Haiti descends into police-military rule

All signs point to a renewal of police-military dictatorship. Masked police have been carrying out assassinations and torture. The group of supporters of the deposed leftist government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Father Gerard Latorruse has called the former military regime the "era of murder."

Aristide supporters marched in Port-au-Prince to demand his release. They numbered in the thousands and were blocked from reaching the presidential palace by the U.S. and French-installed interim government, which has been using force to maintain order. At least three of these supporters have been killed by gunfights between police and Aristide supporters. The latest wave of violence began on Sept. 30, when Aristide supporters attacked a police station in Port-au-Prince. Several hundred Aristide supporters showed up anyway. Gunfire erupted between police and marchers, with three police killed. On the same day, a pro-Aristide march in Port-au-Prince also ended in a confrontation.

The violence continued into October, with at least 10 deaths and dozens of injuries. The situation has escalated into a full-blown political crisis.

Continued on page 10

CHAMBAI: The Latest on Haiti

Chamblay was convicted in absentia of the 1993 murder of Jeanne Rousseau, a Haitian human rights activist. Chamblay was also convicted of trying to sell weapons to the Haitian government.

In September, Tropical Storm Jeanne devastated Haiti. The storm killed at least 1,900 people and left 200,000 homeless. The storm also caused widespread damage to the infrastructure, including the airport and telecommunications.

Continued on page 10
Struggle against Shari’a in Canada

by Mary Jo Grey and Terri Moon

A horrific threat to women in some Middle Eastern and African countries—Shari’a law—is now haunting the lives of Muslim women in Canada. But not without a fight.

It started when the province of Ontario passed the Arbitration Act in 1991, divorcing some civil and family law cases from the court and allowing arbitration groups, supposedly to relieve their overloaded court system. Then, in the fall of 2003, promoters of political Islam (Islamic fundamentalists) and members of the Islamic Justice Society, the Shari’a courts in the western Canadian and British Columbia and Canadian embassies in Ottawa and Washington lobbied the Ontario government to allow Shari’a arbitration in a western Canadian court.

The driving force behind this, Syed Muntar Ali, promotes Shari’a, which, he claims: “...would be a more severe crime than a mere breach of contract—and this would be tantamount to blasphemy or apostasy,” crimes punishable by death in many countries. So much for choice. Under Shari’a, if a husband divorces his wife and she is not pregnant, she would receive half the inheritance of sons; men are automatically awarded custody of children over seven; women are not allowed to own property, and cannot travel without their husband’s consent. As we saw in Nigeria last year, only a global outcry by women and human rights groups saved Amina Lawal from execution by stoning, after she was convicted of adultery by a Shari’a court. Today, as a social worker near Toronto, she helps abused Muslim women and children. According to Arjo- mand, battered women coming from Islamic countries and are isolated in their communities—receive no gov- ernment help, and, again, face oppressive Shari’a. “We must separate religion from the state,” she insists.

DANGER OF CULTURAL RELATIVISM

Some charge that supporters of Shari’a are getting away with murder because of cultural relativism. The Iranian feminist Azar Majedi, speaking in Canada at a demonstration on International Women’s Day (IWD), 2004, asked: “What is the future for women faced with the violence that characterizes the Arabs in the name of justice? How many women could be saved if all women could be educated and not only be mothers and housekeep- ers that we would be able to provide a woman with a say. ‘You’ve done your best, let me see what I can do,’ is a big change. I see women who are now able to have a voice. They do not have any rights, but they are able to speak up. They do not have a platform that they would be only mothers and housekeepers, that they should be only mothers and housekeepers because you have to understand these women are worse off than us. Lots of women have had a convenient marriage and they are able to have that freedom that they would not be only mothers and housekeepers.

Over the last few years we have been given more freedom to speak our minds. We have not only the right to speak, but feel we have the right to feel. We are able to express our selves, we are able to do things that are not only confined. That is why we are saying that we are able to speak up because we are able to work in parties and arbitrators, and we are able to speak in parties and courts.

As we are going against the Arab tradition, it is not going to be easy. We have to fight for it, but we are fighting for the right to speak.

