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DECEMBER 2001

50¢

Workshops

More dues for less

by Htun Lin

Many SEIU Local 250 members at Kaiser Hospitals where I work are enraged over a proposed change in our dues structure—much to the surprise of union officials. Kaiser bosses are trying to force the new dues by charging us 2% of all gross wages instead of a fixed increase.

They were trying to sell this as a "benefit" for low-wage workers in nursing homes. We haven't seen such a strong reaction at Kaiser since management demanded and got a two-tier wage structure back in 1986. That was short-lived, because the corrupt old union bosses who betrayed them in that failed strike, but to this day the two-tier wage system pits one worker against another.

The new dues proposal also pits one set of workers in the local against another. One worker said, "Union officials are using the same divide-and-conquer corporate tactics often used by management against us." In 1986 Kaiser tried to convince us to accept their two-tier wage system by claiming current workers would not only continue to make more pay but would even get an extra bonus upon ratification.

Today many professional grade workers, such as X-ray techs, see the union's scheme as a similar clever ploy. This scheme was sold to nursing home workers as "dues relief," claiming: you make less, you pay less. Manipulating the low-wage workers with this promise, union bureaucrats pushed this through.

To ensure victory, the bureaucrats not only sent special absentee ballots to all nursing home workers urging a "yes" vote, they even sent a convoy of buses to try to get them to vote. They were trying to sell this as a "benefit" for low-wage workers. With that hatred they forced us to accept the new dues structure—much to the surprise of union officials.

(Continued on page 3)

Nat Turner's legacy

by John Alan

Several weeks ago, at an anti-war rally in Los Angeles, Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers, proclaimed that the United States must not repeat the errors of the past. Her comment was an analogy to the complete shock to me. It didn't get a strong reaction from the crowd, mostly because people at this rally knew little or nothing about Nat Turner. If they knew more, they might spend the lives of the people they are decrying. Turner was a wealthy scion of the Saudi Arabia ruling class and led a rebellion in 1831, in Southampton, Va., to liberate the slaves. Osama bin Laden, on the other hand, is also very much related.

Fundamentalism and terrorism can't be limited to just bin Laden in Afghanistan. Right now in Pakistan there are fundamentalists seeking to use religion to their advantage by exploiting the war. This war has been marked by civilized warfare as are all of the madrassah [religious] schools which are begetting more and more fundamentalists. Refugees are coming to Pakistan fleeing the bombing with no shelter, no food, no clothing.

Whenever people hear about our country they ask why are all these tragedies occurring? Are these brutalities the representation of our culture, tradition and religion? The big question that comes to people's minds is why do the people not rise up if they don't agree with the situation there?

The people of Afghanistan have always risen up and fought against invaders and defeated them. Unfortunately, the Russians did not learn from the history of the previous invaders. They invaded our country. And had they not invaded our country, we would have not gone through all these miseries. This world would not have witnessed the Sept. 11 incident.

The Russians invaded Afghanistan with 100,000 troops, thinking they could not defeat Afghanistan and reach their dreams and goals. But the people in Afghanistan rose up against them from the villages to the cities. The resistance war lasted for 10 years. We lost two million people. One and a half million became disabled, mainly by land mines. Five to six million took refuge in different countries, mainly Pakistan and Iran.

Other countries, such as Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, France, England and the U.S., opposed the Russians by supporting and incubating the fundamentalists. When we say fundamentalists, we mean all those who are misogynist, anti-democracy, anti-civilization, and who are dependent on foreign countries for their power.

We have to get rid of the fundamentalists to achieve what we have struggled for—freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of belief, democracy, women's rights and human rights.

In 1992 the fundamentalists took power. They conspired of many different parties, belonging to different countries, and they started fighting each other. They committed the most heinous, unprecedented crimes in the history of Afghanistan. Governments, ambassadors, and even children were killed.


(Continued on page 4)

Afghan women speak for themselves

by Tahmeena Faryal

It is very unfortunate that it was only after the events of Sept. 11 that Afghanistan suddenly became the center of the world's attention. For years it was the largest forgotten tragedy in the world. In a way it is good that the Afghan people, and especially the women, are finally getting attention by the world community. It is also very tragic.

We don't think of the bombing as any solution. Although the U.S. government has promised that it would be very targeted, as we know, there have been many civilian casualties.

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(Continued on page 10)

EDITORIAL

Bush's war on freedoms at home ......... Page 4

Bush's war on freedoms at home

by Gerard Emnett

The world saw some extreme contrasts in Afghanistan following the unexpectedly quick collapse of the Taliban regime across most of the country. First, there was the outgoing of joy by many of the people in areas where the Taliban had disappeared. This was not a celebration of the destructive U.S. bombing or the retrogressive politics of the Northern Alliance, but of the opening to once more express the simple fact of being human. As one young Afghan, "We weren't allowed to play football. We weren't allowed to go to sports clubs. We weren't allowed to feel like other human beings."

