SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—We hear a lot about sweatshops, but have you ever really seen one? I never thought they were an issue in Brazil. By chance, in 2001, a member of our anti-corporate globalization group got work as a designer at one of the largest garment companies in the world. There, she learned about the terrible reality behind the label. And we were confronted with a critical choice.

By Pablo Orteладo

Starting in the nineties, small shops run by Korean immigrants began to spread all over the Bras and Bom Retiro textile districts in São Paulo. The shops work as subcontractors for large garment companies. Most garment manufacturers only do labeling and other final touches in their own factories, shifting the dirty work to the Korean-owned sweatshops.

As the subcontracting market began to expand, the Koreans hired other immigrants: at first, Koreans, and later, Bolivians and Colombians fleeing war and deprivation in their own countries.

My friend visited one of these shops where she saw how the owners took advantage of the workers’ illegal status. The shop was located in downtown São Paulo. She was astonished to see the 19th-century working conditions and wondered how this could happen right under our nose, at the center of the largest and richest city in South America.

She talked to workers who spoke of toiling six days a week for more than 11 hours a day under terrible conditions — poor lighting, a lack of heat, inadequate food and hygiene in the name of “international competitiveness.” The Brazilian factories had to increase the pace of production, and cut salaries and benefits in order to maintain competitiveness.

Nationally, this process has affected manufacturing and led to the elimination of many laws that offered social protection, all in the name of “international competitiveness.” The Brazilian factories had to increase the pace of production, and cut salaries and benefits in order to maintain competitiveness.

By the late nineties, the company decided by debt. The shop foremen sometimes used this as a pretext to lock them inside. The workers would be forced to live and work in the sweatshop, and had to pay rent and buy food from the shop — usually contracting debts beyond meager salaries as low as $50 a month.

The sweatshop was a vivid example of the “race to the bottom,” in which unfettered capital sweeps away laws protecting labor, the environment and the consumer.

The parent company, which employed my friend, epitomizes the process. It has several factories in countries such as Brazil, China and Indonesia, and they all compete to produce items. My friend designed a bag for the company and all the branch factories had to present budgets at the lowest possible cost. This process forced the local factories to ever-greater cuts in wages and benefits.

Nationally, this process has affected manufacturing and led to the elimination of many laws that offered social protection, all in the name of “international competitiveness.” The Brazilian factories had to increase the pace of production, and cut salaries and benefits in order to maintain competitiveness. The slashing of workers’ rights inevitably led to conflict with the union.

By the late nineties, the company decided the magic solution was subcontracting. The factory would contract “independent” small shops that would gladly take the job. The burden of violating workers rights was off the back of the parent company, creating the boom in sweatshops.

We heard these stories in the fall of 2001, when our group, Ação Local por Justiça Global, was organizing protests against the war in Afghanistan and the WTO. It seemed incredible that there were so many sweatshops — the Catholic Church estimates that 100,000 illegal immigrants work in sweatshops under near slave conditions in São Paulo alone — without people knowing about it.

We decided we had to do something. We started by trying to locate the shops. It was easy — all you had to do was walk in the textile district in the evening and follow the sound of the machines. We tried to interview some workers, but they were reluctant to talk to strangers. One member of our group was shot at while trying to interview a worker. Later, this same member was kidnapped and threatened by a foreman.

We contacted the seamstresses’ union. It knew about the problem, but its solution was to shut down the shops, send the immigrants back home and put unionized Brazilians in their place. So much for international solidarity.

The only group that really assisted the workers was the Catholic Church. It gave them shelter and food, but wasn’t deeply concerned with the politics of the whole thing.

So, we asked ourselves: What to do? We contacted some people who notified the police. As a result, a couple of them were threatened by the Korean mafia, which protects the businesses. The federal police shut down a couple of small shops and the workers were deported. Nothing was done about the big companies contracting the shops.

Some of our contacts questioned if we should denounce the large companies. As bad as the situation was in São Paulo, many workers preferred it to returning to their strife-torn countries.

The solution was to prove the links between the sweatshops and the multinationalals while fighting Brazil’s absurd and inhumane immigration laws. We tried working with the Church, which has a very timid campaign for immigrant rights, and we also tried to prove the links between the shops and the labels (for example, by identifying patented textiles that only a certain brand can use).

But we were overwhelmed by the task. We had to contact workers, gain their trust and avoid being killed by the mafia. They had previously beaten up and threatened a researcher and a union organizer trying to investigate the sweatshops. In the end, we just couldn’t do it — I’m not sure if we lacked the energy, the numbers or the courage.

We still follow the struggle of the immigrants for their rights and the fight against the sweatshops, but all of us feel we have not done enough. So we decided to write this report so now you know too.
General Wesley Clark
Little Rock Headquarters: Draft Clark 2004 for President Committee
523 Louisiana Street, Mezzanine Level, Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 801-VOTE Email: info@DraftClark2004.com

Ambitious, ex-general seeks the ultimate promotion. Tough, no-nonsense leader capable of bringing down the hammer, but still tender enough to brown-nose. Review my work history and you will find that I have a unique skill set and agree that I am the candidate who best represents a new and forward-looking Democratic Party.

READY TO PLEASE: I’ve been accused of throwing war games to my superiors while I was commander of the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, CA. from Oct. 1989-Oct 1991. (See, http://www.counterpunch.org/clark.html)

SUPPORTS LAW ENFORCEMENT: While commander at Fort Hood, Texas, I let the FBI use one of our tanks in its April 19, 1993 assault on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco that killed 80 people including 22 children.

TAKE-CHARGE LEADER WHO PRODUCES RESULTS: During my time as Commander of U.S. Southern Command (Southcom) from 1996-1997, Colombia achieved positive, year-over-year growth in military aid and death-squad atrocities. I was also in charge of the detention of Haitian refugees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which won me recognition from the Center for Constitutional Rights and other human rights groups for the appalling conditions in the camp.

NATURE LOVER: Oversaw massive aerial spraying of coca fields in Colombia and Bolivia as Southcom Commander. We used Round-Up Ultra, a powerful herbicide that indiscriminately kills plant and animal life, and has been linked to human deaths in Colombia.

DOESN’T PLAY BY THE RULES: During my tenure as NATO Supreme Commander from 1997 to 2000, the U.S. and its European allies launched a war against Yugoslavia in violation of the U.N. Charter. This was my breakthrough campaign. I achieved worldwide name recognition by being the first to bomb a European capital, Belgrade, in 54 years. The 79-day aerial campaign blew up cars, trucks, trains, bridges, power plants, an embassy, journalists and hospitals, and killed as many as 2,000 civilians.

