behind all the unity talk lie the real bourgeois politician after another sought September 11 attacks to launch an end­
motors to commemorate the 9/11 anniversary by
ualism’s reach over the globe. First in
others. The Bush administration and the
po­
less
ture the leadership of Al Qaeda,
Afghanistan. Now, having failed to cap­
number of their countrymen through the

Lining up for their photo-ops, one bourgeois politician after another sought to commemorate the 9/11 anniversary by

was dead and the class struggle a relic. The economic boom of the 1990s—
which was based on an increase in the
rate of exploitation of the working class
through the imposition of multi-tier wage
schemes and massive speedup, a prolif­
eration of non-union runaway shops, the
slashing of medical, pension and other
benefits—was declared proof positive of
a "new economy" of unprecedented and
despite the global economic downturn, open­
ning up a new...
The Partisan Defense Committee vehe­mently protests the severe repression being visited upon political prisoner Richard Williams, #10376-016. Since September 11, 2001, Mr. Williams has spent ten of the ensuing twelve months in brutal conditions of solitary confinement where he has been cut off from family and friends, not allowed access to litera­ture and denied adequate medical care. After enduring five months in brutally cold conditions in solitary lockdown, Mr. Williams was sent back to the general prisoner population in Lompoc, California on February 11. Within days he suffered an acute heart attack which he was “treated” by being shackled to his hospi­tal bed and had guns trained on him, interviewed by his new prison guards and nurses. Mr. Williams again on April 30 Richard Williams was sent back into the grotesque conditions of isolation where he was still. It is crystal clear that Richard Williams is being subjected to this unrelenting cru­elty because of his political beliefs. Mr. Williams was a leftist activist arrested and convicted in the mid ’80s as a mem­ber of the Radical Union. Having dis­­tinguished himself in the early 1980s in re­convicting Mr. Williams, along with fellow anti­imperialists Ray and Pat Levesque, on phony “seditionary conspiracy” charges, the Federal government seems intent on destroying this courageous man. The treatment of Mr. Williams is part of an ongoing attack on civil liberties ratched up since last September —11 because of their political beliefs, all, especially workers and the oppressed.

The Partisan Defense Committee de­­mands that Mr. Williams be immediately taken out of solitary confinement. We demand he be given prompt and ade­quate medical treatment for his ongoing heart condition. We demand he have access to any literature he desires and restrictions and visitations with family and friends be lifted. In the eyes of the working class, Richard Williams is being destroyed as a political prisoner. We demand you stop brutalizing this political prisoner.

The following protest letter was sent to the President of the University of South Florida on August 31st.

The Partisan Defense Committee submits this protest letter in connection with the University of South Florida Trus­tees, to fire teed-up computer science pro­fessor Sarni Al-Arian. Al-Arian is the vic­tim of a vile media-abetted campaign of threats and vilification ranging from the mackneyed Fox News commentator Bill O’Reilly to the contemptible radio shock-jock Bubba the Love Sponge.

Sami Al-Arian is targeted merely be­cause he is an Islamic scholar and de­fender of the Palestinian people from the ruthlessly-fueled Zionist “war on terrorism.” We join countless others, including the American Association of University Professors, in condemning your despicable efforts to deny this man his First Amendment rights and, indeed, his livelihood.

Your earlier attempt to justify the fir­ing of Sami Al-Arian was based on spu­rious “campus security” concerns. Now you try to present to the Hillisborough Circuit Court in Florida so-called new evidence that Dr. Al-Arian “is using ac­knowledged terrorist propagandist to foment improper activities.” This follows years of invasive scrutiny of Dr. Al-Arian’s activ­i­ties by various bourgeois state author­ities who have found no grounds for criminal action. From the onset this has been a political prosecution of a man for his views and advocacy on behalf of the besiegged Palestinians.

Your campaign against Dr. Al-Arian in league with state and federal authorities is part of a grotesque bipartisan witch­hunt particularly targeting immigrants, Muslims and Arab Americans. It has already led to the deportation of Al­Arian’s brother-in-law and the detention of hundreds of thousands who have fled the United States.

We reprint below on August 20 protest letter from the Partisan Defense Commit­tee, signed by USA union leader and Australian Attorney General’s office.

The daily seizure and reimpris­onnement of Afghan refugees, 12-year-old Montazar Almadar and Almadar Bakhtiyari, was an act of sheer racism, brutality and state-sponsored terrorism. On June 28 these two courageous youth escaped for the second time from the hell-hole Woomera detention centre, where they were incarcerated with their mother Roqiah and younger sisters Nagina, Samina and Amina, aged ten, nine, and eight respectively, and hundreds of other Afghan refugees.

The boys escaped along with 33 other mainly Afghan refugees at the time of a police and Australian Federal Police, the recaptured Bakh­tiyari brothers, were flown out of Aus­tralia to Woomera just an hour before their distraught father, who lives in Serbia, was able to see them. While federal Liberal/National coalition and state Labor governments alike show “family values” down the throats of the population, Roqiah and her children are forcibly separated from their husband and father. Now the government is vindictively threatening to revoke continued on page 15
On 23 July 1999, 46 men and women were rounded up in early-morning raids in Tulia, a windswept West Texas town of 5,000 halfway between Lubbock and Amarillo. All but six of those dragged from their beds were black. In the county courthouse, often half-dressed and wondering what they were being targeted for, were black faces staring at charges by a racist, corrupt narcotics agent, 42 of those arrested were thrown into prison by overwhelmingly white juries for frame-up jail terms. Tulia epitomizes how those who organized this monstrous frame-up, Coleman was entangled in the criminal system, often due to minor drug charges like those the Tulia defendants faced.

In the midst of Coleman's "investigation," Cochran County brought him up on misdemeanor charges of theft and abuse of his position, Swisher Coleman's boss in Tulia, allowed Coleman to put his "investigation" on hold while he resolved the charges.

Coleman's "investigation," had it not been so devastating, would be almost comical. He wrote down "reports" of "drug deals" on his body, threw away many of his records and built his case on uncorroborated, unsubstantiated testimonies. Everyone who knew Coleman well knew that he was a liar and a crook, but the word of a white cop was sufficient to railroad the Tulia defendants into prison.

In spite of polygraph tests corroborating the innocence of those arrested and the obvious unreliability of Coleman as a witness, only four cases were thrown out, generally over egregious misidentifications by Coleman, whose physical descriptions of several defendants were wildly inaccurate. In most cases, though, a combination of inadequate legal representation and relentless prosecution led to sentences breathtaking in their severity. "What happened in the courtroom," says Freddie Brookins Sr. of Tulia's NAACP chapter, which has been fighting the convictions, "was really a kangaroo court. They ran 'em through like cattle and put a number on 'em. They just stuck 'em all in prison." For his role in this monstrous frame-up, Coleman was named the Texas "Lawman of the Year." Fifteen of those arrested remain behind bars despite overwhelming evidence of their innocence.

Of those who were these "drug dealers"? Overwhelmingly, they were poor, local black people, most of whom had no criminal records or anything to do with the drug trade. Police found no traces of illicit drugs in the houses of those arrested, no weapons and no money. There were no fingerprints on the drugs the cops claim to have "seized." Joe Moore, a 57-year-old black pig farmer, currently serving a 96-year sentence, was identified as the "kingpin" of the ostensible cocaine ring despite his obvious poverty and even though the charges against him involved only 3.5 grams of powder cocaine. Kizzie White, a 24-year-old mother of two with no criminal record, got 25 years, while her husband, a white man named William "Cash" Love, received a sentence of 434 years in prison.

Liberal Times columnist Herbert has placed his hopes in a federal investigation. He states that "federal investigators who are both honest and diligent will find plenty of evidence of official wrongdoing waiting for them in Tulia" (New York Times, 22 August). While Tulia may be an extreme example of the degree to which the war on drugs is aimed at black people, it is not an aberration or an isolated misdescription of the justice. The war on drugs is a racist war against black people! In many inner-city ghettos, one in three black men is entangled in the criminal "justice" system, often due to minor drug charges like those the Tulia defendants faced. Over half of the two million people in America's prisons, most of whom are black and minority, are there on the basis of drug-related convictions.