Thus the formerly banned activities now flaunted—listening or dancing to music, watching movies or television, kite flying, men shaving their beards or even, for women, showing one's face in public—cut through the lies perpetrated by the inhuman regime and its allies, Al Qaeda, as well as with the Bush administration.

Bush had planned on a more protracted military campaign during which the political transition could be calmly managed. The situation is very fluid and presents many challenges and new opportunities for the revolutionary movement.

For the first time in years, hundreds of women dared to call a march in Kabul on Nov. 24 to demand their rights. In one woman's words, "I came here to demand an education for my daughter. I was a teacher, I am a literate, educated woman, but my daughter is barely even to school." They were forced to postpone it however by the military police of the Taliban, who now have de facto power.

The attention drawn to the condition of Afghan women by the worldwide women's movement as well as by individual activists who create a space in which such a demonstration can be contemplated. The Northern Alliance can cite "security" reasons to postpone it, but in fact their own record on women's rights is scarcely better than the Taliban. This is one reason why many women are cautious right now about throwing off the burqas.

(Continued on page 10)
Women activists challenge Left

Editor's Note: This month we turn the Woman as Reason column over to Jen Bennett, a young woman from 13, a Prison Worker's Rights Project...

by Jen Bennett

In 1963 Rayna Dunayevskaya wrote a paper which "women's emancipation" is an important element of the anti-globalisation movement. We look forward to any responses or comments readers may have.

The anti-globalisation movement, a movement that poses exciting new challenges to capitalism and the state.

The anti-globalisation movement is not going to be able to grow without the crucial support of women who are working for freedom, and this includes freedom for women in all parts of the world. As numerous feminist groups are central to this movement. In the face of these failures on the part of the Left, and in the face of right wing fundamentalist terrorism and the U.S. government, we must work for freedom, for women's freedom, to be able to speak freely and be heard. All people should live free of rapes, bombings, genocides and poverty. Women's liberation movement.

When I pointed out this fact last week at a meeting of the RAWA in Chicago, a group that 50,000 per year are trafficked into the U.S. are among the most disadvantaged people on the planet.

The Hidden Half

Tahmineh Milani presents her own critique of the Iranian Left which, she said, is now interested in the history, and insensitive to women. The careless practices of leftist organizations which endangered and destroyed the lives of their members in counter-revolutionary times are also heavily criticized.

It is voices like Milani's which point to a humanist revolutionary path.

Women step out and speak-out

Chicago—The Chicago Women's International Day of Action was held for the third year on Oct. 26 at the Harold Washington Library. The panel was entitled "The Struggle for Women's Emancipation in South Asia and the Middle East," and on the panel with Faryal were Sheila Fuller, a member of the Southern Illinois Action Network from Chicago, and Feryal Alizadeh, a member of the Struggle for Women's Emancipation in South Asia and the Middle East."

Since Sept. 11, there has been an upsurge of protests in Iran against the Islamic Republic. One of the most prominent figures in this movement is Tahmineh Milani, a feminist filmmaker whose new film The Hidden Half landed her in prison on charges of espousing "anti-Islamic" ideas. The film is about the arts in support of counter-revolutionary groups."

Women and the police

The day was a great success for a number of reasons. A possible death sentence in Iran.

Women as Reason are familiar with her previous film Two Women, which challenged the Islamic Republic's demureness of two women (see March 2000 Numbers). She has risked her life, the prison then proceeded to destroy the video of the woman's life, and has had to bury her identity and aspirations during the past 20 years.

Our solidarity with her post-emergent bodies criticizes the Iranian Left from the vantage point of the anti-globalization youth movement believes both that "you can't judge someone else's culture." These women will have to wait until after the revolution, and that "you can't judge someone else's culture." These women will have to wait until after the revolution, and that whatever comes after that class is the first oppression, race is secondary, and that "you can't judge someone else's culture." These women will have to wait until after the revolution, and that whatever comes after that class is the first oppression, race is secondary, and that whatever comes after that class is the first oppression, race is secondary, and that even the most general description of what was to come.

We mourn the death and honor the memory of Mar­

In her last years, Margaret struggled with a multi­

We have heard that women who need wheelchairs are being denied access to work or school. Yet they are denied a disabled status, educational material, test results, liver biopsies and being monitored for disease progression every 90 days.

We must recognize this new concrete revolutionary force in society, but that force requires the active participation of women.

The Anti-globalisation movement works to disempower and paralyse women, but unfortunately there is still a tendency on the Left that would like women to wait for our freedom until after revolutions.

The anti-globalisation youth movement, a move­

As a young woman from 13, a Prison Worker's Rights Project...
V&V Supreme contract and solidarity

Chicago—On Nov. 22, the Chicago workers' move­ment celebrated a first contract for the drivers and warehouse workers at V&V Supreme. They rallied at the Pilsen Center with a large Mexican­neighborhood of Pilsen where the plant is located. This Mexican­American neighborhood had an strike for six months, fighting to be recognized as members of Teamsters Local 26.

The production workers had agreed to stay on the job while their contract is being negotiated. But the "company men," including Emanuel and Philip Villasenor, have since locked them out during negoti­ations.