GRADUATE OF THE ENRON SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTING: Initial reports that we destroyed 120 Yugoslav tanks, 220 armored personnel carriers and 450 artillery pieces during the Kosovo War turned out to be grossly inflated. The actual numbers: 14 tanks, 18 armored personnel carriers and 20 artillery pieces. (Newsweek, May 15, 2000)

UNIQUE COSMOLOGICAL POWER TO ALTER CAUSE AND EFFECT: The official explanation for attacking Yugoslavia was to protect Muslim inhabitants of Kosovo from ethnic cleansing by Serbian nationalists. In fact, ethnic cleansing accelerated after the bombing began—just as the CIA warned me. After the Serbian army retreated from Kosovo, our local allies drove the remaining Serbs and 100,000 Roma (gypsies) out of Kosovo.

TOUGH ON THE RUSSIANS: When the Russians sought to land troops in Pristina, Kosovo at the end of the war, I ordered British General Sir Michael Jackson to send a helicopter assault group to the Pristina airport. He refused to do so, saying “I’m not going to start the third world war for you.”

EARLY RETIREMENT: After weeks of trying to persuade President Clinton and the Joint Chiefs to launch a ground war in Kosovo, I was virtually quarantined from the president’s war council. (The Pristina incident did not help.) Soon after the war ended, I was forced into early retirement as NATO Supreme Commander.

LEAVING A LEGACY: Tons of thousands of unexploded cluster bombs still litter Yugoslavia, as well as tons of depleted uranium that will cause increased rates of cancer and birth defects over the next 4.5 billion years.

PEACE ACTIVIST: In a February 20, 2003, speech to the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations, I reminded my colleagues “force is the last resort… use of force is not the guiding principle of American foreign policy.”

SPORTS ENTHUSIAST: Can play both sides of the fence. Supported the war as a Times of London columnist, “Liberation is at hand. Liberation – the powerful balm that justifies painful sacrifice, erases lingering doubts and reinforces bold actions” (April 10, 2003), while opposing it to a CNN analyst, “From the beginning, I have had doubts about this mission!” (July 16, 2003).

DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCE: Bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade on May 7, 1999, killing three Chinese journalists and wounding 20 more people.


CAN APPEAL TO NON-DEMOCRATS: “I’m very glad we’ve got the great team in office, men like Colin Powell, Don Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, Condoleezra Rice… people I know very well – our president George W. Bush. We need them there.” (Speaking at GOP Lincoln Day Dinner in Little Rock, Arkansas, on May 11, 2001.) I’ve also let it be known that I “probably” voted for Presidents Nixon and Reagan.

WHAT I WOULD BE DOING IF I WASN’T RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT: After September 11, I expected the Bush Administration to invite me to join their team. Last January, I happened to chat with two prominent Republicans, Colorado Gov. Bill Owens and Marc Holtzman, now president of the University of Denver. “I would have been a Republican,” I told them, “if Karl Rove had returned my phone calls” (Newsweek, Sept. 29, 2003).

HOBBIES: brown-nosing, blowing up small countries


BY JOHN TARLETON
DENNIS KUCINICH, THE REAL ANTI-WAR CANDIDATE

BY E TIMOTHY MARTIN

I am here to represent the Democratic wing of the Democratic Party,” President Clinton recently remarked. Yet he added that Republicans had developed a “sudden fondness for comparing himself to Paul Wellstone by often repeating the late Senator's well-known declaration of left-wing ideals.

But how authentic is he?

While Dean has artfully read the current political climate as one that is favorable toward the party’s left-wing, his progressive credentials at best are mixed.

By contrast, Congressman Dennis Kucinich has been a stalwart supporter of the kinds of issues Dean is just now beginning to adopt. Why then are left-leaning Democrats jumping aboard the Dean machine?

Much attention gets paid to the idea of punitively targets labor, women, environ-

Karl Rove has been using illegal redistricting and pre-emptive strikes. And most recently, endorsed by a Republican Supreme Court.

Crow thieving and Brownshirt tactics, and impeach Clinton over a blowjob. Then, the cloak its machinations in legal forms.

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THE RIGHT’S SLOW-MOTION COUP CONTINUES

By A.K. GUPTA

With a porn star, a smut peddler, a washed-up child actor and an Austrian-bred muscleman in the field, it’s easy to make fun of the California recall election. Hell, it even sounds like an Ah-nuld flick, Total Recall. But the Oct. 7 poll represents another phase in the coopting coup by the reactionary right.

Since Newt Gingrich led the “Republican Revolution” in 1994, the right has been viciously trying to seize power by any means necessary. It uses its money and might to cloak its machinations in legal forms.

First, the Republican Congress shut down government to get its regressive agenda passed (which backfired). Under Clinton, the Republicans illegally held up scores of judicial nominees so as to pack the federal bench with right-wing fanatics (which succeeded). To cap it off, they tried to impeach Clinton over a blow job. Then, the 2000 presidential election was stolen by Jim Crow thieving and Brownshirt tactics, and endorsed by a Republican Supreme Court.

The power grab quickened after September 11, with military tribunals, enemy combatants and pre-emptive strikes. And most recently, Karl Rove has been using illegal redistricting methods, most visibly in Texas and Colorado, to force a Republican-proof majority in the House of Representatives.

The right uses the democratic process to destroy any vestige of democracy and resistance to its corporate authoritarian agenda. That is why the Bush administration punishes targets labor, women, environmentalists and the academy. It can’t abide any opposition.

The right-wing attack machine lavishes money, foot soldiers and the media on its candidates, making it harder and harder for Democrats to compete. Now comes the California recall election. The lesson is that even once elected you’re not safe. Thirty-one times before had petitioners tried to recall a Democrat. Now comes the mayorship of Cleveland. In 1994 he was one of the few candidates. Tom McClintock remains because he is running as the true conserva-

tive, i.e., an anti-woman, anti-gay, anti-minority reactionary. Schwarzenegger, while personally an ogre, has cast himself as a pro-choice, moderate Republican, which the Christian Right needs, but loathes.

Whatever happens, the right-wing’s coup attempts will not end. The real danger is in 2004. With electronic voting now in place in many states, and often controlled by Republican allies, the stage is set for elec-
torial engineering on election night if Dubya’s losing once again.