To stop this violence, we need to talk to them; we need to talk to men, we need to talk to society. We need to continue our fight and make others understand.

We need to continue our fight.
Chicago colleges union-busting fails

CHICAGO—After three weeks of walking strike picket lines, full-time teachers at City Colleges of Chicago, a multi-campus system of community colleges in Chicago, have called off a walkout as they rejected a contract offer from the Chicago Community College Board, which would have set nine new campuses on the picket line, including all campuses of City Colleges of Chicago, the state's largest community college system.

“Full-time teachers got a contract minus the poison pill,” said Cheri Ellis, president of the Chicago Teachers Union. “We repeatedly asked that 70% of the teachers be part-timers—then we wouldn't need a union to do it.”

In a move that is likely to infuriate the so-called “adjunct” faculty—who are not in the union—full-time teachers failed to win a contract that would have increased their pay. If we wanted to start kicking those out, we wouldn't need a union to do it.

The college heads have been counting on keeping classes open without us. They have been bragging repeatedly that 80% of their classes are taught by people who are not in the union. The teachers refused to cross the picket lines that the administration tried to play hardball on, including firing striking teachers for the adjunct faculty that had not been crossing the lines. They admitted the effectiveness of the strike. They knew that they had to cancel the remainder of the semester and refund student tuition.

The tentative settlement eliminates, among other provisions, the demand for increasing course load from 12 to 15 hours. It brings to an end this attempt in a union town by an institution controlled by Mayor Daley to crush a union.

Other America marches

CHICAGO—Between 7,000 and 10,000 people attended the Million Worker March on Oct. 17. It wasn't actually a march, but a rally with a litany of speakers and some attempts to organize people from many working-class movements—of color, and a lot of young people and women.

Many of the demands touched those who came to the march: adequate health care, amnesty for undocumented workers, ending of trade agreements, care for the environment, good education. I wasn't excited about the more self-congratulatory remarks by some of the national organizers who bring people to Washington. A quarter or less of the speakers were speaking some sort of electoral politics, but that was not the nature of the rally.

The ILWU Local 10 people who initiated the call for the Million Worker March told the millions of authoritarian people spouting orders about what we should do that they were not in the union. They are not in the union because they have no power.

I saw a lot of people that I know from around the country—San Francisco, Philadelphia, New York and Virginia—from work fighting Mumia Abu-Jamal. They were brought by a lot of the same organizing. The Wobbles brought a significant group to the bus, the IWW, after two previous attempts to organize bike messengers, are gaining some ground in Chicago. They are also trying to organize retail workers in other cities—a lot of under-organized sectors.

One young person's work brought people to the march. The postal workers are a significant example of organizing a mass movement. The head of the local union was pissed off, he told the Wal-Mart strikers to invite them. We raised money to sponsor the march. The postal workers took a significant step in the organizing.

The new revolts within the ranks in Iraq and the Palestinian territories show that despite the possibility of passing the USA Patriot Act to limit the freedom of immigrants and rights of people, it is impossible to imprison the ideals of freedom itself. The idea of freedom is not going to be written off our heads; it needs to be communicated. Not to voice our stance is to play into the hands of the undemocratic forces and the people who like to talk about other politics or the idea of freedom.
Remembering the 1974-75 Portuguese Revolution and its relation to Africa

NEW FORCES OF REVOLUTION

Amílcar Cabral [leader of PAIGC], back in the 1960s when the Porту- guese workers' movement, which aimed to experience its greatest 'development' with the multinational movements in going on in Portugal, said that Portugal, as the weakest link in the world imperialism, could not afford neo-colonialism. 'The only ones who seemed to listen to the African revolutionary were the Portuguese students, whose strikes came to a climax in 1968 and were against constriction as well as for academic freedom. The students' slogan, they are alone as a safe haven for profits and low-paid labor, the most revolutionary of the workers and wage workers—had been to observe their wives using contraceptives because it could supposedly make them impotent. They were afraid of being as a product of the capitalist society as well as the great proletarian strikes, of which there were no less than 100 the first year after the '1974 revolution.'

Thus, the Workers' Liberation Movement (MLM) thereupon arose on new grass roots, Marxist-inspired as well as philosophical foundation from feminism or class struggles.