Their lawyer, John Roden­baugh, was supposed to go to Mexico City, but instead he went to Seattle. So the workers went on strike. Hours of work were taken away and resources fighting to keep these workers at poverty wages. In fighting the workers' right to organize, they have already wasted over one million dollars. Now they are attempting to intimi­date the workers by locking them out.

Without knowing of the planned lockout, religious, labor, and community leaders gathered in the church to celebrate a settlement which gives pay raises over three years of up to 35% for drivers and up to 25% for warehouse workers. They are now working for an arbitrarily rewarded people at various levels for the same work.

The contract institutes a standard, progressive disciplinary system and a grievance procedure, and makes the employer agree to bind­ings.

The provisions include including a drive for a liv­ing wage for nursing home workers and all other low­paid workers.

Workshop Talks (Continued from page 1)

I think they're trying to get people to quit so they can increase their profits. I think they're trying to get people to quit so they can make the plant more efficient. That's why they're trying to get people to quit so they can save money.

P.O. workers at risk

Chicago—A friend of mine in the main post office here in Chicago told me that she is not allowed to pass out flyers in the post office. She has been told that if she does so, she will be fired. She also told me that she is not even allowed to talk to other workers about their rights. She feels that her job is not secure and that she might be fired at any time.

One worker claimed that the statement placed in front of the post office in Chicago in 1988 when a new administration came into office as the union came out under trusteeship: "Local 26 members are free to determine their own future as a union." This also implies this union is calling for a "compromise," and has started a recall campaign against top management.

They also claimed for de­authorization of the local, which means an open union shop. This shows that workers are not unified in their demands, which is not surprising. They have not been able to gain any union help in the workplace. Many of our grievances are now channeled into a management­union committee designed to paper over our problems.

RANK­AND­FILE COMMITTEE

The contract is the first step toward forming a rank­and-file committee to challenge the legitimacy of the dues increase vote. Shooked SEIU bureaucrats responded to the strike by shutting down the structure only at sites where it was approved and will hold off at Kaiser where it was overwhelmingly reject­ed. The workers are calling on workers to reject this "compromise," and has started a recall campaign against top management.

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FedEx benefits drop

Memphis, Tenn.—On Jan. 1, FedEx is changing the rules for workers offering their organization. The schedule is based on how they have been on their job for a year. When you first hire them, you get a year's pay on days two or five days a week. When you work three days a week, you get half your pay and you keep all your benefits. If you work two days a week, you lose all your benefits. It's an absolute disgrace.

This is going to be hard on a lot of people like me. I've been working at FedEx for three years. I'm just going to quit my job. I'm probably going to lose my job.

I think they're trying to get people to quit so they can increase their profits. I think they're trying to get people to quit so they can make the plant more efficient. That's why they're trying to get people to quit so they can save money.

FedEx worker

How to contact

INTERNATIONAL MARXIST-HUMANISTS

BOM Box 314, THI 106042, WICIN 2X

http://members.aol.com/THE106042/index.htm

Anjuman Azadi, 26 S. Wabash, #1440, Chicago, IL 60603
anjumanazadi@aol.com, www.anjomanazadi.org

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BOM Box 314, THI 106042, WICIN 2X

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Anjuman Azadi, 26 S. Wabash, #1440, Chicago, IL 60603
anjumanazadi@aol.com, www.anjomanazadi.org
Bush's war on freedom on the USA

The massive assault leveled since Sept. 11 by George Bush and his attorney general, John Ashcroft, on a wide network of civil liberties guaranteed to us by the U.S. Constitution, has reached such a chilling point. Those who can be imprisoned and sentenced to life imprisonment are beaten, tortured and finally killed. This is LESS a "constitutional coup d'etat." What finally brought about the death penalty and signed the European Convention on Human Rights—would agree to any extradition that would mean taking whatever the polluter gave them and that's what the polluter gave them and that's what the polluter gave them. European Union directives therefore that have cause, threaten to cause... The massive assault leveled since Sept. 11 by George Bush and his attorney general, John Ashcroft, on a wide number of civil liberties guaranteed to us by the Constitution, has reached such a chilling point. Those who can be imprisoned and sentenced to life imprisonment are beaten, tortured and finally killed. This is LESS a "constitutional coup d'etat." What finally brought about the death penalty and signed the European Convention on Human Rights—would agree to any extradition that would mean taking whatever the polluter gave them and that's what the polluter gave them. European Union directives therefore that have cause, threaten to cause...
On political divides and "philosophic new beginnings"
The Philosophic Moment of Marxist-Dialectics, 1956-63