One of the corporations in charge of electronic vote counting, Diebold, has funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars to Republican candidates and one of its board members, W.A. Tinkham, is a Bush “Pioneer.” Diebold will be counting votes in the electoral-vote rich state of Ohio next year. According to Democracy Now, S. Diebold can not only track election returns, as they come in, but it can change them without leaving any evidence.

Such is the state of our democracy, from sea to shining sea.
DR. STRANGELOVE

PASSES ON:

EDWARD TELLER, 1908-2003

BY MATT ADAMSON

Oppenheimer, Sakharov, Szilard: Edward Teller, who passed away on September 9, outlived them all. The one scientist never to repent for his role in the Cold War arms race outlasted these others who famously did. If outliving them wasn’t enough, Teller is said to have been one inspiration for Dr. Strangelove, the title character of Stanley Kubrick’s 1963 film.

Teller, born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1908, migrated to the United States in 1935. Teller claimed the danger of the Soviet Union as reason for his constant work on nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, after the USSR collapsed, Teller continued to advocate various nuclear weapons and ‘Star Wars’-style defense systems.

Critics have shaken their fists at Teller for his role in stimulating the nuclear arms race. Most notoriously, Teller helped design the hydrogen bomb, the most powerful weapon ever built. Fellow physicist Enrico Fermi suggested in 1942 that an atomic bomb (yet to be invented) might be used to ignite an even more powerful weapon using hydrogen as fuel. It was ‘technically sweet’ and Teller relentlessly pursued it. During World War II, when Los Alamos was struggling simply to make the atomic bomb work, Teller refused to follow orders and insisted on elaborating on a design of the H-bomb. Even after the war, as other scientists advocated for international control of atomic arms, Teller vociferously campaigned for a “Super” weapon. Only after the Russians tested their first atomic bomb in 1949 did the Hungarian emigre get his way. The frightened Truman administration authorized a crash program, and the US tested the first such device in November 1952. It erased a Pacific island from the map.

Teller’s menace to humanity was nearly too great to calculate. Besides a pathological devotion to a weapon meant only to destroy huge urban areas, the physicist opposed test ban treaties and arms limitation agreements one after another. He advised Ronald Reagan to develop the current Bush administration for withdrawing from the ABM Treaty.

However, Teller’s worst wrongdoings were personal. When he discovered the possibility of a hydrogen bomb, he was smitten, and his ego depended on its success. He allowed no political or technical objections to stand in his way. When the crash program for the Super began at the beginning of 1950 and Teller’s original model failed, he altered physical constants to try to save it.

Given this obsession, it is not surprising that he mistreated his colleagues to achieve his own ends and prove himself right. During the 1956-1957 effort to design the Super, Teller ripped into any fellow scientist who offered criticism of his plans. When mathematician Stanislaw Ulam made an essential breakthrough that allowed Teller to complete a workable device, he nevertheless claimed all credit for the invention. Teller desperately wished to be the father of the hydrogen bomb. One physicist joked that rather than the father, Teller was its mother, “because he carried the idea for so long.”

In the end, Teller so exasperated his Los Alamos colleagues that he had to leave the project before its fruition. He founded a second weapons laboratory, the Lawrence-Livermore lab in Berkeley, California, and made it a highly successful competition for Los Alamos. Teller’s worst moment, though, came at the 1954 security clearance hearings of J. Robert Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer’s 1930s leftist affiliations, his support of arms control, and his frequent arrogance had earned him the enmity of the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, who suspend- ed the theoretician’s security clearance. Doing so prevented Oppenheimer from withdrawing from the ABM Treaty and effectively eliminated him from government. Oppenheimer’s colleagues rushed to his defense. Teller, too, was asked to testify.

Teller had already revealed to FBI agents a vendetta against his WWII boss. Oppenheimer had encouraged arms restraint and opposed Teller’s Super. During the hearings Oppenheimer did much to discredit himself, admitting that he had once lied to federal agents. Teller attempted to finish Oppenheimer off, attacking him as an untrustworthy policy advisor. When asked to clarify, Teller only vaguely stated that Oppenheimer had made choices he “did not understand.” But the damage was done, and a great many of Teller’s friends never forgave him.

Many Cold War warriors worshipped Teller, while many of his own colleagues despised him. The physicist had once shouted, “Teller’s life a tragic one.” If we are to learn anything from Teller, beyond this lesson in the dangers of hubris, it would be that an obsessive and dogmatic man can introduce into the world horrific devices – but he cannot do it alone. Teller probably best personifies the excesses of the nuclear arms race, but he did not start it or carry it out by himself. What he managed to do was to find a niche in an enormous political and technological complex. Military, political, and industrial institutions in the United States and in the Soviet Union all played out the dangerous drama, while Teller did his utmost to encourage it.

THE MAN IN BLACK

JOHNNY CASH, 1932-2003

BY STEVEN WEISMAN

Johnny Cash was the original punk-rocker, said Social Distortion’s Mike Ness. The truth is much deeper, but Cash dressed in black, raged at injustice, and his three-chord songs were hardly idiosyncratic. He might be better cast as the black-clad priest of a backwoods liberation-theology sect, combining a working-class sense of basic justice with the sorrowful fire of a Pentecostal preacher. His voice was a monumental instrument, evoking greatness, compassion and wisdom, hanging over the tracks like a giant sun.

Cash, who died Sept. 12 at the age of 71, may have started out wearing black because his band was too poor to buy stage uniforms, but by 1971, he’d turned it into an artistic statement: “I wear the black for the poor and the beaten down/Livin’ in the hopeless, hungry side of town/But I’ll try to carry off a little darkness on my back/Till things are brighter, I’m the Man in Black.”

Born in 1932, the son of a cotton farmer, he grew up on a New Deal land-reform project in northeast Arkansas. He moved to Memphis after serving in the Air Force and cut his first records for Sun — the legendary label that first recorded Howlin’ Wolf, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley and Ike Turner — in 1955. On country hits like “I Walk the Line” and “Folsom Prison Blues,” he forged a unique, sparse sound, his voice over “boom-chicka-boom” train-track rhythms and the laconic twang of Luther Perkins’ Telecaster guitar. The music was less bluesy than Sun’s rockabilly, but much rawer than the strings-and-chorus “countrypian” of 1960s Nashville.