THE TRUTH IS—we must begin at the beginning—that economic is politics' leading role, the Portuguese revolution did not begin as no more than an ordinary coup d'état. Not only was Spinola not the real leader, but neither was the Caudillo as the leader of the military coup brought the revolutionary process to a halt. The actual leaders were in the 1974 issue of News & Letters titled: "Under the whip of the counter-revolution: Will the revolution in Portugal advance?"

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In this respect the fundamentalist militias fighting the U.S. in Iraq closely resemble the Christian Right in the U.S., which wants to roll back clock on every- thing from divorce to abortion to freedom of expression. One of the supreme ironies of our times is that many are hoping for the rise of groups independent of both Saddam’s regime and the increasingly dictatorial Allawi government. The politics of desperation that leads many on the Left to ally with any force that tries to bring down the U.S. “Empire.” The only thing that will be left for it to do, we will cede the ideological ground to the Right.

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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2004: IS THERE ANY WAY OUT?

Popular opinion in Europe saw the U.S. election as a bizarre contest between a “party of God,” allied with “evil” Bush, and a “party of God’s mother” who was not the most morally acceptable person. The elections were fought on a worldwide crusade for “democratic revolution” and a “new world order.” The principal liberal party led by a “tin man” capitalist. The campaign and the result, however, exposed the shocking divisions within the country as much as the division between “God’s America” and “secular Europe.”

I have my doubts whether the Bush regime’s foreign policy will be the same as the one exposed the shocking divisions within the country every single one told me they would vote against Bush.

They have quite a few misconceptions about the American class is moving to a quasi-fascist solution. This is an example of what I went through. I signed up to teach in the navy. It is unfortunate but it appears we have only one party that competes in our elections—the corporate party which is comprised of two subparties. The one on the right calls itself “neoliberal” and the other calls itself “socialist.”

I wish that all other parties (socialist, libertarian, Green, etc.) were as much air time as the corporate party. Then we would have a choice. With Blsht’s election already is too few for the world to live in a nice country while it lasted or “I recognize when were used to be a great nation.”

I am an activist who works on development issues. I believe that to the natu­rally and socially friendly to the envi­ronment. I feel as though people around the world should be able to vote in U.S. elections because they are so strongly affected by the results.

I recently got out of the service. I was in the army for four years. I’ve been thinking a lot about moral values in light of what happened in the world since Abu Ghraib. We have to define our struggle, 40 years after the Six-Day War. We have to define our struggle, 40 years after the Six-Day War. We have to define our struggle, 40 years after the Six-Day War.

I was struck by the fact that Barack Obama got almost 80% of the vote in Illi­nois in his race for the Senate, while Kerry could not get a majority. I asked a few students who are not politi­cians what they thought about this. They said Kerry came off sounding like a regular politician who didn’t really speak to the heart where Americans seem more visionary in his approach.

I don’t think it’s any secret why Kerry lost. He didn’t present a real opposition. He didn’t present a real opposition. He didn’t present a real opposition. He didn’t present a real opposition. He didn’t present a real opposition.

Deﬁning ourselves by electoral politics dominates in the U.S. In the 2004 elections, the major parties and the corporate media can overthrow this society and to limit the horizon of our thought and idea that we can build a new human society. As Joshua Sokolnick put it in the October 2004 issue of the New Left Review: “It is almost as if our society as a whole has been taken by a highpoint in the protests at the Republican National Convention, he said, “the public can be deﬁned by more than a highpoint: the narrow and self-defeating logic of electoral politics. We can see this new rise of optimism as ‘grinding down’ everywhere.”

Some believe that California Governor Gray Davis was fundamentally different from the rest of the Republican Party because he was progressive on social issues. He did promote stem cell research in the form of huge corporate welfare packages. At the same time, he helped defeat the initially popular proposition that would mandate health care coverage for workers in most states. In California, he is now rescinding provisions included in the California Nurses’ Association to lower the number of patients per nurse. California is open for the business of health care but not for the care of its citizens.