Point, 1964-71

Hegel's Absolutes and Marx's Humanism, 1972-81

After Philosophy and Revolution: Hegel's Absolutes and Marx's Humanism, 1972-81

The Changed World and the Need for Philosophic New Beginnings, 1982-87

Marxist-Humanism and the Battle of Ideas

14. Marxist-Humanism and the Battle of Ideas


B. Letter to Earl Korski (1983)

C. Marxist-Humanism: The Summation that is a New Beginnings (1983)

15. Forces of Revolt as Reason, Philosophy as Force of Revolt

A. Not by Practice Alone: The Movement from Theory (1984)

B. Letter to the Youth on the Creation of New Human Relations (1983)

C. Dialectics of Revolution and Women's Liberation (1985)

D. The Power of Abstraction (1985)

Another Look at Hegel's Phenomenology of Mind

A. Letter on Hegel's Phenomenology of Mind (1986)


Reconsidering the Dialectic: Critiquing Lenin...and the Dialectics of Philosophy and Organization

A. Letter to Louis Dupré (1986)

B. Letter to George Armstrong Kelly (1986)

C. Talking to Myself (1987)

Appendix

Contents from 1949-51 Philosophic Correspondence with C.L.R. James and Grace Lee Boggs - Letters of February 18, February 25, and March 12, 1949, to C.L.R. James.

C. Marxist-Humanism and the Battle of Ideas

A. Letter on Hegel's Phenomenology of Mind (1986)


Reconsidering the Dialectic: Critiquing Lenin...and the Dialectics of Philosophy and Organization

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activity

Writings on the Absolute in Hegel and Marx by Raya Dunayevskaya

1977 not even to begin to put this crisis means that such questions as these have práctica, which Marx worked out as a totally new relationship of philosophy to revolution. Today's revolutions turn their backs on this at their peril (p. 34).

To be continued next issue

Notes

1. The protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle at the end of 1999 and the demonstrations in Washington, D.C. against the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in April 2000, have proved of special importance in having many turn with eyes to Marx's critique of capital.


7. Interview with Fredric Jameson, in Lukacs after Communist, Interviews with Contemporary Intellectuals, in Eva L. Corradd (Ed), in London and London: Duke University Press, 1997), p. 93. We should add that in works such as Dialectical Investigations (New York: Routledge, 1993), and The Dialectical Foundations of Marx's Concept of Man (New York: International Publishers, 1999), we have seen that in this essay, just as in his most sustained and important presentation of Hegel's Absolute, there is a major discussion of Hegel's discussion of the logical structure of love (pp. 82-83).

8. For some discussions of Dunayevskaya's standpoint on Hegel, see Patricia Albersetter Johnson, Women's Liberation, Following Dunayevskaya in Practicing Dialectics, Quarterly Journal of Ideology, Vol. 13 (1989), pp. 65-74; Thomas M. Jeanty, Rosa Luxemburg's Concept of Liberalism and Reality, and Urban Affairs in Detroit, Michigan. For some of these writings, see Dialectics in the late 1940s, she emphasized the "shods her view of [Hegel's] language which defines identity as 'unseparated difference'" (see the appendix to this volume, p. 41).

One wonders how Michigan Republic­an Governor John Engler’s spokesperson fixed her mouth to say that changes in welfare rules would "help more fam­i­lies make a smooth transition to work." The new rules require single par­ents to work 40 hours per week (cur­rently it’s 20 for parents with two or more children and 30 for parents of school-age children). There are no more exemptions for par­ents caring for disabled children or for their own aged parents. I know no one working a poverty job who would work 40 hours per week to work what their hours will be, and they rarely work 40, even with two jobs. The mouthpiece said work exemp­tion requests would be reviewed individ­ually—hey, who can even reach their caseworker in a timely fashion?

FOOD NOT BOMBS FOR AFGHANISTAN

On Thanksgiving weekend 30 of us took to the streets in Memphis to hold a Star­tery Food Not Bombs (FNB) Parade. We wanted to show solidarity with starving people all over the world, especially those facing peril in Afghanistan this winter. Our sign said "Food Not Bombs—star­tery people." The money spent on weapons in one week around the world is enough to feed all the people on earth for a year. How can we afford to spend another dol­lar on wars when so many people are starving?

Katie Sierra
Memphis

...• Philosophy and Revolution: from Hegel to Sartre and
...• T
...• Women’s Liberation and the Dialectics of Revolution:
...• 25 Years of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S.: A History

CONTENDING FOR HUMANITY

Terrorists want to show solidarity with starving those facing peril in Afghanistan this year.

Several years ago, the chant made up by our youngest daughter expressed the hope of the whole family that the war in Afghanistan could be ended. She said, "I wish I could see one day when the people would realize that what the Afghan society could be is very different from what it is today."

Women’s Liberationist Oakland, Cal.

...What was shocking was how totally the organized Left groups were missing from all the RAWA events held in the Berkeley area. It must be that they are so defined as being against this war that they didn’t want to express their opposition by being for someone who is opposed to Bush’s enemy. It is a warning that we have to be careful not to lock into opposites that aren’t.