He signed to CBS in 1958, where he did the classic “Ring of Fire” in 1963. 1964’s “The Ballad of Ira Hayes,” a tale of the Pima Indian Marine who raised the flag on Iwo Jima and then drank himself to death on the reservation, got Cash death threats from the Ku Klux Klan. He was a bigger threat to himself then, living in a cycle of taking speed to stay up for
A MIGHTY AND PASSIONATE HEART

EDWARD SAID, 1936-2003

September 25, 2003

Edward Said died in a New York City hospital Wednesday night at 6:30 pm. He fell at last by complications arising from the leukemia he had fought so gamely ever since the early 1990s.

We march through life buoyed by those comrades-in-arms we know to be marching with us, fighting through our ups and downs, keeping our originality and integrity. For more than Edward Said did for me and so many others beside. How many times, after a week, a month or more, I have reached him on the phone and within a second found myself in my own private theater, as I pressed through the same colors, sustained by the same hopes and convictions. They can be a thousand miles away; we may not have spoken to them in months; but their companionship is burned into our souls and we are sustained by the knowledge that they are with us in the world.

And much more than Edward Said, for me and so many others beside. How many times, after a week, a month or more, I have reached him on the phone and within a second found myself in my own private theater, as I pressed through the same colors, sustained by the same hopes and convictions. They can be a thousand miles away; we may not have spoken to them in months; but their companionship is burned into our souls and we are sustained by the knowledge that they are with us in the world.

But I'll try to carry off a little darkness on my back
Till things are brighter, I'm the Man in Black.
The recent Weather Underground documentary has been an occasion for the corporate media to try to rewrite the history of the 60’s and 70’s, to trivialize, ridicule and demonize not only those movements back then, but even more, the movements of today. The energy they put into doing that is evidence that people’s resistance is a real threat to an unjust system.

We didn’t set out to make a movie; we set out to make a revolution. Some of us are still trying to make a revolution. The horrors that impelled us to go underground – brutal war against other countries and ruthless repression at home – are even worse today than they were then.

An old bumper sticker says if you’re not outraged, you’re not paying attention. Today, if you’re not grief-stricken, you’re not paying attention. But I also think if we’re not hopeful, we’re not paying close enough attention.

To me, the interesting question in relation to the Weather Underground is, what is useful to building an anti-racist peace and justice movement today, from the experience of the radical movements of the 60’s and 70’s? There are some lessons, positive and negative, from the experience of the Weather Underground. Let me try to put together a few.

The first is the optimism that comes from seeing the strength and the potential for victory of people’s resistance movements. We were really lucky to live through a tremendous upsurge of people’s power. It was clear that people’s resistance has not stopped for the past 500 years, and certainly isn’t going to stop now. Someday it is going to win.

Even now, in this grim moment, there continue to be important victories. This year, the people of Puerto Rico threw the Navy out of Vieques! And tens of millions of people all over the world poured out into the streets against the Iraq war last February.

A second relevant lesson is that the foundation of the strength of people’s movements is opposition to every kind of oppression. Racism and white supremacy are central. The 60’s and 70’s were a time when a lot of people saw white supremacy as the way oppression and exploitation are organized globally, and saw people of color leading the struggle against injustice. Our Weather Underground statements took a strong and clear stand on white supremacy and the leadership of people of color. Our practice was something else altogether. We had an all-white organization with vanguard aspirations and no accountability to people of color. I think this was one of our most serious mistakes.

Some of the questions asked us by young activists in the wake of the movie: How can white activists be accountable to people of color? Is Marxism-Leninism still relevant to building a global justice movement? What do we learn about violence and nonviolence from the 60’s and 70’s? How can we build a movement that can successfully challenge the global power of capitalism, imperialism and racism?

The answer to the last question is, when I find out, I’ll let you know, and you do the same for me. If we knew how to overthrow the system, we’d all be in a very different place today. But some lessons, positive and negative, might be helpful.

The simplest answer to the question of accountability is, if you are a white person, talk with people of color and hear what they say. There is no substitute for actual human contact. Desegregate one’s life; don’t token-ize; put oneself in situations of mutual respect; don’t intervene; find places to be in the minority. Support the separate organizing of people of color where it exists; this is not in contradiction to working in multi-racial contexts where white people are not dominant.

Marxism-Leninism was useful in some ways and an obstacle in other ways. The most important way that it was an obstacle was that our interpretation of a Leninist Democratic Centralist party structure ended up in practice as all centralism and no democracy. In this respect, today’s movements are way ahead. I think it was useful in three ways: it led us to serious study; it helped us be disciplined and focused revolutionaries; and it strengthened our understanding of the leading role of the oppressed nations and people of the world.

This may sound like a contradiction because Marx and Lenin were both European men. But Lenin wrote powerfully about imperialism; and my generation was profoundly influenced by Marxist-Leninist writers of color – Mao, C.L.R. James, W. E. B. DuBois, Ho Chi Minh, Che and others. Yes, women are missing from the list – this was a critical failing of Marx-Leninist theory and practice, of the Weather Underground, and of other revolutionary organizations of that period. Feminists, including lesbians and women of color, got a lot in the 70’s and 80’s to challenge that failing.

As for the question of violence and nonviolence, let’s look at it from two perspectives, moral and tactical. On a moral level, the violence of the U.S. government, military an economy – in particular its targeting of people of color in the U.S. and globally – are the defining and overwhelming violence in the work. Activists of color often point out that the luxury of choosing to decide between violence and nonviolence is not present in their communities – only the choice between resisting genocidal violence and being buried by it. In the face of that, a way am I sorry for the damage the Weather Underground did to a few imperialist buildings while being careful not to injure people. Risking people’s lives is another matter, which
would approach with much greater caution and humility than I personally did in the past. I still feel challenged, as a white person in a world in which white people are inflicting daily death and violence on people of color, to consider a full range of responses in trying to stem the genocide. But I would want to weigh every act on the scale of the deep compassion and humanity that will be necessary to rebuild our world in a better way.

From a practical and tactical point of view, I feel strongly obligated to say to today’s younger activists that the conditions under which movements operate today are very different than they were in the 60’s and 70’s. Many of the militant tactics used in that period are impossible today. It would be suicidal in 2003 to try to bomb the imperialist symbols we targeted in the 70’s. New imaginative and creative tactics are called for, and are in fact being devised all the time, including courageous nonviolent ones.

It’s not helpful to pretend that the level of repression and surveillance isn’t limiting. But we must not forget that movements have survived and been effective under the most ghastly repression, including slavery, extermination camps, prisons and military conquest. We still have a lot of room to move, and we are called upon to use it, to take some risks and to sacrifice some privilege.