Texas is not New York, Philadelphia or Chicago, however. Tulia's black population is isolated in the arid plains of a remote region of a Southern state justifiably infamous for its heavy-handed approach to "justice." While the "war on drugs" is used throughout the South to terrorize black people and other minorities, in the rural South it has been used to decimate entire communities, and that's exactly what happened in Tulia. The authorities manufactured a drug ring out of whole cloth and then used it, in effect, to target the entirety of the town's black population. Perhaps 80 years ago a racist mob might have been the instrumental force, as when a deputized white mob burned the black Greenwood section of Tulsa to the ground in 1921. Now all you need is a zealous D.A. and a creative narc. "It was the same in 1921," said Credico of the William Moses Kunstler Fund for Racial Justice asserts. "It's like being burned out in Indiana in the 1930s. You didn't do it, but it doesn't matter because a bunch of Klansmen are going to string you up anyway.

Such blatant disregard for the rights of the accused is not unique to Tulia. A former narcotics agent in Chambers County, Texas slammed up a typical drug bust as follows: "It's probably better known as a free-for-all. You get a bunch of warrants, search and arrest, get 'em all ready to go, get 30 or 40 officers from different jurisdictions anywhere who wants to come along can play. During the course of the action somebody does get kicked.... A whole lot of illegal searches and seizures go on." - Houston Chronicle, 26 October 2001

In the United States, where the special oppression of black people is integral to capitalist class rule and to the exploitation of the entire working class, drug laws and the war on drugs are used as a pretext for waging war against the black population as a whole. Whether it be for the war on drugs or the war on crime, those addicted to drugs should have free access to quality medical care and counseling.

Herbert favors quoting New York Democratic Senator Charles Schumer as saying that Tulia looks like "racial profiling, arresting and prosecuting with trumped-up evidence." Yet Schumer has long supported both the racist death penalty—a direct legacy of chattel slavery in its "private war on drugs"—and the war on drugs that spawns such outrages as Tulia. The Democrats are just as responsible for the racist assault on black people as the Republicans. Indeed, it was Demo­cratic president Bill Clinton who in 1996 trumped-up "drug deals" and put a number on 'em. They just stuck 'em all in prison. It's one expression of an overall ratcheting-up of repression against working people and the op­pressed. But people, who are a significant portion of the American working class, are not helpless in the face of this onslaught. The working class, the only class with the social power and objective interest to take down the capitalist system, can lead the fight against the racist "war on drugs" as part of a fight for the rights of all the oppressed. If we are able to stand against both the Democrats and their hangers-on in the trade-union bureaucracy is neces­sary to bring about the revolution of the working class to bear. Key to this struggle is forging a revolutionary working-class party that will fight for a socialist future, from the South Bronx to the southern plains.
League.

complete and definitive illegalization of clubs/pubs and elected officials in most

PARIS,

require that the hated party which gets over section of the International Communist

sar Garz6n ordered a three-year suspen­

attempt to finish off the Basque national­

government has seized on the post­

There have been protests on both sides of

Batasuna demonstrations, taking to the

streets in Bilbao and

Freedom now for the hundreds

of Basque cities.

of Basque Nationalists!

San Sebastián: Rally protests ban of Basque nationalist Batasuna party and demands release of Basque political prisoners, September 1.

When Batasuna refused to clearly con­

demn the attack, the government moved to ban the party. The ETA has often tar­

ged cops, judges, capitalists or bour­

greats ideologues. While defending the ETA against the current wave of state repression, Marxists oppose the desperate petty-bourgeois strategy of individual ter­

orism as an obstacle to proletariat, inter­

ationalist class struggle: the elimination of individual oppressors does not address the fundamental issue of getting rid of the capitalist system itself, which requires collective struggle by the working masses.

Moreover, when a military target is hit, the capitalist system itself, which requires collective struggle by the working masses.

The awful death of the lit­

tle girl was a godsend for the

Spanish, south and north of the Pyrenees (and

and France, to mobilize against this sinis­

of the proletariat, particularly in

Spain and France.

The immediate pretext for the mas­

of self-determination of the Basque peo­

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The immediate pretext for the mas­

the collapse of the Basque bourgeoisie and the growing class. Two years ago, the govern­

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Women and Revolution

Nigeria: Woman Sentenced to Death by Stoning

On August 19, an Islamic high court in Nigeria sentenced a 30-year-old Nigerian woman to death by stoning after an appeal by Amina LawaI, a 30-year-old single mother, and upheld her sentence of death by stoning for exceeding sexual boundaries outside marriage. LawaI was first sentenced in March by a lower Islamic court. She is scheduled to be executed in January 2004, as soon as she finishes breast-feeding her baby. The workers movement throughout the world must mobilize in protest action to stop this hideous execution!

Amina LawaI was not the first woman to incur the wrath of Islamic fundamentalists in Nigeria. Safiya Hussaini, a 30-year-old woman, was sentenced in March by a lower Islamic court. She is scheduled to be executed in January 2004, as soon as she finishes breast-feeding her baby. The workers movement throughout the world must mobilize in protest action to stop this hideous execution!

Save Amina LawaI!

In all these class societies, the central source of women's oppression is the institution of the family, a vehicle through which property is transmitted from one generation to the next and the mechanism for raising new generations of workers. In The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State, written in the late 19th century, Friedrich Engels explained that the monogamous patriarchal family arose "to make the man supreme in the family, and to propagate, as the future heirs to his wealth, children indisputably his own." The family is used to regiment society in the powers that be, instilling subservience and reinforcing religious obscurantism.

The struggle for the full liberation of women is tied to the struggle to overthrow capitalism. But to unleash the tremendous revolutionary potential of the fight for women's liberation requires the leadership of a genuinely communist party armed with the broad vision of a social order of equality and freedom and drawing in women as part of its leadership. Even the most basic needs of the vast mass of women in Nigeria—an end to seclusion and the veil; an end to forced marriages, polygamy and the bride price; freedom from poverty and legal subjugation; the right to free quality education and decent health care, including the right to abortion and contraceptives—demand an attack on the foundations of imperialism.

The imperialist-dominated capitalist social order and pose nothing less than socialist revolution. Ultimately, overcoming the hideous impoverishment and cultural backwardness of sub-Saharan Africa requires an internationally planned socialist economy based on proletarian revolutions in the advanced capitalist countries of North America, West Europe and Japan. For women's liberation through socialist revolution!

Imperialist Hypocrisy over Women's Rights

The implementation of sharia in northern Nigeria triggered a violent religious and ethnic conflict between the majority Muslim Hausa and the minority Christian Ibo tribes. As thousands were killed on both sides and countless churches, mosques and houses were destroyed, hundreds of thousands of Ibo fled to the east, where they are the ethnic majority. A similar exodus of Hausa headed north, fleeing the revenge killings. The ethnic killings recalled the events leading up to the Biafra war in the late 1960s. At that time, following massacres of the Ibo in the north, that ethnic group tried to secede from the rest of the country. The war that followed, with close to two million killed, was one of the most brutal conflicts in Africa's post-independence history.

President Olusegun Obasanjo, a military ruler during the '70s, was brought back to power in 1999 with the backing of the military and the support of the northern elites. He openly supported the introduction of sharia in the north, saying that "sharia is not a new thing and it's not a thing to be afraid of...the federal government would not dispute the rights of states to use it" (London Guardian, 20 August).

A rash of protests filled the imperialist press following the sentencing of Amina LawaI. The European Union, the U.S. State Department and the Canadian government all joined in condemning the "gross violation of human rights." Nothing could be more cynical coming from the imperialist powers. Who in their own countries promote attacks on women's rights, most graphically shown by the attacks on abortion rights and the axing of welfare in the U.S. On September 9, Regina Norman Donoso, a Ghanaian woman seeking asylum in the U.S. to escape genital mutilation in her country, was arrested and now faces loss of her passport and deportation on the bogus claim that she fabricated her story.