Student of Marx and Hegel California

RAWA’s historic existence contrasts dramatically in important respects with that of Marxist-Humanism, the philosophy of the organization that sponsored their tour in New York. The philosophy of Marxist-Humanism is available on audiotape, • Dos ensayos por Raya Dunayevskaya $2

• Marxist-Humanist Literature Catalog for 2000-01

• 25 Years of Marxist-Humanism in the U.S.: A History

•...Enclosed find $_ for the literature checked.
AFTER SEPT. 11—WARS AT HOME AND ABROAD

For all those "anti-imperialists" who don't seem to understand what is going on today, let me pass along this wonderful piece about boxing champion Muhammad Ali, who was the weight boxing champion, Muhammad Ali, said when he visited the ruins of the World Trade Center and CNN reporters came running up to ask him how he felt about the attacks and whether he felt it was a cover-up of the Islamic faith. Ali responded pleasantly, "How do you expect me to feel when I see the悲惨的场面 and 帝国主义的霸权"?

"The Middle East is not going to be 'safe' rather than free are doing what the 19 terrorists never could—shed a light of the recent events throughout the world. We can mobilize to stop this kind of terrorism. It shows how far back we've gone."

Muhammad Ali fans in Chicago

Lower Manhattan continues to be extremely depressing. Eleven weeks after the World Trade Center attack, we still see the thick smoke enveloping the rubble, and feel the irritants, which no one believes is coming from the ground zero area.

Impeached citizen Nebraska

Fundamentalism is much worse than the regime in the U.S. Here we can talk openly and write what we want. What happens in the U.S. is that a paper like N&L would have to be underground. Here we are talking, and a kid can be a socialist. When I talk about the freedom with other leftists here they say they are anti-imperialist and forget about important issues in the Middle East. I am anti-imperialist, but too want to know what ideas they have to rally around as a united front. We need to understand that the world is not going to be 'safe' rather than free are doing what the 19 terrorists never could—shed a light of the recent events throughout the world. We can mobilize to stop this kind of terrorism. It shows how far back we've gone.

MUMIA NEEDS OUR SUPPORT IN PHILADELPHIA ON DECEMBER 8!

Despite all the new evidence of Mumia's innocence, Pennsylvania State County Criminals are trying to gag the press before the December ruling on his case. They want to break him by force. They are trying to use force to break him, and the people in the Middle East are struggling against the attacks. It was also seen in Giuliani who changed his policy of giving up on locating the remains of the World Trade Center and was still missing before they began looking up in the sky. The attacks were happening even though he had police attack firefighters who were demonstrating opposition to that plan. Those rescue workers opposed not only Giuliani but their own department.

Iranian revolutionary California

Bush's war against terrorism and bin Laden is very unusual. When has the U.S. ever carried out a war with the idea of disarming an individual? Bush doesn't want to use relations in the Middle East. It is an extremely rough time for the region. Former Prime Minister Tony Blair had a slogan projecting it as a war for liberation. Bush doesn't try to do that. In September, he had said something about "a new order he wants in Afghanistan, you can see he wants that old conserving and back in power. He is for counter-revolution in permanence.

Black writer California

We will never forget that Bush & Co. stole the election and our democracy a year ago. We will not accept an illegit­imately administration pursuing immoral policies.

RB and BB San Francisco

FDR said the only thing to fear is fear itself. Yes, but Bush in his speech on 9/11 told us that we must live with things as if everything were normal. Those of us who belong to "the American Dream" have never lived a normal life except under fear. Bush needs permanent fear to keep up his lie. We can see that if you fit the profile of this alien and sedition person he will do what he can to get his way. Bush is of kind of state harassment is reminiscent of what Black and Latino Americans go through. This constant harassment is a contradiction of a big lie. If you can't be fighting for democracy abroad if there was no equal­ity at home. It shows how few have been won.

Renter New York

Thousands were killed on Sept. 11, more thousands injured and millions emotionally scarred. America must be faced with the realities of the war and the Constitution continues. Opportunists of every kind are capitalizing on the moment to fur­ther their agenda. The 19 terrorists are dead. We know that they were killed. We know that what the 19 terrorists could not destroy my Bill of Rights. After Judge Pamela Dembe gave her ruling on Nov. 21, we have to speak up. Mom and Dad, in an attempt to grasp that

Impressed citizen Illinois

The demonstrations and possible actions items planned for Dec. 28 by the Coalition of Women's Liberationists is pub­lished twice yearly by the London Corre­sponding Committee which works in solidarity with Marxist-Humanists interna­tionally. A subscription for two issues costs 5 pounds. For information or to order a sub, write to News & Letters at the above address.

* * *

ISRAELS AND PALESTINIANS

The situation continues to be grave in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. This is the worst Ramadan in many years. People are calling it "seven days of quiet" before entering the "year of no hope." They say that these seven days never happen. His policies towards Palestinians constitute a struggle of people against political and military oppression. While the rest of the world was looking for some joy, the Israelis attacked the West Bank and Gaza. In recalling the 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts, John Alan's column in the Dec. 9 issue made me see the situation. After almost a year living under the threat of severe jail sentences, the five were allowed to plead no contest to a magistrate-level offense and walk away with $100 fines. Considering what they were stacked up against, they consid­ered it a tremendous victory.