Given the potential power of people’s struggles, and how badly racism and other oppressions can undermine them, the only way to figure it out and get it right is the day to day practice of organizing, movement building, protesting and resisting. I am deeply sorry that my generation didn’t leave more of a path for the next one. We all now have to make the path as we go, and so inevitably we will make mistakes. The enemy is ruthless; we will pay a high price for our mistakes, as some already have.

Those who don’t want change will tell you it’s a ridiculous joke to think you can overthrow the most powerful forces in the world. But some of the people who have made the greatest sacrifices say that the chance to play a part in building a better world is worth it. When you hear political prisoners say this, including two in the movie, Laura Whitehorn who did fifteen years and David Gilbert, who is doing a life bid at Attica, you get a sense of how much courage, strength, and inspiration can come from being part of a people’s movement for justice. Another world is still possible; we were lucky enough to glimpse it, and I still believe that there’s nothing more worthwhile than living your life for it.

HERMAN BELL
Herman Bell, along with Jali Muntaqim (below), is a member of the New York 3, three men convicted of killing two New York City police officers, thought by many to be framed due to their involvement in the Black Panther Party. In 1997 Bell co-founded the Victory Gardens project, which raises organic food on 72 acres in Central Maine and distributes it to low-income communities across the northeast. Bell will appear before the New York State parole board in early 2004.

JALIL MUNTAQIM (aka ANTHONY BOTTOM)
Jali Muntaqim, a California native, is a former member of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army. In prison since his arrest in 1971, Jali is one of the longest-held black political prisoners in the world. “I came to prison an expectant father and will leave prison a grandfather,” he says. The third member of the NY3, Albert “Nuh” Washington, died in prison of liver cancer in April, 2000.

MUNIA ABU-JAMAL
Munia Abu-Jamal is perhaps the most well-known political prisoner in America. An award-winning journalist, he has been on death row in Pennsylvania since 1982 for allegedly shooting a police officer.

Tens of thousands around the world publicly support Abu-Jamal’s fight for a new trial, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, The European Parliament, Alice Walker, Paul Newman, Maya Angelou, Amnesty International and many groups of the radical left.

Abu-Jamal has written three books, most recently All Things Censored. His case is currently appeal before the Federal District Court in Philadelphia.

MARILYN BUCK
Marilyn Buck has been incarcerated for 17 years, with a total sentence of 80 years, for various political activities in opposition to the U.S. government and its policies, including her participation in Assata Shakur’s 1979 escape from prison. She is a former member of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

In 2001 Buck won the PEN Prison Writing Program poetry prize, and published a collection of poems, Rescue the Word. She also recently completed a bachelor’s degree in psychology.

“I intend to use my skills to help explain and transform prison conditions and existence,” she says. “I see my poetry and writing as vehicles in accomplishing this.”

JEFFREY LEURS
Jeffrey “Free” Leurs is a 22-year-old Oregon anarchist who was sentenced to 23 years in prison in 2001 for arson at an SUV dealership. Prosecutors alleged he was connected to the Earth Liberation Front, a decentralized direct action group responsible for many recent acts of arson.

Leurs has also worked on campaigns promoting animal rights, environmental defense and gender equality. Leurs was convicted of 11 charges, including 3 distinct charges for each SUV that was damaged. His sentencing was clearly designed to intimidate and was more severe than the sentences criminals like rapists and killers normally receive. He was arrested 30 minutes after the fires, hinting that police may have allowed him to commit the crime in order to make an example out of him.

DAVID GILBERT
David Gilbert, a founding member in 1965 of Columbia University’s branch of SDS, was a major participant in the college’s 1968 strike. He is serving a sentence of 75 years to life for his involvement in the 1981 Brinks robbery in Rockland County, NY in which two police officers and a security guard were killed, the same incident for which Boudin was jailed and released.

In prison, Gilbert is actively involved in fighting AIDS, including peer education and organizational work. He has also written various analysis pieces and reviews on topics ranging from SDS, the 60s and the white working class to September 11.

For more information: thejerichomovement.com or abct.net
**WORLD IN BRIEF**

**HALIBURTON EXECUTIVE TAPPED TO ADVISE IRAQI OIL MINISTRY**

A top executive from Haliburton has been quietly appointed to be senior advisor to the Iraqi Oil Ministry. The man, Robert McKee III is the chairman of Houston-based Enventure Global Technology, an oil-field joint venture owned by Shell and Haliburton, the oil services company formerly headed by Vice President Dick Cheney that has received billions of dollars in contracts in rebuilding Iraq. Meanwhile criticism for Haliburton is growing in Capitol Hill and in the streets. One roadside sign spotted in California reads: “Dear America, Thanks for all the money, sorry about your kids. – Haliburton Oil”

**CHAVEZ: COUP-PLOTTING ‘TERRORISTS’ TRAINING IN UNITED STATES**

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has told reporters “coup-mongering, terrorist Venezuelans,” were training in the U.S. to overthrow his government and kill him. His meeting with reporters came shortly after Chavez canceled his trip to New York citing a possible plot to assassinate him here. Chavez said of the U.S., “If they are really fighting terrorism as they say, they should act against these terrorists who are threatening Venezuela,” Chavez said.

**NEPALESE REBELS HOLD 3-DAY GENERAL STRIKE, CALL TRUCE**

In a show of strength, the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) held a 3-day “bandh,” or general strike, starting Sept. 18 to demonstrate popular support in their war against the Hindu monarchy, Katmandu and the entire countryside ground to a halt. The rebels immediately called a 9-day cease-fire to coincide with a major Hindu festival.

**CNN: ‘WHITE HOUSE & FOX’ PRESSURE AFFECTED IRAQ WAR COVERAGE**

CNN top correspondent, Christiane Amanpour, has admitted that CNN reporters practiced self-censorship during the invasion and failed to ask enough questions about Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction before hand.

“I think the press was muzzled, and I think the press self-muzzled. I’m sorry to say, but certainly television and, perhaps, to a certain extent, my station was intimidated by the administration and its foot soldiers at Fox News,” Amanpour said.

“And it did, in fact, put a climate of fear and self-censorship, in my view, in terms of the kind of broadcast work we did.”

In response, a spokesperson for Fox said “Given the choice, it’s better to be viewed as a foot soldier for Bush than a spokeswoman for al Qaeda.”

