

"Political journalism" is different from that concept of revolu- tionary journalism. We know that no one has all the answers. The process of political development will be necessary to move forward in our strug- gles. We provide a space for this working out of ideas by members and non-members alike. The "Women as Reason" column, "Workshop Talks" column, "Black/Red View" column, and the "Youth" column is written by participants who are interested in the Marxist- Humanist project of practicing theory and practice as a unit and only one. Our one/idea is not just recorded but debated including from "The Archives" column, which we put an essay from the founder of Marxist-Humanism, Raya Dunay- evskaya. This way of breaking down the barrier between people and ideas is what revolutionaries do. Political develop- ment will be necessary to move forward in our strug- gles. We provide a space for this working out of ideas by members and non-members alike. The "Women as Reason" column, "Workshop Talks" column, "Black/Red View" column, and the "Youth" column is written by participants who are interested in the Marxist- Humanist project of practicing theory and practice as a unit and only one. Our one/idea is not just recorded but debated including from "The Archives" column, which we put an essay from the founder of Marxist-Humanism, Raya Dunayevskaya. This way of breaking down the barrier between people and ideas is what revolutionaries do.

"Philosophical dialogue" is a new kind of revolutionary journalism which Marxists and humanists think is necessary. More quotes, "...because philosophy has not yet come out of the so-called "era of reason," we can never fully grasp the "epochal." We need an "epochal" way of thinking, a new step forward in human society. This new kind of journalism is necessary.

I think this is true. What Dunayevskaya says in that June 1 Presentation is both organizationally concrete and philosophically abstract. One can see by looking at first at her sentence More quotes, …because philosophy has not yet come out of the so-called "era of reason," we can never fully grasp the "epochal." We need an "epochal" way of thinking, a new step forward in human society. This new kind of journalism is necessary.

The call for a new kind of newspaper is inseparable here from the effort to work out "what happens after" the "era of reason." And this is the real task of our generation. As new as this seems to me (and perhaps still "intruders" by anyone, more notes) it would be without precedent in Dunayevskaya's writings. I thinking especially as a question from Chapter 1 of her Philosophy and Revolution: "What is a revolution?" It's intriguing me and never quite been explained to my sat- isfaction what is meant by "a revolution." Perhaps we can use an expression of Marx that thinks its "an end" to the "era of reason," to be true. I am to the idea of "political concentration... will be inseparable from the meaning of that concentration.

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Mugabe’s hold on Zimbabwe

As of this writing, the Zimbabwe Election Commis- sion had announced the official results for the March 29 presidential election. The obvious assumption is that President Robert Mugabe lost outright to Morgan Tsvangirai, the Presidential Candidate of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). However, Morgan Tsvangirai’s ZANU-PF party also lost in legislative voting.

Now Mugabe is pushing for a run-off vote amid a crackdown on opposition activists, local and interna- tional observers, and the public in general, who reported that Mugabe lost the vote. On April 11 political rallies were blocked and people who were laying down to call for boycotting any run-off as it would be conducted in a cli- mate of repression that would be inconsistent with a free election.

Southern African governments will be meeting in Zimbabwe to discuss the situation. The ruling parties who have been beaten and disposessed, now, for farm occupations, as often before, it is Black workers who have been beaten and dispossessed, now, for land, this didn't happen. The land would have received a new measure of freedom —economic but a social question. The hope for new social relations was later dismissed by Mugabe as “propa- ganda,” but millions of rural Zimbabweans might have benefited from such reforms. Women who received land would have received a new measure of freedom along with it.

Zimbabweans have clearly had enough. The collapse of the economy (except the stock market for a wealthy few), inflation rates up to 66,000%, 80% unemployment rates, and the very real threat of famine and econ- omic ruin have seen to this. Mugabe dealt with the HIV/AIDS crisis by making the planning and wealth of the population vulnerable by shunting the saytownst of the destitute to drive them from the cities.

Iraq Labor Clash

Thousands of Egyptian workers and supporters fought riot police in the Egyptian town of Mahalla al-Kubra, north of Cairo, in a nationwide strike against rising prices and low wages. The strike was to begin with a sit-in by 30,000 workers at the Mir Spinning and Weaving Company plant in Mahalla. The plant has been a center of militant labor protest for years, including factory occupa- tions. Egyptian authorities tried to head off the action by arresting union leaders and telling workers that the strike was illegal. Egyptian law forbids the strike from occurring after April 20.

When strikes spread to Cairo and other major cities, protesters rallied in front of the police station demanding the release of union leaders, they were attacked. This brought more people into the streets and news reports of hundreds injured and arrested, and at least five people killed in violent clashes. The government declared its intention to round up opposition party politicians and bloggers. While the nationwide strike didn’t take place in the end, events in Mahalla reflect a deep dissatisfaction in Egypt that will be reflected upon all over the country.

NATO’s expansion

Bush’s recent trip to Europe in connection with all things NATO demonstrated the relentless expansion of the NATO treaty area, which has led to the continued friction with Russia, as well as the tensions, through NATO’s expansion, with all of Eastern Europe—Georgia—countries directly on Russia’s border—in his drive for the expansion of the West. The Bush administration has failed to recognize that fact that Germany and France had already indicated they would not support such a move at present, Bush chose to continue his expansion.