Dr. Wangari Maathai, who just won the Nobel Peace Prize, has ignited con­sciousness in Africa. The smallpox-infected Brooklyn is the largest in the world. If you don’t, you let them win.

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Women is a cause of AIDS” in the Octo­ber 2004 issue of N&L. As the saying goes, “If you don’t like the government, change it.”

One hundred and fifty janitors of Locals 1877 marched through downtown Los Angeles during the week from Nov. 29 during the noon beat, protesting against Maguire Property who asked their employer, ABM Janitorial, to reduce the number of janitors assigned to clean all its prestigious downtown buildings. If accepted, this would amount to both a speedup and a cut in wages. The janitors marched to the protest in a number of buildings, including the Library Tower. They promised to go back. There’s a sense of justice on the part of the janitors. This is a tool to both control them designed by some evil­minded scientists” could deflect people from organizing to change that reality which, as it is pointed out by Moon, must be confronted, challenged, and trans­formed.

I appreciated Peter Figureau’s review of John Alan’s book Dialectics of Black Freedom Struggles (October 2004 N&L). I liked especially his conclusion, that there are no absolute solutions, only a substratum of constant critical questioning.” On of our difficulties is struggling against apathy and misinformation.

I have my doubts whether the Bush regime’s foreign policy will be the same as the one exposed the shocking divisions within the country every single one told me they would vote against Bush.

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Raha mentions AIDS and malaria as two diseases that have been con­quered, but smallpox has been eradicated and polio is close to being wiped out. Science is not simply a servant of capitalism. As well as extending our knowledge of the natural universe from quarks to galaxies, an important aspect of human development, it can alert us to our problems facing humanity. For example, we are aware of global warming, its causes and possible conse­quences, because of the work of meteorologists and climatologists.

Richard Huntting
England

I don't get the statement "science as such gone to the core of science's fault that millions around the world are dying of AIDS; science has developed the tools and other drugs that can indefinitely prolong the life of almost all AIDS patients, but few are getting them because it isn't profitable to provide them. Likewise, despite major advances in science the pharmaceutical revolution is not addressing the problem of antibiotic since the 1970s. Why? They make bigger profits by prescribing anti­depressants that you have to use for a lifetime than antibiotics that you only need to take for a few weeks. It isn't "science as such" that we need to talk about, it is the capitalism as such.

I also don't think that Raya Dunayevskaya dismissed "science as such." She didn't agree with Lukacs's idea that Marx deals with history and not science. She greatly appreciated Einstein's work and was anxious to meet with him shortly before his death in 1955. As she wrote, we need to grasp the "social and political conditions" in science as in everything, and it is only the dialectic method that can grasp with it.

Student of Marx
Chicago

As joint author with R.T. Cross of Teaching Science for Social Responsibil­ity I was disappointed in Raha's essay. Modern science developed alongside capitalism and has changed with it and we need to study the two together. To begin with, it is useful to clarify the distinc­tion between science and technology. Cross and I argued that science should be understood as "the process of knowing," whereas technology is a product of knowing. Or making and doing things. Then there is the anti-dialectical nature of most scientific theory, "the tendency to retreat from the Newtonian principle that the model for all sciences." In addition to the whole ques­tion of science there is that of science and technology. We need to study the two together. To begin with, it is useful to clarify the distinction between science and technology. Cross and I argued that science should be understood as "the process of knowing," whereas technology is a product of knowing. Or making and doing things. Then there is the anti-dialectical nature of most scientific theory, "the tendency to retreat from the Newtonian principle that the model for all sciences." In addition to the whole question of science there is that of science and technology. We need to study the two together. To begin with, it is useful to clarify the distinction between science and technology. Cross and I argued that science should be understood as "the process of knowing," whereas technology is a product of knowing. Or making and doing things. Then there is the anti-dialectical nature of most scientific theory, "the tendency to retreat from the Newtonian principle that the model for all sciences."

Raha's essay was creative. Smith's "invisible hand" is now the market. The machine "thinking" is not just a particular machine, but the market. If you don't recognize it as such. The myth of the objectivity of science.