**ISRAELI PILOTS REFUSE ASSASSINATION MISSIONS**

On Sept. 24 the Israeli air force command received an open letter from twenty-seven Israeli pilots, including a Brigadier General, stating their refusal to carry out military duty in the occupied territories. The pilots, who risk imprisonment for their actions, join over a thousand Israeli reserve soldiers who have already stated their refusal to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Scores of Palestinian civilians have been killed during Israeli bombing raids targeting militants.

**WTO FRACUTES EVERY WHICH WAY**

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The northern nations also attempted to introduce wider-ranger rules called the “Singapore issues,” but were stopped by more than 90 WTO members.

The “Singapore issues” would expand beyond agriculture, to try to open economies worldwide, and could force the United States to open its own markets.

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IN THE STREETS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW STERN

Conflict raged both inside and outside the Cancun convention center. Corporate lobbyists and delegates from 148 nations failed for the second time in four years to hammer out a sweeping new set of global trade agreements.

On Sept. 13, 20,000 protesters converged on the massive chain-link fence closing the conference off from the rest of Mexico and the world. Delegations representing Korean farmers, Mexican punks, campesinos, trade unionists and students were among their ranks.

Women from around the world stepped forward and cut their way through the fence with bolt cutters. The rest of the crowd then joined them in tearing the barrier down. Instead of rioting, protesters turned their back on the police and held a memorial ceremony for Korean farm leader Lee Kyung Hae. At the end of the ceremony, crowd members dropped carnations one-by-one at the feet of the police. On the following day, WTO talks collapsed.

WTO GLOSSARY

The Mexican resort city of Cancun was the home to the Fifth Ministerial of the World Trade Organization from Sept. 10 – 14, 2003. The talks collapsed to the delight of anti-corporate-globalization activists, threatening the continued existence of the organization.

WTO Ministerial. The WTO’s highest decision-making body, it meets one every two years to negotiate multilateral agreements. The ministerial was set up by the Marrakesh Agreement.

The Fourth Doha Ministerial Conference. The main issue of the last conference, held in Qatar in November 2001, was the status of developing countries in international markets and their ability to compete in the West. The “Special and Differential Treatment” provision was established so that developing countries would be protected from the trade-distorting practices in European and American markets, such as agricultural subsidies. It was decided that the S&DT provision would play an integral part in the discussion of agricultural trade at Cancun.

G-21. China, Brazil, India, Nigeria, South Africa and Argentina led the formation of the Group of 21 developing countries during the Cancun talks. G-21 represents 63 percent of the world’s farmers, 51 percent of the population, and 20 percent of the agricultural production. The coalition demanded that the United States, the European Union and Japan comply with the Doha round and eliminate the $300 billion they hand out in corporate subsidies every year.

Green Room Consultations. Restricted meetings that are held during the conference when negotiations are deemed “sticky.” The discussions are a means of pressuring developing countries opposed to Western demands. Developing nations are hand-picked to attend and forbidden to report the logistics of the meeting. While the last few Directors General of the WTO have said that they would stop the practice, it has nonetheless continued. At Cancun, a Green Room discussion was held on Sept. 13. Director General Panchapakdi’s office convened a meeting of delegates from the United States, European Union, India, China, Brazil, Malaysia, Kenya, South Africa and Mexico.

Export Subsidies. These payments support export production mainly in agricultural and dairy markets. The United States gives approximately $20 billion a year in farm subsidies, the E.U. about $40 billion. U.S. farmers export corn at 20 percent below the cost of production and wheat at 46 percent below cost. If Africa, East Asia, South Asia and Latin America could increase their share in world trade by 1 percent, they could lift 128 million people out of poverty.

IT’S THE CORPORATIONS

BY KEVIN DANAHER AND JASON MARK

Reading reports from the World Trade Organization talks in Cancun one might conclude that trade is the province of nations. Nothing could be further from reality. National governments may be involved in negotiating the rules of trade, but they do not trade much – corporations do that. And the corporations are also the dominant influence in the WTO.

Because some of us were able to get inside the WTO meetings in Cancun, it was easy to see the close relationship between government officials and the hundreds of corporate lobbyists hovering about, pitching their narrow, profit-seeking agenda.

To illustrate the confusion, look at China. It sells more computer equipment and electronics to the United States than vice-versa. But it is not China selling that mountain of plastic and metal, it is Dell, Compaq, Intel, Hewlett-Packard and other corporations. In recent years these companies have shut down U.S. based activities and moved them to China because they can pay workers a fraction of the wages and save piles of money by polluting China’s environment in ways that U.S. laws say are illegal.

What motivates a transnational corporation to invest in a country or engage in trade? Only when a company has reason to believe it can take away more wealth than it puts in will it invest money.

This is why the areas of the world with the greatest natural resources also suffer the worst inequality and environmental destruction.

Doubt it? Look at Nigeria with all that oil. The worst suffering and pollution is right in the Niger River delta where most of the oil is. Look at what half the world’s gold in South Africa produced: Apartheid. Or you can visit the old mining towns of the Rockies or the California Sierras and see how they became ghost towns once the corporations had sucked out all the mineral wealth. Or go to Appalachia and consider how many billions of dollars of coal were extracted from that region by companies that got fat off the misery they left behind.

The notion that international trade is a rising tide that will lift all boats ignores the simple fact that most people in the world can’t afford boats. So a rising tide means greater inequality between them and the yacht owners who control both the global economy and the global rule-making institutions such as the WTO, the World Bank and the IMF.

These secretive institutions are run by very wealthy people. The poor majority has no true representation in this fledgling global government that is being created behind closed doors. And that is why it is good that the so-called trade talks in Cancun collapsed. The WTO is not just creating trade rules. It is expanding into areas such as water, healthcare, electricity and education, and steadily creating a global constitution that will subordinate local and national democracy to the profit needs of transnational capital.

The WTO seeks to subordinate human rights and the environment to commerce. Ask people on the street which is sacred, commerce or life, and see how skewed the answers will be. Most people know that life is sacred and commerce is just an activity, like sport or entertainment.

The WTO must be subordinated to multilateral accords that give higher priority to meeting social needs and protecting Mother Nature than to maximizing corporate profits. If we consider the WTO a constitution, we can either subordinate life values to money values or we can subordinate the money cycle to the life cycle. This choice now confronting us will determine whether future generations thank us or curse us. Let’s not blow it.