The imperialists have never had the least concern for women in the countries they sought to dominate and exploit. For centuries, these powers enslaved black Africans and plundered the continent. Most recently, it was these powers that "liberated" Kabul in Afghanistan, installing the regime of the Northern Alliance cutthroats, which has kept all the barbaric sharia laws, and recently "modified." A leading Afghan judge declared that those convicted of "adultery" would still be doomed to death...but with smaller stones.

For Permanent Revolution!

Nigeria, with over 300 ethnic groups cobbled together into an amalgam of a nation, is a creation of British colonialists following the carve-up of the continent at the conference of Berlin in 1884. The main ethnic groups are the Hausa, the Ibo and the Yoruba, who form about 70 percent of the population and lord it over the hundreds of other smaller ethnic groupings. The Hausa, who dominate the north, are mostly Muslims; the Ibo in the east are mostly Christian; the Yoruba in the southwest are divided between Muslims and Christians. Kept divided and continued on page 13
The crash between backers and foes of Venezuelan nationalist strongman Hugo Chávez has reached a fever pitch that recalls the atmosphere leading up to last April's short-lived coup. That military putch was carried out with the blessing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise Chávez for his populist posture and, above all, his sale of oil and other acts of support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba. This summing of the U.S. imperialists, who despise the president's ouster, while his support to Castro's Cuba.

The April 12 coup had brought Venezuela's paw prints all over it. In the months leading up to the coup, U.S. officials met with Venezuelan business and military leaders who opposed Chávez and laid the groundwork for a military takeover. The budget earmarked for Venezuelan opposition groups by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), a CIA front, was quadrupled to more than $577,000. According to the London-based Bureau for National Affairs (BNA), U.S. military high command ships "helped with communications and "summing support to the Venezuelan military."

The summit in Caracas of the Inter­ national Republican Institute, the Repub­ lican Party's conduit for international political conversion, proclaimed, "The Venezuelan people rose up to defend democracy in their country."

But as the coup quickly unraveled within two days, Washington was furiously backpedaling. On the ground, the coup was carried out by anti-Chávez businessmen and mili­ tary officers in an uneasy alliance with the notorious pro-imperialist leadership of the corporate-dominated TV trade union, Fedecameras. The TVC oil union tops and the oil bosses had been staging joint shut­ downs and protests for months. After weeks of confrontations triggered by Chávez's decision to replace executives of the state-owned oil company, on April 9 the TVC and the bosses' National Chamber of Commerce (Fedecameras) jointly called a general strike. When grena­ mines fired on a mass anti-Chávez demon­ stration, the military high command moved in to arrest Chávez and install Fedecameras head Pedro Carmona in the Miraflores presidential palace.

But thousands of Chávez's supporters soon poured out of the wrecked slums around Caracas, blocking roads, seiz­ ing television stations and surrounding the Miraflores palace. Military officers began shifting their support back to Chávez. According to the London Guardian, Chávez welcomes Fidel Castro to Caracas, August 2001. Chávez's dealings with Cuba have incensed U.S. imperialists.
flow. But even before Bush entered the White House, his aids heralded a harder line toward Chávez. The Bush administration is filled with veterans of U.S. imperialism’s “war on terrorism” in Central America in the 1980s, including Elliott Abrams, who presided over the U.S.-backed coup against the late Salvadoran president Juan “Baby Face” H不要on. But the Bush administration also included a current United Nations ambassador John Negroponte, who oversaw savage repression against opposition parties in the overthrow of the democratic Cuban government of Fidel Castro. When a U.S. military strike killed the Trotskyist leader Orlando Bosch, who bombed a Cuban embassy in the Netherlands, the Bush administration expressed its solidarity with the coup leaders and the right-wing opposition to the Castro regime. But even before Bush entered the White House, he inherited a history of U.S. intervention in Latin America.

To break the unending cycle of imperialism, the dominant model for imperialist exploitation in the Third World has been IMF-dictated “market reforms” and privatization of state-owned industries. In Bolivia, the point of the “ privatization of the energy sector” was not to make the capitalists pay for their own mistakes and neglect. Instead, it was to make the capitalists pay for their own mistakes and neglect, and to make workers bear the brunt of the costs of these mistakes.

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For Workers Revolution in Venezuela

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Young Spartacus

Florida Adoption Laws

Pillory Women, Gays

Government Out of the Bedroom!

FREE ABORTION ON DEMAND!
WOMEN’S LIBERATION THROUGH SOCIALIST REVOLUTION!

Spartacist/SYC contingent at 1992 abortion rights protest in San Francisco.

Spartacist/SYC held an Anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) week of action on the University of Florida campus. Students were encouraged to boycott Israeli goods and services in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Updating the story of The Scarlet Letter with a switch to gothic twist, a Florida law enacted last October requires unmarried mothers offering their children for adoption to take out advertisements detailing their sexual histories. Not only must these women, many of whom are young and impoverished, pay to run these ads in newspapers in each city or county where conception might have taken place for four weeks prior to the child’s birth. The women must include their names and physical descriptions—including their race, their child’s name, and the names and addresses of their sexual partners. Mothers who have had sex with anyone before the child’s birth. Behind this adoption law which stigmatizes and humiliates women is a reactionary “family values” moralism. The state has no business scrutinizing women’s sex lives.

Seeking to overturn this barbaric law, an ad agency last February ran out of the bedroom!

“illegitimacy”

laws, women’s rights and the rights of youth are in the cross hairs of an interventionist capitalist state. The Spartacus Youth Clubs call for free abortion on demand, free 24-hour childcare, free health care, jobs for all, open admissions to the universities with no tuition and a living stipend. But the full liberation of women can only be achieved under capitalism. Only victorious proletarian revolution can break the chains of economic compulsion which underlie the bourgeois family, allowing the allocation of resources according to human need and not Wall Street profits.

Women’s rights, like homosexuality, is seen as a challenge to the bourgeois family and the ideological and moral structures that ensnare it. For revolutionists, women’s liberation and the defense of democratic rights for homosexuals are inextricably linked to the goal of replacing the family as an economic and legal unit in a socialist society. The family remains the key institution for the oppression of women in class society, “family values” based on religion, charity and “morality” will constitute a conser­vatizing ideology used to regiment the population and prop up bourgeois “law and order.”

In Iowa, these forces of “law and order” are attacking women’s right to control their own medical records, as a district court judge has ordered all hospitals and clinics in the Storm Lake area to turn over the names of women whose pregnancy tests were positive between August 2001 and May 2002. This state attempt to snoop into the private lives of hundreds of women, supposedly in search of the mother of a dead baby found in a dump, has been opposed by the operators of the local Planned Parenthood clinic, who have appealed the case to the state Supreme Court. Already the number of pregnancy tests performed at the clinic is down 70 percent. Down with the government sex snoops!

Such invasions of privacy are becoming more and more frequent, as the anti-abortion Bush White House builds on the policies of the previous Democratic administration, emboldening right-wing forces nationwide. From the campaign to replace sex education with “abstinence only” preaching to the pushing of mandatory marriage and enforcing of reactionary “statutory rape” laws, women’s rights and the rights of youth are in the cross hairs of an interventionist capitalist state. The Spartacus Youth Clubs call for free abortion on demand, free 24-hour childcare, free quality health care, jobs for all, open admissions to the universities with no tuition and a living stipend. But the full liberation of women can only be achieved under capitalism. Only victorious proletarian revolution can break the chains of economic compulsion which underlie the bourgeois family, allowing the allocation of resources according to human need and not Wall Street profits.

We stand in solidarity with the victims of violence against the movement for women’s rights and the rights of youth. As Marxists, we stand in opposition to all fascist elements, such as those behind the sinister “Nuremberg files” Web site targeting abortion providers for assassina­tion. There is a history of violent anti-abortion terrorism in Florida, from the murder of abortion providers to the bomb­ing of clinics by right-wing religious fundamentalists linked to the Ku Klux Klan. As for the state government, it offers “Choose Life” license plates and uses the proceeds to fund anti-abortion “counseling centers.” The new adoption law makes it illegal to counseling centers.