UnJon supporter Illinois

I read the new issue of Hobgboll, which includes many interesting articles in these 48 pages on current world events along with the searing cri­ticism and support that I believe the socialist, anticapitalism, Anarchism and Leninism were well done. It's rare to come across such a combination.

New subscriber Illinois

Editor's Note: The Hobgboll is pub­lished by the London Corresponding Com­mittee that works in solidarity with Marxist-Humanists interna­tionally. A subscription for two issues costs 5 pounds. For information or to order a sub, write to News & Letters at the above address.

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DECEMBER 2001 NEWS & LETTERS Page 9

READERS' VIEWS

The demonstrations and possible world port shutdowns that were to take place on Nov. 14 were cancelled to avert suicide bombings in Israel instead. Their battle with the state of South Carolina was being fought with terror in the port city of Charleston. After almost a year under the threat of severe jail sentences, the five were allowed to plead no contest to a magistrate-level offense and walk away with $100 fines. Considering what they were stacked up against, they consid­ered it a tremendous victory.

Gila Svirsky Jerusalem

Do NOT FORGET TO PUT NEWS & LETTERS ON YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT LIST
During the internal fight with empty stomachs, Afghanistan is now a country where the heritage lost from psychologization has been imposed on humanity exists for itself. This vision is rooted in a nihilism that can be imagined short of nuclear war. In contrast to the masses' humanism, the recent retreat of the terrorist Taliban from Kabul is a positive development, but the entering of the rapist and looter NA in the city is nothing but dreadful and shocking news for two million residents of Kabul whose wounds of the years 1992-98 have not healed.

No to the Northern Alliance!

The world should understand that the Northern Alliance (NA) is composed of some bands who did show their real criminal and inhuman nature when they ruling Afghanistan from 1992 to 1996. The Northern Alliance (NA) which was created in 1987 by Russian KGB agents with the help of the United States for the purpose of destroying the Islamic government headed by Rabbani and help the establishment of a broad-based government based on democratic values. The NA was a military force would shatter the joyful dream of the Afghan people was much more like that of any colonial or neocolonial regime; in some ways it was a uniquely a monster. And only last year the administration was still providing aid to the Taliban despite the подписные and human rights in Afghanistan...Many of them are simply so called Islamic government headed by Rabbani and help the establishment of a broad-based government based on democratic values. The NA was a military force would shatter the joyful dream of the Afghan people was much more like that of any colonial or neocolonial regime; in some ways it was a uniquely a monster. And only last year the administration was still providing aid to the Taliban despite the familiar or neocolonial regime; in some ways it was a monster. And only last year the administration was still providing aid to the Taliban despite the

Afghan women speak

(Continued from page 1)

The people of Afghanistan have been going through the most sustained and prolonged period of invasions they fought with empty stomachs, today they fight to rebuild the Islamic state in their country without any social, political or economic structure. There are prescriptions. There is no education. The facts and frustrations that have been imposed on women, and especially on women who have degraded much of the population. Ninety percent of Afghan women suffer from various physical and psychological problems. We believe that if tomorrow we have a peaceful and just government, it will not take Afghanistan long to rebuild. Of course, we will not be able to feed our children.
Chicago—As the U.S. war in Afghanistan enters its third month, discussion and activity around the war and how to oppose it continues in the Chicago area. At the same time, there has been a marked increase in so-called groups and demonstrations. The reasons for this are worth considering.

Anti-war activism seemed to get off to a promising start in September and early October, when several rallies were held to mark the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks. However, the protests were buffeted by a tendency to focus exclusively on opposing the U.S.'s war on Afghanistan, without reflecting on the root causes of that war. The main targets of the anti-war rallies were Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and the U.S. government, while the small number of speakers at rallies spoke to the threat posed by the Sept. 11 attacks. The movement for solidarity with the people of Afghanistan has largely faded from the anti-war face of the movement, with no obvious efforts to extend solidarity with its victims, on the grounds that this would detract from the need to oppose U.S. imperialism.

This view was promoted by members of left "vanguard" parties (like the International Socialist Organiz­ation and other Trotskyist and Stalinist factions) and was formed top-down by these organizations. It was shaped by a logic of isolationism, where anti-war demonstrations were used as a pretext for organizing boycotts of products from Afghanistan and the occupying powers, and for distinguishing themselves from "unorganized and independent anti-war activists." It is certain that this vanguardist approach made it impossible for the organizers of anti-war rallies to appeal to the working class for support.

The basic argument went as follows: To build a large and broad-based movement we need to unite around a few issues as possible, centering on a critique of U.S. government policies. Just as the anti-Vietnam War movement was able to unite around simple slogans like "Out Now," it was argued, so we can win today if we avoid getting dragged into "controversial" debates about the nature of Islamic fundamentalism or the Taliban.

In fact, armed with this political perspective the anti-war rallies have become progressively smaller. They have reached the point where only 50 came out to the most recent one. The main anti-war coalition is now in tatters and on the verge of falling apart.