Dr. Kevin Danaher is a co-founder of Global Exchange (globalexchange.org) and coauthor, with Jason Mark, of Insurrection: Citizen Challenges to Corporate Power (Routledge, 2003).
DREAMING OUT LOUD WITH A GUITAR

Al-Awda (Return)
David Rovics
Ever Reviled Records

As the Liberty Bell rings in David Rovics’ dreams, political perpetrators are tried and punished at the World Court, weapons of mass destruction cease to exist, and Bill Gates’ mansion becomes a collective farm. Individuals finally discovering the true meaning of social and political peace plant olive trees throughout the newly freed world.

David’s personal revolutionary spirit prevails as he questions current socio-political issues and the band delivers complimentary tones with a folksy twang. On the first track, “After the Revolution,” David sings about the mentioned utopian dreams coming true. What if the world became the peaceful habitat we all wish it to be?

The daydreaming ends there since progressive movements are responsible for moving a society forward. For the remainder of this project, David strives to educate and motivate with beats that personify emotions expressed by his words. He speaks out about the mistreatment of Palestinians by Israeli soldiers, evaluating foreign policies, and proposing what it will take for resolution to become a reality.

David Rovics is behind the lyrics but a majority of the music was created by various musicians courtesy of Ever Reviled Records. The lyrics have an intensity behind them that requires the instrumental aspect to sound like peace, war, revolution, respect, anguish and resentment; however the feelings fluctuate from song to song. Although most of the album captures the emotional tone, many songs fell short within their rhetorical styles. Music can be used as a tool in voicing the need for political change and a catchy rhythm adds to a song’s enormous capacity to move listeners, influence them, and bring outstanding lines back to memory.

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THE INDYPENDENT

FRI OCT 3
9:30 am – 4:30 pm FREE
Haiti Biennial Project: A Celebration of Haitian Independence

THE INDYPENDENT

SAT OCT 4
50 am – 4 pm FREE
Green Buildings Open House: Environmentally friendly buildings around the city will open their doors to the public to showcase innovative approaches to the environment. See www.greenmoney.org for tours and home locations around the city.

THE INDYPENDENT

SUN OCT 5
1 - 7 pm FREE
Rally for Peace, Rock Against Racism
Speakers, bands, poetry and other performers
Frank Sinatra Park Amphitheater, Hoboken

THE INDYPENDENT

TUE OCT 7
Day of Action to Stop Military Recruiters
10 am – Square walkout
12 pm – Rally at Union Square
3 pm – Protest in front of Times Square Recruiting Station
(212) 968-6858
www.notinourname.net

THE INDYPENDENT

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

LANGSTON HUGHES

NEW YORK IN BRIEF

MATT HALL REMEMBERED FOR PEACE & HIPHOP
On Sept. 28, family and friends gathered to pay their final respects to Matthew Hall, an 19-year-old Hunter College student and activist, who was shot earlier in the week in Harlem.

Hall was a founding member of the campus chapter of Zulu Nation, a hip hop organization inspired by Afrika Bambaataa. Reports say Hall was leaving a meeting when he became involved in a heated exchange that led to a shot being fired into the back of his head.

Hunter College is offering a $1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the shooter. The Zulu Nation said it will add another $1,500.

“When Matthew spoke, people could put their faith in him. He was real in that way,” said his friend Daniel Tarsipin. “In a university where students have been lied to, you can’t put a price on that.”

On Sept. 30, Hunter students hosted their own memorial, which overflowed the hall.

CITY SETTLES RACIAL PROFILING LAWSUIT
On Sept. 18, after more than four years, the City finally settled a federal class-action lawsuit charging the NYPD with engaging in racial profiling during controversial “stop and frisk” operations.

The lawsuit alleged that the Street Crimes Unit (SCU), a corps of over 300 police officers that patrolled the streets at night in plain clothes and unmarked cars overwhelmingly targetted state of color for stop and frisk operations without reasonable basis for suspicion of criminal activity as required by Fourth Amendment.

According to statistical data extracted from reported incidents, 16 African Americans were stopped and frisked for every arrest made.

In February 1999, four SCU officers fired 41 bullets at unarmed African immigrant Amadou Diallo, killing him in the vestibule of his Bronx apartment building. Following the Diallo killing, the SCU was disbanded, and Police Comm. Ray Kelly issued an order banning all forms of racial profiling.

PATAKI DISHES OUT THE PORK
In spite of a social services hiring freeze and a moratorium on discretionary spending, Robert Ryan, a key Pataki political ally, was awarded a $110,000 position as Assistant Secretary of State in September.

Although the nature of his appointment remains unclear and his position lacks a formal job description, Ryan now stands as one of the highest paid of the eight assistant secretaries of state.

Ryan, who ran Pataki’s gubernatorial campaign in 1994, is no stranger to public office. In February, he was suspended and placed on administrative leave from the Roosevelt Island Operating Corp., where he served as President after the public authority’s board suspended him a moratorium on discretionary spending.

The board called for a state corruption investigation into the bonuses totaling tens of thousands of dollars, but the matter was dismissed as an internal administrative issue.
Por Lydia Neri

“¿Qué significa que no haya habido acuerdos? Cancún la empleada de una tienda a otra al ver que los titulares de los periódicos destacaban la noticia. Después de reflexionar, intentando saber si eso beneficiaba o perjudicaba, titubeando contestó: “Pues no sé! No entiendo bien!”

Ellas se alejan, y como ellas, muchos ignoramos lo que es la OMC, lo que acuerda o desacuerda, y lo que significa para los trabajadores y para las determinaciones que toma. Ignoramos que los gobiernos de las superpotencias, quienes controlan la OMC, (Estados Unidos y la Unión Europea) son los que mandan, los que han hecho los acuerdos comunes. Pero ésto no es cierto. Los países ricos y pobres, muy industrializados o no que forman parte de esta organización, deciden sobre el presente y el futuro del mundo y de nosotros, sus millones de ciudadanos.

Periodicamente se reúnen los gobiernos de 146 países para tratar asuntos relacionados con la agricultura, el comercio y cosas más, y para procurar, supuestamente, prosperidad para los países que la conforman. A las prácticas comerciales desarrolladas por estos países se le ha denominado: Globalización.