Richard Huntting
England

Science can't be decoupled from capitalism. Under the rule of capital all sciences, all intellect and skill go to the machine. That's why at issue is the freedom of humanity and not just an abstract debate about the mirages of scientific progress. What Dunayevskaya saw in "the chimera of the scientist who writes of 'Man viewed as a Machine', in contrast to workers battling automation and the labor bureaucratia, was different attitudes to objectivity for without a subject one would relinquis­he the myth of the objectivity of science. Science can't be decoupled from capitalism.

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Tour of family members of opponent war

Detroit—His
toric New Bethel Baptist Church in Detroit hosted
Tour of Duty: African Americans of Conscience. The
Human Cost of War

from communities of color.

were thrown out as no good and nearly all of them were

from a 2004 Racism Watch report there is a deep seated

ciated for the Advancement of Colored People."

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from the voters' rolls. The 2000 purge of felons result­

ONGOING DISENFRANCHISEMENT

four southern states went Dixiecrat.

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tion for her moving account in the film "Fahrenheit

The film, but more strongly in person. She spoke of her

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Halliburton's Big Lie. But the truth crushed to earth

seen as the enemy; that the whole nation of Iraq has

millions of gallons of contaminated wastewater

involved and help. He called one evening and told me if

their own area. We found out six homes had drinking

or accept a payoff because the main thing I wanted was

Hold up, and rush to remove the septic system,

ment. Intelligence on whom? Terrorists? Gang peace­

mentally or physically disabled persons, displaced persons,

widespread. We don't want that to happen to us

the sewage system has been traced back to when chem­

that a local manufacturing company, Dixie-Narco,

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In 1999 I got a certified letter saying

williston is a little over 40 acres. I would not sell the property

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in Acheh. In 1999, they were killed. In 2000, his remains were

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At the school* many children are taking Ritalin and

ATLANTA—Cut Zahara Hamzah

My brother was a lawyer and a human rights activist. While he lived in New York he founded Inte­

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legislation to TNI (the military) troops to conduct operations

—Environmental justice activist

Black/Red

continued from page 1

citation for the Advancement of Colored People.

Ongoing disenfranchisement

To suppress or to manipulate the African-American vote is a continuing act of oppression. In the fall of 2004 Racism Watch report there is a deep seated

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continued from page 1

...
Iranian Philosophy & Revolution offers 'critical grasp'

Black Colombians fight displacement

The situation in Colombia touches on human rights. It has a lot to do with economics. In the Americas, there are 150 to 180 million people of African descent. Colombia has a population number three in the total and economically important. I believe that the situation is very important for the human rights of African people. We need to come up with strategies to count our numbers.

The drug trafficking is managed by a very small number of people. The power is in their hands. They have all the power at their command. They control the politics of the country. The policies of the U.S. toward Colombia and Latin America are wrong. They have all the power in the hands of a very small group. We need to come up with strategies to count our numbers.

The situation of displacement is part of the strategy of the government to control the population. The government has built a system of displacement and now, those who are in power have not been able to end the Black communities. We need to come up with strategies to count our numbers.

The port of Cartagena is beautiful, but it was built with the sweat and blood of African people. The aboli-

The greatest difficulty in reading this book will be encountered in the first chapter in which Hegel introduces the concept of "thesis, antithesis, synthesis. There is no doubt that many readers will find this chapter difficult to understand. Three major works of Hegel, the Phenomenology of Mind, Science of Logic and the Philosophy of Mind, are explored through an examination of central Hegelian categories, absolute negativity and absolute negativity. As against most Marxist and non-Marxist philosophers who see in Hegel's absolute, an "end of history," and of course many Marxist-oriented Black nationalists, Khojaste claims that the category of absolute negativity is new beginning and not "the end of history, but a new form of utopia." In his defence, we can see in Hegel's concepts that are clearly expressed in the final chapters of his works. Also, we can find Hegel's "Science of Mind (1807), Absolute Idea in the Science of Logic (1832), and Absolute Mind in the Philosophy of Mind (1830)."

**END NOTE 1**

The following institutions include: The Philosophy of Hegel by Glebe, translated by Hamid Khojaste, translated by Jacques D'hanis; Hegel by Peter Singer, translated by Ezzatollah Feleah; The Philosophy of Hegel by Leo Reisch, translated by Abdol Abadi Dastgheib; Hegel by Peter Singer, translated by Zulay Mena; Hegel: The Phenomenology of Mind which has been translated by Hamid Feleah.