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Such invasions of privacy are becoming more and more frequent, as the anti-abortion Bush White House builds on the policies of the previous Democratic administration, emboldening right-wing forces nationwide. From the campaign to replace sex education with “abstinence only” preaching to the pushing of mandatory marriage and enforcing of reactionary “statutory rape” laws, women’s rights and the rights of youth are in the cross hairs of an interventionist capitalist state. The Spartacus Youth Clubs call for free abortion on demand, free 24-hour childcare, free quality health care, jobs for all, open admissions to the universities with no tuition and a living stipend. But the full liberation of women can only be achieved under capitalism. Only victorious proletarian revolution can break the chains of economic compulsion which underlie the bourgeois family, allowing the allocation of resources according to human need and not Wall Street profits.
Iraq...

(continued from page 16)

people. This is part of our opposition to the "national unity" campaign and anti-immigrant witchhunts of the bosses and our fight to organize and build a workers party under whose leadership the working class can seize state power and expropriate the bosses. The bourgeois solution of "stabilization" abroad means class struggle at home!

In contrast, the reformist International Socialist Organization (ISO) endorses building "the broadest possible anti-war movement," which in the end is tailored to liberal, pro-imperialist sentiments. Exactly who the ISO wants in its "antiwar movement," was most clearly seen at the first meeting of the ISO-led Columbia Anti-War Coalition (CAWC) last Monday. After the SYC put forward its proposal for a united-front protest against war in Iraq, opposition surfaced from students worried about alienating youth with "confrontational" slogans. In fact, at the meeting the ISO agreed to make opposing war in Iraq the sole basis for participation in CAWC, so as to leave the door open to those who generally support the "war on terror." Though ISOers voiced formal agreement with our protest demands and CAWC adopted "points of unity" that were variants of these demands, the CAWC seeks to avoid endorsing the demonstration.

For the ISO, keeping pro-imperialist liberals in the anti-war coalition is the principal opposition to the U.S. government's "war on terror," of which war in Iraq is the centerpiece. The ISO is appealing its coalition partners as to claim it was "too early" for protests. If now is not the time to be solidarity war protesters, has been reduced to a mass gray area?

Guided more by anti-communism than anti-imperialism, the ISO also refused to join our protest at the activities fair against the ROTC military recruiters, who were well within view of the ISO literature table. During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, the ISO likewise eagerly joined with pro-imperialist liberals in anti-war coalitions. Falling in line with the U.S. government's war of outing the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, the ISO tore up its paper opposition to sanctions to endorse demoralizing the American public by peace, alternative to bombing. Today, the ISO cries over the 1.5 million victims of the UN-sponsored starvation blockade, but it shows what the whole coalition they endorsed asked for at the time, to deadly effect.

This is the ISO's "realist" strategy—spread illusions that the "excesses" of capitalism can be alleviated through mass pressure on supposedly progressive capitalist forces, namely the Democratic Party. In a posting on its Web site, ISO looks kindly upon Al Gore, who we are told "wrote an op ed piece in the August 4 New York Times that made a sharp turn toward class struggle rhetoric," and holds out the possibility of building the "movement" through "a break to the left in mainstream politics." The Democratic Party is a party of racism and war! Most of the Iraqi victims of the embargo died under watch of the pro-capital Clinton (and Gore), about which Clinton's UN ambassador Madeleine Albright reckoned: "We think the price is worth it." In addi-

tion, near-U.S. bombing in the last two years of the last Clinton administration killed hundreds of Iraqis. Today, the Democrats falusely support extending the "war on terror," whether to Iraq or elsewhere. The mainstream capitalist class at home! Down with the two imperialist war parties!

The ISO's faith in the existence of a progressive wing of the bourgeoisie led it to howl with the imperialist wolves in the 1960s and 1970s as the ISO "supported" the Red Army in Afghanistan during the civil war between Islamic fundamentalists and the Soviet-supported Afghan government. The ISO cast it's lot with the U.S. backed, women-hating mujahedins cutthroats, who were called "freedom fighters." We hailed the Red Army, which represented the only hope for emancipation of the hide-
cously oppressed Afghan people. Generally, the ISO supported every impe-
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Corporate Scams and Swindles

"There’s a handful of CEO’s that have done more to hurt our econ­omy than any politician I’ve ever seen," Jerry Schneider said.

David D’Alessandro, chief executive officer (CEO) of John Hancock Financial Services

Every few days a high-level corporate executive or Wall Street financier becomes a fugitive, forced to answer to a federal grand jury. Some of his colleagues has undermined corporate America, Andrew Grove, chairman of the big computer chip maker Intel, confes­ses to us. Grove’s embarrassment and shame are no doubt aggravated by the fact that the stock market slide began two and a half years ago and so was not caused by the recent wave of corporate scandals beginning with Enron last fall.

The Wall Street bull market of the mid­late 1990s was driven by a speculative mania defying all rational cal­culation and expectation. It really didn’t matter whether the profits reported on corporate financial statements were real or artificially inflated. Stocks were widely owned in both forms, by both historical standards and in comparison with the earnings of other, far safer financial assets (e.g., U.S. Treasury bills). In the past, a stock market crash and prolonged bear market battered the working class through its secondary effects on the economy. The collapse of business investment in new plant and equipment resulted in mass layoffs and unemployment.

Corporate managers moved to recoup profit margins by cutting wages and benefits. And this is also happening now. For example, the nation’s second largest airline, United, which has long advertised itself as “employee owned” because its workers were encouraged to buy stock through the Employee Stock Option Program, is threatening bankruptcy if its workers accept pay cuts as well as layoffs.

CEO's like Enron chairman and Bush crony Kenneth Lay make grab for unprecedented gains off backs of working people. Since the Soviet Union was destroyed by capitalist counterrevolution in 1991­92, the United States has been the supra­dominant power in the world. Conse­quently, the stock market crash, falling dollar and looming double­dip recession have a major effect on all aspects of glo­bal politics. For example, the European imperialist ruling classes are even less likely to support an American war against Iraq now that they’re losing hundreds of billions of dollars on their investments in the U.S.

The Wall Street bubble peaked at $400 trillion a few months ago, the New York Times (30 June) ran a headline with the rhetorical question: “Could Capital­ists Actually Bring Down Capitalism?” The answer is no. American capitalism has been crafted to absorb social crises and stock market crashes and prolonged economic slumps. The only social force that can bring down American capitalism is a major revolution, driven by greed and profits and not by the needs and interests of humanity, is a one­way bet where you can win by the oppressed and impoverished black and Latino masses. To realize this, the protest must be transformed from a class in itself—the object of capitalist exploitation—to a class for itself—con­scious of its purpose as the agency for the eradication of the capitalist order. It must be educated and led by a Marxist vanguard committed to the establish­ment of workers rule.

Stock Options and Other Financial Scams

Two decades ago, corporate CEOs exploited the new 401(k) plans to swindle workers. Today, they make more than 400 times more than that. The main difference has been the widespread use of stock options, which now account for almost 60 percent of executive compensa­tion. Options provide both a direct, personal incentive to maximize stock prices and a way for corporate America to dodge the tax on its multiracial working class supported the needs and interests of humanity, is a one­way bet where you can win by the oppressed and impoverished black and Latino masses. To realize this, the protest must be transformed from a class in itself—the object of capitalist exploitation—to a class for itself—con­scious of its purpose as the agency for the eradication of the capitalist order. It must be educated and led by a Marxist vanguard committed to the establish­ment of workers rule.

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Workers Vanguard
Chicago: Hotel workers, members of HERE union, demonstrate against attacks on wages and health benefits, August 23.

Chicago: Hotel workers, members of HERE union, demonstrate against attacks on wages and health benefits, August 23. billion in expenses for last year and the first quarter of this year. A previously reported profit of $1.5 billion for 2001 was instantaneously transformed into a substantial loss. What was involved here was a fraud so stupidly obvious it could have been caught by a business school undergraduate in Accounting 101. The WorldCom management had "reclassified" ordinary operating expenses for the maintenance of its phone cables as a capital outlay for new equipment to be depreciated over several years, and thus reduced their expenses on paper. One commentator quipped that even a seven-year-old knows the difference between their retirement funds and other savings of corporate shares? Because they were led to believe the stock prices would continue to rise at the excessive rates of the previous few years.