En las reuniones de la OMC participan además 30 países como observadores, quienes luego serán miembros. Esto significa que casi todos los países del mundo (190 a la fecha) forman parte de esta organización en contraposición con los países ricos y pobres, muy industrializados o poco desarrollados; todos juntos buscando acuerdos comunes. Pero esto no es cierto. Ellos, los gobernantes de los países ricos, son los que mandan, los que han hecho las reglas y las modifican a su antojo. Se arrogan el derecho de decidir no sólo sobre el comercio, las economías y las tecnologías de sus países, sino que también deciden sobre los nuestros. Deciden sobre nuestras tierras; se apropián de nuestros recursos naturales como el agua, el petróleo, los minerales, las plantas, las semillas, los peces, los mares. Se adueñan del conocimiento milenario de nuestras culturas; de nuestro trabajo, de los derechos laborales ganados en largas luchas. Se alimentan de nuestro tiempo y van medrando nuestras mentes poco a poco, a través de los medios de comunicación, (que también controlan ellos) haciéndonos manipulables e irreflexivos; manteniendo donos ignorantes y conformistas para que no pregunten nada, para que aceptemos todo obedientes, silenciosos. Se han vuelto dueños de todo lo que está relacionado con nuestra vida lo que, respiramos, vemos, oímos, pensamos, comemos, vestimos, deseamos, compramos, vendemos. En lugar de garantizar la alimentación del mundo, multiplican el hambre, la miseria, la enfermedad, la desnutrición, la injusticia. Avasallan nuestros ecosistemas, acaban con los océanos, mares y ríos, y contaminan la vida toda en nombre del poder y del dinero, reservado para unos cuantos.

La resistencia

Paralelamente se inició un movimiento mundial de resistencia. Desde 1994, con el levantamiento zapatista en Chiapas, se han organizado grupos de todo el mundo, en contra de las medidas tomadas por la OMC. Las campesinas y campesinos, las organizaciones indígenas, nos recuerdan que ¡NUESTRO MUNDO NO ESTA EN VENTA! La sociedad civil del mundo, los campesinos, las ONG, los jóvenes, las mujeres, y todos los desprotegidos, desplazados, marginados y pobres, a los que los países ricos denominan las minorías, pero que en realidad son las mayorías, están organizándose cada vez más para impedirlo.

En Cancún una de las principales luchas fue la de la agricultura. Los campesinos de diferentes países del mundo se unieron para sacar la agricultura de las negociaciones de la OMC. Organizaciones como, Vía Campesina (conformada por más de 40 países), El Campo No Aquí, Más INTEGRAL, y muchas venidas de Latinoamérica junto con otras del continente africano y del Asia, se reunieron de nuevo. Representantes provenientes de muchos países salieron a las calles junto con los representantes zapatistas y nos recordaron que el campo es una totalidad, que no se puede hablar del agua, de la biodiversidad, de los transgénicos por separado, que el campo tiene un papel fundamental en la cultura, en las sociedades, en el medio ambiente y que no se le puede considerar una mercancía. En la tierra está incluido todo: el agua, la energía eléctrica, el petróleo, las patentes, la biodiversidad, la salud, la seguridad alimentaria, promueve el empleo en el ámbito rural y obliga a la protección de los ecosistemas. La agricultura y la alimentación son fundamentales para los pueblos.

En Cancún los campesinos del mundo nos recordaron que ellos han sido por años los productores de los alimentos que hemos comido en las ciudades. Y que ahora los gobiernos de Estados Unidos y la Unión Europea, controlan más del 50% de los mercados agrícolas del mundo y los monopolizan a través de subsidios para unas cuantas empresas particulares. Los pequeños campesinos no tienen manera de producir más y sus campos se mueren. Sus productos no tienen precio en el mercado y las comunidades se van desintegrando. Los campesinos no cuentan con recursos no sólo ya para sembrar, sino para vivir, para comprar su propia comida, pagar derechos, medicinas. Las semillas trilladas, que son las que siembran los pequeños campesinos, requieren de condiciones diferentes, de un tiempo natural para que los productos crezcan sin contaminantes, sin alteraciones genéticas. Ahora, la producción agroquímica mundial (que produce semillas transgénicas) está en manos de 10 empresas que controlan el 90% de todo el mercado mundial.

La sociedad se organiza

La presión que todas las organizaciones en resistencia hicieron en Cancún y a nivel mundial en contra de la OMC, obligaron a los gobiernos a tomar medidas distintas. Por primera vez se unieron 21 países que concentran más del 50% de la producción de alimentos y el 65% de la porción rural del planeta, para plantear una posición propia y no a favor de los gobiernos de los E.E.U.U. y de la U.E. Ésto significó que no hubiera acuerdos y es un logro para los países pobres y la sociedad organizada. Pero no significa que hemos ganado. Ésto es sólo el principio de una larga lucha que aún nos queda por dar. Seguimos ignorando mucho acerca de lo que la OMC acuerda a nuestras espaldas y lo que eso significa para cada uno de nuestros países y a nivel mundial.

Las sociedades tenemos que organizarnos, mantenernos informadas, partici- pativas y luchar juntas para defender no sólo la independencia y la soberanía alimentaria de los pueblos sino el derecho que tienen las comunidades de cada país de definir sus propias políticas internas que garanticen protección integral a los pueblos y sus habitantes.

Caravana por los derechos de los trabajadores inmigrantes

Demandando legalización para los trabajadores indocumentados, el 20 de septiembre partirán caravanas de ocho ciudades del país (Seattle, L.A., San Francisco, Las Vegas, Houston, Chicago, Boston, Detroit). Convergerán en Nueva York el 4 de octubre. Estas caravanas, inspiradas en los freedom riders de la era de los derechos civiles, fueron convocadas por una amplia coalición en la que figuran organizaciones sindicales, comunidades, religiosas, políticas y estudiantiles. Los participantes reclaman la legalización de los inmigrantes como primer paso para obtener la ciudadanía, la reunificación de la familia inmigrante, derechos laborales para los inmigrantes y derechos civiles para todos los trabajadores. El encuentro tendrá lugar en el parque Flushing Meadow, Corona, Queens, el 4 de octubre, de 11 de la mañana a 4 de la tarde. Tomar el tren 7 hasta Willets Point – Shea Stadium.

35 millones de pobres en Estados Unidos

Reportó la oficina del Censo del gobierno federal que el número de estadounidenses que viven en la pobreza se incrementó en un millón setecientos mil durante el año pasado y, al mismo tiempo, se registró una reducción del salario medio en este país. La pobreza afecta desproporcionadamente a las poblaciones afroamericanas y latinas. Uno de cada cuatro afroamericanos y uno de cada cinco latinos viven en condiciones de pobreza.