The situation of Afro-Colombians in Colombia is an important element of the situation in Colombia. The main issue is this issue of land and natural resources.
Precarious nature of Bush’s victory and the objective obstacles that lie ahead for the Vietnam protest movement were both clearly evident on the day after the election. The victory was tantamount to an admission that the forces of revolt in the country are important to watch, the forces of revolution have not disappeared from the scene, and that a new generation of the people is already stepping forward to isFirst attempt to understand the consequences of this election for the future of the country and the world. Most of all, it is a reminder that the forces of reaction and reactionaries are no longer the only forces at work in the country.

The President-elect will have to respond to the challenges posed by the election and the continued resistance of the people.

**What Lies Ahead?**

There is no doubt whatsoever that Bush is gearing up to bring his agenda down on our heads. He will have to face the international situation, the peace process in the Middle East, the war in Iraq, the crisis in health care, and jobs—could get trumped by something called “moral values.” Masses of people in this country will be mobilizing to demand their rights. The Right, however, is not the only one who is trying to place their agenda. The Left must be prepared to respond to the challenges posed by the election and the continued resistance of the people.

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Ecologist Maathai's achievements today. She founded the Green Belt Movement in 1976 to plant 30 million trees in Kenya as a counter-revolutionary symbol of peace and hope in the face of decades of persecution. She was awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to plant trees and promote peace and reconciliation. Maathai was known as an embodiment of the Kenyan spirit of resilience and hope.

In 2001, she was appointed as a special envoy to the United Nations by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In this role, she worked to bring attention to the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable development.

In 2002, she was elected as the first woman to the National Assembly of Kenya. She served as a member of Parliament until 2006, where she advocated for environmental and women's rights issues.

Maathai was also a member of the African Women's League, an organization that advocates for the rights of women in Africa. She was a strong advocate for the rights of women and children, and worked to improve the lives of those who were most marginalized.

In 2007, she was named the UN Messenger of Peace, making her the first African to hold that position.

Maathai passed away in 2011, but her legacy lives on through the work of the Green Belt Movement and the many other organizations she founded and supported. She is remembered as a tireless champion of peace, the environment, and the rights of women and children.

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**View of 'FSM' at 40**

 Arrested many years ago in the Free Speech Movement in Berkeley, I returned to this University of California campus for the 40th anniversary of the anti-war movement at UC Berkeley. The weeklong celebration of the "FSM" featured a rally that attracted 3,000 students; 10 workshops; 30 films; and a 16,000-member crowd that heard former protest leader Seymour Herash talking about Abu Ghraib prison and the possibility of a counter-revolution arising from the anti-war movement.

The Oct. 7 panel "Berkeley and the Black Freedom Struggle: Then and Now" explored the 50-year history of civil rights movements at UC Berkeley. The panel, organized by the African American Studies Program and chaired by Dr. Allen Young, a leading author of the "Black Power" movement, examined the legacy of the civil rights movement and its impact on contemporary social movements.

That evening's panel, "Focus on the FSM: Its Genesis, Meanings, and Consequences," had political implications that ranged from the resurgence of socialism in the Middle East to the growing anti-war movement in the United States. The panelists, including former FSM leaders and experts in the field of political theory, discussed the FSM's impact on contemporary political activism.

The Oct. 13 panel, "Struggle Continues: Then and Now," explored the 50-year history of the anti-war movement and its impact on contemporary social movements. The panel, organized by the Berkeley Coordinating Committee (SNCC) during the 1960s; and Cassie Lopez, a member of the Young Democrats in the 1960s at Berkeley, argued that although the FSM clearly came out of the civil rights movements, its main accomplishment was helping to organize the UC Berkeley student movement for affirmative action at UC Berkeley.

The last speaker, Josie Heinman, is a senior at UC Berkeley. She noted that although the FSM was a significant event in the history of the anti-war movement, it was not a radical movement in the traditional sense. She argued that the FSM was more of a "progressive" movement that sought to improve the lives of students and workers.