Yale University economist Robert Shiller aptly described the stock market boom as a "naturally occurring Ponzi scheme." This famous financial swindle was named for one Charles Ponzi, who operated it in Boston in the 1920s. It basically works like this. The initial round of investors can resell their stocks at a higher price from the money provided by a larger second round of investors. They, in turn, can resell the stock at a higher price from the money provided by a still larger third round. The scheme continues to spiral outward and upward until the supply of gullible investors runs out and then the stock collapses. On a gigantic scale involving trillions of dollars, millions of investors and thousands of companies, that is basically what happened in U.S. financial markets over the past decade.

The Boom-Bust Cycle of Capitalism

The collapse of the Wall Street bull market represents the financial crisis, exaggerated by speculative expectations and illusions, the fundamental laws of the capitalist economic system analyzed a century and a half ago by Karl Marx. In particular, the tendency of the rate of profit to fall periodically blocks and reverses the expansion of production. Marx explained in Volume III of Capital: "The expansion or contraction of production are determined by the appropriation of unpaid labor and the proportion of the unpaid labor to materialized labor in general, that is, to speak in a language comprehensible to the capitalists, by profit and the proportion of this profit to the paid capital, thus, by a definite rate of profit, rather than by the relation of production to social requirements, i.e., to the needs of the collectively developed human beings."

In a world based on expanding productive capacity on the assumption that the additional output, whether automobiles or Internet services, can be sold at the existing rate of profit, or at a higher rate if they're investing in cost-cutting technology. If, as is usually the case, capital construction is financed by new bond issues or bank loans, corporate management expects a rate of profit more than adequate to meet the future debt service. However, during periods of expansion the average rate tends to fall. Even if productivity rises and wages don't, increased profit per worker does not offset increased cost per investment per worker.

The causal relationship between capital accumulation and a falling rate of profit is especially clear in the telecommunication sector, where, not coincidentally, the recent bevy of corporate scandals—WorldCom, Global Crossing—have been connected to the need to finance rapid growth of Internet and also cellular phone traffic stranded existing facilities. Profits in the industry were well above average, with a rate of return on capital of 15 percent or more. Capital flowed in to finance new investments in fiber-optic cable networks and other facilities. The result: a sharp fall in the rate of profit to 8.5 percent by the end of the decade, leading to what the London Economist (20 July) calls "The Great Telecoms Crash": "Too many firms got caught in Internet mania, assumed astronomic rates of traffic growth, and, by betting on bullish investors, started building networks to carry that traffic."

Telecommunications represents an extreme case of what happened throughout the U.S. economy during the 1990s boom. As the economy moved into recessions, the market often rose. A recent academic study (9 April 2001) explained why, naturally from the standpoint of capitalists, not the workers: "Among others, my colleagues and I have pointed out that much of the market behavior of the U.S. economy during the 1990s was consistent with the idea that the boom was driven by speculative bubbles."

"After years of fractionally investing to build up the human and physical capacity to keep up with speculative demands, the U.S. economy is struggling with overcapacity, as far as we can see," explained Kenneth Rogoff, who described the boom from the perspective of those who seem to dot every other corner, to the gaping, empty facilities that spread from over New York's Times Square, every second or third with windows still covered by tarps caused by too much investment.

Obviously, for working people there cannot possibly be too many job opportunities and goods and services available. Yet business executives and their ideological spokesmen mean by "overcapacity" is that the U.S. has the actual capacity to produce for more products and services than can be sold at a satisfactory rate of profit. As Marx explained: "There are not too many necessities of life produced, in proportion to the existing productive capacity. Human labor is produced to destine humanity to want the wants of the great mass...."

Too many commodities are produced to permit a realization and conversion into the means of subsistence. This idea, Marx and other theorists have repeatedly availed capitalism to produce, i.e., too much production is the cause of the speculative process without constantly recurring exposure of the means of subsistence...."

—Capital, Volume III

According to the latest government statistics (which use the government's over-estimates), the U.S. economy was in recession most of last year but pulled out of it during the beginning of this year. Yet unemployment continues to rise, with older workers simply not being rehired. This is why the economy is growing so slowly it cannot absorb the additional

This pamphlet assesses recent changes in the world economy in a historical perspective, from the origins of modern imperialism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries through the early 21st century (for more information, see our new book, The Age of Capitalism: Reconsidered and Expanded). The pamphlet analyses the world economy in a historical perspective, from the origins of modern imperialism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries through the early 21st century (for more information, see our new book, The Age of Capitalism: Reconsidered and Expanded).

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workers entering the labor market.

Furthermore, those workers who do have jobs have already seen their paychecks fall as a result of reduced overtime and other deductions. For example, many companies are raising insurance premiums to cover increases in health insurance premiums out of their employees' paychecks. James Foreman, managing director of a business consulting firm, explained very clearly how capitalists respond to a recession by seeking to increase their profits and avoid the so-called "threats" of exploitation: "Profits are squeezed so employers have to shift more of the cost back to the worker or risk losing them to a competitor who can get a job, so companies don't have to worry about employees going somewhere else" (New York Times, 11 August 1995).

The only thing sustaining the economic "recovery" is that consumer spending has not yet fallen significantly despite greater unemployment and smaller paychecks. How is that possible? Working-class families as well as affluent members of the middle class have so far resisted cutting their living standard—by going even more deeply into debt. The combined mortgage, auto loan and credit-card debt of the average American family is now nearly 100 percent of annual after-tax income, up from 75 percent a decade ago. Obviously, this trend cannot continue for long.

Significantly, the big banks are pushing through a federal legislation to make it "too hard" if not impossible for working people to get out from under their debt through bankruptcy. Describing the Congressional bill as "a creditor's wish list," Henry Sommer, vice president of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Lawyers, explained: "Many who by filing [for bankruptcy] now could save their homes from foreclosure or their cars from repossession won't be able to do so under this law. Many will be locked into bankruptcy owing as much as they owe now" (Nation, 8 April 1995).

Wall Street's main man on Capitol Hill in guiding this soak-the-poor legislation through Congress is Senate Democratic majority leader Tom Daschle. Daschle has long had close ties to Citibank—the nation's largest credit-card issuer—which runs the credit-card processing center in his home state of South Dakota. Last spring the Senate Demo­cratic leader boasted of getting "momentum" to pass "a strong bankruptcy bill" for Bush to sign into law.

In a working-class family experiences the value of their retirement funds and other savings falling and their credit-card and other debt rising, they have to cut back their consumption spending. Both business and academic economists theorize the negative multiplier effect of double-digit recession by the year's end. More fundamentally, there is a striking parallel between the U.S. economy today and that of Japan after its stock market/economic bubble burst in the early 1990s: "The split between America's financial bubble in the 1990s and Japan's in the 1980s has been well rehearsed. In both cases, share prices and capital spending were overvalued; both stock exchanges and companies went on a borrowing binge. "America's economy over the past two years has been in the way many saw the performance of Japan's immediately preceding bubble."—Economist, 15 June 1995

And ever since, the Japanese economy has stagnated and continues to do so. We see some of the results of that" (New York Times, 28 June 1995).