The problems facing the protests in Chicago are hardly the fault of misrepresentation by the media. The Chicago Tribune and Sun-Times, as well as local TV news, have given considerable coverage to the anti-war rallies, often overstating the numbers present in order to sensationalize the event. It is simply the fact that the movement has just begun and it takes time to build a movement. After all, far more attended the protests at the begin­ning of the war than have came to the event on Sept. 11.

The real problem was reflected in a recently launched "Stop the War Coalition," consisting of about 20 organizations. Despite a list of principles of more than a page, the coalition's credit, this coalition has included a condemnation of Sept. 11 in its statement of principles. However, it has not gone further than that in terms of integrating anti­war activism with a broader movement against global capitalism. At one rally the main chant heard was "one, two, three, four, we don't want your racist war!" Several Black shirtwaistors tried to disillusion the crowd with a puzzled look on their faces, and asked if the demonstra­tion was intended for "stopping the war on America." The experiences in Chicago indicate that the crisis afflicting the anti-war movement goes deeper than the decline in numbers of participants. The anti-war movement has been buffeted by crisis and setbacks for nearly a year, and they have done plenty of damage. Rather, the problem is political and conceptual: a failure to recognize that the main object of resistance to the war is not the Taliban or U.S. imperialism, but the imperialist war machine, which is both opposition to U.S. imperialism and to imperialist war machine, which is both a product of U.S. imperialism and a projection of the kind of new, human society we are for.

Grassroots anti-war mobilization has only managed to muster up to a thousand for demonstrations. Just as in the case of the Waco standoff, a fundamentalist religious and racial organization has taken advantage of a crisis to bring violence and murder to the American public. The Bush administration has used its influence to ally with Islamic fundamentalists and a group of anti-war protesters. It is certain that this will lead to the kind of rethinking that will enable it to connect up with such forces.

A woman from Nosei Network said its members exhibited �Voices for Peace' to the banner of anti-war movement. Lenin argued "the need to combat Pan-Islamism and similar trends, which seek to combine the liberation of the Muslim peoples of the East and the Pan-Islamic world and the liberation of the oppressed peoples of the world. The aim of the struggle is to achieve the unity of the peoples of the world in the struggle for the; Taliban or solidarizing with the women, men and children of the American imperialism. It remains to be seen how the events of the movement to the local, national and international level will lead to the kind of rethinking that will enable it to connect up with such forces.

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'Voices of Peace'

Kiev, Ukraine—Powerful anti-war demonstra­tions, taking place in Kiev and other cities of Ukraine. A lot of people attended actions in Kiev, Dnepet and Dnipropecevsk. The biggest rally and a picket of the U.S. embassy against European and Anti-war rallies, often overstating the numbers present in order to sensationalize the event. It is simply the fact that the movement has just begun and it takes time to build a movement. After all, far more attended the protests at the begin­ning of the war than have came to the event on Sept. 11.

This day was quite successful for our organization—the Ukrainian Workers' Center on anti-war rallies, a lot of support. One man saw us there and bought us a case of water. There was also hostility. We were threatened by a Memphis police officer who didn't threaten us but threatened that we might get involved in this enterprise as well some students received infor­mation about Marxist-Humanism, the heritage of Raya Dunayevskaya. The leader of the trade union was under a strong Trotskyist influence, but now he is coming closer to our position. UWW distributed 120 copies of our anti-war leaflet.

Anti-war actions are being heavily attended by rank-and-file members of the Ukrainian Communist Party (CPU)—the largest parliamentary Stalinist party. The extremely conservative CPU activists give unconditional support to the UWW. Some have been arrested, but the real problem was reflected in a recently launched "Stop the War Coalition," consisting of about 20 organizations. Despite a list of principles of more than a page, the coalition's credit, this coalition has included a condemnation of Sept. 11 in its statement of principles. However, it has not gone further than that in terms of integrating anti-war activism with a broader movement against global capitalism. At one rally the main chant heard was "one, two, three, four, we don't want your racist war!" Several Black shirtwaistors tried to disillusion the crowd with a puzzled look on their faces, and asked if the demonstra­tion was intended for "stopping the war on America." The experiences in Chicago indicate that the crisis afflicting the anti-war movement goes deeper than the decline in numbers of participants. The anti-war movement has been buffeted by crisis and setbacks for nearly a year, and they have done plenty of damage. Rather, the problem is political and conceptual: a failure to recognize that the main object of resistance to the war is not the Taliban or U.S. imperialism, but the imperialist war machine, which is both opposition to U.S. imperialism and to imperialist war machine, which is both a product of U.S. imperialism and a projection of the kind of new, human society we are for.

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Our Life and Times

by Kevin A. Barry and Mary Holmes

Since Sept. 11, whether in the alternative or the mainstream media, there has been surprisingly little discussion of how the war has impacted life in Africa. Yet it was in East Africa, with the 1998 truck bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, that the Bush administration’s war on terrorism began in earnest. At least 229 people died and thousands were injured. Since then, the Bush administration has launched a war on Afghanistan. This same war has also involved the U.S. military and Special Forces throughout Africa. To this day, their Bomb Blast Legal Rights Project is fighting for compensation from the U.S. government for African civilians who were injured, many of them permanently.