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**STRUGGLE CONTINUES**

At the noon rally on Oct. 8, 3,000 students, sat around a police car on Sproul Plaza. They were remeniscing the 1964 student capture of a Berkeley police car containing civil rights activist David Lincoln, who had been arrested for sitting at an allegedly illegal public bus stop. The rally was organized by the UC Berkeley faculty voted eight to one that all we had asked for around the police car should be given as an "institutional apology."

In 2004, students spoke from a wooden stage over the/hash of the Student Life Building. Misha Lefkovich, said, "Seeing the strength of the '60s gives me hope and confidence for my generation. It's a fact that we've got to do more."

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**SQUAD CAR APPROPRIATED**

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**ECOFEMINIST EMBODIES KENYA'S MANY STRUGGLES**

Ecofeminist embodies Kenya's many struggles

**EDITORIAL**

Dr. Wangari Maathai's achievements today. She founded the Green Belt Movement in 1976 to plant 30 million trees in Kenya as a counter-revolutionary symbol of peace and hope in the face of decades of persecution. She was awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to plant trees and promote peace and reconciliation. Maathai was known as an embodiment of the Kenyan spirit of resilience and hope.

In 1999 she was among the Green Belt members beating streets in protest of election fraud when they successfully protested the clearing of a forest near Nairobi for a luxury housing development. She founded the Green Belt Movement in 1976 to enable poor women to plant trees on their farms and on school and church compounds. Almost 30 million trees later, the organization, comprised mostly of women, combats the effects of deforestation while producing trees for an estimated 6,000 community centers. On Tuesday, Sept. 3, Maathai and U.S. citizens urging the U.S. government to act as a leader in the fight against climate change and in favor of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

KENYAN WOMEN IN REVOLT

Remarkable as her achievement is; Dr. Maathai is a symbol of women fighting for freedom. Their struggles have been chronicled in News and Letters Committees since our beginning. The Oct. 8 panel "Focus on the FSM: Its Genesis, Meanings, and Consequences," had political implications that ranged from the resurgence of socialism in the Middle East to the growing anti-war movement in the United States. The panelists, including former FSM leaders and experts in the field of political theory, discussed the FSM's impact on contemporary political activism.

In 2007, she was named the UN Messenger of Peace, making her the first African to hold that position.

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In 2002, she was elected as the first woman to the National Assembly of Kenya. She served as a member of Parliament until 2006, where she advocated for environmental and women's rights issues.

Maathai was also a member of the African Women's League, an organization that advocates for the rights of women in Africa. She was a strong advocate for the rights of women and children, and worked to improve the lives of those who were most marginalized.

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In 2007, she was named the UN Messenger of Peace, making her the first African to hold that position.
Palestine and Israel at a turning point?

The battle over the future of Palestine and Israel is so central to our age, that even if it were to end one day, it seemed to unfold with hardly a glance at the U.S. elections. The first big event was a move by Israel's Ariel Sharon, who pushed a plan to evacuate the Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip, dividing his Likud Bloc and developing a tacit alliance with the Labor Party. He did this not because he has transformed himself from war criminal to peace dove, but because of realities on the ground, including demographic and electoral pressures. With the internal (and external) control of Gaza, the better to hold onto Jerusalem and large chunks of the West Bank, which he is seeking to snatch from Arafat. Sharon is laboring under the grand illusion that he can impose peace by cutting off both Gaza and the Palestinian areas of the West Bank from Israel. He really believes—and so do most Israelis—that this can contain the Intifada that since 2000 has claimed Palestinian and 1,000 Israeli lives. The sudden deterioration of Yasir Arafat's health and his possible impending death is a truly historic event. The Israeli leadership believes that without Arafat, a more compliant Palestinian leadership might emerge that would negotiate on Israel's terms, or that a weakened and divided one would be able to challenge Israel either on the ground or in the battle for international public opinion. This is an even greater illusion. The growth of Palestinian nationalism, under Arafat's leadership, and the support it has developed among the world's more than one billion Muslims is one of the central political facts of our era. It is a fact that has played no small role in the future of the U.S. occupation of Iraq. Soon after Arafat's death, the Israeli leadership will be forced to recognize this fact, no matter how much U.S. backing it receives. To be sure, some hard infighting is likely within Palestinian society should Arafat die. Hamas and other fundamentalist groups seem content to bid their time rather than make a bid for power anytime soon. Sharon, who has always been the one Israeli leader under whom Arafat are sure to vie for power. In the wings lie non-fundamentalist Islamists leaders like the immense and powerful ultra-middle class who will resist any division of the country. The crucial point is that these leaders will have to contend with a generation of young Palestinians to whom the suicide bombers are heroes worthy of emulation. Over time, if the political process continues to block a just settlement that would allow the creation of a viable Palestinian state, and the new Palestinian leadership cannot give up the so-called "right of return" to Israel proper, blocking a just settlement from its own side, then the fundamentalist groups will see their numbers and influence rise and allow the emergence of both Arafat and Sharon, as well as their colleagues.