Gephardt to the contrary (and he knows better), the financial deregulation of the 1990s was very much a Komeritz operation. When not preoccupied with the Monica Lewinsky affair, the Clinton White House collaborated with Gingrich, DeLay & Co. in undoing many New Deal-derived regulatory measures designed to curtail the worst excesses of unchecked speculation. For example, in 1999 Clinton and the Republicans-led Congress repealed the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act which prohibited Wall Street firms from engaging in both investment banking and stock trading. An investment bank gets money from corporations for arranging and promoting their new stock and bond issues. A brokerage house gets money from its clients for recommending those stocks that are the best buy. There's an obvious conflict of interest here. Witness Merrill Lynch analysts describing some Internet stocks as "crap" in private while...
even greater degree than the Dow Jones and S&P 500. Currently, the economic and political core of the European Union, is teetering on the brink of a recession, with unemployment expected to rise to 15 percent in 2003. In addition, the consumer price index has shot up by 25 percent more than in the same period last year. Business Week (2 September) comments:

“The Frankfurt trading house founded by Jacob Friedrich Gontard in 1726 survived occupation by Napoleon, hyperinflation in post-war Germany, and the turbulent world. Not so the traditional U.S. neocolonies in Latin America. It is here—in Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and throughout the region—that the bloodshed in London, Frankfurt and Tokyo have reduced hundreds of millions of workers and peasants to desperate poverty. In the industrial city of Rosario, once called the “Chicago of Argentina,” an unemployability newspaper office is now raising earthworms to sell as organic fertilizer. His neighbors are raising snails and frogs to sell to restaurants. According to a special government figures, one-quarter of Argentina’s labor force is unemployed and one-half its population is struggling to survive on less than $10 a month for a family of four. And as a condition for any new loans, the International Mone-

etary Fund (IMF)—the world bankers car-
tel—is demanding even harsher eco-
tsocks of Wall Street and their partners in foreign aid, provincial governments, the scrapping of an “economic subversion” law which so often has been used against the left.

In recent months, Brazil has been the target of concerted economic warfare by its creditors. Although the popular movement was given a possible victory for Luiz Inácio da Silva, now Lula, presidential candidate of the leftist Workers Party, in October’s elections. It doesn’t matter that Lula has now pledged that he would not default on or restructure to “bankruptize” Brazil’s government debt. With the “leftist” candi-
date ahead in polls, Brazil experienced massive capital flight. Between April and early August, the country’s currency, the real, lost a third of its value in foreign exchange markets. Such a third of standing government bonds are indexed to the dollar, Brazil’s public sector debt soared, raising the prospect of imminent default.

So in mid-August the IMF came up with a $30 billion “rescue package” conditional on a substantial reduction in the government budget deficit by the post-Octobe-related of $300 billion. A financial anal-

yst in Rio de Janeiro, Walter Molano, explained quite bluntly that Wall Street and its partners in Latin America are dictating Brazil’s economic policies no matter who wins the upcoming “democratic” elections in October.

“When it comes time for the rest of the money to be dispersed in Brazil, because they have quarterly targets and reviews, the first time that Lula misses they can tell him he’s not getting any more money. That’s what they did to Argentina the last year, saying there would be no waiver, and they will do the same to the next administration.”

—New York Times, 11 August

To liberate themselves from Wall Street’s debt peonage, the workers and rural peasants of Latin America won to the principles and program of pro-

letarian internationalism as represented by the Committee Against Imperialism. For all the bourgeoisie’s triumphalism about the supposed “death of communism,” the current economic and political crisis calls out for an internationally planned social-

ist economy. To achieve this requires workers’ control of the world’s top oil producers. In Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and to the imperialist centers of North America, Europe and Japan. What is needed is an authentically communist international party—a reforged Fourth International. Based on Lenin and Trotsky’s program of world socialist revolution—to render the proletarian consciousness of its historic task as the gravedigger of capitalism, a party capable of politically defeat-
ing the key to the mass organizations and state bureaucrats who blunder the exploitation and oppressed to the blood donors of Wall Street, Frankfurt and Tokyo.

Nigeria...

(continued from page 5)

further subdivided along ethnic and religi-

ous fault lines, these groups are thrown into constant conflict with one another, fomented by the country’s rulers, who rule on the behalf of the imperialists and international gangsters. As the Nigerian Oriniomini Onishi writes, “These hatreds and divisions are staggering complex, fueled by the manorial hereditary beliefs of those who have left most residents of one of the world’s top oil producers in poverty. What is more, they have been encouraged and exploited by the coun-

try’s rulers, from the British to the mili-
tary governments of the European and American oil companies that pump crude oil in the Niger delta, an area largely aban-

doned by the”national government” (New York Times, 26 March 2000).

A report published on August 26 by the World Organization Against Torture documents the role of Obasanjo’s regime in the killing of over 10,000 people since 1999:

“Security agents, acting in most cases on direct orders of the government, have been responsible for the majority of the deaths as well as accompanying rapes, maiming and torture of civilians. As of now, we have 10,000, and young girls, and other defenseless civilians.

“We the local and international community contend that these deaths are due to agents, acting in most cases on direct orders of the state and its security agencies in the country, are the cause of the ongoing conflict. By threatening the people, the government is causing them to remove their guards for their occurrence and recurrence.”

Earlier this month, Obasanjo admitted responsibility for ordering the massacres, grotesquely claiming that he acted to “save lives and property.”

Ruled by a succession of generals for all but 12 years after its independence in 1960, Nigeria became a synonym for corruption and wanton bloodshed. Today’s regime is nearly 70 percent of its estimated 125 million people living below subsistence level. In 1999, the number of the sixty-largest oil-exporting country defies description. The per capita income of less than $300 remains unchanged since the pre-oil days. Most of the mass of city populations live in overcrowded slums with no adequate water. Those who are fortunate enough to have telephones are blind, as it is the task of a fighting workers move-

ment to fight for these demands.

The mass impoverishment and degra-
dation in the country, as elsewhere in the semicolonial world, are the direct prod-
gucts of the destruction set by the imperialists. Despite the domination enforced by the local lackeys. From Iran to Algeria and Egypt to Nigeria, the bourgeoisie are now more desperate than ever. Imperialists have provided fertile ground for the spread of Islamic funda-

mentalism. With the expulsion, the people are buying their own independence struggles shattered, the suppressed masses and the unem-

employed find solace in religious dogma. They flock by the millions into the ranks of the Islamic fundamentalists. The rise of fundamentalism is the reactionary reflection of both the manifest dead end of nationalism

and the absence of a communist alterna-
tive. As put by a leading Nigerian Islam-

ist, “It is the failure of every system we have known. We had colonialism, which was exploitative. We had a brief period of happiness after independence, then the military came in, and everything has been going downward since then. But before this, we had a system that worked. We had Shariah. We are Muslims. Why don’t we return to ourselves?”

In a world economy dominated by imperialism, the neocolonial African countries have no chance of achieving significant economic development. With scant industrial production, the bourgeois-

ists maintain majority of generals, govern-

ment ministers, government contractors and merchants. Such a ruling class can not achieve genuine emancip-

ation from imperialism. The key to social and economic progress in these coun-

tries is provided by the Trotskyist program of permanent revolution. As Leon Trotsky explained, in economically back-

ward countries the weak national bour-

geoisie—tied by a thousand strings to imperialism and fearful of its “own” working class—is incapable of realizing the demands of national liberation pro-


cussions such as the 1789 French Revolu-

tion. He wrote that “the complete and genuine proletarian revolution, and acting to bring about the destruction of the state, is conceivable only through the dic-

tatorship of the proletariat. Only in this way can the subject of the nation, above all of its peasant masses” (The Permanent Revolu-

tion).

While the industrial proletariat exists only in marginal and isolated pockets in much of Africa, oil workers in Nigeria and Angola, dock and rail workers in Kenya and miners in Zambia and the Congo, for example, represent a strategic industrial proletariat that is an internationalist revolutionary work-

ers party to transform these layers into a human link to the mass organizations and state bureaucrats who blunder the exploitation and oppressed to the blood donors of Wall Street, Frankfurt and Tokyo.

To achieve this requires workers’ control of the world’s top oil producers. In Latin America, the social and economic progress in these countries is provided by the Trotskyist program of permanent revolution. As Leon Trotsky explained, in economically back-

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sought to have the referendum declared unlawful. The referendum were the anti-Communist International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (IG). The organization—an arm of that imperialist den of thieves, the United Nations—as usual, was being published by Mary Robinson. Nor was that all. The director of the United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation, warned:

"When a country is out of step with internationally recognized principles, we can't afford to go back on our investments," amounting to a whopping $4.3 billion. Such revolutionary, priest-infested rights" union "playing American union's role" in the IG's six-page statement, nor did the IG acknowledge, in passing, that the CTM had been part of the "Trade Unions in the Epoch of the Imperialist Decade" (1940), a common feature in the development of all modern trade-union organizations under reformist or nationalist leadership is "its drawing closely to and growing together with the state power." Marxists fight for the class independence of the proletariat in all countries. In Mexico or Venezuela, that means breaking through bourgeois unions and nationalist parties and their imperialist patrons. In the U.S., we fight to break through the bureaucratic-Peronist system in which strikes were settled by direct intervention or even imperialist subjugation. But compared, e.g., to Mexico's Vicente Fox—incompatible to the imperialist system.