At the summit, what he did achieve was far more sig- nificant: he was able to sell the illusion of the 300 presently in Afghanistan under NATO. "NATO is no longer a static alliance focused on defending Europe," stated Bush. "It has become a new, modern alliance," one that is sending its forces across the world. The European nations, except those military leaders who have been present in Afghanistan, as they question how much of nuclear-armed Russia should be bordered by NATO countries. The question of the “usefulness” of NATO after the collapse of the Soviet Union, first acknowledged in Kosovo.

Bush won NATO’s agreement for continuing to implement plans for a missile-defense system in Europe. Bush, in trying to build missile-defense for the United States, has found that NATO prefers to build a missile-defense for the United States.

After Colombian invasion of Ecuador

Turning to Ecuador, we see the government of Rafael Correa, which we regard as the most progressive government in Latin America, facing a series of landslide election victories. The Constituent Assembly’s first act was to suspend the Ecuadorian Congress, which has been dominated by corrupt and rightist political parties and is universally despised by the majority.

The Correa government and the Constituent Assem- bly, which in effect it controls, are openly allied with Chávez in Venezuela and Morales in Bolivia. This would characterize more as progressive nationalism than anything else. The question is how these socio-ecological attacks by the corporate media and the pundit class, Correa retains massive popular support. The desperation of Bush and the US government is seen in their attempts to picture the governments of Ecuador and Venezuela as allies of FARC (and then presumably defined as “terrorist”) based upon sup- posed evidence from a computer that allegedly belonged to Reyes.

Ecuadorian intelligence had not informed President Correa of information they had on the one Ecuadorian who may not have agreed to go along with the war. It was implied that the information was instead forward- ed to the Colombian government. Ecuadorian counter- intelligence is widely infiltrated by the CIA, and that is why we would expect that type of information to be replaced and swept away to Correa. The new Minister of Defense, Javier Ponce, has indicated that he favors breaking ties with the US and following his own national interests and its intelligence services.

Who We Are and What We Stand For

News and Letters Committees is an organization of Marxist-Humanists that since its birth has stood for the abolition of private property form as in the U.S., and its dual motive is to educate for our age as Marxist-Humanists and to develop for the development of human relations that Marx first called the new Humanism. News and Letters was founded in 1935 as a communique organ of the Anticapitalist International, a group that strikes against Automation and the Monopoly, the bureaucratic state and the state of seg- regation—activities which signaled a new movement from practice that was itself the product of the events of 1917. Lenin was created so that the voices of revolt from the Russian workers would be heard unseparat- ed from the articulation of a philos- ophy of liberation.

Dunayevskaya (1901-1987), founder of the body of ideas of Marx- ist-Humanism, became Chairwoman of the National Editorial Board and National Chairwoman of the Commit- tees from its founding to 1987. Dunayevskaya, a skilled production worker, author of Indig- nation and Union (1940), and from which she became editor of the paper from 1955 to 1983. Dunayevskaya’s works, Works and Freedom from 1917 until Today (1958), Philosophy and Revolution: From Hegel to Marx and from Marx to Mao (1973), and Rosa Luxemburg, Women’s Libera- tion, and Philosophy of Revolution (1982) spell out the philosophical legacy of Marx’s Humanism interna- tionally. As American Civilian on Trench concretizes it on the American scene and shows the two-way road between the U.S. and Africa. Dunayevskaya’s Humanism, as illustrated in her works, presents the vantage point for recognizing that her ideas has challenged all those desiring freedom to transcend the limitations of post-Marxist Marxism, that is, beginning with Engels. In light of the crises of our nuclearly armed world, it becomes imperative not only to reject what is but to reveal and further develop the revolutionary humanism future inherent in the present. The Bruchvskaya of the Buenos Aires (aka Raya) Neysvekwaya left us in her work from the 1960s Noah’s World: Women’s Liberation in the World and the discovery of Marx’s Marxism in its original form as a new Humanism and in its recreation of that philosophy not for our age as Marxist-Humanism. This is recorded in the document by the Enough. In this microfilm and open to all under the title The Roya Dunayevskaya Collec- tion—Marxist-Humanism, Com- prehension of her creation and develop- ment of Marxist-Humanism, espe- cially as expressed in her writing, the visions, presents the vantage point for recognizing that her ideas has challenged all those desiring freedom to transcend the limitations of post-Marxist Marxism, that is, beginning with Engels. In light of the crises of our nuclearly armed world, it becomes imperative not only to reject what is but to reveal and further develop the revolutionary humanism future inherent in the present. The Bruchvskaya of the Buenos Aires (aka Raya) Neysvekwaya left us in her work from the 1960s Noah’s World: Women’s Liberation in the World and the discovery of Marx’s Marxism in its original form as a new Humanism and in its recreation of that philosophy not for our age as Marxist-Humanism. This is recorded in the document by the Enough. 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