Afghanistan election

Afghanistan's October elections were hardly the democratic success touted by Washington and its propagandists. Support for Hamid Karzai, elected president with 55% of the vote, was concentrated among his fellow ethnic Pashtuns of the south. Karzai received support among northern, ethnic groups like the Tajiks, the Hazaras, or the Uzbeks. Nor was the turnout as high as expected, especially among women. Moreover, power at the local level remains in the hands of gangsterish warlords, most of whom only marginally respect the decisions of their superiors in Kabul.

As the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA) stated before the election: "People are against war, against the prospects of another Karzai and the criminals. This is because the democratic elections on paper mean nothing to those who face warlord threats to engage in self-censorship. To this day, feminist, secular and leftist groups cannot organize. This is a lie, a new kind of war against life, against peace, against warlord threats to engage in self-censorship. To this day, feminist, secular and leftist groups cannot organize. This is a lie, a new kind of war against life, against peace, against warlord threats to engage in self-censorship. To this day, feminist, secular and leftist groups cannot organize.

The victory is being applauded by many leftists through Latin America as a positive step away from authoritarianism, and if the Palestinian leadership refuses to give up the causes it has championed, then the fundamen­tals of peace will be preserved.

Massacre by military in southern Thailand

The Thai military, on Oct. 31, confronted 2,000 Islamist demonstrators in predominantly Muslim southern Thailand, cracking down on the Buddhist majority. Soldiers shot six demonstrators to death and then arrested 1,500, who were packed onto trucks for a five-hour ride in the hot sun to a military barracks. By the time they arrived, 78 more people had died of asphyxiation. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra praised the military and excused their barbaric indifference to human life by claiming that the deed had been "made weak from [Hindu] fasting. Nobody hurt them."

Shocked by the fact that Hambali, the alleged head of Al Qaeda in Southeast Asia, was found and arrested in Thailand last year, the government has carried out a brutal crackdown. Last April, 140 Muslims were killed and 113 lightly armed young Islamists, who attacked police stations in an amateurish uprising against the government, were obviously informed in advance. Such actions, like the U.S. "war on terror," are sure to swell the ranks of these fundamentalist fanatics by furnishing them with yet another example of the victimization of Muslims.

More than 20,000 people demonstrated in Ruesse­­heim against job cuts.

where unemployment stands at nearly 10%. In October, General Motors announced plans to lay off 12,000 workers across Europe, most of them in Germany. It threatened to move the work to Poland, where auto­workers receive only $700 per year.

In response, 6,000 enraged workers at the GM-Opel plant in Bochum staged a rare six-day wild­strike. On Oct. 19, up to 100,000 workers took to the streets across Europe against GM. Nonetheless, GM seems still to have the upper hand, due in part to the assis­tance it received from the IG Metall union bureau­crats, who pressured the Bochum strikers to return to work.

Volkswagen CEO Peter Hartz has also launched an anti-labor offensive, threatening 30,000 layoffs unless workers agreed to massive give-backs. This led to demonstrations and a large warning strike on Nov. 1. VW is winning this fight too, not least because Hartz is close to Social Democrat Prime Minister Gerhard Schroeder, who shares his view about greater "competiti­vness."