Chavez reported that one-third of its oil imports, on favorable terms or even imperialist subjugation. But compared, e.g., to Mexico's Vicente Fox—incompatible to the imperialist system.

When is a Union Not a Union?

Given its history of lining up behind "anti-imperialist" nationalists from Mexico to Venezuela to Argentina, how should we have expected the IG to cozy up to the nationalist-populist Chávez. Indeed, behind the IG’s embrace of the Mexican CTM is the IG's opportunist pur- pose of elements around the "left" nation- ally, such as Pabloites of the Pabloist (PRD) of Cuauhtemoc Cárdenas. According to the IG, the only real unions in Mex- ico are going, the possibilities are wide open to set up a corporatist system in which strikes were settled by direct intervention or even imperialist subjugation.

Trotskists do not recognize a class difference between so-called "official" or "non-official" unions, whether the "independents" in Mexico or the CTU unions in Venezuela. With the PRI not even in power, the CTM does not even have a state patron anymore. In any case, as Leon Trotsky wrote in "Trade Unions in the Epoch of the Imperialist Decade" (1940), a common feature in the development of all modern trade-union organizations under reformist or nationalist leadership is "its drawing closely to and growing together with the state power." Marxists fight for the class independence of the proletariat in all countries. In Mexico or Venezuela, that means breaking through bourgeois unions and nationalist parties and their imperialist patrons. In the U.S., we fight to break through the bureaucratic-Peronist system in which strikes were settled by direct intervention or even imperialist subjugation.

Pabloites of the Second Mobilization

What is perhaps most curious about the IG's line on Venezuela is its apparent support of Chávez’s popular revolution at the expense of the Cuban revolution. This was fought out, resulting in a bloody civil war in which the IG’s leadership became the first head of state to send in the CTV's pro-PRD politicians and to prettify the PRI’s "alliance" with Castro against the Batista dictatorship. This was fought out, resulting in a bloody civil war in which the IG’s leadership became the first head of state to send in the CTV's pro-PRD politicians and to prettify the PRI’s "alliance" with Castro against the Batista dictatorship. This was fought out, resulting in a bloody civil war in which the IG’s leadership became the first head of state to send in the CTV's pro-PRD politicians and to prettify the PRI’s "alliance" with Castro against the Batista dictatorship.

"We have characterized the IG’s politics as "Pabloism of the second mobiliza-" tion," referring to the liquidationist cur- rent which destroyed the Fourth Interna- tional in the early 1950s. Faced with the onset of the imperialist cold war and the creation of Stalinist-reformulated workers states in Europe, the Pabloists denounced the Trotskyist parties and argued that the Stalin- ist and social democrats could be pressured to organize "united fronts" against the imperialist revolution. The IG’s opportunism, in turn, reflects despair over the destruction of the left in Venezuela. The IG's "united fronts" against the forces backed by the U.S. and Washington’s- claims that the Havana regime was involved in the drug trade by upholding Castro's integrity: "For Castro to lie about this is tantamount to an invasion." Of course, the White House’s drug charges against Castro were part and parcel of U.S. imperialism's relentless drive to crush the Cuban Revolution. But to assert, as Norden did, that Castro couldn't lie, or that the U.S. couldn't see blind faith in the Cuban Stalinist bureaucra- cy. This was fought out, resulting in a clarification of various national terrains, is inherently unipolar. We have characterized the IG's politics as "Pabloism of the second mobiliza-" tion," referring to the liquidationist cur- rent which destroyed the Fourth Interna- tional in the early 1950s. Faced with the onset of the imperialist cold war and the creation of Stalinist-reformulated workers states in Europe, the Pabloists denounced the Trotskyist parties and argued that the Stalin- ist and social democrats could be pressured to organize "united fronts" against the imperialist revolution. The IG’s opportunism, in turn, reflects despair over the destruction of the left in Venezuela.
“Tomorrow It Could Be Against You”  
Anti-Muslim Hysteria in Florida

On Friday, September 13, three Muslim medical students (two of them U.S. citizens and one a foreign student on a valid visa) driving two cars across southern Florida's Interstate 75 were met with a massive police “anti-terrorism” dragnet of 100 cops from 19 agencies. The highway was shut down and the three students were dragged away for hours of police interrogation, while their cars and belongings were examined by bomb-sniffing dogs, a police robot, men in ceramic bomb suits, X-ray machines, chemical swabs and radiation-detecting equipment flown in by the FBI. The names of the three students, Ayman Gheith, Kambiz Butt and Omer Chaudhry, were run against terrorist databases, possible Florida “targets” were identified and ports were alerted. But after over 17 hours in custody, all three men were released and the cops forced to admit that there were in fact no bombs, no “weapons of mass destruction,” no “terrorist links,” and no “terrorist plot.”

The ostensible basis for this massive display of police power was a telephone “tip” after the students stopped for breakfast the day before at a Shoney’s restaurant in the backwater town of Calhoun, Georgia. A white customer noted that Gheith was wearing a skullcap and had a long beard, and claimed she overheard the three men “giggling and laughing” about September 11 memorial services. So she scribbled down their license plate numbers and phoned them in to the police. Her phone call precipitated a “Be On the Lookout” alert. Shortly after midnight, the three medical students were pulled over as they began their cross-country drive to South Miami, where they planned to start a medical rotation at Larkin Community Hospital.

“We never made any threatening remarks in that restaurant,” said Gheith, who family members said had helped organize a candlelight vigil at his medical school after the September 11 attacks. “She saw obviously the way I was dressed and maybe she put a little salt and pepper into her story” (New York Times, 14 September). Gheith poignantly remarked, “I think it’s time for us as Americans to put down our big sticks and pick up our books and read about other people and read about what they believe before we jump to conclusions.”

Outrageously, Georgia prosecutors are still looking for a basis to prosecute the men for creating a “hoax.” “These people are going to learn a lesson,” a Georgia Bureau of Investigation spokesman threatened. Now all three have been kicked out of the Larkin Hospital program, purportedly based on “safety” concerns as a result of an avalanche of threatening phone calls and e-mails received by the hospital. We demand: Hands off Gheith, Butt and Chaudhry! Reinstate them at Larkin Hospital!

“These efforts, started yesterday at a Shoney’s, are something all Floridians should be very pleased about,” Florida governor Jeb Bush intoned. “In this time of heightened vigilance, I think it’s important to show this system works” (Miami Herald, 14 September). The victimization of these three Muslim students is a vivid illustration of how the government’s anti-terrorism apparatus will “work,” especially the new “turn in your neighbor” plan called TIPS (Terrorist Information and Prevention System), the latest government effort to augment its legal arsenal in preparation for a never-ending “war against terrorism.”

In the buildup for its impending attack on Iraq, the Bush administration is also desperate for something it can claim as an intelligence victory in its “war on terror.” All the government’s previous such “victories” have proven to be pure bull. Immediately on the heels of the fabled Florida “plot,” the FBI arrested five members of a supposed Al-Qaeda-trained cell in Buffalo—all of them U.S. citizens. Yet the FBI admitted the purported cell was not active, and that they did not have “anything specific that they were planning that would jeopardize the health and safety of anybody in the United States or western New York” (CNN, 15 September).

“It is against us today,” Gheith told reporters after his release. “Tomorrow it could be against you.” We have said that the post-September 11 laws and directives that initially targeted immigrants and those of Near Eastern descent would be used to target black people and the whole working class. A striking confirmation of this is the government’s promise to use its war powers authority to prevent a strike by the powerful ILWU union. The Bush government is now imbued with the notion that it can do whatever it wants to those that dissent. We must be alert. The war on terror risks breaking the bosses’ “national unity” through class struggle.