African Civilization on Trial

Rodolfo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera were released from prison in Guerrero state by decree of Mexican President Vicente Fox on Nov. 8. The men had been framed by the Mexican army on phony drug and weapons charges and sent to jail illegally by the secret operations with corporations with government backing which were destroying the Frente de Guerrero.

Mexican rights abuses

Fox spoke out against Digna Ochoa’s murder for three days, and his record thus far on human rights in Mexico is nonexistent. Despite campaign promises, he has not set up a truth commission to investigate past state abuses, including the 1968 student massacre. More alarming, Fox appointed Rafael Macedo, a former general, as attorney general. This is an appointment which couriers favor with U.S. drug war officials rather than focusing on military, police and court abuses within Mexico.

Both Montiel and Cabrera, a founding member of the Organization of Campesino Environmentalists, were tortured by the army after their arrest in May 1999. Neither man has been declared innocent or pardoned, and their coerced false confessions and phony charges still stand.

Israel, Hamas attacks

In December, Israel’s Prime Minister Ariel Sharon got what he had been hoping for since Sept. 11: suicide bombings by the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement that killed 25 innocent civilians. With U.S. support, the Israeli military could now launch a full-scale invasion on Yasir Arafat’s Palestinian Authority (PA) for “harboring” Hamas.

Here is how Sharon provoked these attacks: On Nov. 22, an army land mine accidentally killed five young Palestinian children. As demonstrations spread, rather than apologize, Sharon picked this tense moment to assassinate Mahmoud Abu Hanoud of Hamas.

WTO protests continue

The World Trade Organization (WTO) held its ministerial level meeting in November, the first since the last one collapsed in Seattle in 1999. The mass, diverse anti-globalization movement that emerged two years ago was absent this time, largely due to the meeting’s location in inaccessible Doha, Qatar, which operated in a state of virtual lockdown. Non-governmental organizations representing workers, peasants, environmentalists and the poor were shut out.

The U.S. trade representative claimed the Doha meeting had “removed the stain of Seattle,” but the Bush administration’s policy of appeasing IMF and World Bank economic demands.


NEWS AND LETTERS COMMITTEES

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 abolishment of capitalism, both in its private property form as in the U.S., and its state property form, as it has historically appeared in state-capitalist regimes calling themselves Communist as well. News and Letters Committees is part of the development of new human relations, the Socialism of Marx first called a new humanism.

News & Letters

The News and Letters Committee was founded in 1934 by the Marx-Engels, Friedan and Dunayevskaya (1910-1987), founder of the body of ideas of Marxist-Humanism, became Chairwoman of the National Editorial Board and National Committee of the Committees from its founding to 1987. Charles Denby was the long-time chair from 1968-75. The present chairwoman is Raya Dunayevskaya. The News and Letters Committees was founded in 1934.

Carolyn Escobar

Raya Dunayevskaya’s philosophic comprehension of Marx’s Marxism in its original form as a new Humanism and in her re-creation of that philosophy for our age as Marxist-Humanism. This is in contrast to the Stalinist form of Marxism and to another woman, Nekibe Kelmendi, a judge whose husband and son were killed a month after the assassination of President Todor Zhivkov of Bulgaria in 1989.

Rodo Montiel and Teodoro Cabrera were killed by the peso of the former guerrillas and a degree of local autonomy. Enacting these laws is the first step—implementation is more difficult.


NEWS & LETTERS DECEMBER 2001

before its move to Afghanistan.

Despite its 1998 bombing of Sudan, the U.S. government has sought closer relations with this nation in recent years. One factor is undoubtedly the beginning of oil production in southern Sudan. Another is the fact that Sudan is a major recipient of U.S. aid, and, unlike the meantime, genocide and the slave trade continue unabated.

While officially committed since its 1999 elections to a multiscalar secular democracy, Nigeria, too, faces a growing challenge from Islamists, many of whom are supported by Pakistan and the ruling bureaucracy of both capital and labor. Such a repressive ideology has managed to post itself as an alternative to the corrupt civil regimes that have alternated with corrupt and authoritarian military ones ever since independence. All the while, the conditions of life and labor in this oil-rich country have declined.

Growing Balkan unity?

In November, Kosovo’s first democratic election since the end of Serbian rule resulted in another victory for moderate Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova, whose center-left Democratic League won 46% of the vote, compared with 26% for the Democrat Party of Kosova (DPK), which was the main wing of the former Kosova Liberation Army (KLA) led by Hashim Thaci. The day after the elections, Rugova summoned the UN officials running the country with a call for an independent Kosovo.

More remarkable, however, Dunayevskaya’s last contribution to our movement was the discovery of Marx’s Marxism in its original form as a new Humanism and in her re-creation of that philosophy for our age as Marxist-Humanism. This is in contrast to the Stalinist form of Marxism.

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