Woomera... (continued from page 3)

Mr. Bakhitjiri’s visa and his, and less than two weeks after his recapture, Almadar and other detainees were brutally beaten again in a rampage by detention centre guards. Stop this vicious persecution! We demand: Asylum now for all refugees-grees is threatened with deportation to the country that it is helping its partners who bought and paid for their services against the Soviet Red Army’s invasion System), the latest government preparation for a never-ending “war on terror.”

Whatever the government can get away with will be determined by the level of social struggle. It is urgently necessary to mobilize the social power of the labor movement to demand: Down with the government’s “war on terror!” Defend immigrant rights. Break the bosses’ “national unity” through class struggle.}

and, among others, its Australian junior guards. Stop this vicious persecution! We demand: Asylum now for all refugees-

March 29: Refugees break out of Woomera Detention Centre in Australia as hundreds of supporters rally outside.

20 SEPTEMBER 2002

KEVIN REILLY

Spartacus Youth Club Class Series

CHICAGO
Alternate Tuesdays, 6 p.m.  
October 1: Marxism vs. Anarchism  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Room 117 Lincoln Hall  
707 S. Morgan St.  
Information and readings: (312) 563-0441  
or e-mail spartac@uic.edu

TORONTO
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.  
September 26: Marxism, Communism and the Fight for Revolution Today  
University of Toronto International Student Centre  
33 St. George St. (north of College)  
Information and readings: (416) 593-4138  
or e-mail spartac@utoronto.ca

NEW YORK CITY
Alternate Tuesdays, 7 p.m.  
Columbia University  
(116th and Broadway)  
Meet at Hamilton Hall Lobby  
Information and readings: (212) 857-1025  
or e-mail nypl@compuserve.com

BAY AREA
Alternate Tuesdays, 7 p.m.  
September 17: The Highest Stage of Capitalism  
UC Berkeley, 246 Dwinelle Hall  
Information and readings: (510) 609-0851

VANCOUVER
Tuesday, 6 p.m.  
September 24: The Principles of Communism  
University of British Columbia, Student Union Building, Room 213  
Information and readings: (604) 887-0350  
or e-mail ibr@look.ca

LOS ANGELES
Alternate Saturdays, 2 p.m.  
October 5: Introduction to Marxism: Historical Materialism  
3806 Beverly Blvd., Room 215  
(Vermont/Beverly Red Line Station)  
Information and readings: (213) 380-0239  
or e-mail dgs@socialist.org

ICL Web Site: www.icl-fl.org
New York Spartacus Youth Club:

Protest U.S. War Moves Against Iraq!

The Spartacus Youth Clubs are holding speakouts across the country this week and next protesting the U.S. imperialist war moves against Iraq. We reprint below the call for the united-front protest issued by the New York SYC on September 15.

Helt-bent on going to war with Iraq, the Bush cabal has arrayed an armada of death in the Persian Gulf and dispatched an advance war command team to nearby Qatar. An American military attack would revisit massive death and destruction on the concessions of the Pennsylvania courts and the imperialists laid waste to a benighted Afghanistan under the banner of the "war on terror." In the U.S., the "war on terror" has been used as a pretext for repressive new laws, racist dragnets and anti­immigrant witchhunts, in which the Columbia University administration is complicit by handing over the names and records of immigrant students to the INS. The Spartacus Youth Club calls on all those who oppose imperialist war moves against Iraq and the attacks on immigrant students to join us on Wednesday, September 18, in a united-front protest with the following demands: U.S. hands off Iraq! Down with the UN starvation embargo! Protest Columbia handing over students’ names and records to the INS!

As part of its open-ended "war on terror," the American ruling class is stepping up its efforts on campus to recruit to its officer corps and spy agencies. When the SYC spotted two tables manned by Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) cadets at Columbia University’s student activities day on September 6, we initiated a speakout protest, featuring such chants as "Army recruiters, imperialist looters—off campus now!" ROTC is designed to provide specialized training for the next generation of imperialist butchers, to produce an educated officer caste that will plan and execute wars while working-class and minority youth are herded to the front lines to serve as cannon fodder. Leftist students drove ROTC off many campuses, including Columbia in 1969, during the Vietnam antiwar student protests of the 1960s and ’70s. In that period, a group of black students occupied the ROTC lounge in Columbia’s Hartley Hall and named it Malcolm X Lounge. Now, the federal government has begun enforcing a 1996 law that requires schools to allow military recruiters on campus or risk losing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds. On September 30, the CIA is sending its agents onto the Columbia campus to recruit for U.S. imperialism’s premier spy syndicate, which has tortured and murdered literally millions of people since World War II. We oppose the use of the universities for military training and military and CIA recruitment. Not one man, not one penny for the U.S. imperialist military!

War is endemic to the imperialist system, which is driven by competition for sources of profits and spheres of influence between rival advanced capitalist countries. In the U.S., the "peace" or to look to pressure the more "human" imperialists is to ignore the fundamental--which enforces the role of the capitalist class over the working class. The racist American capitalist state, which has terrorized and disproportionately imprisons black people and mobilizes to smash strikes, cannot be made to send aid to and working people of the world.

There is no solution to imperialist war and exploitation short of socialist revolution by the working class, the only class that has the social power and consistent class interest to sweep away the capitalist system. Our revolutionary-defensist position means that in the case of imperialist military aggression against dependent countries, we are for a defeat of the U.S. imperialists and agitation for workers struggle at home in defense of the semicolonial.

The Spartacist-led Revolutionary Contingent at San Francisco antiwar protest during onset of imperialist "war on terror" last October.

On August 27, attorneys for political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal filed an appeal with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court seeking to reverse the order of Judge Pamela Dembe barring the confession of Arnold Beverly and rejecting Jamal’s second application to reverse his conviction under Pennsylvania’s Post-Conviction Relief Act (PCRA). In his latest papers, Jamal is also seeking a special hearing before the state’s highest court to present Beverly’s testimony.

One and a half years after Jamal’s current attorneys filed Beverly’s sworn affidavit that he, not Jamal, shot and killed Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner on 9 December 1981, state and federal courts have refused to even consider his testimony, leaving Jamal under the shadow of death in Pennsylvania’s Greene County prison. Last December, a federal court overturned Jamal’s death sentence while affirming the conviction, condemning Mumia to life in prison. Appeals filed by both the state and Mumia’s attorneys are on hold pending the outcome of this latest PCRA petition.

Jamal’s appeal papers constitute a devastating indictment of the machinations used not only by the courts and prosecutors but also Jamal’s former attorneys, Leonard Weinglass and Daniel Williams, to suppress the evidence proving that Mumia is an innocent man. They paint as well a searing portrait of the racism that pervades the Pennsylvania courts and the judiciary’s utter indifference to even the appearance of a fair trial for a black radical like Mumia.

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is a textbook example of a racist frame-up. A Black Panther Party spokesman at the age of 15, an award-winning journalist and a supporter of the Philadelphia MOVE organization, Jamal was saddled at trial with a lawyer he didn’t want—and one who did not want Mumia’s case—a judge, Albert Sabo, known as the “king of death row,” an overwhelmingly white jury, a prosecutor’s office that concealed evidence and a parade of witnesses who were coerced by the notorious Philadelphia police into giving lying testimony against Mumia.

Judge Dembe barring the Beverly confession and other evidence of Jamal’s innocence on the pretext that Jamal had failed to comply with the filing deadlines mandated by a 1995 state law enacted to drastically cut the death row appeals. But the statute provides an exception to the filing deadline where “interference by government officials” is responsible, which was the failure to previously raise a claim. As the new legal papers explain, in actively working to suppress Beverly’s confession and other evidence of Jamal’s innocence, Weinglass and Williams “acted in function, if not in fact, as agents of government officials insofar as their actions served the interests not of petitioner, but of the District Attorney.”

Using information contained in the affidavit of one of Jamal’s former attorneys, continued on page 9